

-----Taking your puppy home-----

PARVO: This is something we want all of our puppies' families to understand and take seriously. The puppies are still very young and very susceptible to germs –especially parvo. Parvo is a very contagious virus. Your puppy is exposed to the parvovirus every time he sniffs, licks, or consumes infected feces. Indirect transmission occurs when a person who has recently been exposed to an infected dog touches your puppy, or when a puppy encounters a contaminated object, like a food or water bowl, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. Puppies will not be completely vaccinated against parvo until they have had the full series of puppy vaccines – which is about 16-18 weeks. Try to avoid letting your puppy down in areas that other dogs may have been until they are completely vaccinated. Parvo can live for a very long time, even in freezing temperatures.

On your way home from picking up your puppy be very careful where you set them down, where they potty etc. Many of our puppy owners who have flown home have had luck laying a puppy pad on the ground of a restroom, in the airport or airplane and have them go there. Always keep them on a leash. **Do not take your puppy potty at a rest stop.** That may be the worst place since that is where most people take their dogs to relieve themselves.

If you want to exercise your puppy before they are fully vaccinated the best place is your backyard since you can never be sure if infected dogs have walked around your neighborhood. If neighbors, friends or other family members who have pets want to hold or pet your puppy be sure that they wash their hands first.

If these measures are not taken seriously our health guarantee is void

BONDING: Usually, your puppy will bond most strongly to whoever brings them home. It is a scary time for them so try to keep new people to a minimum until they have properly bonded to you and your family. If the whole family is there to bring them home take turns holding them so they can get to know everyone. You can take turns giving them treats to help the bonding process as well. Try and keep the environment calm to reduce the stress that your puppy is, most likely, already feeling.

Lastly, go straight home. This is not the time to leave your puppy in the car to run errands and, if you can help it, to stop off for a visit with friends to meet the puppy. Keep things calm and simple, he's already having a pretty stressful day. Getting home quickly will help them feel less stressed and help him to better adjust to their new home. Too many changes too quickly can overstimulate your puppy.

THE FIRST NIGHT- Expect your puppy to bark and cry a bit, that is normal. Sometimes covering the crate can help calm them down. Don't get overwhelmed or frustrated – his whole world has changed and he needs time to get to know you and adjust. We have found that keeping them in a crate in our room for the first few nights has helped our puppies adjust better. They have rarely spent time alone so it is a very new and scary thing for them.

We have tried very hard to get the puppies used to a crate so hopefully that is something that is a place they will find comfort in. But every puppy is different so be patient.

SOCIALIZATION- We take puppy socialization very seriously and spend a lot of hours getting them used to new people, sounds, objects etc. But, like mentioned earlier, every puppy is different and they will each warm up to new things at their own pace. That being said, you still have about a month in this prime socialization time if you want them to continue to learn and warm up to new things. Introduce them to new sounds (there are many sounds on YouTube such as fireworks, power tools, babies, doors slamming, vacuums etc) people, toys, food dishes etc. If you want to take them on walks, it would be wise to carry them to keep them from getting sick.

IMMUNIZATIONS- Your puppy has had their first round of shots and 2 deworming's. The schedule should have been sent home with them. Please talk to your vet about future immunizations and deworming's and when they think it is best to allow your puppy to go in public.

FOOD - We feed our puppies high quality food without a lot of fillers (At this time we are feeding them Diamond Naturals puppy food) Not only is this healthier for the puppies but when dogs are given foods with a lot of fillers they need more food to fill their tummies. More food equals more poop.

We will send the puppy home with a small bag of their current food. If you decide to go with a different food start feeding them a bowl containing mostly the food they were on while living in with us then adding more and more of their new food at each feeding. This makes the transition to the new food easier on their tummies (nobody wants to deal with diarrhea)

Of course you are wondering how much food to give them at each meal. That is a great question and we, unfortunately, can't give an exact answer for each puppy. The puppies will nurse every time they see their mom so it's hard for us to know how much they will eat without those feedings. And again every puppy is different. Follow the instructions on the bag of food. If they eat it all quickly maybe add a bit more. If they don't eat it all give them a bit less next time. But they are growing so their portions will change quickly. We are still adding a bit of water and letting it soak for just a couple of minutes since their teeth are so new and some have a hard time chewing the food properly.

POTTY TRAINING - This is something we wish we were experts at. Unfortunately, we aren't. There are a lot of resources out there. One of our favorites is Zak George (YouTube) He actually has a lot of great videos on most puppy questions you can imagine. We have worked hard at Space Training which teaches them that there are separate places to play, sleep and potty. They are doing well at using the potty in their cage. That being said, they are still very young with immature bladders so there is still a lot of work ahead. Be patient. Take them out often and they will catch on quickly.

Please remember that these are our own experiences and opinions and talking to your vet will be the most beneficial to you and your new puppy

We really appreciate you trusting us with raising your new family member for the first 8 weeks of their lives. We hope that you have many happy years to come and we would love if you would keep in touch so we can watch them grow.