

Things you should know as a new owner.

Congratulations on your new puppy! I am proud to say you have one bright, healthy cute little puppy. All our puppies have a terrific start on them. The transition can be stressful for the puppy and you. These are some of the things that you may want to know, have on hand and do before and after your new puppy gets home.

The transition

First of all, please realize that your new puppy has just been ripped from everything he/she knows. She no longer has his/her litter mates, his/her momma; the other dogs here in our house and his/her main caregivers – me & my husband. It is normal for him/her to experience some initial separation anxiety. He/she may or may not cry, be withdrawn and be scared in and of his/her new surroundings. Please realize that EVERYTHING is NEW – all the smells, sights, sounds and people. He/she will no longer have their support system of their litter mates. Patience is needed during these first few days.

Here are a few tips to make the first few days an easier transition for your new puppy.

- **DO NOT isolate your puppy.** As hard as this might be when they are crying, isolating your puppy will only increase his/her fear and may reinforce his/her insecurity and feeling of being vulnerable.
- **Limit the amount of new people he/she comes in contact with for the first few days.** Allow your puppy to get to know you and be comfortable with you and his family. Too many new faces too soon may add to his/her anxiety.
- **Limit the activity in the home. Find a quiet place for your puppy to rest, but always be close to you.** Crate training is ideal. A crate should never be used as punishment. Your puppy should view it as a place of comfort – like their den.
- **Keep your puppy by you.** He/she is already used to being around people most of the day.
- **If he/she cries at night, DO NOT bring him/her into bed with you.** Patience is the key. You may offer your puppy some play time, and to go out potty. If they don't calm down and if you don't mind, putting their crate in the same room as you sleep in should also help the puppy adjust.
- **Play, play, play, play, play and more play.** A tired puppy is a good puppy! Remember Aussies are very active puppies and have oodles and oodles of energy. By playing with them and offering them new things and teaching/training them, it helps to keep them engaged and a way to expel their extra energy.
- **Start your training right away.** Don't wait till your puppy is 3-4 months old. These guys learn fast and want to learn. Start right away. I can show you how to train your puppy to sit while you are here so you have an example of what you can try at home.

Puppies go home with:

- First and foremost puppies go home with our commitment to be available to answer questions, address concerns, and provide assistance as needed with the continued training and growth.
- All T & R Australian puppies go home with a written health guarantee, vaccination record and a schedule to follow.
- They also will go home with their registration paperwork and copies of important health papers,
- A collar, leash, a few days of puppy food.

Suggested Supplies:

These are some of the things that you may have on hand before your new puppy gets home.

- Dog Food: Diamond Puppy Food - Lamb and Rice blend all Natural.
- Collar 15" and a flat leash at least 6' long
- Retractable leash
- Water and food bowls
- Kennel: Large or dimensions similar to 36"L x 23"W x 25"H. I prefer the metal and you can section it off and make it smaller to help with potty training should you need to in the beginning.
- No Bedding in the kennel. Some tend to chew and can be a choking hazard.
- Toys – Try to use natural rubber toys & animal toys without the stuffing - they are called Skinneez. Avoid vinyl toys.
- Dog bones
- Dog rawhides – rolls and chips – made in USA only. (make sure to supervise and remove any small pieces to avoid choking.)
- Dog Treats - anything really. My puppies are usually pretty food motivated.
- Petmountain – is a great place to get good prices on dog supplies - like dog shampoo and toys.

From Your Vet:

- Interceptor (or a wormer that your vet will recommend) I give the wormer at the beginning of each month.
- Frontline - if you choose

Puppy Schedule:

I do recommend initially following this schedule.

- First thing in the morning I put the puppies out.
- Feed 2x a day 1 cup of puppy chow between the hours of 6-7am & then 4-5pm

- 40 - 60 minutes after the he/she eats, put him/her out. Puppies will not ask yet, you must be observant and diligent to put them out. If they don't go potty, then put them in the kennel until they do. Free time is earned when you have seen them potty, then it will be less likely they will make a mistake.
- Then until you know your puppy and he/she knows you, I would recommend putting him/her out to potty every 2-3 hours. The command is "go potty". How to prevent accidentally training your puppy to dillydally. When you see excessive smelling and wondering, bring them in. They are out to do business. Do not encourage playing when it's time to potty.
- NO MORE WATER after 7pm. Put your puppy out one last time as late as you can. You will have to listen for your puppy during the night as they may be ask to go potty. Don't be upset if your puppy makes a mess during the night in the beginning. It will take time for all of you to adjust to each other. If your puppy goes potty in the kennel, don't scold them unless you catch them doing it. Quietly take your puppy outside to potty, clean up the mess and try again. If they made a mess, then shorten the time in the kennel for your puppy. As your puppy is successful, then increase the time.
- I recommend kenneling at night. I recommend this until he/she has earned his/her trust and you know he/she won't get into things he/she's not supposed to or go to the bathroom. I also put a hard bone in his/her kennel or a hard rubber toy (one that won't break into small pieces) So if he/she wakes up during the night he/she won't be bored.

Thing's I do with my puppies/dogs are:

I have been working with your puppy since they were little. Here is a list of things that I have done and worked with. Puppies love to please; knowing these initial consistencies is important in understanding your puppy's behavior and further training opportunities.

- Kennel at night, when away from home and when we eat.
- No people food. Our dogs do not get any human food EVER. When we eat, they go in their kennel. And they have never learned to beg - cuz they don't know what they are missing. :o)
- I don't open the kennel door (indoors or outdoors) until they are sitting and stay sitting – so they are not overly hyper and bolt through the door.
- I walk through the doorway first in EVERY room. This helps them learn that it's not ok to burst past you almost knocking you over. Helps if you ever have elderly or very young children over. He will be respectful and go through nicely.
- I try to get eye contact when giving commands.
- Never get mad when you ask to come - even if they were naughty. Hardest thing in the world at times (when they have something they are not supposed to and you want them to come and bring it to you.) I smile. Cuz it's hard to be angry and have an angry tone if you are smiling. :o)

- If he/she jumps up on you, "off" is the command. Puppies often jump up in excitement. This should never be allowed or encouraged.
- I make my dogs sit and wait for me to give them the "ok" before they can eat. They cannot eat till you tell them to "EAT". Use a leash and step on it to stop your puppy from reaching the food dish. When, and only when they have settled, then you can release and say "EAT".
- Puppies often gobble their food. You can use golf balls in their dish to slow down their eating. The golf balls makes them eat around the balls and slows their gobbling down. Remove the dish once they are done eating.
- Below are a few websites listing poisonous human food for dogs. I found many of them interesting – like grapes are poisonous for dogs.

<http://www.rileysplace.org/pets-hints-hazards/human-foods-poisonous-to-dogs/>

<http://dogs.about.com/od/dogandpuppyhealth/tp/toxicfood.htm>

<http://barkleyandpaws.com/25-human-foods-toxic-to-dogs/>

- Any behavior I don't like, I turn my back and don't look at them. I don't turn back around until they are behaving again. For example: If I walk towards them and they start barking in their kennel, I stop and turn away. Once they are quiet again, then I turn and start towards them again. I repeat if they start barking again.
- Leash pulling - is something that is common in puppies. I have worked on this. Here's some tips if your puppy tries to pull you. First, set him up for success. If you are going on a walk, walk really fast in the beginning – fast enough where he isn't pulling. Let him get that energy out. Then slow it down and then go fast, then slow then fast. This makes the dogs pay attention to you.
 - More tips once your puppy has mastered walking on the leash with you. Do not allow sniffing while walking. Allow sniffing when you designate it. If he/she pulls, gently pull him/her back to your side any time he/she goes forward and/or out of position. Or stop and take 3-5 steps backwards. Going backwards is hard for just about any animal and they don't like to do it. So the more they are not in position, continue to stop and walk backwards till they are where they are supposed to be.
- Our dogs are NOT allowed on the couch. He/she shouldn't jump up there unless you invite him/her to.
- Most of my puppies love to play ball. They will retrieve the ball. Commands I use: "ready?" "get it", "bring it", "drop it" and "leave it"
- If you want to take something away that puppy isn't supposed to have, offer something better (perhaps a treat or favorite toy) in exchange for what they have. Never pull or pry the item out of your puppies mouth. They will learn to distrust and think you are going to take away what they have.

Commands your puppy should know:

Using the same commands as I do will help you communicate better with your puppy until you both learn and figure each other out.

Here: is used instead of “Come.” Come is used in other commands when herding.

Sit

Bring it (When playing ball)

Drop it (When playing ball and can be used for all items) Use a second ball to encourage them to drop the ball they just brought back.

Shhhhhh (to quiet down)

Good Luck!

I hope this information is useful for you and helps you and your new puppy transition to his/her new family. I take comfort and I am confident in that I found my puppy (now yours) the perfect family. I know he/she will be loved and well cared for. I sold my puppy to you as an addition to your family. Should there ever be a time when they no longer work in your household, please call me. I will always take my puppies back. I hope that you will keep in contact with me so I can see how your puppy has grown.

If you have any questions, DO NOT hesitate to call me. I will answer your questions the best I can. It's important to me that your puppy adjusts well and quickly.

Good luck with your new family addition. Puppies are work! I hope you're prepared to have the time of your life. Your new puppy will soon be your new best friend.
