

Feeding & Vitamins:

The food that we are feeding is Life's Abundance which can be ordered here:

<https://www.lifesabundance.com/General/ContactUsRep2.aspx?realname=20576348>

Your puppy already LOVES Life's Abundance.

We have been feeding this, the venison one is preferred:



You can switch to dry food only (blue bag); however, we encourage you to use some canned food at least in the beginning while puppy is getting new teeth (so until about 7 months).

Puppy food can be transitioned to adult food between 6-12 months of age.

Feeding Instructions:

In the first few days start puppy on 1/3rd of the can 3X per day coupled with 1/2 cup of dry puppy food which should be placed down for 15 minutes at approx. 8 am, 1 pm and 6 pm (this does not need to be exact but keep on the 3X a day feeding until 6 months of age.

To Order this food go here and please order at least a week before your puppy is going to come home:

<https://www.lifesabundance.com/General/ContactUsRep2.aspx?realname=20576348>

VITAMINS:

We use and highly recommend NuVet Vitamins, they can only be ordered through pet pros such as us so use the order code below for access to these great vitamins!

<http://www.nuvet.com/62131>



Sleeping Arrangements:

Keep puppy's sleeping quarters in a "high traffic area" so puppy can get used to commotion and people coming and going while in the crate.

CRATE & HOUSING:

We highly recommend crate training; it makes life a LOT easier!!! The Midwest brand crate is one with a divider for growth, dog like the crate they see it as a "den" and dogs are den animals. The crate is a great way to potty train, during potty training keep the dogs area of the crate just big enough to turn around, giving too much area will encourage potty inside crate and dogs don't like to lay in excretions so they will learn to hold it while in the crate!

Crate Sizes:

Minis and Toys 15-35# the size should be 30"L X 21"W X 24"H

Mediums 45-65# the crate size should be 36"L X 24"W X 27"H

Larger Mediums & Standards the crate should be 42"L X 28"W X 31"H

Midwest Life Stages Crates can be found here:

<http://www.midwestpetproducts.com>

Best way to avoid crate potty accidents:

Take puppy out right before he/she goes into crate at night or when you leave him/her. Remove food and water at least 2 hours before puppy is going to be put to bed. The first couple of nights you might want to get up mid-way through the night and take puppy outside. If puppy whines in the crate this is not indicative of the need to relieve him/herself this is most likely a whine because he/she is alone in the crate. So if whining occurs try to wait until the whining ceases before taking puppy out of the crate to potty unless you are 100% sure that puppy has to go potty. If you take puppy out of the crate when he/she whines or barks it is only going to signal to puppy that he/she can whine to get you to let him/her out of the crate ☺

Bath and Grooming:

GROOMING:

We recommend you use Life's Abundance shampoo and bath fresh mists to keep them smelling fresh



<https://www.lifesabundance.com/General/ContactUsRep2.aspx?realname=20576348>

Use a wire pin brush such as this style: Safari Wire Pin Brush; can be found on Amazon

You can groom or just trim F1 and F1b pups every 3-6 months, the first cut is typically around 6 months of age sometimes we trim them here at Golden Beauties Driven to Doodles if they need to be trimmed.

COLLAR:

Collar size is approx. **Minis: 4-12"** and **Mediums 6-12"** when puppy is between 8-10 weeks of age, we recommend you get an adjustable collar **flat buckle style**, not choker style. Do NOT use retractable leashes they are not safe! Harnesses are acceptable but these dogs are not big "pullers" so wait to purchase after you get into training classes and begin walking training.

TRAINING TIPS:

Sit:

The sit is accomplished by having a treat in your hand, sit on the floor with puppy and let puppy sniff the treat while raising it up above puppy's head, this will make puppy fall into a sit position, say the word sit after he/she accomplishes the sit and then give the treat, timing is essential so try to treat as quickly as you can. Do 5-6 of these in a row and by the 4th one puppy will most likely sit on command. Now the problem will arise when puppy is being trained in another room or outside vs inside so start all over from the first step because puppy has to learn it from scratch in a new area of the house, this is called generalizing.

Come:

Calling puppy to come to you is the single most important command you can ever teach, gather up some treats and distribute them to your family members and sit down in a circle with puppy in the middle and start calling one by one to come, give treat right after puppy comes to you, this will be a game make sure puppy only gets treat when he/she is called to come and actually comes to you. Now start to generalize this into different rooms and outside, on leash, off leash.

Once and a while grab puppy's collar after calling to come and then release it, this will be a great tool in the event of puppy escaping because he/she will be familiar with you grabbing his/her collar and then releasing it and won't think that he/she is getting taken away from the fun.

Down or Off?

When puppy jumps what do you say? If you are going to use the word down for laydown then do not use down for jumping, use "off" .

Down:

On a tile or linoleum floor gather some treats and make sure puppy has mastered the sit command (85% compliance is fine). Without saying sit (or down) lure puppy with the treat into the sit position then hold the treat directly between the chest area and allow the puppys nose to follow the treat to the floor, once the elbows have touched the ground say "down" this is a down (make sure the butt did not go up as the down requires the entire body to be flat on the ground).

Misc Tips:

Try not to mix up too many commands at the same time, for instance train the sit then later on or the next day work on the down this way puppy doesn't get confused between the commands.

Consistence is KEY! Timing is KEY! Make sure everyone in the home is using the same words, with young children having mom or dad assist and guide the puppy in the training session and allowing the kids to help out by praising and treating when it is appropriate.

Dogs learn best from food reinforcement so use the treats!

Potty:

Potty should occur as soon as puppy wakes up in the am, any time after a nap after eating, after excessive play and after drinking water. Puppy is going to have to go potty about every half hour when puppy is outside of crate, right now at between 8-9 weeks' puppy can hold it at night for 4-6 hours, in the next few weeks' puppy will be able to hold it longer and longer at night.

The best way to reinforce potty outside is to give a bland but good treat immediately after he/she goes outside. Don't wait to treat after puppy comes inside because then you are only reinforcing the puppy coming in the house not the potty.

What to do when puppy has a potty accident in the house?

DO NOT rub puppy's face in it, that DOES NOT WORK! If you catch puppy in the act, make a loud noise and take puppy out STAT!

Sometimes picking puppy up with a towel will help prevent the pee from dribbling out all over your floor ☺

If you see a potty accident after it has already been done do NOTHING except clean it up, once the deed has been done it is too late to reprimand and note that you must have not been paying enough attention to puppy and he/she was out of your sight long enough to oops inside. Cleaning with Natures Miracle or Vinegar and water can help keep them from going there again by cutting the odor of the pee/poo.

PROBLEM PREVENTION:

Chewing:

Puppy is going to be teething for the first several months, well until around 5 months when they get their big dog teeth, yes they will loose their baby teeth just like kids do ☺ So if you notice blood on toys and such do not worry it is probably from their baby teeth, they may also swallow some that's no big deal they break down in their gut!

Some great things to do are to take a wet wash cloth ring it out and freeze it, when frozen give it to puppy to chew on, this will soothe the gums and ease the chewing. Use Nylabones, Kongs, anything that can be durable enough to be chewed.

Puppy is going to be exploring things in the house so keep him/her confined when he/she is out of the crate, attend to him/her constantly or your furniture could become the next chew toy! They will seem to gravitate to the furniture, they are babies they are exploring but just redirect them to a toy that they are allowed to have. Most of those no chew sprays are a waste of money because some dogs like them, if you have an item that puppy really really likes to chew that is off limits either remove it from the room or try to put some hot sauce like Tabasco on it, that may work, not too much or there may be diarrhea if puppy does actually consume it.

Nipping/mouthing:

This is natural as dogs think of their mouths as we think of our hands, their mouths grab the toys, fetch the ball where humans use their hands to grab things. So puppy needs to be taught how to and how not to use their mouth on human skin. If puppy puts his or her sharp little baby teeth on any humans skin yell "OUCH" loudly. This is teaching bite inhibition and it is a similar noise that puppy's littermates made when puppy would grab them and it hurt.

Then give puppy a chew toy to chew on replace the human skin or even human clothing with the chew toy.

Chasing:

NEVER chase puppy, make puppy chase you. If you chase puppy then puppy will start to think that running away from you is a game and in the case of an emergency puppy will run away rather than come to you and this could be a dangerous situation. Call puppy to you and turn away after making eye contact with puppy and he/she will be encouraged to follow you rather than run away from you.

Children & Puppy:

Children should not be allowed to be alone on floor/ground with puppy unsupervised.

Children should be taught to reinforce dog with treats for basic commands, a firm "no" should be used to stop dog from nipping/grabbing at hand, clothing and other objects that humans don't want dog to grab at. If child cannot deliver a firm "no" parent or other adult needs to use the command for them.

IF a shaker can or a squirt bottle is used for training be sure to not allow children to use these items as the timing and consistency of children is erratic.

Adults should sit on the ground with puppy and child and work together with puppy, if puppy is nipping or grabbing at hands adult should teach leave/take procedure first for manners. *

*Leave/take is a manners procedure where adult holds treat that is motivating but not overly salient to puppy in hand and when puppy approaches adult says "leave" and closes hand with treat in it until puppy backs away and then once puppy backs away adult says "take" and gives puppy treat. This will ensure that puppy will understand that grabbing, nipping, licking, at hand does not give them a reward. This and other training should be done several times a day but not for a very long period of time as puppy's attention span is short.

Adults and children together should sit on floor with puppy's food bowl and hand feed the food but food should not be given if biting, nipping is occurring. Teach children to open hand wide with food in palm where puppy can take it without nibbling hand as well.

Feed treats to puppy while cuddling puppy and touching feet and ears, have children sit with adults when this is occurring.

Teach children not to pull on, ride, or move too erratically around puppy and all other dogs as well, children move fast and that can scare puppy and other dogs, holding hand out with palm up lower than the dog's muzzle in front of dog is the best way to greet dog rather than holding hand above the dog's head.

Children who cannot properly command puppy should be allowed to work commands only with adults and not alone with puppy.

Children should not run from or chase dogs or puppies, if teaching the "come" command get pups attention by making eye contact and heading in the opposite direction to allow pup to "follow" you but be sure to do this with children not allow them to do it without adults.

Remember that if the dog growls it is not necessarily the dog's fault as children's behavior can cause undue stress onto the dog. Remember that despite dogs being a part of our families they are still animals and have to be respected for their own species & breed specific traits as well.

It is common for puppies to growl and grab and tug at clothing or toys, do not encourage this behavior and if puppy does it replace object with desirable chew toy such as a nylabone. Growling is not indicative of aggression, puppies are learning and they learn to growl during play with littermates and once they enter the home they need to be taught that growling is not acceptable so a time out* and/or replacing the unwanted garment or body part with an object they are allowed to chew on is a way of teaching them the wanted behavior.

*Time out should be used if puppy is overly excitable or wound up and becoming frustrating to humans (this is common they are young).

Time out is when you encourage puppy to go into crate or solitary area

with a gentle lure (milk bone, chew toy) and they are closed into that are to simmer down. Time out should not be used as a punishment but merely a time for people to separate themselves from puppy while puppy is high strung.