

HFA's Puppy New Home Guide

Potty Training

- Your puppy has been introduced to pee-pads, a litter box (for dogs) that contains naturally scented wood pellets, and grass/greenery. While they have been exposed to all of these things, we emphasized our training the most with a pee pad. As they learned to walk and eliminate on their own, they would naturally move away from the nesting area (a dog bed/crate) and onto the pad to go. You can decide if you want to transition to a litter box or outside or both, but in the meantime, put pee pads down leading up to your designated potty area. We recommend the following crate/potty routine.
 - Pee pads on the opposite side of the bedding and food if puppy will be in a pin or larger enclosure.
 - Take puppy to potty area immediately after eating, playing or chewing, up until 12 weeks of age, then 30 minutes after eating should suffice.
 - Do not scold for accidents until after 6 months of age (then a firm NO and hand clap only if caught in the act). Up until then, ignore any accidents and only reward for going in the designated area.
 - Puppies will not have full control of their bladders until 4 to 6 months of age. Before that, a puppy should not be enclosed without a potty break or a place to eliminate for the number of hours as their age in months plus one. A 3-month-old puppy can hold it for 4 hours, a 2-month-old for 3 hours, etc.
 - Some people choose to get a larger crate and set a dog bed on one side of the crate, and a pee pad on the other side of it ('pup pee poo palace' is a brand name example of this bed). Then as puppy grows and demonstrates bladder control for longer duration, the bed can transition to a regular dog bed. Totally recommended for heavy sleepers!
 - IF you happen to see your pup eat poop, don't fret. Pick it up immediately after he or she goes. The mother of this litter was adamant about keeping everything very clean. Mothers eat the poo of the young puppies, which is a natural instinct dogs have to care for their young. Unfortunately, it can cause some pups with very tidy mothers to show interest in the behavior, but this shall pass, if it happens at all. It is also more common in a multi dog setting.

Clicker Training

- Your puppy has been trained to associate a positive emotional response with the sound of a clicker from the very time he/she could take a treat, the introduction of a treat was always done with the sound of a clicker. Once that positive association was formed, we began using the clicker in 3-minute sessions once a day. While leaning over the weaning

pin, as the pups would “sit” we would click. Eventually, they learned to sit when approaching the pin. After each click session (no longer than 3 minutes of clicking), we reward with a treat to reinforce the positive association. We continue to use this training individually with each pup outside of the pin when the pup demonstrates an expected behavior, such as sitting, approaching something new, or following.

- We have included the same clicker we use in your go-home bag to continue with this training. Be sure to always “pay” after each clicker session and keep sessions short and sweet for the first 16 months. Clicking no more than 20 times in the training session and then pay once the session has ended.
- You can also use the clicker to associate any expected behavior (such as going potty outside). If your puppy starts to “loose interest” in the clicker sound, reinforcement with a click and pay session is recommended for once a day for 3 days (20 clicks within a 2-to-3-minute window, paying with a small treat after each click).

Whistle Recall

- Your puppy has been trained to associate the sound of a whistle blown in three loud short intervals with a very HIGH value reward. Each time the pups would eat a meal with venison and goats' milk in their kibble, we would sound the whistle 3 times. Later we moved onto sounding the whistle for treats, but expected them to come out of their play area to the human to get the treats. This is essential for recall. We chose a whistle because tone of voice, accents, etc. can play into how the puppy interprets the recall with a new owner. We recommend practicing the whistle along with your own command word with your puppy at least twice a week until 16 weeks of age and then a few times a month after that until about 7 months, or as needed. Note, at the age of adolescence, you *may* need to change up your treat offerings to include more of a variety to sustain interest.
 - In the event your puppy ever gets lost or gets into a dangerous situation where you need to recall them immediately, the whistle is a great start. We have included the whistle in your go-home bag.
 - While practicing with the whistle, start adding in your own command, practice with others in your household too. Some people use “puppy puppy puppy” or other recall words/sounds. Some choose to keep the whistle (the only downfall is accessibility so make sure you have several of them). As you introduce your own command, gradually remove the whistle intervals from the recall until your puppy responds to just your command.

Resource Guarding Prevention Protocol

- Your puppy has been trained to withstand resources being removed from his or her possession. We feel this is essentially important in homes with other dogs or children.

The protocol is simple and easy to achieve expected behavior. Any time you remove a bone, “stolen” item, toy, or other “high value” object from a puppy, be sure to trade with a treat before removing the object. Let the puppy take interest in the treat or put it in his or her mouth before you trade off. This is a form of conditioning. Also, if you have multiple dogs in your household, I strongly recommend feeding your new puppy separately, especially during the first several weeks with you, and then hand feeding them in the presence of the other dogs in your household where you have control of the situation. You may also have to hand feed your other dog(s) too if you are trying to establish a designated eating area for multiple dogs.

Nighttime Routine

- Your puppy has a nighttime routine engrained in him/her since birth! This is the first time we have tried this and really hope it benefits our people and pups. The very first sound your puppy heard in his/her most comfortable state of existence was **classical music**. we set up an **Alexa echo** in the whelping room, which transitioned into their sleeping room as they got older. This music always plays in their sleep space with a slight essence of **Lavendar essential oil**. They are at their most relaxed in this room and are very quiet through the night. We also switched to **low-light** around 10 pm once the puppy hit 6 weeks of age. After the initial adjustment period, we hope this enables your puppy to easily transition to a schedule.
 - BEFORE placing your puppy in their nighttime enclosure, this is especially important for small breeds due to the risk of hypoglycemia, make sure he/she has eaten and gone potty.
 - Due to the risk of hypoglycemia in smaller breeds, I also recommend leaving some kibble on the crate bed with the puppy overnight. This risk usually subsides once puppy is on a good eating routine. We talk more about hypoglycemia in the next section and provide you with a supplement in the event that symptoms arise.

Feeding

- Your puppy will be sent home with a bag of the food they have been eating. If you plan to transition your puppy to a brand you are currently using, do so slowly: 1/8th of your food for week one, 1/4th of your food for week two, 1/2 of your food for week three, 3/4th of your food for week 4, full amount of your food by week 5.
- We leave food out for the puppies all day long. If your puppy needs to be fed on a schedule, we recommend offering 1/4th of a cup 3 (to 4) times a day depending on how much they eat in one sitting. For this breed’s size and activity level, they should ideally be eating 1/2 - 1 cup a day up until 9 - 12 months of age. This amount may vary depending on activity level.

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- We highly recommend our sponsored food brand PawTree. For over a year, we have fed our dogs, pregnant and nursing mothers, and puppies the Chicken and Rice All Life Stages kibble along with the Omega 3 Salmon Oil. We partnered with PawTree in April of 2024 after doing research and using their products for some time. All of our dogs are at a healthy weight, have no allergies or skin ailments and beautiful coats. The product is 100% natural with no additives, easy to chew, and easy to digest. It is also formulated to reduce stool volume and odor. No fillers! They also have not had any public health recalls. You can review our recommendations and order any of the food and salmon oil below. We also have used and highly recommend their urine eliminator, oxy shot stain remover, and their dog shampoo.

<https://pawtree.com/hoffmanforestacres/myrecommendation/pawpreferences>

- Use the coupon codes INTRO4U10 (for orders up to 100\$) and INTRO4U20 (for orders over 100\$) to save 10 or 20%.
- Another brand we have fed before in the past and recommend if you choose not to order your puppy's food is Purina Pro Plan Performance (any flavor). It also has a great ratio of protein to fat and is nutritionally valuable. They have not had a recall with that specific line in several years. You can also find this at the store.

Hypoglycemia (Toy Aussies)

- Small breed puppies are particularly susceptible to hypoglycemia during times of stress. Stress is a natural part of the transitional period, but it can cause the puppy to lose appetite for the first several days. This can quickly escalate into hypoglycemia which presents with mild to severe symptoms such as weakness and lethargy, twitching (not while sleeping), or seizures and coma. If it is not promptly treated, it can lead to death. We recommend the following:
 - If your puppy is not eating well, try to entice him or her to eat by softening the food with water or sodium free beef or chicken broth. You can also try white rice or plain oatmeal along with cooked and rinsed ground beef or boiled and shredded chicken. If you plan to use the salmon oil, add half a pump of that to the mixture as well. Canned gastro-friendly dog or puppy food also comes in handy.
 - In the event of mild hypoglycemic symptoms or even in suspicion of them, rub a pea size amount of the Dyne we provided onto the puppy's gums or let the puppy lick it off your finger. Karo syrup also works. Keep it with you on hand if you are traveling home with your puppy and provide a pea size amount every 2 hours as a precaution. It will be important to contact your veterinarian as soon as possible to discuss next steps should symptoms arise.

Crate Training

- Your puppy has been introduced to the crate and rewarded for their time in the crate. The crate is also an essential training tool as your puppy settles into a new routine with you. This section goes hand in hand with the potty-training section above.
 - A 17" by 12" but no bigger than 24" by 18" (for Collies start with the 24" by 18") size crate. We recommend the smaller size to start with, because it makes it easier for potty training. If the crate is too large, small puppies will pee on one side of it and sleep on the other! That may be "Ok" to start off with as long as you line one side of the (or the entire) crate with a pee-pad.
 - We recommend white washable/reusable pee pads as they are less likely to be shredded by a bored puppy if you crate when you leave the house.
 - For a small puppy, always leave some kibble in the crate with him or her while enclosed for extended periods of time.
 - Puppies will not have full control of their bladders until 4 to 6 months of age. Before that, a puppy should not be enclosed without a potty break or a place to eliminate for the number of hours as their age in months plus one. A 3-month-old puppy can hold it for 4 hours, a 2-month-old for 3 hours, etc.
 - As your puppy ages and demonstrates bladder control, and acceptance of the routine, withhold food for 3 hours before bedtime and water 1 hour before bedtime.
 - Place the crate in a quiet location. Always give a small treat when placing the pup in the crate, and use a "word" to associate the crate EVERY TIME you place the pup in the crate, such as "bed" or "place". You can also use the clicker so the puppy associates the crate with reward as you leave. As your puppy grows, this word can be used as a command to tell the dog when it's time to go to bed.
 - Some families choose to use puppy playpens and include a sleeping area or crate inside the pen along with a pee pad/food and water. This allows for a little more flexibility with smaller breeds, especially if you are litter training.
 - If you leave pup in a room without an enclosure or pen, be sure there are no hazardous things they can get into while you are gone and be sure plenty of chew toys or activities are available. Note, puppies (especially Aussies and Collies) will spend hours on treat puzzles!

Leash Walking

- Your puppy has been positively conditioned to leash walking, with a pull, and off leash. For the first 16 weeks puppies are naturally inclined to follow their caretaker. Therefore it is the best age to practice off leash walking. Off leash walking will become harder to master once your pup reaches adolescence and has developed his/her own preferences, which is why we recommend starting this training at this age (where their preference will continue to be to follow you). If you prefer off leash walking with your dog, you can

also incorporate whistle recall which will be very important if you need to return your dog from something potentially dangerous while walking together.

- When practicing off leash walking, bring some treats and a clicker with you. Allow the puppy to follow you. Slow down to let the puppy approach from behind whenever possible and click and reward as your puppy gets beside you. Allow your puppy to go further ahead of you (stop while they are walking forward) and incorporate a command to get your puppy's attention, then turn around and walk away from them. Once they follow and catch up to you, click and reward. We recommend leaving your puppies leash and collar on while they are walking "off leash" without your control. It is important to reward immediately after the click in this scenario, which gives you more control.
- For leash walking, practicing pace and a slight pull and shortening the lead ever so often to bring the puppy to the left side of you. You can click every time the puppy moves to your left side. You may also reward with a treat after the walk or in intervals, since the clicker will essentially tell the puppy what you want him/her to do while you are in control. Even if he/she expects a treat immediately, that's ok - just keep encouraging the puppy verbally to walk with you and click when they do. If the puppy struggles on the leash or resists, stop, verbally encourage the puppy to move forward with you and then click them when they do.

Redirecting Undesirable Behaviors

- Some days more than not, a young puppy will display behaviors that are not acceptable to you. Some of these behaviors will improve with time (like chewing, rough play or play biting, getting into things, whining, having accidents in undesignated potty areas, zoomies, etc.) The most important thing is to have patience, and to only reward positive behavior (such as calmly chewing a bone, or using designated potty areas). The second most important thing is to be consistent in a routine with your young puppy. Your puppy has been conditioned to a routine from the time they were born, so their adjustment into a new routine with you is completely possible and desirable to your puppy. An acceptable routine to many families is crate training with designated potty and play times. We also include a copy of your puppy's schedule when they were with us so that it can be used as a transitioning tool.
 - We recommend the "power of redirection" at this age with puppies until they are fully receptive to knowing your expectations which generally does not occur until they are 4 months or older and have spent some time with you. A couple of examples:
 - Puppy is overly playful and biting at hands -> end the play session and then after the puppy has calmed down, give the puppy a chew/toy they can bite on. Placing the puppy in a crate with the chew is also ideal.

- Puppy is overly vocal or having a hard time settling. -> begin clicker training and focus commands. These should be done any time the distraction is “taking over” your puppy and causing them to behave undesirably.
 - Puppy is whining -> If puppy is not hungry, does not need to potty, is not sick or uncomfortable (i.e. all needs met). Ignore it. Don't give this any attention.
 - Puppy is jumping up -> practice clicker with sit command in your presence. If continued jumping, turn around (back facing the puppy) or move away from the puppy until he/she is not as excited. Ask guests to do the same or ignore the puppy on initial entrance into your home. This is essential in communicating to your puppy that they will not get anything good from bombarding guests or jumping up on you.
- 4 months or older and completely vaccinated is also a great time for puppy classes if that is a viable option for you.

Continuation of Socialization

- Please review the socialization documentation provided in your go-home folder to continue on with puppy culture socialization and training for the first 2 weeks. Your puppy will go home to you with two weeks remaining in what's referred to as their “crucial socialization window” of development. It is imperative that socialization continue thereafter with you in their new environment. Additionally, continue to create positive introductions to new people, places, and things so they will continue absorbing all of these experiences. For the first 16 weeks, your puppy is like a sponge. A local puppy class is also a great place to go, as long as it is a safe, clean and controlled environment that does not use fear tactics to manipulate behaviors. Avoid dog parks or pet pit stops (any place heavily frequented by unfamiliar dogs) until your puppy's Parvo vaccination series is well underway and at your veterinarian's discretion.

You have our lifetime support! Feel free to reach out to us for anything you need. We are always striving to make improvements, please let us know how your puppy is adjusting - we love pupdates!

DISCLAIMER: Your puppy is not going to come to you fully trained, they will however come to you conditioned to the training methods mentioned in this document. You must continue to work with your puppy to achieve desired behavioral outcomes suitable to your preferences. We are not professional dog trainers; we do however have personal experience with many dogs over the years and regularly partake in and have completed programs in puppy socialization, cognitive development and behavior.

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