



-Wildwood Mountain Ranch-

Pollock Pines, California

Bringing Your Puppy Home

Congratulations on your newest family member! Bringing your new puppy home is a very exciting day! To properly welcome your puppy home, there are some steps you should take to make the transition a little easier on them.

The First Days at Home

The ideal time to bring home a new puppy is when the house is quiet. Don't bring home a puppy while you're on vacation. You want to be able to spend a lot of time with them so they can acclimate to your normal, daily routine. If you are working, it is best to bring home your puppy when you can have a few days off to spend a lot of time with them. Remember, they are used to having the company of their siblings and parents, so quality time spent on the first few days is crucial to your bond.

Before bringing your puppy in the house, take them to the designated potty area in your yard and spend a few minutes there. If your puppy goes, praise them. Be sure to take them to this spot each time they potty. A young puppy has no bladder control and will need to urinate immediately after eating, drinking, sleeping or playing. At night, they will need to relieve themselves at least every three hours.

Take them to the room with their crate. This restricted area will serve as their new "den" for several days. Put bedding and chew toys in the crate, leave the door open, and line the area outside of the crate with newspaper in case of an accident. Let them investigate the crate and the room. Observe and interact with your puppy while they get used to their new den. This will help forge a sense of "pack" and establish you as the pack leader.

Meeting Resident Pets

Keep resident pets separated from your new puppy for a few days. After your new puppy is used to their new den area, put an expandable pet gate in the doorway or put your puppy in his crate. Give your resident pet access to the area. Let pets smell and touch each other through the crate or pet gate. Do this several times over the next few days. Give the resident pet access to the den area with your new puppy out of his crate. Supervise their meetings and go back to through-the-gate/crate meetings if trouble arises.

Children and Pets

Ideally, your kids should help you choose your puppy. When you bring your puppy home, don't let your kids play with them constantly. Puppies need a lot of rest, just like a growing child. Limit puppy-children play sessions to 15-30 minute periods, two to three times a day. Young children might be tempted to shout at a puppy if they think he/she is doing something wrong. Be sure kids understand that puppies and dogs can be easily upset and startled by loud noises.

Supplies You'll Need

Before you bring your puppy home, be sure you have the following supplies:

1. Premium puppy food
2. Stainless steel, non-tip food and water bowls
3. Identification tags with your puppy's name, your phone number and address
4. A collar and a leather or nylon 6-foot leash that's ½- to ¾-inch wide (Consider using a "breakaway" collar with plastic clips that will unsnap in case your puppy gets hung up on something)
5. A home and travel crate that's airline approved and that will accommodate your puppy's adult size
6. Brushes and combs suited to your puppy's coat
7. Puppy shampoo, toothbrush and paste
8. High quality, safe chew toys to ease teething
9. Nail clippers
10. Treats

And of course should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us. We are more than happy to provide you with advice on your growing puppy. Wishing you many years of happiness from all of us at Wildwood Mountain Ranch!