



~ Bichon Family Specialists Since 1985 ~

Instructions for Puppy Care & Training

FEEDING:

Your puppy can, and should, eat hard, dry food. We recommend allowing your puppy to eat as much as desired for 20 minutes, 2 - 3 times a day, to help promote eating on schedule. If your puppy eats everything you've offered in less than 20 minutes, add more food to the bowl. After 20 minutes, take any remaining food away. Scheduled feedings will be beneficial in the housebreaking process. Typically, your breakfast, lunch, and dinner, times work best.

Please Note: It's extremely common for pups to initially stop eating when moving to a new home. Temporarily adding some warm water to the food may entice your little one to begin eating again.

DAY 1 ONLY: We don't offer much food or water before travel time to avoid the upset of motion sickness. Please offer your puppy some food and water as soon as you get home. Your puppy may not eat much after traveling and while getting use to the new environment. You may need to leave your puppy's food out longer during this transition. Thereafter, choose a schedule that works best for you.

WEEK 1: Please use the bag of food we're sending home with you to mix with your selected brand of food, making the change gradually during your first week. At each feeding, simply increase the amount of new food to the mixture. The food we're providing is Kirkland Signature, Super Premium Puppy, chicken, rice, and vegetable formula, carried by Costco. Alternatively, we recommend Innova Puppy Food, Science Diet Puppy Small Bites, or any other high quality brands in a formula for puppies. You can find excellent brands of food at most pet stores, and often at your vets office, as well.

TREATS:

Charlee Bear Dog Treats are great, little, healthy rewards. Please give your puppy a week or so to settle in before offering food treats. Change in environment, food, water, and travel, can often be upsetting to a young pups digestive system. If your puppy develops diarrhea, offering a small amount of cottage cheese may help, and puppies usually love it.

HOUSEBREAKING:

WEEK 1: As soon as you arrive home, take your puppy to the outside area that you would like to have used to go potty, puppies will usually go back to the same spot.

After traveling, eating, sleeping and all throughout the day, your puppy will need to go potty. Carry your puppy to the designated place every hour until you find the routine that works best for you and your puppy. When your puppy goes potty in the right place, offer lots of verbal praise. If your puppy begins to go potty someplace that is not allowed, pick your puppy up instantly, saying, "No, No", then take your puppy to the place you have selected.

When you are unable to supervise your puppy, we recommend confining your puppy to a small area such as a laundry room, bathroom or exercise pen. Place your puppy's crate, with the door propped open, inside the confined area so your puppy may go in and out as needed. Providing the option of an area covered with newspaper to go potty on outside the crate will be a temporary stepping stone in the overall process of potty training.

It is difficult for a young puppy to wait for long periods of time to go potty and is often counter productive to expect them to stay in a closed crate & hold it for too long. This week is a transition time best spent getting your puppy settled in and use to you and your routine. Puppies often want to go inside their crates for little naps and will choose to do so on their own.

WEEK 2: Begin putting your puppy in the crate for short periods of time with the door closed for little naps. It is helpful to select a time when your puppy would be ready to sleep. A good rule of thumb for crate time is 1 hour for every month of age, plus 1 additional hour. Please avoid the temptation to skip this step in training! These little naps inside a closed crate will help teach your puppy to wait until taken outside to go potty and will also teach your puppy to be comfortable in the crate. Each week you will be able to increase the amount of time your puppy spends in a closed crate for naps. As soon as you open the door to the crate, carry your puppy to the outside designated place to go potty.

NIGHT TIME: Your puppy may cry the first few nights. Stuffed animals will often help them feel more secure by having something to snuggle with in place of their litter mates. It is helpful to put a special stuffed toy, pillow, rug or blanket inside your puppy's crate. Unless you plan to keep your puppy's crate beside your bed and get up throughout the night, your puppy should be left in the designated puppy area at night. The crate door should be left open and papers placed outside the crate until your puppy is old enough to hold it through the night.

Most of all, plan to supervise your puppy at all times! Keep a rolled up newspaper handy. When your puppy makes a mistake, pick up the rolled up newspaper, then whap yourself over the head 3 times and repeat, "I should have been watching my puppy!" :-)

Instructions for Puppy Care & Training, continued

BATHING:

Your puppy may be bathed as needed using a gentle puppy shampoo. Pups are lower to the ground and do tend to get dirty more often than adult dogs. Try not to bathe your puppy more than once a week; too many baths will dry out the skin of your pup.

After a bath, use the blow dryer on a medium setting to gently dry your puppy. Brushing with a Pin Brush or a Slicker Brush while drying will help prevent matts from forming. Run the brush up on the back, down on the legs and forward on the head, face and chin. Working against the grain of your puppy's coat helps to dry the coat faster and will give the coat a nice, fluffy look. When your puppy is completely dry, a light mist of Fresh N' Clean cologne for dogs smells really nice.

GROOMING:

The breed standard does not allow for hair cutting if a puppy is to be shown. If you'd like your puppy to have the show look, you'll need to brush your puppy often as it grows. For a more manageable look, most groomers will suggest a style called a "Puppy Cut". Your puppy will not need to have a hair cut for a couple of months. There is no specific time frame to schedule grooming since puppy coats can develop at varying paces. When you'd like your puppy to look different, you'll know it is time for a puppy hair cut.

AKC:

Your puppy's American Kennel Club (AKC) registration papers, pedigree (family tree), and 30-Day Pet Insurance application will be included in your puppy's folder. If your puppy's AKC documents are not included in your folder, they will be mailed to you separately when we receive them from AKC.

As the breeders, we believe they belong with you, and your puppy, although we do not require that they be sent in to AKC. For dogs competing in AKC events, their registrations must be completed, and there are additional benefits to registering your pet puppy, as well. AKC offers a training video, official pedigree, pet health insurance, and microchip registration services.

MICROCHIP:

Your puppy has been microchipped for permanent identification. Please be sure to take a look at the microchip form included in the front of your folder. We strongly recommend that you submit the microchip enrollment so your puppy can be reunited with you should he, or she, ever be lost. We'll have your puppy's microchip information permanently stored in our database, and will remain a back up contact for your puppy.

To report a lost or found pet by phone, please call the 24-hour recovery hotline at (800) 252-7894, or report a found pet online by visiting www.akcreunite.org.

SOCIALIZING:

This will be an important part of your pups development. Puppies may visit with other people who will provide good, positive experiences; they're really smart and will remember the people and things impressed upon them at a young age.

They may also visit with good natured dogs who are: 1. Known, 2. Well, 3. Vaccinated, and 4. Over the age of 16 wks. It's important that any dog your puppy interacts with meet all 4 criteria points; no puppies are finished with their vaccine protocol until they reach four months of age. Going to dog parks or other places where unknown animals have been should be avoided until your puppy has received his or her final set of vaccines.

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

The Customer's Health Record provided includes the exact dates of vaccines and wormings your puppy has received. Please remember to take that record with you to your vet appointment so they'll be able to give you proper instruction on the necessary follow up care required for your puppy to stay healthy and happy.

Also, please remember to take a stool sample in for your vet to examine. Your puppy has been completely wormed and should not need any additional wormings. Intestinal worms are cyclic however, so providing your vet with a fresh stool sample will also help him determine whether or not your puppy will need to be wormed again.

FOLLOW UP:

We spend a great deal of time and effort making decisions for our breeding program. It would be very helpful to have your feedback! If you have any questions, or concerns, please feel free to call or text us anytime. We encourage you to let us know how your puppy is doing from time to time, too. Hearing from our puppy's new families is one of the highlights of what we do!

Many Blessings, Kelly & Mandy

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