

## **NEW PUPPY - NEW HOME WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER**

### ***CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW RENDEZ-DOODLE OR POODLE!***

The puppies are extremely routine oriented, therefore we have provided for you your new puppy's previous schedule in order that you may duplicate what you are able to, and slowly reorient him to your schedule without too much fuss.

### ***WHEN YOU ARRIVE HOME***

Your puppy will be excited, and most likely a little anxious, about his/her new home. This stress can take the form of panting and pacing, housebreaking accidents, excessive chewing, and/or gastric upset in the form of vomiting and diarrhea or loose stools. You should consult the written evaluation or information you received to determine how to help with these issues. Don't worry if your puppy suddenly seems a little "homesick" or nervous. He is not sure what is going to happen to him next. He feels like a guest in your home--is he allowed on the furniture? How should he tell you he needs to go out (and which door)? It is very confusing for him in the beginning.

When you bring your new puppy home, be prepared to walk him outside for at least 10-15 minutes or until he relieves himself (leash or in a fenced yard). Let him get the "lay of the land" by sniffing and becoming acquainted with all the smells associated with your yard.

The combination of the car ride home, coupled with all the excitement of a new family and home will cause him to have to relieve himself more often. So give him plenty of opportunities in the beginning. If you have a special place in your yard you wish him to use for urination and elimination, encourage him to go in that area (and praise him warmly when he does).

Read about "Ringing the Bell" by Dee Ganley and Nancy Lyon to help in housetraining your new puppy. It's easy and fun to teach.

Also includes is another article by Dee Ganley "Making Introductions to Other 2 and 4 Legged Family Members".

For the adoption to work, everyone in the family must be in agreement including your other dogs. Puppies that are going to homes with feline family members must be supervised for a few weeks to make sure they become friends and not enemies.

If you have another dog(s) in your home, you are bringing a puppy into your current dog's home. He may not be comfortable with this initially and make his displeasure known in a number of ways, including excessive marking; spiteful housebreaking accidents; and the sudden attachment to toys he used to not care about (but doesn't want the new dog to have.)

In a nutshell, he is simply jealous and a little insecure about his place in your family's pack. He will need reassurance during this time, but should not be permitted to misbehave or treat your new puppy poorly. While it may be hard on you to watch one or both dogs being insecure during this transition period, don't be tempted to spoil either dog or otherwise encourage bad habits you will later have to break.

Since you are bringing your new dog home to meet the rest of your canine and feline pack members for the first time, be sure that your pets are in a secure place and unable to escape when the new puppy arrives. Meeting outside (preferably in a fenced yard) can be less threatening for canine introductions. Introduce each dog one at a time. Do not force a confrontation, and make sure all dogs are leashed (with secure Buckle collars or Gentle Leaders for better control during the intros). If there is any sign of hostility, remind the dog saying in a firm tone "Be Nice".

Keep the pressure OFF the leash. You must be matter of fact not worried. YOU are in control and are aware of their body language and thoughts. Don't be concerned if they don't warm up to each other immediately. Give encouragement for good behavior. (Gooood be nice) The more socialized your dog is, and new puppy are, the less time it will take for them to make friends. (your puppy is socialized with other pups, and people, and other dogs, but not yours 😊)

As hard as it may be, try not to be nervous yourself, or you will telegraph it to the dogs. Your dog may feel you are in need of being defended from the new dog or even vice-versa. As each dog becomes comfortable with the other, you can drop the leashes (if in a fenced environment). However, with the leashes still on, dragging...you can more easily grab one and make a "point" if needed quickly.

As the dogs come inside, you may find this tighter, more personal space will cause a squabble or two, so you may still want to leave the leashes on for quick control if needed. You may also want to put all toys (and especially all treats, like rawhides, etc.) away until everyone is comfortable.

This may take a few days or weeks depending on your two dogs. If you are having a really bad time please call and talk with Wendy by calling **603-447-3435** or emailing **trainer\_kpr@yahoo.com**

You will need a more controlled environment to introduce your new puppy to a new feline friend. Keep your puppy on leash and have him meet the cat where she cannot run away and hide. Say “yes” and give a yummy treat for polite behavior towards the cat. Look for any neutral greeting behavior, not for alert forward body language. (You may need to hold or even leash your cat during these introductions.) If you have a crate put the dog or cat into this and let them meet quietly. Give food treats for quietness and calmness.

Being a puppy, he will most likely only want to chase the cat if it runs, but occasionally, a stronger prey drive may make the puppy more cat aggressive. Again, speak to your dog to go easy and to be nice and don't unleash him around your cat until you feel comfortable with their interaction.

Chances are once the cat can leave your "meeting room", you will not see it for several days or even weeks until it is ready to accept your new puppy! It may also take a liking to sleeping on tall tables and perches until it feels comfortable around him. Be prepared for there to be some spiteful litter box accidents, as cats can be even more routine oriented and get angry when their world is changed. You may need to also rethink how you feed your cat, so that your new puppy will not get into its food.

Hopefully, all family members participated in the selection of your newly adopted puppy and those introductions have already been done. However, you may have friends and neighbors anxious to come over and meet him. Don't forget that he is already nervous and too many people reaching out to touch him or crowding around him might panic him a bit. It is not unusual for kids to get bitten or nipped if they rush up screaming at the dog and try to pet him roughly. He has no idea what these intentions are and has not yet become relaxed in his new environment.

You may want to put off introductions to outside people until the next few days after he has had a chance to settle in. Teach your children and any others that will come into contact with your new puppy how to properly behave around the puppy, and never allow them to mistreat or harass the puppy. It is also wise to not let young or inexperienced kids be unsupervised around your new puppy (or any dog).

New human introductions should also be one at a time; preferably with your puppy on leash for extra control should it be needed. Let the puppy take the initiative to greet the new person. He may want to sniff the person first, before any petting is done.

Also be prepared he might try to jump up on the new person. Just ask that person to step into the puppy until the puppy can sit. (This is a shuffle into your puppy's space, not a shove or harsh movement – see “Yielding”) If your dog tries

to jump up again repeat till he can sit nicely. (Have treat ready for nice sit have friend give treat.)

Take your cues from your new puppy—how comfortable does he appear with all of this extra attention? Many dogs are real hams and love to be engulfed by people and attention. For these puppies, the more the merrier with new people. Others may be a bit more overwhelmed with their new situation.

Common sense should rule the day. We also strongly recommend you become familiar with your puppy's behavior and why dogs do what they do. There are many fine books that will explain and clarify what seems to humans as strange canine behavior.

The more you can understand your dog from a canine perspective, the easier it will be to modify behaviors and integrate him into your Human-dog pack

### ***FEEDING TIME***

Because of your new puppy's nerves and excitement, it is best to withhold food and water for the first 12 hours (or until he begins to relax). If it is a hot day or your dog is extremely thirsty, it is better to offer a few cracked/chipped ice cubes. (Nervous dogs have a tendency to drink too much water too quickly, taking in too much air and causing them to throw it back up almost immediately.) Karla has included a feeding schedule, as well as the diet he has been eating. Eventually you can buy that food or gradually feed what ever you feel is best.

We recommend three feedings (morning, noon, and evening) of moist food. Most likely your new dog will be so overwhelmed with his new home, he may not be interested in eating at all the first day. Still, put the food bowl on the floor where you wish him to eat and leave it there for a few minutes. At the end of that time, remove the bowl and any uneaten food.

Do not offer moist food again until the next scheduled feeding time. (We often times put a dry feeding into a Buster Cube for the dog to entertain himself for a while) This teaches your dog when and where mealtime occurs, and that he is expected to eat at this time. \*\*If you would like to leave dry kibble out, all the time, just be aware of when he is eating, and get him out within 15 minutes of each feeding. We have noticed that some dogs then to "gorge" or develop overeating behaviors when food is not readily available to them.

Your other dogs should be fed away from the new puppy to prevent fights over food.

## **SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

There is a good chance that your new puppy will follow you everywhere. This will include trying to go in the bathroom with you (and perhaps the shower!), watching TV with you, checking the garden with you, and undoubtedly wanting to sleep with you. You (or one of the members of the family) will become his new security blanket until he becomes comfortable in his new home. If another family member throws a ball, he will bring it back to whichever family member he has temporarily latched onto. Eventually, he may choose another family member with which to bond, but for now, he may very well be needier than you might want. It is perfectly natural for both the new family and the new dog to be nervous, so don't be too concerned if he appears shy or withdrawn for the first few days.

A new puppy will often have a difficult time sleeping through the night. The puppy is used to being with its mother and litter mates, but in the dark the puppy is all alone. This makes the puppy whine in loneliness and often a bit of fear. Many young pups also cannot go all night without eliminating, so they will whine when they have to eliminate. There are several steps that a new owner can take to make a puppy sleep through the night and to ease its fear.

### **Things You'll Need**

- Robe
- Slippers
- Leash
- Flashlight
- Crate or contained area
- Dog bed
- Alarm clock
- Blanket
- Stuffed animal
- Radio
- Wind-up clock
- Music
- "white noise" machine/device (fans are good for this)
- PATIENCE

***Place the puppy's crate or dog bed beside your bed.*** Do not let the puppy sleep in the bed with you, (unless you want this to be the case forever:-) but let him sleep beside you in his own bed. Being in the same room with his owners will often help a puppy to successfully sleep through the night. You may initially get less sleep the first few nights, but your puppy will feel comforted having you close to him, allowing for more restful sleep. As the puppy grows up

and begins to feel more secure, he can be transitioned to another room, if you would like.

***Place a blanket or stuffed toy in the crate or dog bed with the puppy.*** The blanket or stuffed animal should hold a scent of the puppy's dam and litter mates. Since this is not possible for some of you, give him a warmed stuffed animal. You can ***warm it by sticking it in the dryer for 5 minutes.*** Or you can use a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel. This will help ease the puppy's fears so he can sleep more restfully.

***Place a ticking clock or play a radio on low for your puppy.*** Many puppies cannot sleep in a quiet room. A little bit of background noise soothes the puppy and allows him to fall into a restful sleep. Using a "white noise" device such as a fan, ocean/nature sounds device or classical music (or a combination of the three) can help to lure your puppy to sleep. Shushing the puppy also helps.

***Take the puppy out to eliminate before bed.*** This is a good time for your puppy's last 15 to 20 minute walk. This will also help to calm him for bed. Watch to be sure the puppy at least urinates before taking him to bed. If the puppy should wake up in the middle of the night with incessant crying, (if sleeping on your bed, he wakes up, and starts to move around) take him outside again to potty.

***Remove all food and water from your puppy at least three hours before bed.*** This will help cut down on the need to eliminate during the night

***Play with your puppy quietly before bed.*** Avoid being overly exuberant. Remember that a wound-up puppy is less likely to sleep. The hour before bed should be peaceful and fairly quiet.

***Set your alarm clock to take the puppy outside to potty at least once during the night, if you are a sound sleeper.*** Puppies will not sleep if they eliminate in their dog bed or crate. A puppy also cannot sleep with a full bladder or the need to defecate. Taking the puppy outside once during the night to potty will help him sleep easier during the night.

## Tips & Warnings

- Keep your slippers and robe within easy reach so you can quickly take the puppy outside.
- Keep a flashlight available.
- Keep the leash within easy reach to quickly take the puppy outside to potty.

- Do not allow the puppy to sleep too much in the evening. Keep the puppy awake. The puppy should not nap in the evening.
- It may take a few weeks to get the puppy adjusted. However, with consistency and routine, your puppy will start sleeping soundly through the night. Puppies, like children, do well with routine and predictability.
- Make sure any toys you leave in the crate do not have loose parts that can be swallowed.
- Make sure edible chews are tossed when they become small enough to choke on.

Remember your puppy should be crated when you are home for a few hours a day. (This will help him know it's a good place to be.) A special treat such as a marrowbone or Kong toy smeared with something good like peanut butter or cheese works well to help keep your puppy occupied.

To let him on the bed or not? There are two definite opinions on this: YES and NO! As long as it is comfortable for both human(s) and dog(s), I see no reason not to, unless your puppy starts guarding the space. Most of us dog folk invite our dogs to sleep on our beds. Those who frown on dogs sleeping with their humans in bed usually base their concerns on the possibility that the humans' happiness will be compromised.

Dogs sleeping in their masters' beds may begin to think of themselves as equals which may lead to other problems. Some pushy type dogs that sleep with their humans may try to take control as leader of the family pack, ultimately trying to intimidate the human by not letting him move them while on the bed, or not letting the human or one human of the family in bed at all.

Should your puppy begin to growl at you or exhibit other signs of hostility or intimidation, he needs more than just being kicked out of your bed! He (and You) need to see a behaviorist to help with your relationship. A "No Free Lunch" Program) (see NILIF) will probably be suggested. This dog may never be allowed to have this privilege.

Choosing whether your dog sleeps in a crate, on a dog bed, or in your own bed is your decision.

### ***DEVELOP A ROUTINE-Housebreaking***

Try to develop and use a consistent daily routine for feeding, exercising, and bathroom duties. Dogs are creatures of habit. If you do the same things in the same way and in the same order, he will settle in more quickly and learn what is expected of him and when.

For example, walk your new puppy or let him out in the fenced yard as soon as you rise in the mornings. You will be feeding him in the morning, do so after a

short walk or romp in the yard. Give him another chance to relieve himself after breakfast and before you go to work. Usually always around 5-15 minutes after each meal, your puppy needs to defecate.

Puppies urinate quite often, and you will need to try to get your new baby out every hour when possible, praising, when they “do business” for you, you may also use treats, but not every time... a bit of “loving” will suffice also, patting and kind words of praise. (We have done this for you, from the time your pup was 5 weeks old, so they are aware that “outside” is where to go, given this opportunity they will housebreak easily) Watch for signs, circling, and sniffing behaviors, you eventually figure this out, and realize when you are being given the signs. \*It is not the puppy’s fault, if you are not available to watch for signs in early puppy hood to housebreak them properly.

Upon return from work, he should get a bathroom break immediately, and a good exercise session after you have changed your clothes. Once he has exercised heavily, wait about an hour before you give him his evening feeding. He will need another bathroom break anywhere from 5-15 minutes later depending on his age.

He should be given a good potty break right before you retire for the evening.

### ***LEAVING YOUR NEW DOG ALONE DURING THE DAY***

Crating your puppy in the beginning will eliminate accidents, chewing, destruction (which may be dangerous besides frustrating), and any other mischievous activity that may be rooted in nervousness and insecurity. A crate can provide a place where the puppy feels safe in your absence

It may also be a lifesaver should a fire or natural disaster dictate the need for people other than you to rescue your dogs from danger. (He should also be crated while you are home for a few hours each day. This will help him to know it’s an OK place to be.) A crated dog cannot panic and run to another part of a house unfamiliar to a fire fighter or rescuer. If you prefer not to crate you should still confine your puppy. Baby gates in the kitchen, laundry room, bathroom or hallway are good places. This allows your puppy to be in a familiar place with familiar things without being totally confined. If the area of confinement is too large, however, you may begin to have problems with housebreaking accidents.

Make the good-byes (and hellos) as nonchalant as possible to not encourage separation anxiety. When you return, if all is in order, praise the puppy for being good while you were away and take him out as soon as you can get him out of the location. (Note: It is not fair to get upset with the dog if he has an accident, but was left alone for 8 or more hours. How long can you hold it?)

If you must be away from home longer than the dog's bladder (whatever his age – see Crate Training in your manual) can comfortably hold it, you may want to



consider hiring a dog walker for a mid-day walk. Most puppies will go out of their way to earn their owner's praise and affection, so he will do his best to please you (as long as you are realistic and consistent in your expectations and demands.)

Remember if you correct the dog must be in the action of doing what's wrong, correcting doesn't promote learning. Good management on your part will help your dog become the best he can be!

## ***OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS***

1. Is it OK to change the dog's name? I encourages new adoptive families to change their new family member's name if they so desire. The puppy usually learns the new name quickly, especially if you overuse it in the beginning. Give lots of treats for looking at you when his name is spoken. (My pups are called by their ribbon colors, or "puppy, puppies"... in a very high pitched voice, to get them all to come at the same time, in or out)

2. How important is obedience training? Extremely important! One of the best ways for you to establish a relationship with your new puppy and begin to develop a bond is through obedience training. Even if you are not a new puppy owner, obedience training can be as valuable for you as it is for your puppy. A Class taught by a professional instructor and full of positive reinforcement will get you and your puppy off to a great start.

If you go to a class with other students, you will not only learn to handle your new best friend but also how to communicate effectively with your puppy with distractions, and it will provide an opportunity for him to practice socializing. The more socialized you can keep your puppy, the more places you will feel comfortable taking him.

The AKC S.T.A.R.Puppy and Canine Good Citizen classes with the test being on graduation day are great for testing your dog's manners. This tests your dog's ability to behave well in a variety of situations. Often telling a hotel your dog is a CGC, coupled with bringing his crate, will open more doors to you and your dog when traveling.

Learning a command like the emergency down, where the dog must drop to the ground instantly when commanded to do so, may save his life someday. There are many practical reasons for taking a series of obedience classes, and all family members should participate to reinforce their relationship and their bonds.

We offer Basic OB classes as well as the AKC classes. Just ask for times. Above all, be patient, manage well and be consistent with your new puppy. Use

positive reinforcement and lots of praise when he is a good boy. When he makes a mistake, limit his freedom and manage him better and then praise him as you give him more freedom and are watching for good behavior.

Undoubtedly, you will get lots of advice--good and bad--from other dog owners. Read and do your own research as much as possible to become familiar with responsible dog ownership practices. But, *understand that sometimes you need to try more than one approach to a problem because each dog is different.*

We will be following up with you to make sure all is going well. Don't be afraid to ask questions and bring up situations that you are unsure of how to handle. The goal is to make sure the puppies are in their forever homes. You can contact Wendy at **trainer\_kpr@yahoo.com**.

Most of all, be prepared to give and receive more love, affection and loyalty than you ever thought possible.

The majority of this information was adapted from ***New Dog – New Home*** by Ganley/Lyon (1999) that was listed as an article on the Upper Valley Human Society (UVHS) website. The original information was geared towards adopting a shelter dog. This information is specifically geared to a new puppy in your home.

Enjoy your new puppy for many years to come.

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