

# Helpful Hints on Raising Your New Puppy

Congratulations on the purchase of your new puppy. We have put together some helpful hints and answers to some commonly asked questions to help you through the first few weeks with your puppy.

## **Things you will need:**

**Leash** - nylon or leather 6-8 foot leash. A shorter leash may be more desirable for a younger puppy.

**Collar**- flat nylon buckle collar, or nylon choker is recommended for the first 6 months. We do not recommend putting on a metal choke chain until at least 6 months of age.

**Food and Water Dishes**- Any durable and preferably chew resistant bowls will do. Stainless steel is ideal. No ceramic or glass bowls. Keep in mind that a full grown shepherd can eat as much as 8 cups of food a day, so the bowl should be quite big.

**Crate**- We recommend buying a large or extra large size dog crate. If used properly a puppy's crate will become its sanctuary. A crate helps train your puppy not to relieve itself where it sleeps. A crate is also a safe place to put your puppy at night, when you leave your house or just simply when you need a break from each other. You can use a wire crate or a covered airline crate. Keep in mind that a wire crate with a pull out tray is easier to clean than a covered airline crate.

## **The First Week:**

It is quite normal for your puppy to cry during its first few nights with you. This is a result of the separation of the puppy from its littermates. Some people find that putting the puppy's crate in their bedroom for the first few nights is helpful. Rubbing a soft blanket, or towel on the littermates, and mother of the puppy, and using this blanket in the crate, sometimes helps the puppy adjust. Making the crate as comfortable as possible with a comfy, and easily washable bed will help as well. Never use the crate as punishment, it should be a safe place for your puppy, and he should learn to associate it with good things.

## **House training:**

The main key to house training is to be home as much as possible during the first few weeks with your puppy. We find that the only way to properly train your dog is to regularly take the pup out to relieve itself. On the first day take the pup out every half hour. When the pup goes be ready with lots of praise and treats. Gradually increase the time between exercise breaks. As time goes on the pup will learn to hold it longer. Also remember that every time a puppy wakes up from a nap, even if it has only been asleep for a few minutes, they will need to go outside immediately. Training puppies not to go overnight is the most common problem buyers call us about. The mistake most often made is waiting for your puppy to cry in the night and then taking it outside. The puppy usually has been crying for a few minutes before you actually hear it and by the time you get dressed and out of bed the puppy has already gone. The best way to train your puppy is to put it on a nightly schedule. Try letting your pup out before you go to bed at night and then try letting it out at 2:00 am and then again at 6:00. You can do this for a week or so and then cut out the 2:00 break. If your pup does well with no break in the night then you can try stretching 6:00 to 7:00. This may seem like a lot of work for you, but it will pay off in the long run when you have a well house trained dog.

**Training:**

You can begin taking your puppy to puppy obedience classes very early. Most obedience schools start classes after the second or third vaccination. Puppy classes are a great way to socialize your puppy with both people and other dogs. In puppy classes you learn basic obedience; sits, downs, stays and heeling. Most people find that with an intelligent breed such as a Shepherd, these classes are all that is needed to have an obedient dog, and many continue on in activities like agility, or rally to keep their dogs challenged.

**Discipline and Praise:**

You must always remember that your puppy knows your moods by the tone of your voice. You should try to have a voice for discipline, which is low and deep, and a voice for praise which is higher and sweeter. The puppy will know whether it has been good or bad by the tone of your voice. Consistency is one of the most important parts of dog training. At our kennel, for disciplining puppies, we use the word Ahhk!!!!!! said very loud, and quickly, so that it is surprising to the puppy. The puppy usually stops doing whatever it is doing, and looks up in shock. We then follow this up by showing the puppy what is acceptable behaviour. Use the same commands every time, for discipline, and praise. Praise can be backed up by some kind of treat. Dog treats work well for dogs who are food motivated. For dogs who are not food crazy, a favourite toy like a tennis ball or stuffed animal can be used. For example, when your puppy comes in from relieving itself it should sit on the door mat and wait to be released. This makes it easy to clean the dog's feet on muddy days. If the dog completes this task it should be rewarded with a treat or its favourite toy, which are kept close to the door.

**Puppy Problems:****Biting:**

This is one of the most common problems new owners face with their puppies. There are a number of things an owner can do to solve this problem, depending on the dog. The first thing you can do starts as soon as you take your puppy home. When your puppy mouths your hand or bites it you must a very loud and firm "ouch!" This may seem strange, but it works. The puppy should immediately stop chewing your hand and will probably look at you in surprise. You then praise the puppy and pet it. You should then give the puppy one of its toys to show him what he is allowed to chew. If all family members consistently use this method, you should be able to stop the problem of biting before it starts. For more dominant puppies we use the method of a quick pinch on the cheek and a firm and very loud NO! Always give the dog a toy or chew bone after this type of discipline, to show them what they are allowed to chew.

Again, we congratulate you on the purchase of this new edition to your family. We hope these few suggestions will help you have a well trained, obedient dog. If you have any further questions just give us a call, at (905) 765-6071 or email at [timbrlne@yahoo.com](mailto:timbrlne@yahoo.com) Anytime. Remember, we love pictures and letters!

Timberline Kennels