

Sweet Pea Shih Tzus New Puppy Care Sheet



1. **Nutrition Gel** - Give nutrition gel (size of a nickel) 3 times a day (morning, mid-day and night) – put it on your finger and rub it onto puppy’s tongue/gums. This will give extra nutrition while your puppy adjusts to their new home. Do this for 2 weeks minimum. Please make sure your puppy is eating every 4-5 hours. It is very important that puppy eats to prevent hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).
2. **Canned Puppy Food** (I will let you know if this is needed before puppy goes home) – Give about 3-4 Tbsp - 3 times a day. If puppy finishes it all quickly then puppy can have more. The goal is to give as much as puppy wants to eat in about 15 minutes. *Transition to kibble:* If your puppy is eating well, begin mixing wet food with dry kibble. Increase dry kibble gradually over 2-4 weeks until wet food is no longer needed.
3. **Dry Kibble** – Leave pawtree kibble down in a bowl and always have water available for puppy. Due to their small size, puppy needs access to food 24/7 until puppy is at least 3.5 lbs. Shih Tzu tend to graze throughout the day.
4. **Potty Pad** – Use a potty pad indoors until puppy vaccines are complete. Puppies are usually doing great using the potty pads when they leave but should be in close proximity to the potty pad or will not find it in time. Do not put puppy on any public ground or bring puppy to public places like a pet store. After vaccines are complete, then puppy can go outside to potty and play (supervised) or you can continue using pads if you prefer.
5. **Puppy Vaccines** – It is important to get puppy setup with your vet as soon as possible. Puppy must have first vet visit within 3 days of pickup per my puppy contract. Puppy had first DHPP puppy vaccine prior to going home. Puppy needs two more DHPP vaccines 3-4 weeks apart. DO NOT get Lepto vaccine. Lepto is NOT a core vaccine and can cause bad reactions and even death in small breeds. Bordatella (kennel cough) is a safe vaccine and will be needed before puppy can go to a groomer or be boarded. Bordatella can be given with the DHPP vaccine.
6. **Rabies Vaccine** – Due to their small size, I recommend waiting to get the Rabies vaccine until your puppy is at least 3 lbs and at least 5-6 months old.
7. **Playpen** – Puppy should be kept in a playpen whenever you cannot watch puppy and at night for a couple of months. You can take puppy to your bed after puppy is 3.5+ lbs but be very careful that puppy cannot fall off. Puppy will need to eat first thing in the morning if puppy sleeps in your bed.
8. **Harness** – It is recommended to use a harness on Shih Tzu instead of a collar. Pulling on a collar can cause tracheal collapse in this breed. The harness should be taken off when puppy is back home because it can cause the hair to knot underneath. You can practice walking on a leash in your house to train puppy, but puppy will not be able to walk outside until his puppy vaccines are done.
9. **Brushing** – Puppy should be brushed daily to prevent matting and to get used to grooming. I recommend using a metal comb to make it easy to get all the way to the skin. Keep hair trimmed around eyes to not cause eye irritation. Use blunt tip scissors if you need to trim puppy’s face between grooming.
10. **Bathing** – Puppy can be bathed as needed, but it is recommended to bathe every 2-4 weeks. Bathing too often can dry out their skin. Wash puppy’s face daily to prevent staining from food.
11. **Spay/Neuter** – Due to puppy’s small size, I recommend waiting to spay/neuter until puppy is at least 6 months old. It is healthier and is required by one year old per my puppy contract. Please take a picture of the spay/neuter invoice and send it to me.
12. **Contact me** – Please call or text if you have any questions or concerns. I am here for lifetime support. I also love to get updates and pictures!