

PUPPY TRAINING INFO

I. Diet

We feed Diamond Naturals to all our dogs including puppies. At home we recommend starting three times a day around 1-cup dry each time.

It is a whole lamb and rice food . If you choose to change food please make sure the first ingredient is whole chicken or lamb and transition the old food to avoid any upset stomachs. Do not feed table scraps or too many treats to avoid weight gain. You need to keep up with their growth so keep checking to make sure you can feel their ribs and they are not getting too thin. Also follow supplements recommended.

II. Crate Training Rules- ONLY use a plastic or metal kennel crate

- Always let out first by carrying them or walk briskly on leash to the designated area.
- (Eventually, they will learn where that area is so they can walk themselves.) Do not let them run around the house have control from the time you open the crate.
- If they do not go to the bathroom when you let them out ALWAYS put them back in the crate before giving them a chance to be loose in the house. Try again when they cry to go out.
- Always feed in the crate. (Supply water outside of the crate so you can regulate how much and when they get it. Pull water supply after 7 PM unless it is hot and/or they have been playing hard.)
- Tell them "kennel-up" every time they go in, even if you have to help them. After a brief training session you can use the hot dogs to give an extra positive reinforcement on the command.
- They will need to go to the bathroom after waking up, eating, drinking and playing.
- Signs of having to go are circling sniffing, and going to another room. ALWAYS have eyes on them in the house. If you can't watch them they MUST GO IN THE CRATE!
- If you have ANY accidents inside or outside of crate, do not scold just pick up and take outside. Try to pick up in the mid stream so they can finish in the right place - Use Nature's Miracle in all places where there is an accident. It can be purchased at Petsmart or Lion Country Supply.
- Make sure the crate is only big enough for them to turn around and lay down comfortably. Too big- means they will continue to go in the corner. It must be a plastic

crate that you can purchase at Petsmart or Wal-Mart. The plastic makes them feel safe and not exposed like the wire.

- When they do go outside or in the designated area always praise them if you can- even if it just verbal.
- Unless you have seen them go to the bathroom recently, and they are barking in the crate ALWAYS give them a positive response by letting them out. If they just went and you are too busy to watch them in the house, tap the top of the crate and say "quiet". Barking must only be used to go to the bathroom. Not to play. You control playtime -not them. That is why by placing the crate in a central part of the house you make them feel included in the family even if they are in the crate. When they first come home you are going to get some crying this is the first time away from their littermates. Don't give in. This will end and it will become a wonderful tool for training.
- There is no need to place a blanket in the crate at the risk of them chewing it. This also makes more of an impression if they have an accident in the crate so they don't do it again. You can put a nylabone for chewing but we do not recommend toys that can be torn, stay away from rawhide as well.

III. Schedule-This is an example, you will have to adjust to your own schedule to make it work for everyone.

6 - 6:30 AM Take out of crate to go to the bathroom immediately. Rapid response is beneficial. This may be the time to pick them up until they are a little older. After they have done both and had some water you can return to crate to be fed.

If you are leaving for the day make sure they are in a fenced in exercise pen with shade and water outside on concrete or patio stones, no sand, grass, dirt or pebbles Otherwise they can hold it in the crate for no more than 2 hours. Every month of age is how many hours they can hold it. One month puppy one hour... As they get older it can increase. Maximum being 6 hours at 6 months old.

12-1 Let out of crate to go to the bathroom. After doing both and getting water and exercise take back to crate to feed 1 cup dry food.

Again same rules apply to crate training. Keep an eye on water intake. If they do not go before eating make sure you let out right after eating- they will let you know. If you have them out in the house playing with a chew toy just keep track of time. Think ahead of them for awhile so

you can take them out before they have to go. Eventually by always going outside they will quickly learn it is the only place to go. They will not be allowed to look at the inside of the house as a place to go to the bathroom.

6-7 PM Let out to go to the bathroom and water. Feed last meal for the day. Remember NO WATER after 7-8pm unless they have been playing hard and showing signs of thirst.

10-11 PM Before going to bed make sure they have used the bathroom. In the beginning you may have some nighttime visits.

IV. Commands

HERE, SIT, KENNEL-UP, LEAVE IT, & OFF

- Use small bits of hot dogs or treats (no bigger than a dime) in a plastic ziploc bag in your pocket. Only used in moderation to get attention by young pups. At this age they need food rewards. Please do not let this be a part of their normal diet.
- WHOEVER BEGINS THE COMMAND MUST BE THE ONE TO COMPLETE IT!
- Dogs like to establish who the alpha is in the "pack". So make sure that everyone is above them. These are not headstrong pups so be gentle just show them who is in charge.
- Simple things like you walking in the house first, eating your dinner before giving them their food. It sounds silly but in some situations they try to rule the roost. Just by working with them 5 minutes a day walking on the lead and doing some sits and downs can make a big difference. Life is not all play. They need to understand when you put the leash on it is business.

HERE

At this age you can only begin a short distance away. Have them on a leash. Let them go out at the end of the lead and begin to call them by saying their name and "here". Get down low and open your arms, get excited and praise them as they come into your arms- offer the treat and say good dog. Make sure you reel in the leash gently.

You will also use this command when they are walking on your left side only. Have the hot dog piece in your right hand and the leash in the left hand. Keep gently bringing them back to the side of your leg and saying "here" - ever so many steps you can give a treat and say "here". Bend

down to stop the jumping. Sometimes if they know you have a treat they will try to jump up. Keep a straight arm on the leash and if needed a little tap on the head saying "off". Now there will be times when they are loose and like all puppies distracted and running around in circles. You can get down low and clap and say "here". Sometimes even the best puppy will turn off his ears and run in the wind, therefore other sounds may be called in to help like a whistle, tapping a bowl, a favorite squeaky toy...once you get their attention make sure you give them a reason to come to you. Be very excited, clap, sometimes running away will get them to chase you. Once you know they have committed you can stop and praise. This will not last forever, it just shows the positive behavior instead of scolding them for bad. Eventually they will only know how to be good. But, remember they are puppies! Never have them loose anywhere near a road or an area where they could get hurt. They are fast and it happens in seconds!

SIT

The sit is a command that they will naturally learn at this age much faster than when they are older. Just by looking up at you the gravity takes over. You may again have to use positive reinforcement by gently placing your right hand on their rear back and lifting their chins up with your left hand, at the same time you are saying "sit", "good dog". You can also incorporate a treat from your left hand. If they are on the leash you can use the leash to lift the head up. Later on when they are walking on your side when you stop they will learn to sit by your side. Don't worry about this now. One thing to consider is if they begin to sit on their own you go ahead and say sit. This again reinforces the command. I am going to mention in this section the DOWN command. They are smart pups so I believe as they get older this may be a natural progression with some help. Always begin the Down command when they are in a sit position. You may have to take their front legs at first out from under them so they can get the feel of what you are asking. While you are doing this say the command "Down", say it one more time once they are down while applying pressure on their back between their shoulder blades. Don't expect a long down once you release the pressure say "ok" and let them get up. While they are in the down praise them and offer a treat.

KENNEL-UP

This command will not only be used for the crate but eventually when you want them in the car and even when they lay on their dog bed when they are older. With the high puppy power they still have they may spin around the crate the 5 times you have said kennel-up so the best thing to do is take them by the collar and steer their heads in while saying kennel-up. If it is

feeding time you can have the food ready and use the food as a means to put them in. Right now food is a good way to train. Once you start feeling less and less force in putting them you will eventually begin to point and say kennel-up and they will run in free will. Small treats can be used for this for a little while. In this section I would like to also mention crate behavior. The crate is their down time. Respect their space just like they will be respecting yours. Remind them it is down time by not talking to them and getting them to want to play but expect them to stay in there. They are growing pups so they need their sleep. It is so good for them to know that is where they can do it. But just because they wake up in the crate don't quickly run to their rescue. Like a baby in a crib let them "hang-out" and get comfortable being in there. This will make such a big difference when they discover your house is an extension of the crate and when you say kennel-up they will run in happy. Most older, crate trained dogs you will find sitting in there with the door open- happy!

LEAVE-IT or NO

This command replaces "no". . "Leave-it" is also a great command for ANYTHING you don't want them to have or do. Whether it is digging up your flowers, chasing a squirrel, or simply tugging on the leash when you're walking-" leave it" is the command you will use. If they have a shoe in your house try to replace it with something they can have, like one of their toys. You take the item (Sometimes you may have to pry the mouth open) and say "leave-it". Then you quickly replace it with their toy and say "good dog". A puppy's mouth is NEVER to be on a human's skin. They must learn this now. We take the puppy's lip and curl it around their teeth and squeeze it. It will pinch them so they will squeal. That is the only way they will learn. You can say "leave-it" at the same time.

OFF

This will be used quite a bit with puppies. Just because of their size. If you bend down to their level less jumping can occur. But we can't always be on the ground. So they have to learn now, while they are young, and won't knock you over. If it is not corrected now, it's behavior that will hurt someone when they are older. Not to mention no one enjoys being around a dog that jumps so in the end they get less attention. But every dog has a different level of sensitivity. Some dogs are very soft and it doesn't take much. Sometimes your voice alone is enough. But at this age they don't understand what you are asking. But eventually all you will have to do is put your hand out and not even touch them. That is why we have different levels.

Level one- A gentle "tap" on the top of the head and say "off"

Level two-A flat hand meeting them as they come up saying "off"- like a basketball

Level three- A flat hand with a "pop" saying 'Off'

Every dog is different on their sensitivity level so start off with one and if needed go to three. Eventually start moving back to one until you just use the verbal command and a hand in front. Stay consistent and they will quickly learn every time they jump they have discomfort and they will stop. Reinforce the good behavior by having them go into a sit and then go down to their level and praise them.

V. Field Work

Puppy field work is followed by this rule:

"Two retrieves a day keeps the trainer away"

You can either nurture their natural desire or take it all away. Once the desire to retrieve is gone it will never come back. So be careful!

THE RETRIEVE

1. Get down on the ground and gather puppy from behind by holding underneath the front shoulders and upper legs. Support puppy so back legs are on the ground. Face puppy in the direction you want him to run.
2. Make sure puppy is looking as you roll a tennis ball on cut grass.
3. Release puppy as it is rolling away by saying their name.
4. Do not wait until it stops rolling.
5. Stay low and praise puppy as they pick it up.
6. Encourage the puppy to come back by saying their name and "here" along with the extra tricks...running backwards, cheering, clapping.
7. If they do come to you with it scoop it up gently and praise them with love. Make them feel like you gave them the world.
8. Remember ONE MORE and then put them up. You want them wanting more.
9. As they get older you can begin to hold them by the collar and have someone throw a small white bumper only a short distance so they clearly see it. Follow the same guidelines on the return and quantity- NO MORE THAN TWO.

VI. Do's and Don'ts

1. Do expose them to different people, sounds, animals, situations, children, inside and outside environments.

2. Don't put them in a situation where they could get bit by another dog or even given aggressive behavior. Some puppy classes, dog parks and other group situations are run by people that don't screen the dogs. Stay away from group situations where the dogs are loose. It's not worth it. Wait until you know the dogs and it is a smaller group play time.
3. Do let them be a puppy. Training will begin soon enough let them enjoy being spoiled.
4. Don't leave them to their own devices. They are a very sociable breed.
5. Do keep them in a crate in the truck or car. We never want to see our dogs loose in the back bed of a truck.
6. Don't let them nibble or bite. Say the command "leave-it" even if you have to tuck their lip under their own teeth and squeeze. That will make them squeal a little and they learn their teeth hurt!

VII. Contact Information

We take great pride in the time we spend with our puppies. This labor of love is second nature. But the one thing we can not give is undivided attention in a home. That is where you now come in. We have exposed them to everything. We have taken them from the young pups where the world seemed so small to fearless adventurers ready to tackle it. Try to keep that spirit. It will be such a benefit when they begin training. They will need to have some rules but remember they are puppies, let them have a puppyhood! With that said you will surely have questions, concerns and good stories to tell. We really hope you stay in touch and insist if you have ANY questions to call. The sooner we address them the less of a concern they will be.