



PUPPY CARE GUIDE

1. **SHOTS:** Dotted Doxies Pups are sent home with their first set of shots. At 6 weeks of age. It is important to keep your pups healthy and free from any diseases. Check with your vet to set up a shot schedule. Puppies will typically require five sets of shots depending on your Vet.

2. IVDD stands for **Intervertebral Disc Disease**, the most common spinal disorder in Dachshunds. It affects about 1 in 4 Dachshunds and happens when the cushioning discs between the spine's vertebrae degenerate, harden, and bulge or burst into the spinal cord, leading to severe pain, nerve damage, or paralysis. To manage this disease, we strongly urge doxie parents to invest in helpful items to aid in their daily activities. Items like stairs and ramps for high places in the home (beds, chairs & sofas). We have listed suggestions on our website under the "Information" tab.

3. Diet & Nutrition

Puppy Needs – Choose a high-quality puppy food to feed for the first year of the puppy's life. We Use Taste of the Wild – High Prairie (Bison & Venison Recipe) puppy kibble. Your puppy will go home with a small bag. If you choose not to use this brand just gradually mix in with the brand you choose. Remember puppy food contains essential vitamins and minerals to meet a growing nutritional need.

Puppies require frequent meals because they have tiny stomachs and high metabolic needs. Always split their total daily recommended food allowance (found on the puppy food packaging) evenly across these meals to avoid overfeeding. Using set mealtimes rather than free feeding (leaving food out all day) is highly recommended for this breed. Consistent feeding helps maintain stable energy levels, keeps their digestion on track, and makes potty training significantly easier.

Simple Feeding Regimen

8 to 12 weeks old: 4 small meals per day

3 to 6 months old: 3 meals per day

6 months and older: 2 meals per day

Adult Needs – After the first year you can switch to adult dog food. Again, we use the same brand for our adult dogs and top dress this with a complete and balanced freeze-dried raw beef recipe to increase palatability and bioavailability.

Dietary Supplements – We also add a probiotic for optimal gut flora and salmon oil to support macronutrient intake and coat health

Treats – Can help train your puppy; however, they should be good quality treats and only a small amount for rewarding correct behavior is suggested.

All dogs need proper Identification. Don't be fooled into thinking your dog doesn't need identification because they're an "indoor dog;" if your dog gets lost accidentally, you want a speedy reunion and ID tags help. We also recommend having your pup microchipped by toy vet. You can even use Apple Air Tags to track your pups.

ID Tags Make sure this info is on your dog's tag:

- Their name
- Your phone number
- The city where you live.

If space allows, consider adding additional information such as:

- Your full address
- The phrase "Needs Meds" (if your puppy requires medication or to deter theft –sick dogs are a hassle for thieves)

Microchips & Air Tags

We highly recommend having your vet microchip your pup, and registering it through the proper organization. Air tags are also a great way to track your pup. There are several products out there that allow you to attach them to your dog's collar.

4. **Safe Places** – Puppies can get into everything. Make sure you have a suitable sized dog crate and/or play pen. Puppies need to be safely confined until they learn house manners which could take a year to develop. Items such as electrical cords, nylon stockings, and small items (pencils, rubber bands, and children's toys) should all be kept out of reach. A crate should always be a safe place for a pup. Refrain from using it as a form of punishment. Puppy play pens are nice to have as well. It gives them a secure place to lounge that is larger than their crate, but not as big as your house.

5. It's important to choose a collar (or Harness) and leash sized appropriately for the breed and age of your pup. An adjustable dog collar is best at this stage since your puppy will grow quickly. Remember to regularly examine the collar for condition and fit. You should be able to slip two fingers underneath the collar but not so loose that it can slip over a puppy's head. As with the collar, choose a leash that complements your pup's size. Most trainers recommend a leash of no longer than 6 feet while your puppy is learning proper leash walking. Our favorite item to use is the **Gooby Choke Free Comfort Harness**.

6. **Play Toys, Chew Toys, & Comfort Toys**– Puppies sleep a lot, but when they're awake, they play like it's their full-time job. To keep your pup mentally stimulated, provide them with a variety of dog toys that incorporate all kinds of textures, sounds and shapes. Exposing them to different toys helps to socialize them to remain calm and accept the differences in their environment.

Since puppies start chewing right after weaning, a habit that only intensifies during teething time, dog chew toys are a must. We recommend puppy-sized toys. KONG—especially the hollow ones so you can smear a dab of cheese or peanut butter inside—as well as bully sticks and frozen carrots. Freezebone bowls are great for stimulation, Yak Bones, interactive licking bowls with roller ball, rope and tug toys. You can also purchase interactive dog treat puzzle toys for IQ training & mental stimulation. Also, fun slow feeders are great enrichment toys too.

We highly discourage giving Dachshunds rawhides due to choking and blockage risks. Standard plush toys have a very short lifespan with this breed. Due to their innate hunting instincts, Dachshunds utilize a "search and destroy" method—specifically targeting and tearing apart stuffed toys to extract the

internal squeaker. Please monitor your puppy closely; ingesting toy stuffing or squeakers can cause severe gastrointestinal tract obstructions requiring emergency surgery.

Remember to be consistent, set a routine and stick with it. You may also want to invest in some training classes for both you and your pup. *And as always, Dotted Doxies is always here if you have any questions, or concerns.*

*** ITEMS MENTIONED HERE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBPAGE SITE UNDER "INFORMATION/PRODUCTS."