



Over The Mountain Kennel-Puppy Packet

Please bring the following with you to pick up your puppy:

- Crate
- Water Bowl
- Lead

Bringing Pup Home

Do not stop at rest stops to air your pup. Your pup has received his first shots but you need to limit his exposure to other dogs or to areas where other dogs have been. The primary risk is Parvo and Distemper.

The First Night

Crate training begins the first night. See section on Crate Training

Our Daily Schedule

6:00 am –go potty, eat, then go potty again.

7:00 am –go potty

11:00 am –go potty

2:00 pm–go potty, eat, then go potty again

3:00 pm –go potty

7:00 pm–go potty, eat, then go potty again.

10:00 pm –go potty, go to bed

Socialization

I cannot over emphasize the importance of socialization. A poorly socialized puppy that has not been properly exposed to different environmental experiences will likely have a lifetime of dysfunctional behavior. Primary socialization occurs from 3 to 6 weeks of age. All puppies are handled daily by adults and kids. Mom weaned the pups herself so they have learned “no” from mom.

Your pup has started secondary socialization which occurs from 6 to 12 weeks of age. Once this window of time has closed, you can never regain it. When you get your pup home, expose him to as many sites, sounds, and places as possible. Letting pup meet as many new people as possible helps him learn that strange people are a good thing. Isolated pups will be unsure or unstable around strangers. Anytime you are going to the hardware store, the lumber yard, the paint store or any place not governed by the Health Department, take young pup along. I have never been turned away from any of these places when carrying an 8 to 10-week-old pup in my arms. Everyone wants to see and pet the pup. Not only are they getting exposure to people, pup is exposed to all the sights and sounds in a comforting way.





Always keep pup away from any other dogs that you do not have personal knowledge of vaccine history. Diseases such as Parvo and Distemper are nothing to play around with and are life threatening diseases. Do not take pup to a doggie park or public park until he has received all of his vaccines.

It is never recommended to raise young pups outside the home, such as in the backyard or in an outdoor kennel. They will not receive the proper human interaction needed to properly develop behaviors.

Healthcare

Your pup has received his first round of a four-shot series. I encourage you to have your pup examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible when you bring him home. The remaining shots should continue at three week intervals.

It is not uncommon for young pups to have internal parasites or worms. Many times, these parasites are passed on by their mother's milk even though mom was evaluated by a veterinarian prior to breeding. Other parasites are environmental. These can appear when the environment outwardly appears clean and healthy. Your vet will check your pup for these parasites and treat them with a mild dewormer. Your pup has been dewormed twice just as a precaution.

Nutrition

Consistency of diet is important than brand of food. More people make unnecessary trips to the vet's office for gastrointestinal (diarrhea) issues than needed. Obviously if pup has a bad case of diarrhea, do not hesitate to get to your vet as pup can become dehydrated very quickly.

Changes of diet can cause diarrhea. Your puppy has been eating Fromm Puppy.

An 8-week-old pups should be fed at least three small meals per day. At 14 weeks, feeding can be cut back to twice a day. At about 5 months of age, you can cut back to once per day feedings.

At night after the evening meal, cut off all food and water unless your intention is to be getting up at all hours of the night to take the puppy outside to the bathroom.

Weight Control

It is very common to say that a fat pup is a healthy pup. Do not buy into this theory. With so many breeds having so many different problems with joints such as hips and elbows, it is





extremely important to not let your new puppy gain too much weight during the first one or two years of his life when their joints and growth plates are growing and closing.

Daily walks and controlled exercise also provides socialization by exposing him to different sights and sounds as well.

House Breaking/Crate Training

Crate training is the best way to house breaking any dog and is easy to do. Put pup in the crate to sleep. If pup falls asleep outside of his crate, gently place him in his crate. When pup wakes up, it will need to urinate and will typically cry or whine. This is your sign to immediately take him outside. Always take him to the same spot. Create a command word such as "hurry up", "go potty" or "get it done". The words are unimportant as long as you and every member of your family use the same word every time and your hunting buddies won't tease you.. We have been using "go potty". Repeat the word or phrase as the pup sniffs around on the ground for just the right spot. Once he begins, be sure and give him lots of praise. When pup is out of his crate inside the house and he squats to urinate, do not scream or beat the poor pup. Simply pick the pup up and carry him straight outside to the spot you have chosen and give it the bathroom command. Remember that you have to show him what you expect, he does not know. Dogs do not like to use the bathroom where they sleep so he will not want to go in the crate. If you find that pup is going in the crate excessively, your crate is too big or you are not taking him out enough.

The general rule is that when awakes, eats or drinks, he will need to go to the bathroom. Once pup has eaten and had some water, take him straight outside to use the bathroom. Take them to your chosen spot and give them your bathroom command. Pup will have short attention span and he may seem to wander a bit. Give him ample opportunity to both urinate and defecate. Remember to praise them when they do. Once back inside, wait between 20 and 30 minutes and take him back out.

When putting the pup in the crate, give the command "Kennel". The pup will learn to associate this sound with the act of going into his crate. At first you may have to struggle with pup to get him in the crate but soon all you will need to do is give pup a slight nudge as you give the command and he will go straight in. Down the road, you will have pup sit in front of the crate and wait patiently for the command.

As pup starts learning sit, it is a good idea to say "No-Sit" each time you open the crate door. You do not want pup to learn the habit of busting out of the crate as soon as the door opens. You want pup to learn early that he has to wait until he is invited out before he is allowed to exit the crate. He should be taught this habit of coming out and sitting immediately. This will pay dividends at the boat ramp, parking area of the vet, or your favorite hunting ground. If





your dog learned the behavior of busting out each time the door is opened, he is at great risk of getting injured or killed if he darts in front of or behind a moving vehicle.

Bathroom Guideline

Be flexible, this may vary slightly from pup to pup. You will quickly learn your pup's routine and habits.

Awakens from sleep or nap - Anytime pup has been asleep and wakes up, take pup straight outside to your chosen spot.

After eating or drinking - After each meal, take pup outside to the chosen spot. Follow up 20-30 minutes later.

In between meal intervals - In between meals, your new puppy will need regular bathroom breaks at 1 ½ to 2 hour intervals. Take your puppy outside and give them the opportunity to go to the bathroom.

Night time - This will vary from pup to pup. As they age, they will gain better and longer control of their bowels and bladder. So, at first, when pup cries out in the middle of the night, get up immediately and take pup outside to the chosen spot. Do not play with him before returning him to his crate. Then 15 to 30 minutes later when the pup cries again, ignore them. He wants to get up and play. If you get him to console him, you have just taught him that crying equals play time.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call or email me. I am looking forward to seeing you and your OTM puppy in the field or at upcoming trials.

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Over The Mountain Kennel
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