



Caring for your new RedLeaf Redbone Coonhound puppy

The First Week

The first few days will be an adjustment period for both of you. Your puppy may be a little reserved and will need you to be gentle and soft. Don't plan any big excursions or have too many visitors over. I know it's tempting to flaunt your new family member but please avoid scary places with unpredictable dogs such as dog parks until your puppy is fully vaccinated. Keep things at home calm and take this time to get to know each other and develop a good routine.

Before your puppy gets home it's a good idea to puppy proof your house

1. Make sure all electrical cords are stored away from the puppy
2. Ensure your garbage cans have lids or garbages are out of site or placed up on a counter.
3. Make sure all dangerous liquids are in a safe place.
4. All chewable objects should be put away (including socks and underwear!) Puppies like to chew or eat the strangest things and an obstruction that requires surgery to remove is very expensive and scary!
5. Ensure you have a bunch of toys and meaty bones to give your puppy to occupy their time when you can't play with them.

Enriching and fun toys include squeaky toys, rubber tennis balls (dog-safe), teddy bears, kongs which you can fill with peanut butter or other treats, frisbee etc.. Remember your puppy may be too nervous the first day to play so give him/her time to warm up to your family and their new home.

Make sure you have a place for your puppy to sleep. Crates are a great option for a puppy because it creates a den like environment for them. Crate training is a wonderful tool as it provides a comfortable, quiet, safe environment for your puppy.

Your puppy may need to go to the bathroom when you get home. Make sure you take them out to the area you wish for them to use. When they potty in the area give them lots of praise prior to bringing them indoors.

Your natural instinct is going to want to have every family member to hold the puppy 24/7. The first day is important for your puppy to learn about his new environment so make sure there is a good balance between snuggles and time for your puppy to investigate your home. Snuggling creates a great bond between you and your puppy so it is important. However, investigating makes the puppy comfortable in a new environment and opens them up to their surroundings. Balance is the key to success!

When your puppy is exploring your home and property remember to supervise them. You can follow them around or encourage them to seek out different areas of the home by calling them. The first day you should make sure your puppy is introduced to every new thing and their new environment in a quiet and calm manner.

The best place for your new puppy to meet other dogs is within your yard. Once they are comfortable your yard makes for a great place to learn and interact.

Once your puppy has finished exploring, cuddling and interacting with your family it's time to introduce meal time. Make sure the puppy is relaxed and calm when dinner time approaches. Don't forget to let your puppy outside each time they eat, drink or sleep to ensure potty training success!

Don't start training the first day. It's always very tempting to take your puppy out once you get home to introduce them to everyone and everything but please wait a day. This day will already be overwhelming for your puppy and it's important for them to focus on their new environment and the people within it.

Nutrition and Feeding

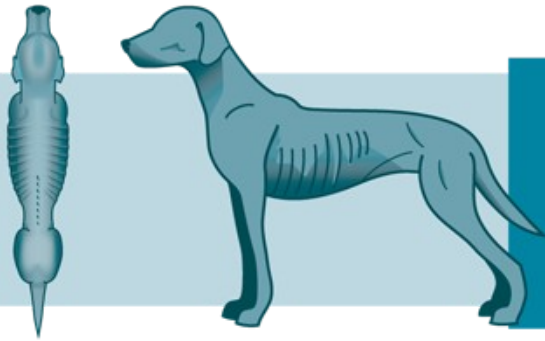
Your RedLeaf Redbone Coonhound puppy has been exposed to both raw and kibble food, as well as a large variety of treats. We've sent you home with a bit of food to make the transition to his or her new diet as easy as possible.

You can choose whatever food you like to feed your new puppy but please keep in mind that they do best when fed a lower protein food (under 30% is best). Avoid puppy chow as it's usually high in fat and fillers and keeping your Redbone Coonhound lean while they are growing will help avoid joint and hip issues down the road. You should feed a high quality adult food right away that is low in grain or corn content, and if possible a balanced raw diet. If you choose to feed kibble please try adding fresh food to it, such as fruit and vegetables, or scraps of meat. Feed your puppy several small meals per day while he is growing but do not allow your puppy to overeat! Slow and steady growth is the goal here.

Most kibble foods are very dry and some dogs won't be getting enough water during the day so a good tip to help them stay hydrated is to soak the kibble food for an hour or so to help them keep their water intake up.

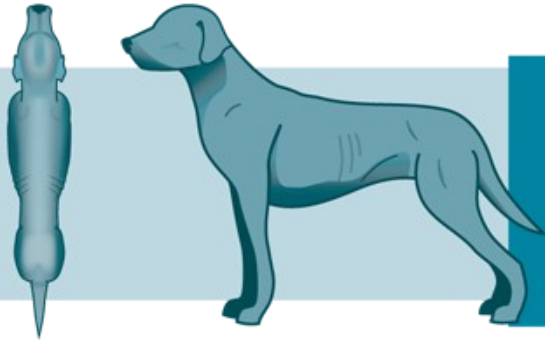
There are so many healthy treat options you can use, so get creative! Our dogs love carrots to munch on, peanut butter and banana blended and frozen into kong toys, all kinds of fruits and vegetables, coconut oil in moderation and basically any meat scraps. Raw, meaty bones are a favourite and do wonders for keeping their minds occupied and their teeth clean.

UNDER WEIGHT



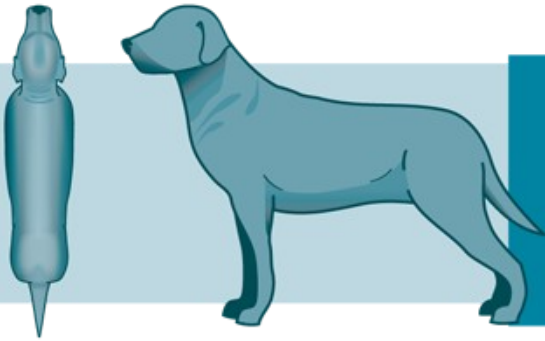
Bones (ribs, spine & hips) protruding and can be easily seen in a short coated dog. No body fat visible and waist very obvious. Dog almost looks 'sucked in' after the ribs. In very thin dogs, loss of muscle mass may be evident.

IDEAL



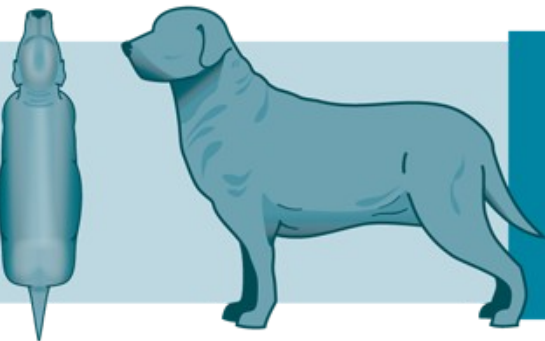
Bones (ribs, spine & hips) should be easily felt. In a short coated dog, the last couple of ribs may be visible when twisting and turning during normal play and exercise. A waist should be visible from above and the side (the body should 'tuck in' after the rib cage).

OVER WEIGHT



Dogs are classed as overweight if they weigh 10-20% more than their ideal body weight*. Difficult to feel the ribs. Fat deposits visible over the body including the belly and base of the tail. The waist is starting to disappear – minimal abdominal tuck after the ribs when looking from above. Back looks broader.

OBESE

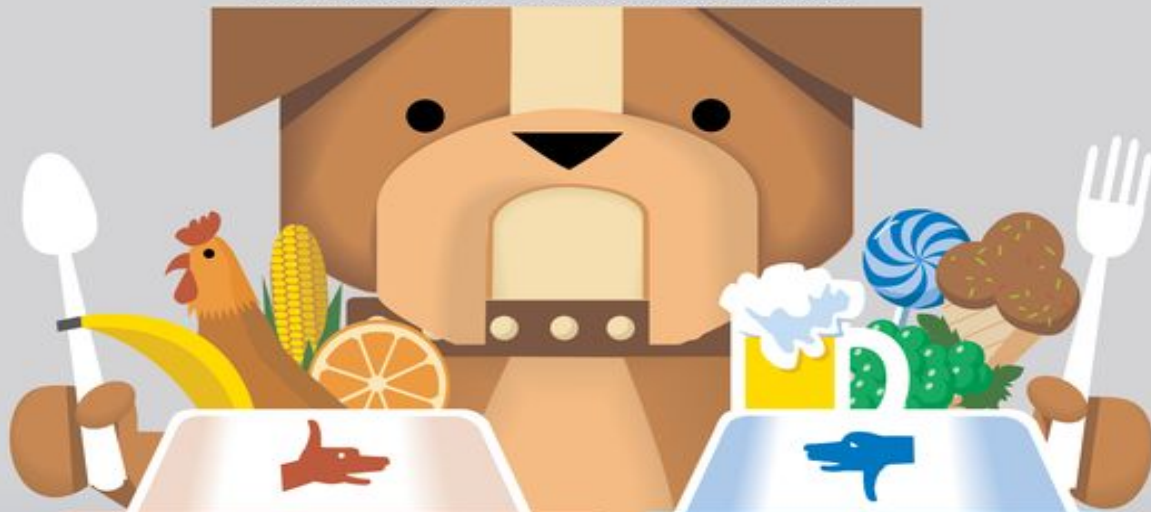


Dogs are classed as obese if they weigh 20% more than their ideal body weight*. Ribs cannot be felt due to heavy covering of fat. Fat deposits visible over the spine and base of the tail. Fat rolls visible around the neck and chest and the belly may be drooping. Waistline has been lost so when you look from above there is no abdominal tuck after the ribs.

* Toll P, et al. 2010 . Obesity. In: Hand M, et al. 2010., (eds). Small Animal Clinical Nutrition, 5th ed. Topeka, KS : Mark Morris Institute p501

HEALTHY vs. HARMFUL Dog Food

A Quick Guide on What to Give Them



Healthy

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Acai berries | Mango |
| Alfalfa | Nectarines  |
| Apples (not the seeds!) | Oats |
| Asparagus | Olive oil |
| Bananas | Oranges |
| Barley | Organ meat (Liver, gizzard, heart) |
| Beans | Papaya |
| Beef | Parsley |
| Blackberries | Peaches (not the pits!) |
| Blueberries | Peanut butter (salt/sugar-free) |
| Bran (oatmeal, wheat) | Pears |
| Bread (whole grain) | Peas |
| Broccoli | Pheasant  |
| Broth (chicken, beef) | Pineapple |
| Brussel sprouts | Pork |
| Buffalo | Potato (not peelings!) |
| Cabbage | Pumpkin |
| Cantaloupe | Quinoa |
| Carrots | Rabbit |
| Celery | Radishes |
| Cheese  | Raspberries |
| Chicken | Rice |
| Cinnamon | Sardines  |
| Coconut (oil, meat & water) | Salmon |
| Corn | Sprouts |
| Cranberries | Squash |
| Cucumber | Strawberries |
| Eggplant | Sweet potatoes |
| Eggs | Turkey |
| Flax oil | Venison |
| Fish oil | Watermelon  |
| Honeydew melon | Yams |
| Kiwi | Yogurt (plain) |
| Lamb | Zucchini |
| Leafy greens  | |

Harmful

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Alcohol | |
| Apple seeds | |
| Baking powder & soda | |
| Beer | |
| Caffeine  | |
| Candy | |
| Chives | |
| Chocolate (esp. dark) | |
| Coffee  | |
| Fat Trimmings  | |
| Fruit Pits | |
| Garlic  | |
| Grapes  | |
| Hops | |
| Ice Cream | |
| Leeks | |
| Medicine for Humans | |
| Milk  | |
| Moldy Foods | |
| Mushrooms  | |
| Mustard seeds | |
| Nutmeg | |
| Nuts (esp. Macadamia) | |
| Onions | |
| Potato (leaves, peelings, & stems) | |
| Raisins | |
| Rhubarb  | |
| Salt | |
| Sugar | |
| Tea  | |
| Tomato (leaves & stems)  | |
| Vitamins for Humans (esp. iron!) | |
| Xylitol (in gum) | |
| Yeast dough | |

Grooming

Bathing as required or once a month are usually all you should need to keep your puppy clean. Shampoo and conditioner will help keep your puppy's coat clean and shiny. We've had good luck with the 'Mane N' Tail' brand and like to recommend it but there are many other good options available also. In the dry winter months oatmeal shampoos and conditioners seem to really help the coat from developing dandruff issues.

Ears should be kept clean and dry. You can easily clean them with any ear cleaning solution and some cotton pads. Try to get deep inside the canal to bring up any gunk that is lingering down there. We like to clean our Coonhounds' ears after bath time to ensure they dry properly and there's no trapped water inside the ear. Excess moisture in the ear can lead to ear infections.

The most important part of grooming is to keep the nails short. When the nails are long the dog is forced to rock back on the heel of his pad, not using the toes to help with balance. Did you know that the pads of your dog's feet have sensory receptors in them that help his brain understand where he is in relation to the ground? When your dog's nails are overgrown he is forced to change the way he stands and the way he moves. This causes long term damage to joints, ligaments and tendons. It can lead to injuries, chronic inflammation and arthritis. It's also very painful!

You can compare this to having really long toenails and going for a jog in your new running shoes. As you hit the ground your toenails will be jamming into the front of the shoe, causing pain. If you never cut your nails it would eventually change your posture, affect your movement and leave you probably quite miserable. So please maintain your dog's nails. We do our very best to maintain them from birth here at RedLeaf and the puppies should be going home to you very used to having their feet handled and seeing the clippers or dremel. We train them to be comfortable with their nails trims so it won't be a fight for you to trim them back once a week or so.

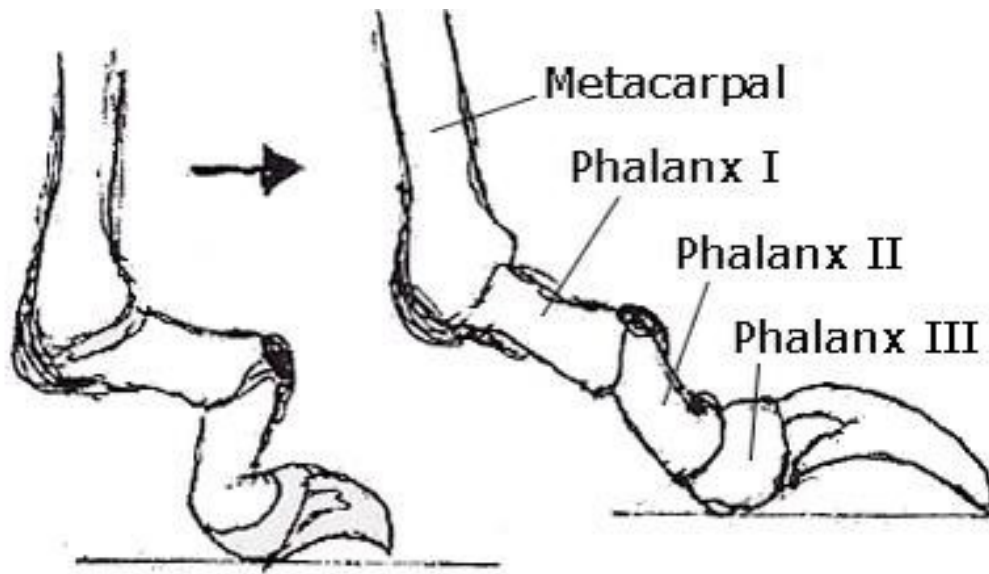


Image on the left: Nails kept short, proper foot positioning. Dog is able to contact ground with all areas of the foot.
 Image on the right: Nails kept long, improper foot positioning. Dog is unable to contact ground with toes while running and exercising. Over time this will lead to injuries, inflammations and arthritis.

Some people find it easier to maintain their dogs nails with a dremel. We personally love the dremel and use it often, but not all dogs like the sound so it is something that has to be trained to use over time. If this is something you'd like to do I highly recommend a facebook group called "Nail Maintenance for Dogs" -it has a ton of great resources to help you to train your dog to be comfortable with the process.

Please use the following picture as a guide to help you to know where to cut. Remember to take small pieces off, like you are whittling away at the nail, instead of one large chop. You're much less likely to cut into the quick (nerve vessel) if you do it in small pieces.



45° cut
 removes tip
 of nail.
 Minimise
 nail impact
 on the floor.



Grind / Cut
 slivers off the
 top of the nail.
 It helps the
 quick recede.

Potty training

We start litter training the puppies at 3 weeks. This makes for a nice and easy transition to the outdoors when it's time for them to go to their new homes.

We recommend puppy families purchase a large litter tray or rabbit hutch tray and place wood pellets or shavings into the tray. Put it in an area that is within reach of the puppy; preferably somewhere you can see the puppy going to the box. When the puppy approaches the box it's best to try and pick them up before they go into the box and carry them outside. By doing this you are teaching the puppy that outside is their new preferred potty area and eventually you won't need the tray in your home.

Remember that puppies under 9 weeks have very small bladders and need to go potty anywhere from 8-12 times a day or more! It's very common for puppies to pee within 10 min of drinking water or waking up. They usually poop within 20 min of eating. If you watch your puppy during these times and provide them with outdoor activities following these three times this will help you minimize the amount of "accidents" your puppy may have. When they do go potty outside make sure to praise heavily and give them lots of treats to let them know that it is good thing and something to strive for.

When potty training it's best to keep your puppy in a smaller area within your home and close to you. You want to get to know your puppies cues on when they need to potty so you can avoid "accidents". Crate training and litter tray training are great tools to help you potty train your puppy.

Crate Training

A crate should never be used as a punishment for a puppy. By using a crate as a punishment you are encouraging your dog to dislike being in their crate because it's an unhappy place. A crate should always be your puppy's own personal space. It should be a comfortable, quiet environment that they can enjoy and retreat to whenever they want some alone time.

Some pups choose to avoid their crate because they have so many other exciting things going on in the home that they choose not to relax. Relaxation time is good for your dog and in the future you both will appreciate having somewhere they can be quiet. To make the crate a fun place for a puppy we recommend making the crate part of feeding time. Puppies start basic crate training at RedLeaf at approx. 6 weeks of age. We start crate training by doing their feeding sessions inside the crate. Having their meal in a crate helps the puppy associate the crate with a positive thing. After all, all hounds LOVE food!

When the puppy goes home with you after 8 weeks you should feed your puppy at least one meal per day in the crate to help continue on the foundation work of crate training that we've started. We also suggest to make play time part of crate time. Throw toys into the crate for your puppy to retrieve. This game builds confidence in your puppy that crates are fun! They aren't just a place where they are placed with a door shut when their family leaves the home.

Crating at night time is also a great way to get your puppy comfortable in their new safe place. A smaller crate in your bedroom can ease a puppy the first few nights in your home. The sounds and smells of their owner nearby typically helps calm a puppy. It's important to NEVER let your puppy out of his/her crate when they are screaming. Some people prefer to leave the puppy in a room at the other end of their home for their first few nights until they learn that crying doesn't get them a free pass into the bed. It may sound awful but giving in when they are being noisy will teach them that crying and whining gets them what they want. You'll be creating your own monster if you let them set the rules.

If you have to leave your puppy for an extended period of time try to set up an area like the following examples with a crate/bed area, a play area, food and water bowls and a litter tray full of wood pellets or pine shavings to use as a potty. Try to avoid using pee pads as sometimes puppies will relate them to carpet or blanket surfaces and you'll want your puppy to always go outside for their potty area:

Example 1:



Example 2:



Interacting With Children

Teaching your children how to interact with dogs is going to take some work but it's important that they learn the skills of dog language not just for your puppy's sake but also for all the other unpredictable dogs they might encounter in their lives.

Children should never be allowed to pull on, ride on, play in a dog's crate or take food or toys away from a puppy and especially an older dog. It's not funny or cute and it's certainly not safe. Many kids have had serious injuries caused by pushing a dog beyond its level of comfort. All dogs and especially puppies should always have a way to escape a situation they are uncomfortable with. Your dog may be extremely passive and okay with it but other dogs may not be and your child may not know the difference.

Fun play for children and puppies of all ages can include playing a game of "find it!", where the child will hide pieces of treats or kibble in areas around the house and your puppy will then have to sniff them out. This is a very rewarding game for both parties because the kids get to be involved and the puppy gets a great reward for using his nose. This will actually wear both of them out mentally and anything that wears energetic kids and puppies out without intense physical exercise is a win in my book!

Vaccinations

Your puppy has had their first vaccination at 8 weeks and will require a second vaccination at 12 weeks and 16 weeks of age. Rabies should be administered after 16 weeks of age, the later the better. If possible try to book rabies for approx 20 weeks of age, or even later. DO NOT let your veterinarian administer rabies and their final 16 week vaccination at the same time. It is too much for a little puppy to take in one day and if your vet is pushy about it just walk away. Blame me if you need to, say it was in our contract or whatever you have to do. You are your puppy's advocate and you need to do what you can do keep him or her safe from over-vaccinating.

Socialization

Balancing socialization with being protective of your not-yet fully vaccinated puppy can be scary but with the proper steps you can manage to do it safely! Avoid any highly congested dog areas such as dog parks, highway rest stops, dog kennels or shelters. At the veterinary clinic do not let your puppy touch the floor or sniff around. Keep them in your arms at all times. Remember it can take up to 7 days for a typical 3-way or 5-way vaccination to take effect so do your socialization opportunities in your home or a trusted friend's house until that week has passed. Set up opportunities for successful socialization with friendly people and dogs you can trust, like a family member's calm, relaxed and well-socialized pooch.

Remember it is your job to socialize your puppy well. Socializing your puppy is THE MOST IMPORTANT gift that you can give to your new puppy, so do it right and make all visiting opportunities friendly and a positive experience for your puppy.

Please Don't Forget Your Breeder...

I knew from day one not every puppy could stay.

Preparing them for life took many hours each day.

I love every minute watching them develop and thrive.

Helping them discover the world fills me with pride.

The weeks are numbered, never enough time.

I worry, even though I know the puppies will be fine.

I trust you with this puppy and hope you understand,

I handpicked you and hope you to follow the plan.

Continue to provide new experiences each day,

never stop training and always include play.

*I will never forget my puppies and will always be here,
please provide them the best for the rest of their years.*

No matter how long ago your baby was here,

not staying in touch in my biggest fear.