

# THUMB SILVER LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

## PUPPY INFORMATION

PUPPY COLOR/COLLAR/NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

VETERINARIAN CHECK/SHOTS/DEWORMED: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT VACCINE DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations on your new furry family member!!!! Each furry baby has been raised within our family and loved individually. All have been handled a lot, rocked, played with, hugged, kissed, interactive play, etc. We believe strongly in providing strong roots so they will be a perfect addition to your family. They will still make mistakes as they go (which we know can be frustrating). If you ever need assistance, there are many sources for you to choose from, however, we are happy to help -always - if you want to reach out to us. We don't have all the answers but will absolutely try to help. Please keep in mind the **most important item: you will get out of your pup what you put into them.** Therefore, they will unconditionally love, but if you want them to have boundaries, learn tricks, service dog, hunt, etc., they can and will! We have multiple pups doing a lot of very interesting things. The owners invested time on what they want them to do. We love to watch them grow. Please message us or post to our site, etc. Thank you for welcoming and loving our little friends. We hope they are the best family friend you can ask for!

**FOOD:** Diamond Naturals Large Breed Puppy Food. We free feed. We find that keeping the dish full at all times they can eat when they want. Labs are notorious for eating as much food as is in front of them. Ours have not and do not have an issue with overeating. You may feed your puppy how you would like, but as background and transition purposes, this is how we fed them. We attend a lot of training on what is best for newborn puppies through adoption. One of the items recommended for a smooth transition is to supply some of our water for you to take home. Then, use typical transition methods to move to yours. If you are interested, please contact us in advance. We believe strongly in solid nutrition. As such, we hired a Canine Nutritionist to verify our formula for our Moms (and Dad:). If you are interested in feeding your dog this recipe, here it is:

1 lb boneless, skinless chicken thigh cut into bite-sized pieces or 80/20 ground beef or sodium-free pork tenderloin or wild-caught salmon  
2 hard boiled eggs chopped  
1 cup cooked rolled oats  
1/2 cup canned pumpkin  
2 oz frozen kale or spinach (or 8 oz of fresh)  
2 oz broccoli or green beans (or 4 oz fresh)  
1 pear or apple (seeds removed, chopped)  
1 tbsp organic coconut oil  
Bernies Best  
Apple Cider Vinegar pill or liquid  
Sodium free broth (bone, chicken or beef)  
Salmon/Fish oil (if not serving fish)

**TREATS:** Milk bones, Blue Buffalo Bits, puppy teether sticks (chewy.com)

**POTTY TIPS:** Take out regularly the first week or two (once an hour - it is a lot at first then each week their bladder will get a little bigger and they will be able to hold it longer), after they eat/drink and when they wake up from a nap. Praise when they go and provide a small treat/reward. If they were dewormed just prior to going home, for a week or so, their bowel movements may be loose. This is normal. If it continues, please talk to the vet about this at their vaccination appointment.

**FLEA/TICK/HEARTWORM:** There are many treatments available. We choose a homeopathic flea/tick/mosquito option. This consists of Wondercide for the home/yard and Tropi-Clean Natural Flea and Tick. Feel free to discuss with your vet what is best for you and your baby.

**BATH/NAILS:** On pick up day, puppy will get a bath in baby shampoo. Due to their thin skin, it is not necessary to bathe them often. Nails have been trimmed on multiple occasions. They will leave with nails trimmed within a week. They do grow quickly and are very sharp.

**STEPS:** We work on steps, all can go up steps. Coming down is a different story. Multiple pups have gone up and come back down. Coming down is scary for puppies, but they will get it quickly. If you have steps they will learn as their legs get a little longer and they are comfortable in the environment :)

#### **INFORMATION:**

- **ENS (Early Neurological Stimulation):** This is a process that introduces mild stressors to very young puppies in a controlled way. These stressors help stimulate the neurological system which improves the growth and development of the puppies immune system, cardiovascular system and resilience/coping/stress tolerance.
- **Exposure:** In order for your puppy to have a well rounded beginning, we expose them to the following before they go to their Furever home-soft/loud noise; vacuum cleaner/mop; children/adults; variety of toys; etc. It's our understanding the puppy should be exposed to as many things as possible by 14 weeks. We know we haven't hit them all, so please keep that in mind the next couple weeks :)
- **Soothing:** We promote self soothing as much as possible, but all puppies have been handled, rocked, sang to, danced with, etc. The puppies have been exposed to white noise and music for lengthy periods of time (Baby Mozart, classical, Christian, relaxing piano music, a previous daycare list designed for toddlers and metal/rock. We found that due to the teething, they will often be soothed with a chew/teething toy. Just keep in mind, puppies have similar patterns as a toddler/teenager/etc. White noise during rest time is especially helpful. Our home is very busy and they are used to hearing the hustle and bustle of family life. In this stage, overstimulation, fatigue, hunger can all make the puppy not behave their best.
- **Sleeping:** Keep in mind pups will miss Mom, but their litter mates for sure. They usually sleep in a pile flopped all over each other with a nightlight on. There are things out there that will assist with the transition if they are upset at night. Good routines, the blanket with Mom's scent, stuffed animal, etc. We tried the heartbeat stuffed animal and that seemed to work well with our youngest. From the soothing section above, white noise will assist during rest and night time.
- **Problem solving:** We work on multiple problem solving activities - puzzles, getting out of the box, finding the food. This litter has performed great. Virtually 0.0 whining and determination to complete the activity.
- **Other dogs:** If you have other dogs/pups in the house, just a friendly reminder to set good boundaries for your new family member, i.e. food, treats, toys, play fighting/biting which can cause frustration in both adult and puppy.
- **Attention:** If you want to get their attention, anything that makes a shaking, squeaking, or sound (like a rattle, crinkly toy, music, metal "ting" sound like food going into their dish, clicking, bells, etc.) will grab their attention.
- **Help:** We have employed a dog training app named DOGO with access to lessons from puppy to senior. We also have access to a live trainer for issues beyond the usual lessons. If you need assistance, please contact us and we will work with you on this app or provide you access.

**\$ SAVING TIPS:** Amazon, Tractor Supply, Chewy.com, Petflow.com, Amazon.com all have subscribe & save options for food, treats and pet needs.

**FREE PET SAFETY PACK:** <https://secure.aspca.org/take-action/order-your-pet-safety-pack>

#### **BAG CONTENTS\*:**

- Blanket. It is new or laundered. It has been in the litter and rubbed on Mom. It is not dirty, but will have some of Mom's hair on it.
- Toy and/or stuffed animal
- Container of Diamond Naturals Large Breed Puppy to get started or to use in transition if you choose to change food

- Treat
- Vet records
- Documentation
  - Agreement
  - AKC registration paperwork-a lot of new puppy owners do not register with AKC. This is your choice. There is a fee to register them. If you register, the silver labs are registered as "chocolate", charcoal as "black" and white as "yellow".
  - Puppy Information sheet/miscellaneous documents

\*Please express caution with everything you introduce to your new fur baby as if they are an infant/toddler. When things get too small (i.e. chew bone, etc) they can swallow it, shred it to pieces and eat it, etc.

**ONLINE REFERENCE:**

- Please access our website [www.thumblabradorretrievers.com](http://www.thumblabradorretrievers.com) for new puppy papers, articles, etc. for your fur baby.

**NOTES:**

\*\*\*\*Genesis 1:31: God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.\*\*\*\*