



## HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL CARE

---

Your dog saw our veterinarian prior to going home. You were given a copy of his health certificate in the paperwork. Your dog has been deemed completely healthy and fit for sale, but there are some common sense rules that will keep him that way.

**VACCINES** - Your dog is current on all vaccines. You were given stickers for the vaccines he has had. The complete list is also added to the contract, in addition to the vaccines he is due for. If your veterinarian will administer the exact vaccines, great. If not, you can purchase the vaccines yourself, and give them yourself or take them to the vet for administration.

If you allow your veterinarian to restart the vaccine series, use different vaccines than are listed in the contract, or to do vaccines at different ages than is listed, all of your warranties and guarantees are null and void. The reason for this is that, yes, vaccines are good at building immunity and keeping serious health problems at bay, but done incorrectly, vaccines pose a serious health problem to dogs. The simple fact is that veterinarians went to medical school, but these schools are funded and run by pharmaceutical companies, who push their products. Plus when your veterinarian administers vaccines and your dog gets sick, you are benefiting your veterinarian because your dog will need more health care.

Often, vets do not properly time vaccines also. Vaccines given too young will not be effective, because the maternal antibodies override the vaccine. Space the vaccines too far apart, there is a gap in protection. But too close together does nothing but hinder his immune system.

Adult dogs do not need combo shots every year, anymore than you need a tetanus shot every year. Blindly vaccinating your dog every year or every three years only stresses out the immune system, making your dog more vulnerable to infections as well as autoimmune disorders.

If your vet tries to push you to restart the puppy series, or vaccinate an adult, or include vaccines not listed in the contract, do not be swayed, unless you do not care about keeping your warranties and guarantees. There is no law stating a dog must have combo shots, or a dog must have combo shots according to your vet's schedule. If your vet is adamant about pushing unnecessary vaccines, he will likely be adamant about pushing other unnecessary services.

Show and working dogs will likely need to be titered on a regular basis, to ensure that they are protected and immune to infections and diseases. This is needed if your dog travels, is boarded, or is at shows and competitions, or frequent dog parks or dog daycares.

**PARASITE CONTROL** - Your dog is up to date on parasite control. The contract specifies what products he has been given, and all dates. It also shows when he is due again. We always use a 28 day cycle, versus once a month. This is because all of the products out there are guaranteed effective for 4 weeks. This is 28 days, versus the 30-31 days in a month. Doing it once a month risks a gap that the protection is not effective.

We suggest spacing the chemicals out, with dogs receiving each product at 14 days intervals. So a dog gets internal parasite control, 2 weeks later external, 2 weeks later internal again. Doing so prevents overload of toxins in a dog's system. This overload is what is responsible for most side effects of parasite control products.

**INTERNAL PARASITES** - We use Interceptor Plus because this gives the most comprehensive internal parasite control in one product.

**EXTERNAL PARASITES** - We use K-9 Advantix 2, because this not only kills and repels all life stages of fleas and ticks on your dog, but also in your environment, and kills and repels mosquitoes, further protecting your dog from heartworms.

You are more than welcome to change parasite control products, but remember that your regimen should be continued year round (yes, even heartworm prevention in the winter), because parasites can cause a lot of damage to a dog's systems even before there are signs of infestation. Our warranties and guarantees do not cover parasite infestation.

Your dog has been genetically tested for over 200 different genetic health problems. Some of these are found in your dog's breed, others are not. We have included the original report from Embark, and the results for the breed specific genetic tests have already been sent to the OFA. These results should be shared with your veterinarian. We have also done a color panel, looking for hidden color related genes that can cause health problems (dilute, white, albinism, merle, etc.) Even though these colors are not bred in

our program, sometimes dogs have hidden recessive genes that can pop up in unexpected ways.

If your dog is over 12 months of age, thyroid, eyes, and heart have already been checked and certified. We only do the Basic Cardiac, and do not do the Advanced with the Echo. The advanced is not needed in our breeds. We do eyes and cardiac every year, and thyroid every 2 years during breeding time. If your dog is over 24 months of age, hips and elbows have also been done, and your dog will have a CHIC number. All certificates accompany your dog. All of these results should be shared with your veterinarian.

NOTE: An imported dog may have hips and elbows done at 12 months of age, but OFA does not recognize this, and your dog will not be eligible for a CHIC number unless you redo hips and elbows at 24 months.

If you want to neuter your dog, you should review our contract. Your dog should not be traditionally neutered (castration or hysterectomy) until 24 months of age. If you want to neuter your dog before then, you can do an OSS or vasectomy, but removing ovaries and testicles prior to full maturity will lead to growth disorders, temperament issues, and a higher chance of certain cancers. If you traditionally neuter your dog prior to 24 months of age, without a valid health reason, all of your warranties are null and void.

**SOCIALIZATION AND VISITORS** - Yes, we know you want to show off your new puppy, and let all of your friends and family meet him. However, this can be a bad idea for several reasons. First, at the beginning, you want your puppy to bond with you and your family. He does not need to have a bond with the meter reader, the pizza delivery guy, and all of your neighbors. He needs to bond with his household. Teaching your puppy to ignore other people is a very important subject. When you are in public, the dog who is trying to jump on everyone, get in other dog's faces, and focus on everyone but his owner is a problem. By teaching him from day one that he can only greet other people when told he can greet other people, you are setting your dog up to have manners in public.

Another concern is diseases. If your boss's cousin's neighbor's kids come over and play with the new puppy, you have no idea if they are bringing in viruses, like parvo and distemper, on their clothes, shoes, and hands. If they have played or interacted with other dogs, there is a risk that they could make your puppy very, very sick.

Theft is an issue also. The more people that you parade through your home to see your new puppy, the more people that could conceivably decide to steal your puppy.

And the same goes for socializing with strange dogs. This should be common sense not to take a young puppy to a dog park or pet stores, but people do it. This just opens the door to disease and attacks.

I am not saying you need to keep your puppy in a bubble and isolate him from the world. Just remember that until 16 weeks, he is very vulnerable to diseases, since his immune

system is not to par yet. And a young puppy getting attacked by another dog, can develop reactivity to dogs, because they can get a “I have to attack first to have the upper hand” mentality.

Feel free to take your puppy to puppy kindergarten classes, provided the instructors are insistent on vaccines. Let your puppy play with TRUSTED puppies close to his own age and size, if you know the other puppies are healthy and good tempered.

After 17 weeks, when his immune system is closer to being fully developed, you can start taking him into public more and socializing with strangers. By this time, he should be bonded with you, and learned that you are his person, and he is to pay attention to you. Dog shows and events are good places to take puppies at this age, especially if he’s entered. Get him used to the noise, strange dogs, strange people, crowds. Enter him in BPUP shows, if he has full registration. However, you still want to avoid off lead dog parks, since these places are hotbeds for fights and diseases.

DIET - Your dog has been fed a combination of raw and quality commercial diets. We do not care which route you go, but if you use commercial foods, you should review our contract, and make sure the food you wish to feed is in the contract. If it is not, and you feel that it is a quality food, you should contact us to discuss it. If we agree that the food is quality, we will add it to the contract that you can feed this food. If you choose to raw feed, we not care if you use PMR, BARF, or ground, and we don’t care if you use a homemade or pre-made food, whichever you are more comfortable with.

However, if you are new to raw feeding, you should find a support group which will help you, unless your vet is well versed in raw feeding. Do not be surprised, however, if your vet tries to push you away from raw feeding. Many vets are not well enough educated in animal nutrition to understand the benefits of raw. Your vet went to vet schools, where dog food manufacturers taught him how to push commercial kibble down pet owners’ throats. We are always available to help with feeding issues. There are also plenty of groups on social media that are devoted to raw feeding, and you will get tons of advice there.

You have been given an opportunity to get a three day supply of your choice of any or all of the foods and dietary supplements that your dog has been on.

EXERCISE - You should use care when exercising your dog. Your puppy or young adult dog should not walk and jog for miles and miles. Joints and bones are sill developing. The ideal for structured exercise for pups and young adults is 5 minutes per their age in months. So a 6 month old puppy should get no more than 30 minutes of structured exercise per day, and a 12 month old should get no more than 60 minutes of structured exercise per day. This should be broken down into blocks for pups under 12 months old. These blocks should be 5 minutes per 3 months of age. So a 6 month pup should have 10 minute blocks of exercise with rest in between. A 9 month old pup should have 15 minute blocks.

However, dogs should have as much informal exercise as they want. This includes running in the yard, doggie daycare, play groups, etc. However, you must let your pup set the pace, and quit when tired.

A dog over 24 months old does not need the same limits, but again you should let the dog set the pace, especially if the weather is hot and humid. Your dog should not be a running or jogging partner, or mush or weight pull until fully grown and mature. Slow speed, short distance mushing on soft surfaces (dirt, grass, etc.) can count for a younger dog's structured exercise.

The 80/100 rule is critical, especially in double coated breeds. If sun is out, and the temperature and the humidity added together equals 80-99, you need to use extreme caution with formal exercise. Half the distance, half the speed, half the time, and you must stop every 10-15 minutes for water and rest, and keep to the shade as much as possible. If the temperature and humidity added together equal 100 or more, your dog should not do any sort of formal exercise. This means if it is 75 degrees outside, and the humidity is 0%, then  $75 + 0 = 75$ , and you can safely exercise your dog. If the temperature is 75 degrees and the humidity is 20%, then  $75 + 20 = 95$ , and you must use extreme caution. But if the temperature is 75 degrees, and the humidity is 50%, then  $75 + 50 = 125$ , and you should not exercise your dog. Now, if your dog has always lived in your climate, or one warmer, or if the sun is not out, you can get a leeway of about 10.

**COLLAR** - sadly, we have to add this section. You were given a collar with your new dog. The collar if a proper size and width for your dog at time of purchase. However, especially with puppies, **YOU MUST CHECK THE FIT ON A REGULAR BASIS.** Embedded collars are the most common preventable injury to a dog, and an embedded collar is nothing short of neglect. You should be able to fit two fingers between the collar and the dog's neck. If you cannot fit two fingers comfortably, it's time to adjust the collar. If the collar is at the maximum adjustment, it's time for a new collar, no ands, ifs, or buts about it. You should check the fit of a puppy's collar every few days, but adults, unless changing weight, should not have to be checked more than once a week.

We do not recommend keeping collars on your dog at home unless it's necessary. Collars pose a strangulation hazard to your dog if it catches on crate, fence, bushes, etc. If you have multiple dogs playing together, collars can get caught on legs and jaws, causing broken bones, broken necks, and strangulation. Also by not having your dog's collar on him all the time, you are ensuring the collar does not get embedded, because the fit is checked every time you put it on.

**MICROCHIP AND ID** - Your dog was micro chipped with an ISO chip shortly after he was born. Sometimes, if we purchased your dog, he was chipped with a standard chip. However, if the chip was not an ISO compliant chip, we rechipped him with an ISO one. Contrary to popular belief, having 2 chips is not a problem. US standard chips and ISO chips operate on different frequencies and some scanners will read them both. In this case, though, it will only ping the first one it finds. If your dog happens to have multiple chips, we add both to his AKC Reunite account, just in case a finder stops after the

standard chip.

We do not require you to keep us as a contact on your dog's Reunite registration. We suggest you keep us as an alternate contact. This way, if you move or change your phone number and forget to update the registration, the finder can contact us. However, if you choose not to use us as an alternate, we suggest your veterinarian, especially if there are any health issues. It is critical to keep this information updated. AKC Reunite does not charge for updating profiles, and does not have limits as to how many times a profile can be updated. Reunite will send you reminders on your dog's birthday, to double check information and ensure that contact information, special instructions, and medical notes are up to date.

Your dog came home with his Reunite tag, and another will be sent when your transfer is processed. If he is over 24 weeks of age, his rabies tag is also included. It is critical that these tags are kept on his collar at all times if he is off your property, as well as his license tag if that is required in your community.

Make sure that when you switch collars, you also switch tags. Tags are visible proof of identity and proof of rabies vaccine and license. If your dog is picked up by animal control and scanned for a chip, you will be notified, but until you bring paperwork in, they will not know if your dog has had a rabies shot and is licensed.

**SAFETY IN THE HOME** - This is the most overlooked, but most important part of getting a new pet, ensuring that he will be safe. There are a lot of factors that go into this.

First, get down at your dog's eye level. Yes, this means crawling around on all fours. Look through a puppy's eyes. Is there anything that could be dangerous? Cleaning products should be locked in a cabinet or put on a shelf above his reach. Many popular houseplants can be very toxic to a dog if chewed or ingested. Ensure that plants are put out of your dog's reach, and that he cannot access flowers or leaves that die and drop off. Many puppies are fascinated by electrical cords. If possible, they should be put behind or under furniture. If that is impossible, they should be sprayed with Bitter Apple, hot sauce, vinegar, or another chew deterrent.

Close doors to rooms that your puppy can get into trouble. Bedrooms and bathrooms can be very dangerous places for unsupervised puppies. Even if you keep your dog crated or supervised, all it takes is one slip up, where husband thinks wife is watching the puppy and leaves the room, or the crate door is not securely fastened when everyone goes to work and school. The puppy gets into the bathroom, eats a bar of soap, drinks a bottle of shampoo, then uses a razor as a chew toy. Or the pup gets into the kids' rooms, eats Legos, Barbie shoes, play-doh, etc. None of this is good for a puppy. Getting into the habit of closing doors prevents these issues.

On the same token, you should ensure that your family picks up their messes around the house. Puppies and dogs will find the oddest things to chew on and eat. And many of their favorites are the most dangerous. Leaving an empty ice cream bowl on the end table

while you go to the bathroom may seem insignificant, but your puppy licking that bowl can get sick from the dairy, sugar, and any additives, especially chocolate. Leaving a knife you cut chicken with on the kitchen counter is dangerous for a counter surfer. A half full cup of coffee on the coffee table is quite dangerous if your dog decides to drink it. A can falling out of the garbage can will injure a dog if he licks it out.

Baby gates are critical on stairs. Young puppies can fall down stairs and get hurt badly. Gates are also very helpful in keeping puppies out of rooms.

Puppies can get caught behind and under furniture and can get hurt trying to get themselves free. Dressers and cabinets can fall over onto a puppy, causing injuries or death. Puppies can get hurt falling or jumping off furniture.

**SAFETY OUTDOORS** - This is overlooked too often. Many people feel “My yard is fenced. It’s safe.” However, this is not always the case. Puppies and even adult dogs can get into trouble even in a fenced yard. Fencing must be high and sturdy enough to keep your dog in. Dogs can jump, dig under, or push through fences and get loose. A 3 or 4 foot fence will not keep a grown Malamute or German Shepherd in if he chooses to run off. A weak wire fence (welded farm wire anyone) can be pushed through easily. Wooden fences can be chewed or panels pushed loose. You should put dig guards of some sort at the bases of your fences from the beginning. This prevents accidents with a digger.

Underground fencing should not be used by itself to keep your dog in your yard. Underground fencing does nothing to protect your dog from theft or stray animals. Anyone can walk into your yard, take your dog’s collar off, and walk out with your dog. Stray animals and wildlife can cross your fence line and cause problems. Also if your electricity goes out, the underground fence is worthless. Double coated breeds have a thick undercoat and the contacts do not always hit the skin like they are supposed to, so your dog will not get corrected if he crosses the boundary. Also, many dogs get smart enough to lay down near the fence, far enough away they don’t get harshly corrected, but close enough to trigger the collar. This kills the batteries in the collar, and again, he can just walk right past the wires. If your dog does get out of the yard wearing a collar, there is a chance that he could be corrected coming back into the yard, and he will not come back in.

Gates must be closed at all times. It is easy for children, repairmen, or delivery people to open a gate, not secure it properly, and the dog is gone. Self closing gates will swing shut and latch after they are opened, to prevent this issue. Any gates that are not able to be supervised should be padlocked to prevent accidents.

Driveways should be fenced off. I don’t know how many times I have heard people say they ran over their dog in the driveway as the dog came running up to the car to greet his owners. On the same note, bodies of water should be fenced off until you are positive your dog can swim adequately. Creeks, ponds, lakes, rivers, and even swimming pools should be made inaccessible to an unsupervised dog.

Garages and storage sheds are magnets for curious dogs, but are quite dangerous. Sharp tools, electric cords, dangerous chemicals all spell danger for a dog. Doors should be closed at all times.

Gardens can seem innocent, but as with houseplants, you must exercise caution. Puppies and even adults chewing on or eating plants can become very sick because many plants are toxic. Chemical fertilizers are also dangerous. Dogs get these on their paws, lick their paws because they are irritated, and ingest these chemicals.

Feeding dogs outside should be done under supervision only. Leaving food outside to free feed a dog is asking for trouble. Kibble exposed to the elements will mold and mildew, and this is not healthy for your dog. Also food can attract wildlife and stray animals to your yard. These animals may or may not attack your dog, carry diseases, or get your dog sick if he attacks the animals.