



# CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the **Red Carpet Doodles** Family! Your new puppy will bring you much joy & companionship for many years to come if the proper care and attention is given. Responsibilities and proper care from YOU, as its new owner is a *must* to ensure that your puppy will grow up properly and enjoy a happy, long, & healthy life.

## FOOD & WATER

Your puppy is currently being fed *Life's Abundance*, a nutrient dense, high-quality, holistic dog food formulated perfectly for your dog's needs, and it will be safe for your new puppy as it will be delivered directly to your door from the company. There is no need to soak the kibble, as your puppy has been eating it dry for at least one week. We free feed our puppies here, meaning the food is always available to them; however, for purposes of potty training, we would recommend splitting up your puppy's daily amount recommend amount (see the dog food bag for guidance) into three separate portions for the day. The general rule of thumb is to let them eat as much as they want for 20 minutes, then remove the rest until the next feeding. When your puppy gets a little older, you can switch to twice a day feeding.

**CAUTION:** DO NOT feed your puppy table scraps or milk. DO NOT change your puppy's diet in any way because this will result in making your dog ill and it may have diarrhea. We are including a list of food items that you should never feed your puppy! Puppies should always have their food available, gradually working towards a feeding schedule. Your puppy may require special care and consideration (see further instructions for teacup puppy care & hypoglycemia). Always keep fresh, clean water available to your puppy.

## VACCINATIONS & VET CARE

You have 72 hours after receiving your new puppy to have it checked out by your vet to validate the initial wellness guarantee. Please do not let your puppy on the floor of the vet's office, pet store, or any other public area until it has completed all its puppy vaccinations. Always carry your puppy or take the crate to your appointments. There are many sick dogs out there and you want to keep your new baby safe!

Remember when you take your puppy to your veterinarian, to bring along the vaccination and deworming records so that your veterinarian can help you schedule the next vaccinations deworming protocol that is appropriate for your area. Because we do not have heartworm, fleas, or ticks here in Southeastern Idaho, your puppy has not been given any treatment or preventative treatment for these. Please review the *Preventative Health & Nutrition* paragraph on page 3 of our Agreement regarding the use of oral flea medication!

There should be no vaccines or other treatments given at this first visit! This is simply a well-puppy check. Please do not allow your veterinarian to start your vaccination series all over again. Over-vaccinating can cause problems, and no one wants that for your new precious puppy! The paper that is stapled inside your puppy's vaccination record will guide your vet to review the vaccinations that were given and the recommended schedule per the manufacturer.

## STRESS and PARASITES

Taking a puppy away from its home & siblings can be very stressful and cause it digestive problems (upset stomach, vomiting, and even diarrhea). We strive to give our puppies the utmost care and strive to assure you the healthiest puppies possible and follow a very regimented de-worming schedule, which you can find in your puppy's vaccination and deworming record provided. Two specific opportunistic stress parasites are giardia and coccidia. These are tiny and are diarrhea-causing *opportunistic protozoon that lives in the bowels of all dogs*. They are *always present* in the puppy's intestines (even puppies obtained from diligent professional breeders), and they are just waiting to take advantage of any digestive upset and start multiplying. It is rarely the initial cause of diarrhea, but once something triggers it, (such as new environment, travel, weather changes, being handled or carried too much) the parasites will overgrow to large numbers and overwhelm their fragile immune system! Symptoms in young dogs are universal: persistently loose stools, proceeding to containing liquid, thick mucus and light-colored fecal matter. Spots of blood may also become apparent in the stool. Other symptoms may include poor appetite, vomiting, dehydration, and sometimes death. Coccidian infection is so common that any pup under 4 months old with these symptoms can almost surely be assumed to have coccidiosis.

If your puppy is put on antibiotics of any sort, add extra pre & probiotics to replenish the good bacteria that are killed off by the antibiotic. Luckily, *Life's Abundance* food does have guaranteed live pre & probiotics; however, during this stressful time, adding a bit additional certainly will not hurt. Do not feed yogurt! Ask for vet for the extra biotics to administer to your puppy! When coccidian does exist in the G.I. tract of your puppy, it can easily spread up through the system and into the lungs and if lack of eating properly accompanied by a loose stinky stool and sometimes escalating into bouts of hypoglycemia. Coccidia can be transmitted to humans if hands are not washed and contaminated utensils are handled improperly. Coccidia should never be allowed to progress to a point that the puppy's life is threatened. If your puppy shows signs of coccidian, immediately seek professional advice and treatment.

Fortunately, the treatment is inexpensive, extremely effective, and routine. A veterinarian can easily diagnose the parasite through a low-powered microscopic examination of affected dogs' feces. In the course of just a few days administration of an easily administered and inexpensive medicine, an infection will be eliminated. The dog will most likely make a complete recovery without any long-lasting negative effects.

We also review these parasites in our handout entitled, "*Let's Talk About Poo*".

REMEMBER: Stress can be brought on by numerous factors. Some of them are:

- The weaning process
- Changing of homes
- Separation from mom & siblings
- Changing foods
- Transportation (car, plane)
- Handling or even simply holding the puppy too much

## **TOY PUPPY CARE**

During the adjustment period, the puppy should be confined to a crate or small area and then only allowed to play freely for very short periods of time. Be extremely careful during time of play that the puppy doesn't attempt to climb steps, stairs or be put up on a sofa or bed. Also ensure that your puppy is held securely as they could jump out of your hands and will certainly do so if you're not holding them securely!

## **HYPOGLYCEMIA**

This is the scientific name for a condition where the sugar level suddenly drops in a small animal's system. The first signs of this problem are usually staggering and falling over, as though they are drunk. Or they can be observed lying on their side paddling with their front feet as though they are swimming. If these symptoms are observed, you must act very quickly in order to save your puppy's life. YOU HAVE TO GET THE SUGAR LEVEL UP TO BRING THE PUPPY OUT OF THIS SITUATION, AND IT MUST BE DONE VERY QUICKLY. Usually, you do not have time to get them to a vet before they suffer irreparable damage. Light corn syrup is the best remedy for this situation. But if light corn syrup is not available, you can also use Nutri-Cal (or another high-calorie vitamin paste). At this point, you may find that the puppy clinches its mouth shut and will not lap it up on its own. By inserting a finger in the corner of the puppy's mouth, you can pry it open far enough to get a fingertip covered with light corn syrup into its mouth and rub it on its gums. Once the puppy gets a good taste of the sweetness, it will usually start licking and will start to recover in a very short time. Do not be surprised if diarrhea should follow when relieving itself. If the puppy is experiencing episodes of hypoglycemia, it is usually a sign that it is not taking in enough food or it has an underlying problem that may need medical attention. Sometimes, this problem can be corrected by just stirring in a teaspoon of sugar or light corn syrup into the puppy's water daily and giving a bit of Nutri-Cal (or another high-calorie vitamin paste) until the episodes subside.

**CAUTION:** Make sure the puppy eats and drinks within the first day you take it home. If the puppy doesn't eat within 12 to 16 hours, it could get lethargic, limp, and weak and may even have a seizure. This condition is better known as hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). If proper care is not given right away, the results can be FATAL! The most important thing is to **NOT WAIT** to give care, if you do not, the results will be death to the puppy!

**PLEASE REVIEW THE DO'S & DON'T'S INFORMATION FOR FURTHER, VERY IMPORTANT THINGS TO FOLLOW, KEEPING YOUR PUPPY SAFE AND MAKING THE TRANSITION AS EASY AS POSSIBLE.**

# PREVENTING POOR POOP



# RED CARPET DOODLES

## PREFACE

There can be many causes for diarrhea, but the most common, is due to stress, like moving to a new home, getting bathed & groomed, or even getting pictures taken.

Common “opportunistic” parasites of *Coccidia* and *Giardia* are already present in the gut of most mammals that we cannot eradicate but can control. These parasites do not cause harm to our animals, but they can be activated under stressful conditions. Even though we do our best to handle potential parasite activation beforehand, if they are not already active, the preventative measure won’t affect them.

## EDUCATION

### Fecal Tests

Fecal Tests are much more sensitive than they used to be, which means that a very low amount of *Giardia* could be detected during a fecal test. When a veterinarian sees a fecal test come back positive for *Giardia*, they typically prescribe medication regardless of severity and symptoms.

Keep in mind that many dogs who have *Giardia* manage it well, without a need for any medication. These dogs may still test positive during the fecal test. The best rule of thumb is to treat your dog when they show symptoms, as opposed to treating it after receiving a positive fecal test.

### The Danger of Treating Chemically

Because chemical-based medications can disrupt the dog’s gut flora and natural balance, it is incredibly important to avoid using them to treat *Giardia*, as it can cause an even worse infection of *Giardia* or *Coccidia*, as well as other health issues due to the sudden change in the gut flora. In life-or-death situations, chemical-based medications may help, but they should only be used in an emergency.

### Alternative Treatments

While most cases of diarrhea can pass on their own while your dog adjusts to stressors, there are still things you can do to treat it while avoiding upsetting your dog’s natural balance and gut flora.

- *MOOM (Magic Oregano Oil Mix)*: 4 oz Extra Virgin Olive Oil, 25 Drops of Oregano Essential Oil. 2 mL for Puppies (Under 6 months) and 3 mL for Adults (6 months+). Dose twice daily for 10 days until the problem has resolved completely.
- *100% Pure Canned Pumpkin*: 1 tsp per 10 lbs, every 6-8 hours.
- *Pre & Probiotics*: Life’s Abundance comes with guaranteed pre & probiotics in the food, but a little extra can’t hurt!

## PREVENTION

Your pet has been on a scheduled preventative deworming schedule in preparation for going to their new home. Please work with your veterinarian’s guidelines on how to continue a preventative deworming schedule to halt parasites from affecting your dog’s health.

It is important to wash your dog’s food and water bowls, making sure that they are uncontaminated. Isolate your dog from others if they are affected as it can be spread easily. Don’t let them sniff or eat other’s poop.

## WHAT'S NORMAL & WHEN TO TAKE ACTION

Due to stress, your dog’s poo may be soft. If it’s at least pudding-like, and not watery, there is not an emergency. Blood & Mucous in your dog’s poo is also normal. There shouldn’t be a lot of blood, but it should be bright. All of this should pass naturally within a few days as their gut flora finds balance.

If loose or bloody poo continues, we recommend using alternative treatments. Remember not to use chemical-based medications unless it’s an emergency as it can cause a downward spiral for your pet.

## SUMMARY

### Choose the Treatment

As a dog lover, and responsible owner, you are more than welcome to choose the proper treatments that you think will work the best for you and your pet. Whether it be through alternative treatments or treating chemically, we understand.

As your dog breeder, we trust you to make the best decision for you and your animals. We hope that this educative handout can assist you in making the right decision for your dog’s overall health and wellness.

# SIMPLE DOs & DON'Ts to follow for your new puppy

- DO read the contract and make sure you understand all terms and can 100% agree to your responsibilities and the terms
  - DO set up your autoship for the dog food with Life's Abundance before receiving your new puppy
  - DO be on time to pick up your puppy....whether at a meeting place or at the airport
  - DO communicate with your breeder when you receive your new puppy
  - DO schedule a vet appointment as soon as you have made arrangements to receive your new puppy to avoid missing contract deadline of 72 hours for wellness check
  - DO visit with your vet to plan on finishing all appropriate shots and set up an appropriate worming schedule for your area
  - DO keep your new puppy separate from your other pets (quarantine) for at least 30 days (especially breeding animals)
  - DO play with your puppy, but give it lots of rest! 15 minutes of play to 45 minutes of rest
  - DO keep your new puppy in a small enclosed area with enough room for bed and easy access to food and fresh water
  - DO pay attention to what your puppy eats. NO table scraps and know what foods & houseplants are poisonous
  - DO communicate directly with your breeder about any issues and for updates and pictures. Your breeder is your best resource for advice/help with your new puppy
  - DO keep food and fresh water available at all times for your new puppy
  - DO brush/comb, blow dry and clip nails of your new puppy on a regular basis
  - DO keep NutriCal or Karo (light corn syrup) on hand for new toy breed puppies. Learn the signs of hypoglycemia and how to react without panic. It could save your new puppy's life!
  - DO use a harness (if a toy breed) rather than a collar on your puppy's fragile neck
  - DO keep the hair clear around the anus to prevent plugs
  - DO use positive reinforcement for training
  - DO make a small play area outside for potty training
  - DO learn the "puppy shuffle"...keep feet on the floor with a little puppy
  - DO remember to register them with your city, if applicable
  - DO remember to register their microchip information
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- DON'T get a new puppy unless you are fully prepared to properly care for and are ready for the time commitment
  - DON'T get a new puppy unless everyone in your household is in agreement about getting a new puppy
  - DON'T take your new puppy to the store, to the neighbors, to the pet store, groomers, etc. This is a new baby and just like human babies they need rest, with no interruptions. Your new puppy should be confined/protected and kept as stress-free as possible! Moving away from its siblings into a new unfamiliar surrounding is stressful on them and the stress can ignite hypoglycemia and allow opportunistic, otherwise dormant parasites to release into their gut and could have very serious consequences!
  - DON'T leave your new puppy unattended in the yard
  - DON'T change the puppy's food or give it any non-approved treats
  - DON'T leave your puppy or dog in a hot car...not even for a few minutes
  - DON'T allow your child to handle a puppy unsupervised
  - DON'T put tiny puppies on beds, sofas or chairs where they can fall off
  - DON'T give leptospirosis vaccinations to small-breed dogs

I have read everything on these lists, understand and agree: \_\_\_\_\_



## Day 1: You and Your New Puppy

The day you bring your new puppy home is the day you've been waiting for. It's your first day as long-term companions, and you want to begin bonding with your pup immediately. Start off right by staying home, so you can make your puppy feel secure and enjoy every minute of this experience.

Here are some tips to make sure the first day is the best it can be for your puppy, for you, and for your family.



### Introducing Puppy to a New Home

**1. Limit your puppy's access.** Too many new places, smells, and people at once may confuse him. Instead, let him explore a designated area where you are, too. Then introduce him to the rest of the house, one room at a time.

**2. Choose a potty spot.** Start by taking him to the outside area where you want him to eliminate. When he does relieve himself, use a command that you'll stick to, like "go potty" and reward him with a special treat and praise.

**3. Introduce him to his new family.** If possible, do this one person at a time. Give him a chance to meet each of you quietly. Supervise young children. Discourage them from picking up the puppy. Let them hold him in their laps with your help.

**4. Minimize stress and excitement.** Don't invite friends and neighbors over to meet him yet. That will be important very soon, but should not start on the first day.

**5. Introduce other family pets.** Puppies are still developing their communication skills and don't understand the rules set in place by adult dogs. As long as an adult dog's behavior is appropriate when correcting a puppy, it's okay if she growls a little. If the elder dog becomes agitated, separate or redirect the puppy.

**6. Don't interact with dogs outside your home.** Because your puppy probably hasn't gotten all of his shots, he shouldn't interact with strange dogs or even walk where other dogs do.

**7. Start enforcing rules.** The puppy needs to learn the house rules from the very beginning. Praise good behavior. Set your rules ahead of time and stick to them, for example: Where do you want puppy to sleep? Is puppy allowed on furniture? Can puppy have food scraps from the table?

**8. Make a veterinary appointment.** Your vet should give your puppy a checkup in the next few days.

### Start a Routine and Stick to It

Structure will help your new canine family member feel secure and understand what's expected of him. Routine makes it easier for everyone, humans included.

- **Mealtime:** Young puppies eat three times a day. Put your puppy on a regular feeding schedule. What goes in on a regular schedule will come out on a regular schedule.
- **Potty breaks:** Every time your puppy eats, drinks, wakes up, plays, sniffs around the room -- most young puppies have to eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake. Pick the puppy up and carry him to the designated potty area.
- **Playtime:** Your puppy needs exercise and interaction with you. A word of caution: sustained, strenuous exercise (long runs, jumping) is not good for puppies, but playing with toys and with you, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard are great. A tired puppy is a good puppy.
- **Dreamland:** Young puppies sleep a lot; in fact, some will sleep 16-to-18 hours a day. Plan on several nap times during the day. At night, set a bedtime.

### Surviving the First Night

Some puppies sleep through the night right from the start. Others may cry for a few nights. And some may not be able to hold their pee and will need a middle of the night trip outside -- but this usually ends by age 4-5 months.

- **For many puppies, evening is the "witching hour,"** and if you anticipate it by initiating play, he may use up some energy and settle down. An evening stroll gives him exercise and a chance to take a potty break.
- **Put the crate in your bedroom.** Your pup will feel more secure if he has you nearby. Bring home a blanket or stuffed toy that smells like your pup's mother, and keep that in his crate.
- **A set bedtime makes his adjustment and house training easier for everyone.** It doesn't matter if it's 8 p.m. or midnight, as long as it becomes a routine. Take him to his crate and help him settle down for the night.
- **If your puppy is not yet able to make it through the night,** when he whines, quietly carry him out for a quick, boring potty break. Then put him back in the crate.
- **If the pup cries, do not put him in your bed unless that is where you want him to sleep.** You can put the crate right next to your bed and put your hand inside to reassure him that you're there. A crate is like a den, where a puppy won't eliminate.



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