

Knightherrant Mastiffs Puppy Care Questions Call 613-821-6279

Feeding your new Mastiff puppy

Always add **warm water** to the food, enough to wet it all, so that it swells in the bowl and not in the dogs stomach. This includes your adult Mastiff. We allow the puppy food to soak in the water for at least 5 minutes.

Your puppy is eating 3 times a day right now approximately 1 – 1.25 cups of Kirkland Puppy Food. Remember that as the puppy grows the amount of food should be increased according to the instructions on the food per weight of the puppy. You may switch over to Purina Large Breed Puppy Food (see below for switching food). The puppies are eating at 500 am, 11 am 8 pm. If you have to return to work and cannot feed the puppy at lunch then feed it as soon as you are home in the evening and again later on in the evening. Spreading the feedings out makes it easier for the puppy to digest their food and grow. Scheduled feeding times means scheduled bowel movements and easier house training.

When you switch foods, you must do it very slowly or you will upset the puppies GI system that is very delicate and will give the pup diarrhea. If you feed a good quality food you will clean up less poop. **Do not overfeed the puppy.** Follow the instructions for feeding amounts on the bag – by weight.

Make sure that you have **fresh water** available to the puppy, at all times, when they are not in their crate.

Remember that free feeding i.e. allowing the puppy to graze all day means free pooping and you will have a hard time housetraining. Give the puppy 15 minutes to eat after you feed them then take the food away. They will learn to eat when you feed them.

When the puppy is a little older you can add some table scraps to their food – but once you start this they may not eat their food without it. You may add beef to their food (not canned – it rots their teeth because it has beet sugar in it) real beef from a slaughter house if you have one close. Cook the beef and cut it up and add only a small amount – ¼ cup. **DO NOT FEED PORK to the dogs it is very hard to digest and may cause a lot of problems** (this includes hotdogs that have pork in them).

You can give milkbones, we recommend the Kirkland brand milkbones – but remember these are very high in protein so only a couple a day please.

They can have raw **beef** bones to chew on – freeze them first then thaw and give them to the puppy to chew on. Make sure these are large bones – long bones from a cow with no joints that can come appart and choke the puppy or adult.

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Crate Training your Puppy

The crate cannot be too large to start or the puppy will make a mess in one area and sleep in another. You will have to safely divide the crate if it is larger. Your puppy may chew so don't put a nice bed in the crate unless you know it will not chew. You can give the puppy a blanket or towel to lie on but if it makes a mess in the crate we suggest you remove it.

You can give the puppy toys to chew on in the crate. Stuffed dog toys, squeaky toys, large bone (raw – frozen and thawed), or a large bone from the pet store. Do not give rawhide bones they will get a large piece off and may choke on it. Always inspect the puppy toys and discard if damaged.

The crate is the puppy's safe-place so no disciplining here – if the puppy is bad put it in the crate and walk away. When the puppy whines (in the crate) it should go outside to the bathroom right away. If the puppy has gone to the bathroom and continues to whine when returned to the crate you cannot keep letting it out or it will continue to whine each time expecting to be let out. Wait until it is quiet and then let it out if you want to.

You must watch the puppy when it is out of the crate. If it tries to go off it probably has to go to the bathroom so take it outside. Consistency is best, always going out the same way. If the puppy is loose in the room that exits to the bathroom area you can put a bell on the door and they will learn to ring it to go outside. Praise the puppy when it goes to the bathroom outside and take it to the same spot each time and it will learn to go to the bathroom there. If the puppy eats it will need to go to the bathroom within 15 minutes so take it outside after eating or drinking. Remember if it has been sleeping or has been in the crate, or even if playing for a while it will have to go out to the bathroom. You will be trained on when the puppy needs to go out before it is so watch and the puppy will learn and crate training and potty training will be successful.

The puppy will last only so long in the crate before having to go to the bathroom. If you can arrange for someone to let it out at lunch - time when you are at work that would be best.

Your puppy will be lonesome for its littermates so an alarm clock that ticks is a good trick so it thinks someone is near.

Half vinegar and half water clean up puppy messes very nicely.

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Obedience Classes

These are a must. Please sign up for beginner obedience or puppy kindergarten. Socialize your puppy as much as you can and you will have a much nicer pet. As soon as possible start walking your puppy on a leash and start training at home. Use lots of praise when puppy listens and follows your commands.

Remember that a Mastiff is a puppy for the first 2 years and will continue to grow and fill out for the first 3 years.

Playing with your Mastiff Puppy

Do not play tug-a-war with your mastiff because soon they will be stronger than you. They love attention, playing with balls and will fetch sometimes. They like to chew on large things like buckets, tires etc. They love to go for walks but they cannot go too far when young and will lie down to charge their batteries when tired and will not get up so limit your walks to 5 -10 minutes until 6 months of age then no more than 20 minutes until 1 year old. Too much exercise is very hard on the joints and bones. Self-exercise is best.

Make sure that any dog over 50 pounds and any puppy is not left unsupervised with young children under the age of 5. The puppies will be teething and may teeth on your or your children's hands, clothing etc. Say NO and OW loudly and they will usually stop. Give them something they are allowed to chew on. Baby gates are wonderful and keep puppies where they belong when they are not in their crates. Your Mastiff puppy will not intentionally injure your child but leaning on them or wagging their tale might cause some pain. Supervision is the key. The crate can be used if they get too rambunctious.

Taking your Puppy to the Vet

You should take your puppy to the vet within 5 days of picking it up so that your vet can evaluate its health. Some of these puppies have umbilical hernias – all were found to be harmless by our vet and should resolve.

Your puppy has had its first shots and requires more shots at 12 and 16 weeks.

You should take the puppy for car rides more frequently than just to the vet to get it used to the car.

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Grooming Your Puppy

A weekly brushing with a good grooming brush and cutting nails weekly is all that is needed. Guillotine type nail clippers (slice don't pinch) will do and you can also use a wood file.

Problems or Questions??????????

We are a phone call or email away – please do not hesitate to call us.

1-613-821-6279 Or kmastiff@knighterrorantmastiffs.com

There is also a great link below for a puppy care booklet.

<http://www.hagen.com/pdf/dogs/dog.pdf>

