

Puppy Care Guide:



Congratulations on your new *Darling Paws* Bernedoodle puppy! Raising a new puppy is a huge commitment and will require a lot of time and effort, but it will be well-rewarded with a lifetime of companionship and love. Our **Puppy Care Guide will help answer your questions about your puppy's nutrition, training, and**

health care. Please remember that we are always here to help you with any concerns that you have about your new family member. We look forward to serving you and your new puppy through the coming years and strive to ensure that your puppy has a lifetime of good health and happiness!

FEEDING YOUR PUPPY

Feed your puppy "Puppy Food." Puppy food has a higher caloric and fat content than adult foods and supplies the proper minerals and nutrients that a growing puppy needs. Currently, your puppy is being fed [Purina Pro Plan Puppy Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula with Probiotics Dry Dog Food](#).

How Much and How Often To Feed Your Puppy:

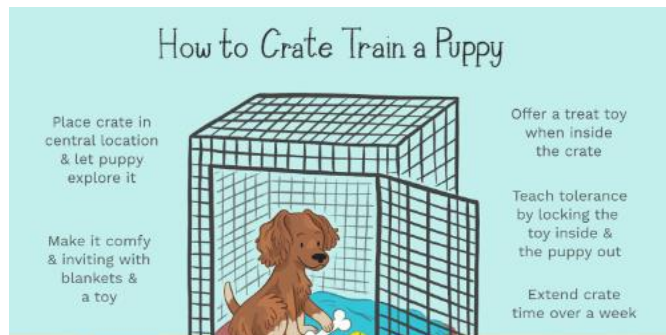
Feed your puppy three times a day until they are approximately 9-10 weeks old. Around this time, you may notice that your puppy isn't eating one of his/her meals quite as well as they used to and seem to prefer eating twice a day. Continue twice a day feedings for life if your dog seems to enjoy that. In your puppy pack, [you have been given one package of FortiFlora by Purina. If you adjust the brand/type of food, you can sprinkle this on the food for one week to help the adjustment.](#) Fortiflora is also good to have on hand anytime you have a bout of diarrhea from puppy to adult stage.

Treats and Things to Avoid:

Treats should not be used excessively. They are high in calories and generally low in nutritional quality. If you are using treats for training purposes, break them into small pieces to use as rewards.

- TABLE SCRAPS should not be given. This makes for bad habits and bad behavior throughout your pet's life.
- VEGETABLES are safe as a small treat, if your puppy likes them. Always put them in your puppy's food bowl and do not feed from the table. Raw, steamed or boiled veggies can be given. Do not add salt or spices. Some favorites include carrots, broccoli, and green beans, but your dog may have different preferences. Avoid fruits!
- POISONOUS FOODS: some foods that are dangerous for your dog to ingest are: Raisins or Grapes, Onions/Garlic/Chives, Avocados, Macadamia Nuts, Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine, Citrus fruits, excessive amounts of Coconut meat, oil or milk, Coconut water, excessive amounts of Milk and dairy products, Raw or undercooked meat, eggs and bones, Salt and salty snack foods, foods sweetened with Xylitol (some gums, candy, baked goods, and toothpaste), Yeast dough, Alcohol.

USING A CRATE



Dogs are a den animal. They inherently want to keep their dens clean. As soon as a young pup is able to learn, their mother teaches him/her to "void" outside the den. You can imitate this behavior in your home by providing your dog with his own den, a wire or plastic crate. Wire crates are preferable for three reasons: 1) Your pup can see you and visa versa which is comforting to both you and your pup; 2) There is unlimited air circulation; and 3) the crate can easily be dismantled and stored in a small area.

Pick a crate that will accommodate your pet when

full grown. This will provide you service for a long time. When your pup is small, use a crate divider to section off an area that will be adequate for current needs. Remember, the idea is for the pup to keep his den clean. His space should be large enough for him/her to turn around and maneuver in their crate, but small enough for him/her to resist the urge to defecate or urinate in the crate.

Restrict the pup to their crate when you are not directly supervising him/her, when you are out of the house for any length of time, and at bedtime. Using an appropriate schedule, you should be able to prevent accidents in the crate, and he/she will learn to hold their urine and stool until you let them out. Be patient and expect occasional accidents. It's all part of the learning process for both of you.

Furnish the crate simply. Use a rug, mat, or towel to provide him/her with a comfortable area. Make sure the entire floor area is covered. This will convey the idea that no area should be used to defecate or urinate.

The crate is their home. Favorite toys should always be returned to the crate with him/her. The crate will serve as home for bedtime. The crate will be an asset when traveling or when friends or relatives visit and you do not want your pup in the way. A crate is helpful investment that will be worth its weight in gold.

Crate training can be painful, be patient and don't give in. It may take up to a week but it will pay off!

POTTY TRAINING YOUR PUPPY

Using consistency, repetition, praise, patience and kindness will help him/her develop into a well-trained adult. Use the following schedule to assist you in housebreaking your new pup. A strict routine, patience, and praise will help you housetrain your puppy.

- **Bedtime:** take the puppy outside and give him/her the opportunity to "exercise"
 - If they have already defecated and urinated in a certain spot, take him/her back to this same spot and praise him/her if he eliminates.
 - If you have a small fenced-in area, let him/her run loose.
- **Morning:** First thing in the morning, pick your puppy up and take him/her. They tried to be clean all night, so if you hurry, they will do their "job" in a rush. Afterwards, bring him/her in and give him/her freedom in a confined area like the kitchen.
- **Feed:** After you have done your first morning routine and after your breakfast, feed him/her his food. They've had freedom up to this point. After they eat, take him/her outside.
- **Exercise:** After you see him/her exercise, bring them inside and put them in their crate.
- **Afternoon:** Take him/her out of the crate and put them outside. Praise him/her and bring them in after they eliminates and give him/her confined freedom with you for 1-2 hours. Then take him/her outside again for a quick bathroom break. Put him/her back in the crate until late afternoon.
- **Dinner:** Take him/her outside. Bring them in for confined freedom while preparing your dinner and theirs. After you eat, feed them and take them outside just as soon as they finish eating. Naturally you can feed him/her before you eat, as long as you have time to follow the exercising procedure.
- **After dinner,** allow him/her controlled confined freedom and before you go to bed, go through the bedroom routine.
- **During the night.** Take your puppy out during the night at least once. As he is growing, he/she will be able to sleep 5-7 hours without needing to go out. But as a young pup, they are not going to be able to wait for more than 2-3 hours.

Remember to take your puppy out after any additional times they eat or drink. ALWAYS PRAISE your puppy after they eliminate in an appropriate place. Housetraining takes time and patience and mistakes will happen. If by some chance your puppy has an "accident", determine what you should do differently to prevent the next one. Your puppy will not understand a correction for something he has done even a minute before; he only lives in the present. Do not scold him/her or rub his face in his urine or stool. This will only be confusing and lead to him/her being scared of you. Clean the accident immediately and be sure to use an odor neutralizer, available at the animal hospital or pet stores. This will help to prevent your pup from being attracted back to this area.

- Start limited introduction to other rooms, but only when you are with your puppy and when your attention can be on him/her. It is important during these periods of freedom that you be sensitive to any whining or attempts to go to the door. If she/he is giving you these hints, immediately take him/her outside.

MAKING HOME SAFE FOR PUPPY

We can never anticipate everything that a curious puppy may get into, but we can greatly reduce the chances of serious problems by following these basic guidelines:

- **Supervise your puppy at all times.** When you are not able to supervise him/her, put him/her in a crate or penned area.
- **Use safety gates** to restrict access to stairways and unsafe rooms, and to create a safe area for your puppy.

- Make sure all **electrical cords** are safely away from the puppy's area. Do not allow him/her to wander behind electrical equipment where wires abound. Electrical shock is a dangerous risk when puppies chew electrical cords.
- **Keep shoes, socks, underwear, dirty clothing, cleaning rags, cleaning solutions, used tissues, napkins, paper towels, diapers and feminine protection products out of reach at all times.**
- Make sure that **household garbage** is secured with a tight-fitting lid, or preferably, is kept behind closed doors. Some dogs learn to open these doors easily. A safety latch may be required. Keep toilet lids down.
- Keep **prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins and supplements** securely away from your pet. Some puppies will learn to climb up on tables or counters where these items are often kept.
- Keep your puppy out of the garage or storage shed where many toxic substances like **antifreeze, oil, gasoline, paint, mouse/rat poison etc.** are stored. Antifreeze is sweet in taste and rodenticides are also enticing. Both are extremely dangerous if ingested. Do not place rat or mouse baits in your home when you have pets.

SPAYING/NEUTERING YOUR PET

Unless specifically outlined in your contract, all Darling Paws puppies are required to be spay/neutered. The term "Neutering" generally refers to a spay (ovariohysterectomy) for females and a castration (orchietomy) for males. The male procedure is often referred to as a "neuter".

1) **BEHAVIORAL REASONS FOR NEUTERING:**

Socializing and training puppies go a long way in establishing boundaries for acceptable pet behavior. One thing that we cannot control, however, is our pets' mating instincts and physiology. These cause physical changes and behaviors in our pets that can be frustrating.

By 8-10 months of age, female puppies go into their first heat and subsequently enter a heat cycle twice a year through middle age. During heat, or "estrus", females bleed for 5 to 21 days, often staining themselves, carpets, furniture and bedding. Females in heat also attract the attention of any intact male in the neighborhood. In turn, intact male puppies and dogs tend to be very anxious when they smell a female in heat and tend to escape from homes, often leading to injuries from car accidents or dog fights. Intact males tend to fight more and become more territorial.

2) **MEDICAL REASONS FOR NEUTERING:**

Neutering your pet will also prevent several medical problems. Female dogs that are intact very often develop conditions of the uterus like pyometra or mucometra. The uterus becomes distended with pus or mucus, causing severe problems. Not only do animals with pyometra have to be spayed on an emergency basis, but they will incur significant medical bills to hospitalize them for treatment of this serious infection. In addition, there are also cancers of the ovaries and uterus that will be prevented by an ovariohysterectomy, or spay, at a young age. If you spay your female pet before her first heat, she will also have a 300% reduction in the chance of developing breast cancer later in life, a common cancer in dogs.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR PUPPY

Puppies are very susceptible to disease, especially when they are very young. While nursing, they obtain a good level of protection against many viral diseases directly from their mother's milk, but this protection is short-lived and there can be dangerous gaps in protection against disease as the immune system is developing. Most vaccinations are done in a series several weeks apart because the first vaccination serves as a primer to expose the immune system to the disease in a safer form, and subsequent vaccines further stimulate the immune system to develop antibodies against the disease.

Not all pets need to be vaccinated with all available vaccines. Core vaccines are those that are believed to be necessary for all dogs, whereas other vaccines may be strongly recommended based on your pet's environment, exposure to particular outdoor environments, and travel habits with the owners. Common dog illnesses are generally easy to prevent, but very hard to cure. Your puppy will have been wormed and given his first DAPP combo shot



before they leave our home. **Your new puppy should also be kept away from areas where non-resident pets are until the puppy has finished all of their immunization shots, which is typically around 16 weeks.**

We recommend the following vaccines for your Bernedoodle puppy:

CORE VACCINES:

1. **COMBINATION CANINE DISTEMPER, ADENOVIRUS, PARVOVIRUS, PARAINFLUENZA VACCINE (DHPP)**
 - a. *Frequency:* DHPP vaccine is given every 4 wks. until 16 wks. of age, then again one year later.
 - b. *Protects Against:*
 - **Canine Distemper Virus-** an aggressive highly contagious, often fatal virus that affects the respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and nervous system.
 - **Canine Adenovirus:** a dangerous virus that affects the liver
 - **Canine Parvovirus:** a highly contagious, highly resistant virus that can live in the environment for over a year. Contracted by coming into contact with contaminated feces, and often fatal without very aggressive and intensive medical care, parvovirus is one of the most prevalent and dangerous threats to your puppy.
 - **Canine Parainfluenza Virus:** a highly contagious respiratory virus.
2. **RABIES VACCINE**
 - a. *Frequency:* Given one time as a puppy at 12-16 weeks, then repeated one year later, and then every 3 years.
 - b. *Protects Against:* An extremely dangerous, highly infectious virus that targets the brain and nervous system. Unlike most other viruses, rabies virus is not host-specific, meaning that it can affect many species, including humans. Spread mostly by the bites of infected raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes, and also the excrement of bats, rabies virus is prevalent in the United States. All local Health Departments have strict laws regarding vaccination of pets in order to protect public health. There is no cure or treatment for rabies. Once an animal begins showing signs, death is imminent. In people who have been exposed to rabies, a post-exposure treatment can be immediately administered. But once a person begins showing signs of the disease, death is imminent in all but extremely rare cases. Dogs often experience a form of rabies called the Excited Form, which involves extremely aggressive behavior, posing a dangerous threat to all who come in contact with them. Prevention of this viral infection is the only viable medical approach. Vaccination of pets is crucially important to the pet population, wildlife population and human population.

OPTIONAL VACCINES (please speak to your vet about these):

1. **LEPTOSPIROSIS:**
 - a. *Frequency:* Puppies who are at risk of contracting leptospirosis can receive their first shot as early as 8-9 weeks of age, but many experts recommend waiting until 12 weeks of age. Then, puppies should receive a booster vaccine 2 to 4 weeks later and then annually thereafter.
 - b. *Protects Against:* An aggressive bacterial infection that affects the liver and the kidneys and is contracted from drinking out of water sources that have been contaminated by the urine of affected wild animals or rats.
2. **BORDATELLA VACCINE (KENNEL COUGH VACCINE)**
 - a. *Frequency:* Given once as a puppy and then repeated at one year of age.
 - b. *Protects Against:* Bordetella bacteria, one of the most common causes of infectious respiratory disease in dogs. It is common in kennel situations. Required for stays in kennels, recommended for dogs frequently go for grooming.
3. **LYME VACCINE**
 - a. *Frequency:* Given twice three weeks apart as initial series and then yearly.
 - b. *Protects Against:* The borrelia bacteria that causes **Lyme** disease. This bacteria is transmitted by deer ticks. Lyme disease in dogs usually manifests as an illness that starts with a fever, extreme weakness, and lameness. It also can rarely cause a severe, often fatal disease of the kidneys. The main protection against Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease is regular use of flea/tick

control products. Lyme vaccine is recommended for added protection for dogs who are out on property that is frequented by deer and dogs who accompany their owners into wooded areas for walks and hikes.

4. CANINE INFLUENZA VACCINE

- Frequency:* Given twice three weeks apart as initial series and then yearly.
- Protects Against:* **Canine Influenza Virus.** This aggressive respiratory virus is not very common, but outbreaks are occasionally reported. The current vaccine covers several strains. Many kennels now require this vaccination for boarding.

Puppy Shot Checklist PawlicyAdvisor

Core vaccines include DHPP (a 4-in-1 shot for canine distemper, adenovirus/hepatitis, parvovirus & parainfluenza) and rabies. Vets may recommend additional vaccinations where risk is present.

	6-8 wks	10-12 wks	14-16 wks	18-20 wks	Annual	3 yrs
DHPP	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾
RABIES <small>Laws vary by state</small>			🐾		🐾	🐾
BORDETELLA		🐾	🐾		🐾	
LEPTOSPIRA		🐾		🐾	🐾	
LYME DISEASE			🐾	🐾	🐾	
GIARIDA					🐾	

HEARTWORM, PARASITE, FLEA AND TICK CONTROL

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION come in oral chewable tablets, topical liquids that are applied to the skin, and flea/tick collars. **Nexgard Chewable tablets** are given monthly year-round and are easy to administer. They are a popular choice for many dog owners. Topical products include **Vectra**, which is applied every month, year-round. Vectra is applied to the skin on the back of your pet. Frontline Plus, a common preventative, is no longer being recommended as there have been some concerns about flea resistance in recent years. Flea/tick collars are not common for puppies. Most collars do not work well and can be toxic if ingested. Some flea and tick products are also toxic to household cats that are in contact with your puppy. Please ask your vet before you use any products that work best for your puppy.

The weight of your puppy should be monitored closely as he or she grows to make sure that the correct size of the product is being used at all times.

- **Fleas** cause discomfort and irritation to pets and people. Adult fleas spend most of their time on your pet. Furniture and carpeting often are contaminated with flea eggs that fall off the pet. Flea infestations can lead to intense itching. Some dogs and people are allergic to flea bites as well, and can develop severely inflamed itchy skin, hair loss, and secondary skin infections after just a single bite. Additionally, If your puppy ingests fleas, a tapeworm infection may occur. The flea carries small forms of the worm that then grow and develop into long adult worms in the intestinal tract. Tapeworms cause weight loss.
- **Ticks** can transmit dangerous diseases, such as Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Lyme disease through their bites. Deer ticks are known for transmitting the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Lyme disease in dogs can manifest as an acute illness with fever, swollen, painful joints and lameness. More rarely, Lyme infection can cause a very severe, often fatal kidney disease.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION is a safe monthly dewormer in the form of a tasty chewable treat. It is given every month from 8-12 weeks of age, year-round. It also helps to prevent several common intestinal parasites. Brand names include **Milbeguard**. Heartworms are spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Just one mosquito bite can transmit the small form of the worms into your dog, where they grow and develop throughout the body into large

worms that pass into the heart and the large blood vessels leading into the heart. The worms breed and multiply in that location. Heartworm Disease is fatal if left untreated. Treatment is expensive and can be fraught with serious complications, depending on the stage of the disease. Prevention is the best way to go to keep your pet heartworm-free.

INTESTINAL PARASITE CONTROL:

Heartworm preventative products also help to prevent and treat several common intestinal parasites, such as **Roundworms, Hookworms, and Whipworms**. These parasites, which your puppy may have gotten from his mother or from ingestion of the stool of another dog can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and failure to gain weight. Additional intestinal parasites include **Tapeworms, Giardia, and Coccidia**, all of which have different specific treatments. These can also cause failure to gain weight or diarrhea.



Your puppy has been wormed on the following schedule:

Pyrantal Pamoate (brand is **Nemex-2**) at 2 and 4 weeks old

Fenbendazole (brand is **Safeguard**) at 6 and 8 weeks old (or every 2 weeks, up to 12 weeks)

Nemex-2: 1 ml per every 10 lbs

APPLICATION PUPPIES: Dose for one day

GIARDIA TREATMENT: Nemex-2 Wormer will remove hookworms and roundworms. This product does NOT remove tapeworms.

Safeguard: 1 ml per every 5 lbs

APPLICATION PUPPIES: Dose for three (3) consecutive days.

GIARDIA TREATMENT: Removes and controls a broad spectrum of stomach and intestinal worms. It is useful against the most common canine intestinal worms including whipworms, hookworms, roundworms and tapeworms. Safeguard is even effective at fighting giardia but use for 5 days rather than 3 consecutive days.

As a preventative, it is recommended to worm with Fenbendazole every 6 months thereafter, unless specified differently by vet.

PUPPY TRAINING & SOCIALIZATION CLASSES

A good puppy class can be key to ensuring your bundle of joy turns into a well-behaved companion. Like most things in life, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. A good puppy class will address socialization, basic obedience, and common puppy challenges.

We have partnered with *BAXTER & Bella Online Puppy School*. Using code **CODARLINGPAWS** with give you 25% off their lifetime program. If you are looking for a traditional in person puppy class, here are a few things to look for:

- Hygiene: The class should be held indoors on flooring that is clean and can be disinfected. Proof of vaccines should be required.
- Training Methods: Only positive reinforcement methods (including food) should be used. Any harsh, negative, or painful techniques should be a red flag that out-of-date training methods are being taught.
- Age: A class designed for puppies from 2 -5 months of age will be best. Puppies play and act differently than adult dogs.

Most importantly, the staff should be professional, friendly, and knowledgeable. If you don't feel comfortable, it's not the class for you!

PET INSURANCE COMPANIES

Your Darling Paws puppy will go home with 30 days of pet insurance through Trupanion. **This MUST be activated within 24 hours of your go home date.** There is no obligation to continue coverage past the first 30 days and there



are many companies out there that offer Pet Insurance. See your folder for more information regarding Trupanion. You can also check with your current homeowner's insurance company as many companies now offer pet health insurance.

Thank you for trusting us to bring home a new family member. We are forever grateful and available at any point you need support. Don't hesitate to reach out if you feel overwhelmed, stumped, defeated or especially when you want to share the good things ☺ We would love for periodic updates to not only see how beautiful these babies grow but to gain an insight into their temperament so we know what to expect for future Darling Paws Bernedoodle owners.

Best,
Brad & Cari with Darling Paws, LLC