

HOW TO RAISE A GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY



Important Disclaimer

The advice and suggestions in this manual are no more than the author's personal opinions as an experienced dog breeder. They are informational only and not meant to be a substitute for personalized veterinary attention for your dog nor for visits to your local veterinarian for diagnosis or treatment, and do not replace licensed, hands-on, professional, pet-specific, veterinary care.

The information presented here is based on the experience and knowledge of the author. However, neither the author nor Nextgen Golden Retrievers nor its affiliates takes any responsibility for, nor makes any warranty with respect to, results that may be obtained from the use of any of the information, procedures, recommendations or dosages presented in this manual.

Before any medical or treatment decisions are implemented, an evaluation of your pet's medical situation should be performed by a trained professional in your area.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this manual, especially as to decisions you may wish to make concerning the health or well-being of your dog, please consult your local veterinarian before proceeding.

If your pet is seriously ill and especially if there is a potentially life-threatening emergency involving your pet, do not wait - take your dog immediately to a trained veterinarian or animal emergency center near you.



Congratulations!

Congratulations on adopting your new puppy. At Nextgen Golden Retrievers, we are committed to helping you and your puppy develop the best and most enjoyable relationship possible.

We hope your years together are filled with joy, love, good health, and happiness.

This manual is designed to help you achieve that.

Much about the quality of your relationship with your new pet will depend on you, as much as the personality your dog grows into will depend on how it is managed during the critical first few months of its life.

The ethical, responsible breeder you sourced your puppy from will have yours and your dog's best interests at heart and will have done all they could to start your new puppy off right. The rest is up to you. Let this manual be your guide.

How to Raise a Puppy: A Guide for New Owners

Your Puppy's Veterinary Care 6

Your puppy has had the following veterinary care: 6

Follow-up Care required of You: 6

Visit your vet.....6

What to feed your pup when you get him home 7

Growing your precious puppy right! 9

The healthy dog diet 9

Build your pup's diet around raw meaty bones. 11

The Other Part of the Diet 12

Healthy Dog Food Recipe **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Herbs to grow for your dog 12

How Much Should You Feed? 14

Feeding Frequency Guide 15

Get 2 Month's FREE Pet Insurance for your new puppy..... .14

Getting geared up for your new puppy 16

Puppy-proof your home. 18

Puppy Training 19

You are the boss! 22

Restraint - the Most Important Lesson! 23

General Training Rules 25

Practicing Basic Commands 27

Lead Training 29

House-Training 31

Puppy socializing 34

Puppy grooming 36

Puppy health 37

Parasite Prevention 37

Worms 38

Vaccination 39

Heartworm 41

Flea Control 41

Exercise 46

Your Puppy's Veterinary Care

This is the protocol I follow and the veterinary care your puppy should have had from your breeder:

Age	Veterinary Care
3 days old	Dewclaws removed
2 weeks	Wormer (covering roundworm and hookworm)
4 weeks	Wormer (covering roundworm and hookworm)
6 weeks	- First vaccination (see your <u>Vaccination Certificate</u> from your breeder) - Veterinary check
8 weeks	- Wormer (covering roundworm, hookworm and tapeworm) - Microchipped

Follow-up Care required of You:

Age	Recommended Veterinary Care
8 weeks (within 72 hours of taking possession of your new puppy)	Veterinary Check: Arrange for your veterinarian to give the puppy a complete checkup within 72 hours of your purchase to ensure no health problems have been overlooked.
10 weeks	- Follow-up Vaccination at your veterinarian using Duramune, Protech or Nobivac C3 injectable [+ optional Protech Bronchishield III intranasal for Kennel Cough]. That completes the puppy shots & pup's safe to go out 1 wk later. No more shots needed for 12 months, then every 3 years. (Most clinics do this new protocol, but always ask first.) - All-wormer due - Heartworm prevention strategy begins Your veterinarian will also make other recommendations appropriate in your region and be able to answer any health questions you may have.

Nextgen Golden Retriever Lifetime Genetic Health Guarantee

Our puppies are sold with a warranty against the development of severe, life-threatening defects that are clearly hereditary in nature and that seriously affect the dog's quality of life for the whole of its life. Although this is a summary of the contract guarantee, it is not intended to supersede any discrepancy of the policy. Should your puppy be determined to be suffering from such a defect Nextgen Golden Retrievers will refund your purchase price or replace the puppy with one of the same value when one is available (whichever you prefer) after confirmation from an independent veterinarian. The breeder will not be responsible for any veterinary costs at any time. You are also free to keep your dog.

As it is when you have children, as parents of your puppy we cannot guarantee it will never develop any health problems in the future. Some things are just not able to be predicted. However, we do our very best to give you a puppy with the greatest possible chance to live a long and healthy life. To achieve this our parent dogs are not related to each other, plus themselves are free of diseases, disorders, and health problems; otherwise we would not breed them.

If anything does occur, please inform us so we can evaluate the parents and the other puppies from that litter in an attempt to determine the cause of the ailment and to eliminate the issue from our breeding program.

You will be handed a signed copy of the Genetic Health Guarantee when you pick up your puppy.

What to feed your pup when you get him home

A Quick Guide:

It is important not to suddenly change your puppy's diet - to do so can invite digestive problems such as diarrhea, constipation or tummy ache. So to help you continue where we have left off, here is what your puppy is used to eating:

Variety is the key, as well as a balance of raw meaty bones (for minerals and protein) alternated with other foods (vegetables, milk, rice, quinoa).

- Leftovers from your table (anything but cooked bones, fish bones or chop bones) including soup, pasta, stew, roast vegetables, fat trimmings.
- Raw chicken pieces such as wings, thighs and (sparingly) necks. For best nutrition your pup should eat the bone as well, so either mince or crush thoroughly with a kitchen mallet if your pup is still small; no piece of bone should be bigger than the toenail on your little toe for small pups. Graduate up to uncrushed chicken then shanks, offcuts and ribs as he gets bigger.
- Chopped heart, liver, tongue or kidneys for one meal, once a week.
- Homecooked "Healthy Dog Food Recipe" (see details below)
- Commercial puppy biscuits or tins (very occasionally given as a "backup feed")

Do not over-feed your puppy! Forcing rapid growth can lead to health problems later on, particularly with the joints. Keep him trim and let him feel hungry now and then.

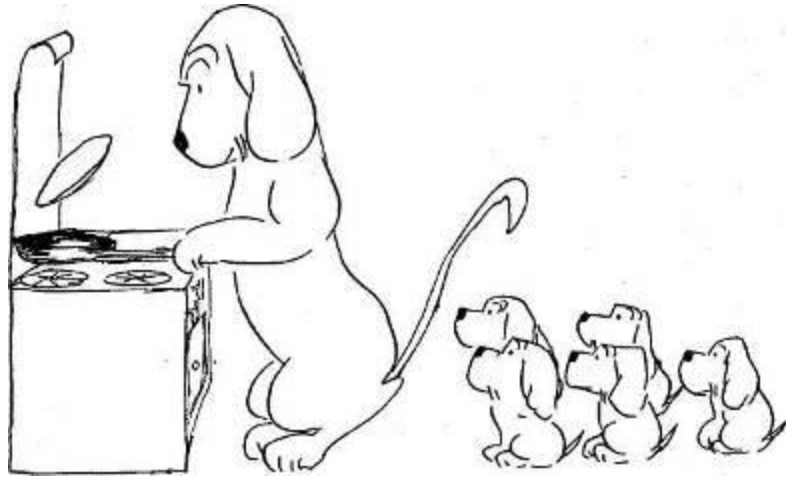
Whatever he can eat in 15 minutes at each meal is the right amount. Take leftovers away until the next meal.

For more in-depth information refer to the following section:

Growing your precious puppy right!

The healthy dog diet

As a firm believer in the notion that “Nature knows best”, I strive to provide my dogs with a diet as close to natural as possible. I was very inspired at the outset of my dog breeding venture by a book by veterinarian Dr Ian Billinghurst called



“Give Your Dog a Bone”, and I recommend it to anyone who wants to gain more depth on this important subject. Dr Billinghurst drew upon his observations and trials during 25 years as a small animal veterinarian to develop a diet based on raw meaty bones. He found that dogs placed on such a diet showed dramatic improvement in their health, and often also spontaneously recovered from some of the common dog ailments including flea bite allergy. Much of what follows is drawn from his work and my own application of his ideas.

Though in appearance most breeds are far removed from their ancestors, all dogs are descended from the wolf, and so their diets should simulate the eating habits of healthy wolves. Who am I to argue with millions of years of evolution? And who are commercial dog food companies and the veterinarians who pay homage to them, either?

They may argue that commercial dog foods are carefully balanced to provide for all the minerals, vitamins and essential oils and other nutrients that a dog needs - and I would agree with them! The fact that such foods are often also heavily laden with artificial colors, flavors and preservatives, as well as containing damaging rancid and

oxidized fats is only to be expected of any processed foods - whether they be for you or Rover! But what they don't provide is equally, and perhaps more important.

When your pup eats bones, its teeth are cleaned and its gums are massaged. The stress of bone eating while your pup is young and growing strengthens the teeth and ensures they are firmly rooted in the jaws. Conversely, on purely commercial diets, the health of dogs suffers in many ways. One big giveaway is the buildup of tartar on the teeth and development of foul breath due to lack of chewing. Dogs raised on commercial diets often have poorly anchored, weak teeth. Indeed, dental problems, once unheard of in dogs, now provide around a third of the income for small animal veterinarians! That many dog owners are now encouraged to actually brush their dog's teeth is an ignoble fate for the descendants of the wolf, and totally unnecessary when a natural diet is followed!

Bone eating is great exercise for a pup, of every muscle and bone in its body. In bracing, tackling, ripping and tearing its meaty bone the puppy works its jaws, neck, shoulders, back and both front and rear limbs, promoting toned, sound muscular and skeletal development.

None of these benefits derive from feeding commercial dry biscuits, mince or wet canned slops!

My Recommended Diet in a Nutshell

To avoid food allergies it's best not to rely too much on any one kind of meat.

- 50% raw chicken drumsticks (for young dogs crush/mince till bone fragments are smaller than your smallest toenail until pup is strong enough to chew itself)
- 40% roo/deer (add fat as is very lean), horse, beef, or lamb mince alternately cooked as a vege stew (see recipe below) or mixed raw with soaked dog muesli
- 10% lamb offal: alternately raw liver or raw heart/tripe.

Building your pup's diet around raw meaty bones.

Your puppy needs food that will support proper growth, which means adequate protein, fat, energy, vitamins and minerals. Most of these come conveniently packaged in the form of raw meaty bones. As a simple rule of thumb just give your pup a diet that is around 50 to 60% raw meaty bones.

The best of these are whole chicken drumsticks which provide high quality protein, a good balance of essential fatty acids and fat-soluble vitamins, some B vitamins, and ample energy and all essential minerals. The bone marrow is a particularly good source of iron to build up the blood and immune system. The bone itself is a great, perfectly balanced source of other minerals, especially calcium and phosphorous. It is much easier to correctly balance your pup's calcium needs this natural way and augment the need for artificial calcium supplementation, particularly in larger breeds of dogs.

Despite some of the B vitamins being in short supply in raw meaty bones, pups raised on them and little else still do better than those fed on the best of the supposedly "complete and balanced" commercial dog foods.

And because they are derived from very young animals, chicken bones are lower in toxins than meat from other species which are generally much older at slaughter.

It is very important that your pup actually eats the bones, and those of chickens are small, soft and easy to chew for your puppy. Reserve meaty bones that are harder to chew - such as lamb shanks and ribs - for older dogs, or your pup may miss out on the bony part of the parcel.

For small and finicky pups, particularly those that have never seen a bone before, it can be very helpful to pulverize the chicken drumsticks at first, using a meat mallet or the back of a small axe. You may even need to mince up the chicken and add a little to the diet the pup has grown accustomed to, gradually weaning it onto the proper diet over a few days. Then mince/pulverize the chicken less and less as the puppy grows big, until it is able to cope with a whole drumstick by itself.

The Other Part of the Diet

The other 40% to 50% of the diet should be drawn from as wide a variety of foods as possible. Dogs are basically omnivorous so need vegetable as well as meat in their diet. Consider the wolf - when it eats a rabbit or a partridge it ingests the offal and intestines too, along with the vegetables and grains that they are filled with. If the prey is a baby or lactating mammal, that wolf will also get a good dose of dairy foods. They will also eat eggs, herbs and berries.

For the offal component of the diet, give liver, heart, kidney or brains once or twice a week. Also feed occasional milk or vegetable meals.

Leftovers (minus any cooked bones) are a great supplement to the meaty bone diet, and very practical. Soup, pasta, cooked vegetables, small quantities or raw vegetables or fruit, cheese, yoghurt, rice, in fact any remains of wholesome household meals add to the variety of your dog's diet. The more different foods you feed your puppy, the healthier he will be.

I find it very useful to provide the meaty bone part of the diet to my dogs whenever I need to leave them for a period of time. Gnawing at a bone provides useful and rewarding entertainment and can alleviate loneliness and boredom, thus circumventing possible destructive behavior.

Dr Meg's "Easy" Recipe Version

Feed half the meals as raw chicken drumsticks.

Until your puppy is big enough to get through the chicken bone inside the drumsticks themselves, you must crush them until no bone fragment is bigger than the toenail on your little toe. You must also always feed bones wrapped in meat and fat, as they present in a drumstick, to lubricate them through the gut. It's important they eat the bone as it's the main source of their calcium, needed for growth in particular. Once they are a few months older they'll be big enough to eat the bone without crushing. Try your puppy out from time to time. If she can't manage the bone, go back to

crushing for a bit longer. Or offer “pet mince” based on chicken frames from the butcher alongside a whole drumstick, and swap to whole drumsticks only for this part of the diet once the puppy is getting through the whole drumstick and bone themselves.

For the rest of the diet, NO chicken at all.

That means checking the ingredients on prepared foods (e.g. BARF brands). The reason is that overfeeding one particular kind of animal protein can predispose them to developing food allergies.

So the other 50% of the diet should be:

One feed of raw sardines each week

One feed of raw lamb liver each fortnight

Remainder either commercial BARF or home cooked: Home cooked is RED meat only cooked up with equal weight of veges. I leave rice/quinoa out of it now.

You can also feed lamb heart, kidney and tripe now and then.

To this diet add 1 tspn Nutritional Yeast Flakes + 2 tspn/day of Oil Supplement (for a 10 kg dog)

[Oil Supplement Recipe = 1 L Sunflower oil + 50 ml Cod Liver oil]

I feed a little commercial kibble now and then either as treats, as rewards in puzzle toys and chew toys, or in the case I don't have other food prepared/defrosted. I see it as "junk food" ... OK in small doses.

Optional extras once cool:

An egg yolk or a large spoon of natural yoghurt or probiotics (or give separately another time)

I also give them a tin of puppy food or some puppy biscuits now and then so they are familiar with them.

You can feed your puppy leftover cooked veges/soup/stew (no cooked bones) when you have them available, and the above recipe when you don't.

Feed 3 to 4 times a day. Right amount/meal is whatever puppy can eat within 15 minutes. Unless it is a big meaty bone given to provide entertainment and exercise, take any leftovers away until next meal. Clean water to be available at all times.

How Much Should You Feed?

In the wild, natural state, wolf cubs were always a little hungry. Adult wolves did not hunt until motivated by hunger, and often had to wait until a successful kill before sating their appetite. And so, it is natural and healthy for your dog to rest its digestive system occasionally. You can simulate this by skipping a day's feeding once a week in the adult dog.



Many people see virtue in growing their puppies as fast as possible, and the end result is frequently problems with bones and joints in the adult dog. This is particularly so of the larger breeds. As a guide, keep your puppy slim and athletic rather than roly-poly by letting the pup eat its fill for 15 minutes at each meal, then take the food away (this also makes toilet training easier - see our section on House Training)

Feeding Frequency Guide

Feeding frequency depends upon the age of the pup or dog. Here is a general guide:

Age	Feeding Frequency
0 - 1 month	Pup suckles its mother exclusively (unless circumstances warrant earlier supplementation)
1 - 3 months	3 to 4 meals per day
3 - 6 months	2 to 3 meals per day
6 - 12 months	2 meals per day
After 12 months	1 meal per day

To further simulate natural conditions, vary the time of feeding, if your routine allows, and don't necessarily feed the dog according to when it is hungry.

The important exception to these guidelines is the lactating bitch. The breeding bitch is a production animal and needs to be cared for as such. Lactating bitches have very heavy demands on their nutritional and energy reserves and should be fed as much as they desire, often two to three times what they would normally require, particularly if the litter is a large one. Even under such a regime, many bitches will lose weight during lactation.

Get 2 Month's FREE Pet Insurance for your new puppy

[PETSURE/BowWowMeow/lemonade] is a highly recommended pet insurance company.

Here is the link:

<https://lemonade.com/r/markgriffin>

Getting geared up for your new puppy

A smooth start to your pup's new life with you begins by being properly prepared! Start by having the following check-list of useful equipment on hand before she arrives at your door:

- Smelly litter blanket: A blanket with the smells of his original litter home will help your puppy settle in with you with less stress. Get this from the breeder if possible.
- Wire or plastic dog crate: This is for your puppy to sleep and rest. Line the bottom with a tough, washable bedding material. Consider or experiment with the best location to allow your pup to settle quietly and during its rest and sleep periods away from the hubbub of the family. Depending on your circumstances and your pup's temperament that may mean bedding her away from the family, or close to the activity
- Puppy bed: Comfortable, sturdy and washable.
- Food and water dishes: Tip-proof, stainless steel are best.
- Collar and lead: Soft braided nylon, complete with ID Tag with your phone number.
- Grooming equipment: suited to your breed. This may include metal combs, detangling brushes, shampoo (Ph balanced), sharp scissors and possibly electric clippers.
- Chew-discouraging spray: A safe spray-on product (e.g "Bitter Apple") to discourage destructive and dangerous chewing on inappropriate objects such as immovable valuables like furniture legs and curtains.
- Blockade: A wire or wooden "baby gate" for blocking access to rooms you want to restrict your puppy from entering until she is more reliable and better trained.
- Food: Make sure it is suitable for puppies.

- Toys: Safe for puppies of course. Supplement with soft toys from the second hand shop, and home made toys puppies love such as a small plastic drinking bottle tied inside an old sock.
- Puppy Pads: Or something else for puppy to toilet on when he's in his playpen. You can use cat litter in a tray, newspaper, a square of artificial lawn or an old baking dish filled with dirt, gravel or lawn from your yard.
- Newspaper: For lining his playpen.
- Radio: Leave this on when you aren't around to help alleviate loneliness.
- Chew toys: Kongs, squirrel dudes and similar toys stuffed with yummy food are great to give him something constructive to do when you aren't around.

Dimensions of Adult Golden Retriever dog crate:

42" Long x 28" Wide x 30" High

Puppy-proof your home.

Puppies explore their environment in much the way toddlers do - by chewing and getting into everything!

Be sure to remove hazardous items such as electric cords and put valuables like your best running shoes or expensive rug out of harm's way.

Ensure there are no escape routes around your boundary fence big enough for a small puppy, and if you have a swimming pool, you may need to twitch wire mesh at the bottom of the pool fence so your puppy can't get in and drown.

When You Take Puppy Home for First Time

Transport puppy in his/her crate (if you have one). Best bedding is an old natural sheepskin, but anything comfy that won't catch on their claws will do. Be sure to include the smelly sock/piece of litter blanket and have the crate available as a handy place for puppy to retreat to at all times.

Take puppy to the toilet spot you have selected.

Let puppy follow you back to the house so he/she knows the way. Once your puppy has bonded to you and is happy to follow you, let it chase you to the toilet spot thereafter (don't carry puppy). Transfer any soilings away from less than ideal placements over to your chosen spot to help puppy "get it". Clean up any mistakes with cheap white vinegar.

Supervise all interaction with small children.

Rule is child must have their bottom on the floor/ground to be allowed to cuddle/hold the puppy. Make sure all interactions are positive and gentle! Limit time to 10 minutes each play period or you will overwhelm your puppy.

Be Understanding.

Having just been uprooted from his/her pack and everything familiar, your puppy is likely to be shy and insecure for the first few days with you. Give him time to explore and adjust.

To introduce your new puppy to your existing dog(s)

Instead of choosing a nearby park for the first introduction, which is not likely to be safe for your puppy, a friend's yard would be better.

Puppy's Normal Daily Routine – What to Expect.

This is roughly what the puppies are used to. You can vary it to fit your routine and your puppy will soon adjust to your schedule.

6.20am: Wakeup time. Let puppy out of their crate/playpen and call “puppy puppy puppy” to coax to the chosen toileting area (I run there and the puppies all run after me!).

Play with puppy. Allow to run around for about an hour and tire him/herself out.

7.30am (or thereabouts): Breakfast time. Allow 15 minutes to eat and allow access to toilet/play area.

10 am Morning nap (an hour or so).

Around 11.30 am: Puppy will wake up and cry to toilet again.

Play with puppy. Offer toys and allow to run around for about an hour and tire him/herself out.

12.30pm (or thereabouts): Lunch time. Allow 15 minutes to eat and allow access to toilet/play area afterwards.

Midafternoon - naps for around an hour or so.

Around 2 pm: Toilet time.

Playtime.

3pm (or thereabouts): Afternoon tea time.

Afternoon nap (an hour or so).

Around 4 pm: Puppy will wake up and cry to toilet again.

Play with puppy. Allow to run around for a few hours and tire him/herself out.

6 pm (or thereabouts): Dinner time. Allow 15 minutes to eat and be ready to take back to toilet before nap time.

After dinner nap (an hour or so).

Around 10.30pm: Take puppy outside to toilet before you go to bed and put back to bed in his crate/playpen. You can take the crate into your bedroom with you if you want.

What to do at bed time!

Put the radio on low so puppy doesn't feel too lonely.

Take puppy out to toilet just before you go to bed at night then place in his bed. Ignore your puppy if it cries when you first put it into its crate/playpen for naps as it will soon settle down and you don't want it to train you to respond to crying or you'll be setting up a bad habit! But if it has been asleep for a few hours and then cries, it probably needs to toilet.

Though some puppies can "hold it" till morning some will need to be toileted once (or even twice) during the night. Any more than this is probably just attention seeking and could easily become a habit. Tell puppy to be quiet and ignore excessive interruptions during the night or put the crate in a situation where the puppy can toilet itself on newspaper or a litter tray (an old baking dish full of the same material as its toilet area) within a confined playpen area, or has access to outside to toilet.

Puppy Training

You are the boss!

Dogs are social animals, and the society in which they live is stratified by a hierarchy based on rank. In the society of a dog that has been thoroughly socialized to both humans and other dogs, the pack members include humans and dogs alike. No dog can feel totally secure unless there is a distinct and definite “alpha” ranking, or dominant individual in the “pack” society. If you are not willing to establish yourself in the alpha position, then you might find your dog assuming that position.



The ramifications of this unhappy state of affairs are that your dog will never allow you to dominate it in any way. This may include urinating on you and other people, disobeying your commands, and threatening or biting you (and your veterinarian) whenever there is a need for restraint to facilitate necessary procedures. Now, as an owner you will frequently need to control and handle your animals - whether the purpose is simple restraint, grooming, removing grass seeds, ear plucking, dressing a wound, or what have you, you will often need to dominate your dogs in one way or another to effectively care for them.

Many dogs are naturally subordinate by nature and will be more than willing to delegate natural authority to you. However, with others, you may assume you have a healthy relationship with your dogs, until the true state of affairs is revealed when your loving mutt snaps at you the minute a “need to control” situation arises. The problem can be difficult to remedy without a series of physical battles with your dog

in which you come out the clear victor - that is, without having to beat your poor doggy up!

Further, a dog without clear human leadership who therefore assumes himself the leader, will be prone to anxiety when you are away. To such a dog, it's humans are puppies it needs to look after. If you "wander off" it can suffer separation anxiety out of worrying what harm may come of you out there in the world without a leader to protect you. So be the leader and save your poor dog from such worries.

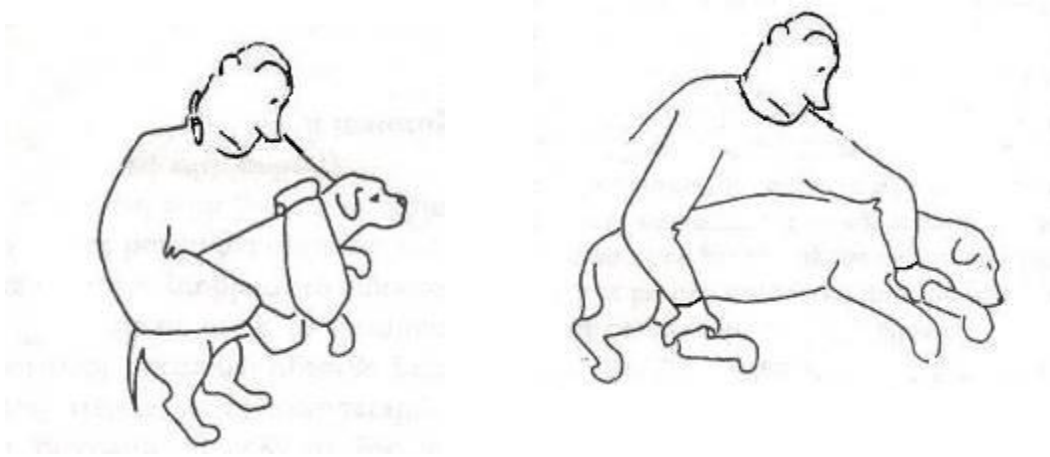
Prevention remains the best approach here. So establish yourself as the clear leader of your pack right from when you first bring your puppy home.

Restraint – the Most Important Lesson!

A trick I teach all my clients is the lesson of restraint. The acceptance of restraint is a very important lesson, especially for larger breeds. Too many times I see owners totally cowed by their dogs - where even little lapdogs have owners quivering in fear and too scared of their own pooch to even cut its hair! Don't let yourself be one of them! You are the boss and this is a great way of teaching this to your dog without hurting it.

To be effective, the lesson needs to be established well before the dog is 3 months old. Ideally new owners should begin practicing restraint with their pups within a few days of taking them home (week 9). When your Great Dane weighs 80kg it will still remember the early lesson and to accept restraint despite its size. This lesson is invaluable to successfully doing any of a multitude of necessary procedures on your dog throughout its life - from clipping toenails to pulling grass-seeds out of ears. Your veterinarian too will love to see your dog - an easily handled dog is a pleasure for everyone it comes in contact with.

The method is simple: hold it firmly on its side on the ground (or in your arms) so that it cannot get away. You hold it there until it struggles, then don't release it until it stops!



Restrain the puppy firmly and gently, reassuring it and telling it how good it is. Maintain this for a count of 20 seconds. Most pups will struggle against this restraint within this timeframe. When it does, keep holding it down and gently but firmly tell it to “lie down” or “be still” in a deep, warning tone of voice. As soon as it ceases struggling immediately praise it and let it go. Repeat this several times a week so that the pup gets accustomed to the idea that it must succumb to restraint.

It’s a lot easier to win the battle in a pup than in an adult dog! The lesson is a short one and needs to be repeated a few times and it is learnt for life. While it is struggling you can soothe it with calm reassuring words and praise it mightily when it eventually succumbs to the restraint without fighting and calms down.

Be warned - the puppy may scream and shriek, wriggle like a worm or even try to bite, but maintain your gentle but insistent hold on it. Use the correct grip (as shown) and it will not be able to hurt itself or you. When it is calm, ease your grip, offer words of praise, and release the pup. You’ll be glad you took the trouble to teach your pup this lesson for the rest of your lives together!!!

General Training Rules

The attention and care you put into the first few weeks of your puppy's life with you will pay off handsomely in the long term. So, while it is likely to be busy and demanding at first, keep your sense of humor and be patient, and things will go better for you and your pup. Begin teaching your puppy simple commands as soon as you get him home.

1. Use a consistent command for each behavior you expect, so your dog doesn't get confused. I use a combination of hand signals and voice or whistle commands.
2. Set your dog up to succeed. When setting out to train your puppy, do so in a small enclosed area without major distractions so it will be easier for your dog to pay attention to you. Is Bozo an overenthusiastic youngster with energy to burn? Tire him out a bit before training so it will be easier for him to remain calm. Do you train with treats? Schedule your training sessions before meal time so he'll be hungry.
3. Use rewards to train your dogs - lots of pats and warm animated praise in a crooning tone of voice ("Gooooood dog! Gooooood doggie!") plus - especially in early training - small yummy morsels (a fragment of dried liver for example) pack a lot of leverage when it comes to instilling good behavior in dogs.
4. Punishment should only take the form of growling if the dog refuses to obey - for example, if it starts to move after you have told it to STAY. If you bash your dog up for not doing what you asked, then chances are, it will not know why it is being bashed up and will instead grow fearful of you. This mistake is often made when people are trying to get a dog to COME, and all it wants to do is run around and play chasy! They chase it and when they finally catch it, bash it up! Not surprisingly, the dog is even less willing to COME on the next occasion as it fears being beaten up again. And so a vicious cycle sets in...

5. Another secret to effective training is repetition. Through repetition, a dog develops understanding of the command, how it is expected to respond to it, and the pleasant reward it will get from obeying. Just spend a few minutes a couple of times a day and your puppy will rapidly learn anything if taught correctly.

6. Be consistent. Don't want Bozo on the couch on Wednesdays when Mom visits, but don't mind him on the furniture during the rest of the week? Not gonna happen, my friend. Dogs just don't get the "sometimes" rule. Be clear on what the house rules are for Bozo and make sure all members of your household stick to them.



7. Only say it once. If your dog does not comply, don't keep saying "Sit. Sit. Bozo sit! I SAID SIT!" Don't teach your dog that you only mean it if you say it four times and very loudly. Instead of giving your cue more than once, move to a slightly different location and try again, or physically push him into complying (e.g. make him sit). If your dog still doesn't comply, he is probably confused and needs a little help understanding what you want him to do. Once he does what is asked, even if you had to physically make him, remember to immediately reward him with positive feedback and a treat.
8. Give lots of feedback. When your dog first learns a new skill, he is pretty much guessing what to do. You can help him out by letting him know when he guesses right. How do you do this? Pick a word or sound like "yes" or "good". Say your word then give your dog a pea-sized yummy treat. Repeat this about 10 to 20 times. You'll know your dog has caught on to the game when he hears the word and looks to you for the treat. Congratulations! You've just become a Dr. Doolittle and can "talk" with your dog in a language he'll understand. Now when you train, say your word at the exact moment he complies with your

command and then reward him. Only use your word if you can follow it with a reward like attention, play or treats.

9. Catch him getting it right. Don't be like many who only notice when their dog makes mistakes. Bozo pulls on the leash, they punish him. Bozo jumps up on them, they punish him. Bozo breaks his stay, they punish him. Have a clear picture in your mind of what "getting it right" looks like. Make it a point to always look for instances of your dog "getting it right" and reward him with praise, play, attention or treats for doing a good job. When you are home, have him in the house with you and the rest of your household. Time with you is a great opportunity for him to learn. Notice when he is sitting quietly at your feet, and give him a pat. Again, don't reserve attention to only when he's doing something you don't approve of.

Practicing Basic Commands

Unless you are keenly interested in fully pursuing the training road, there are only a few things that you need to teach your dog by way of commands. I have found the most important to be: SIT, STAY, and COME. Whenever I hand out titbits (like the fat trimmed off tonight's dinner) I insist that my dogs first sit. If they don't sit, they don't get!



"SIT" is the foundation for all obedience. All other commands, learning and control branch from this one simple exercise. Even for those who don't care to teach "formal" obedience, "SIT" will still be a valuable tool.

Consider what happens when you take your dog for a walk. Going for a walk is usually very exciting for a dog. Often, he will jump and prance and perhaps bark while you are getting the leash and collar. By this time, the dog has gone so crazy that applying the leash and collar becomes all but impossible. Instead, put a firm "SIT" command to this

craziness before it gets out of control: "Bozo SIT!" Use firm, short words (don't "ask"). Insist that the leash and collar will not go on a crazy dog. Your dog must get the message: "You must "SIT" before you go anywhere!"

Follow through by showing the dog what you want if he doesn't comply immediately. Don't forget to praise for a nice sit - even after you have made him do it. The sit will help to make him a thinking rather than a reacting dog. After you accomplish that, you can now attempt to go for that walk!

Now consider a dog who drags you toward the door, gasping and choking the entire way, jumps at the door, and rushes through the door as soon as you open it. This dog has no respect for you. Instead of allowing all the pulling and choking, insist again on a "SIT" by the door, along with a "STAY". As leader, you must always be the one to go through the doorway first. After you have gone first, a cheerful release word "OK" signals that Bozo may follow. If you must lock the door, then another SIT should be required while the dog calmly waits to start the walk.

Jumping up on you or other people can also be controlled using "SIT". We can teach "OFF" (or another word, if you wish), but we must also give your dog an alternative for jumping - one that will bring praise. And that magic "something" is SIT.

When your dog becomes excited or appears worried during a trip to the veterinarian or groomer (or wherever, for that matter), "SIT" can be the key to calm your dog and, again, get him to think rather than react.

So, practice "SIT" - quick, small, fun sits to start. Ask the dog to SIT or STAY before he gets any treat - whether it be for his meal, a treat or a walk - use every opportunity to enforce yourself as leader and instill respect. Then practice longer sits, or sits not so close to you (on the leash helps you to reinforce the command if the SIT doesn't happen). Above all, "SIT" should always be praised and your dog must know that, in any unfamiliar situation, "SIT" will always make you happy. That is how you start to get respect and obedience from one simple command - "SIT"!

If teaching sit, have Bozo on a leash, say SIT, (you could also couple this with an accompanying hand signal, such as holding your hand palm down in front of you and

sweeping it downward as you voice the command) and if she doesn't sit immediately, push her back end down into a sitting posture. Do so until she remains sitting for a few seconds, then praise and reward her. Take her for a little walk around, and repeat the command, going through the same procedure several times each lesson.

For COME, you may pat your knee and crouch while calling her name, or the command "come". Start again in an enclosed area, when she is not too far from you. When she complies, give her a small treat and lavish cuddles and praise. Repeat often, gradually increasing the distance you call her from. You may also use a particular whistle. A good way to reinforce good coming habits is to use your "come" command to call your dogs in at every mealtime. Don't trust your dog to come in an open, public place until you are sure she has developed reliable compliance to this command in a confined place, and start by only letting her off for a short distance, gradually increasing it as she shows she is ready.

Getting a dog to SIT or STAY before anything it finds rewarding is a super-easy way to assert yourself as leader of the pack. I make my dogs STAY at every opportunity. They must SIT and STAY successfully before I will put their leads on them for their beloved daily walkies. They must sit and stay at each roadside before we cross. When I get to the park or beach where they are allowed to run around free, they first must SIT and STAY, while I walk a short distance away, and wait till I give them a voice and hand signal that means they can go (I wave them forward and say "Off you go!"). Start by getting your puppy to stay for a few seconds, or while you move away by a few meters. When they succeed, reward and praise them. Gradually increase the time and distance, until they reliably comply even if you leave their sight for a little while. Eventually your dog will faithfully stay and wait for you outside the shops while you go in for the paper (even if I tie my dogs up, I still make them SIT and ask them to STAY - they have no other choice, but take every opportunity you have to reinforce the learning!).

Lead Training

A collar needs to be one of the *first* things you deal with when a new puppy comes home.

Purchase a cheap nylon buckle collar long enough to allow room for the puppy to grow and put it on your pup within the first day or two home. To avoid the pup getting a limb caught in the strange and at first uncomfortable collar, it should be fitted only loose enough to allow a couple of your fingers under it. In older dogs, the collar can be fitted a little more loosely. Remember to check it every week so that it does not become too tight as your pup grows.

At first your pup will try to remove the offending collar, and worry and scratch at it, and the leash is likely to cause even more trauma to begin with. The best training leash is a narrow two meter leather type with a hand loop on one end and a strong clip on the other. Leather isn't apt to slip in the hands the way nylon and other fabrics do.

Introduce the leash by clipping it to the collar and allowing the pup to drag it around for a while, supervised so it does not come to grief. Then begin by holding the other end and introducing a little resistance. Hold firmly and quietly until all struggling ceases, then reward the pup and end the lesson.

Once the pup has given up fighting the leash, encourage it to follow you with vocal encouragement, gentle tugs, and perhaps a few tiny treats. Encourage him to remain by your side as you walk, and respond to digressions by getting his attention back to you. You can do this by changing direction or coaxing him with a treat. Keep it light and fun.

To teach walking manners to a puppy, clip leash to buckle collar, put toys or treats in your pocket, and coax the pup to remain near your side as you walk. Whistle, clap your hands, pat your leg, and praise as you go. If he loses concentration as a butterfly flits by or the neighbor's cat entices him to chase, change direction, coax him with a treat, and get his attention back to you. Keep things bright and cheery - you want to teach the little dickens that being by your side is fun.

To teach older puppies and adults not to pull while on the leash use or a dog halter, prong collar, or a training chain-slip collar that tightens and relaxes in response to pulling. While training, remove any other collars as they interfere with the action of the training collar. When your dog walks without pulling, don't forget to praise him.

Start out by getting his attention by changing direction often while the leash is slack. If he pulls, give him a firm jerk. Be persistent, consistent and determined to win! You may have to resort to a prong collar if he doesn't respond. Failing that, consider enrolling in a dog training school.

House-Training

Establishing good habits early on in housetraining your puppy is critical. Consider bringing your puppy home for the first time on a weekend so you have extra time to devote to settling in and housebreaking in those crucial first few days.

Your pup will not be reliably housetrained until it is about 6 months old, and if you are diligent in your training, will never eliminate in your house unless forced to do so by illness or excessively long confinement. However, **if you allow your puppy to eliminate indiscriminately in your home at any time, the bad habit will be hard to break without having to resort to time-consuming, tedious retraining at a later date.**

Housetraining is much easier when the puppy's meals, exercise and playtimes are on a regular schedule throughout the day, so work out a schedule for you and your puppy. What goes in at regular times will come out at regular times and be easier to manage! So don't have food available at all times of the day - give your puppy 10 to 15 minutes to finish each meal, then take any leftovers away.

To establish good toileting habits in a pup, it needs frequent access to the toilet area. When you are at home, take your puppy there every 30 to 45 minutes immediately following a play session, eating or drinking, and most importantly - upon waking. Be sure to offer enthusiastic praise and reward whenever he eliminates in the proper place. The more often you catch him doing it right and give him positive feedback, the quicker your pup will be toilet trained, so the more time you put into this early on, the better. Punishing him for mistakes can set his progress back - focus instead on noticing and reinforcing success, and minimizing the possibility of errors.

NEVER allow your pup to roam the house unattended. When you are home to monitor him, either have him on a leash or confine him to a crate/play pen for gradually

increasing periods of time, helping him to develop self control. Immediately after he has pooped and peed in his proper toilet area you can allow him supervised freedom for short periods in your home, but don't let him out of your sight.

If you are not home or cannot tend to the puppy, then you must make sure he cannot make a mistake! Either confine him to a puppy-proofed room and line the entire floor with papers. Or if you live in a temperate climate you can put him outside in a small, secure and comfortable pen with good shelter from the elements. Ideally the pen will be surfaced with something like his toilet area and unlike the flooring in your home - dirt, grass, gravel or concrete. Put his bed, toys and food/water bowls there.

Paper training method

Paper training is ideal for apartments. If using a room, replace the papers with clean ones when you get home. You will notice with time that he will begin to favor toileting in a particular area. Begin gradually removing papers from areas he never uses that are furthest away from his favorite spots. If he makes a mistake, you have been a bit too quick for him and need to go back to repapering a larger area or even the whole room. Once he is reliably using a small area of paper without mistakes, you can start moving the papered area to a corner, just an inch a day. If he makes a mistake, it means again you have progressed too rapidly and may need to go back to papering the room again. Just be patient! Over time he will become accustomed to toileting in a small papered area, and learn not use the floor.

Crate Training method

This involves confining your puppy in a crate when you cannot directly supervise him indoors to prevent him from soiling in the house. The crate must be just big enough for him to sleep comfortably in. Associate it with positive things by putting his favorite treat inside, lining it with a sheepskin rug if possible, and leaving it open as a sleeping bed within a playpen a lot of the time. Puppies will not toilet inside a correctly sized crate, so when you let him out you can take him directly to where you want him to toilet and reward and praise lavishly once the deed is done.

Of course, never leave your puppy inside a crate for hours at a time unless it is night time and you are there to release him to go potty when he cries.

With consistence and patience your pup will gradually develop better and better control of his bowels and bladder and become a successfully housetrained pet.

Puppy socializing

The best matched puppy still needs training, TLC and great socialization to reach it's potential to be an amazing canine companion for you. A sociable, friendly dog that is happy to meet new people, and unfazed by different experiences, is a product of two things - genetically predisposed temperament, and positive exposure and conditioning as a young pup. As a breeder we gained a good idea of the pup's genetic or natural temperament from doing the Puppy Personality tests. And you can do a lot to modify and optimize its natural temperament through thorough and positive socialization.

There is a narrow window of opportunity to successfully socialize your puppy that begins at 5 weeks of age and continues to 16 weeks of age (some say 12 weeks of age). **As you will not be getting him home until he is 8 ½ weeks old, that only leaves a very short period where you will have to make every day count if you want a psychologically sound, well-adjusted dog for the rest of its life with you.**

If you neglect this important period you have lost the opportunity forever... **It is not something you can come back to and fix later** any more than adult therapy can fully correct issues inflicted by negative childhood experiences in humans. Improperly socialized pups develop into maladjusted adults (our dog shelters are full of them), and attempts to re-socialize them later in life often only result in small gains.

Unfortunately this critical period in your pup's life also coincides with its peak vulnerability to serious infectious diseases. The potential danger of picking up a life-threatening illness causes some veterinarians to advise owners to lock their puppies away from the world until it is fully immunized. This is a serious mistake and can lead to lifelong behavioral issues! Depending on the vaccination protocol you follow, your pup will not be completely protected from common infectious diseases until at least 11 weeks of age and possibly up to 16 weeks of age. If you fail to socialize it until then you've pretty much missed your chance and will have to put up with the consequences for the rest of your dog's life with you.

You'll be glad to know that there are ways of safely socializing your puppy while it is still vulnerable to disease. [Download a handy Puppy Socialization checklist here.](#)

For a start, raise your puppy in your home as part of the household rather than having them live outside. Studies suggest this is the best way to produce a dog that is friendly, playful and well bonded to humans. Of course, pay close attention to achieve successful potty training during this time. Dogs that are walked, exercised and otherwise interacted with daily by their owners are less likely to develop undesirable behaviors linked with loneliness and boredom such as being uncontrollable, or engaging in destructive chewing or digging.

It's also a must to take your puppy to "Puppy Pre-School" which provides the opportunity for it to mix with other vaccinated pups in a disease-safe environment. Dogs that attend puppy socialization classes are less likely to show undesirable reactions to unknown dogs. They are also more relaxed at the vet, more obedient and less likely to be surrendered to shelters. It also helps you learn how to manage basic training (so you get trained as well!) and understand how your dog's mind works. Additionally, it's a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have about raising your new fur kid.

On top of Puppy Pre-school, you should book out the first 4 weeks he lives with you with a full social calendar. For example, visits from friends and family including men, women, children and people with hats or beards! And visits to friends, family and school show and tell. Other dogs or backyards are fine so long as the dogs who live there are healthy and have been vaccinated. Arrange visits to or from other vaccinated dogs in a clean (non-public) environment (e.g. a friend's backyard whose pets are all vaccinated) so your puppy grows up as a well-balanced, sociable, and sexually normal member of the canine race!

Unless you want your puppy to grow into a savage guard dog or nervous wreck that freaks out at every new experience, person or animal, I strongly advise you to ensure that it gets plenty of positive contact of all kinds of during the imprinting period. Poorly socialized dogs often end up in dog pounds where their disposition makes them almost impossible to rehome.

So expose your pups to positive varied experiences with as many different kinds of folks and critters as possible while it is still young enough to imprint familiarity with them. It also includes experiences like rides in the car, noisy traffic, umbrellas, shopping carts, skateboarders, busy marketplaces, horses or any other animal your puppy will be exposed to as an adult dog, other dogs, swimming at the beach, etc.

Sit outside a busy area with your pup, such as a shopping center or library, and invite different kinds and ages of people to give your pup a treat and pet him. Do this gradually with only one or two people at a time so that he is not overwhelmed. Take him (carried) into your veterinary clinic and invite the staff to offer him his favorite treats while you are there. Give him treats while you hang out near a busy thoroughfare where he can be exposed to a range of vehicular and foot traffic.

There is an element of risk of disease in exposing your young pup to the world, so carry your pup through public places and other areas that may be contaminated with dog diseases such as dog parks and footpaths, and don't allow him contact with dogs whose vaccination status is unknown to you.

Puppy grooming

If your puppy is a type that needs grooming, make sure it gets plenty of exposure to the grooming experience from an early age. Give it a bath every few weeks starting with a few days after you bring it home and it has had a chance to settle in a little to its new abode. Praise and reassure it but brook no nonsense - if it resists you must always win by gently by firmly insisting on your way. But ensure the experience is short and as positive as possible. Offer lavish praise and encouragement, and always quit at a moment when your pup has behaved well. Puppy's first experience with the clipper will hopefully have happened in a kind way with the breeder before you even bring her home. In any case, show the puppy the working clipper before starting the clip, reassure her, and - with help if necessary - carry through with the experience. It is wisest to make the first few lessons with the clipper as positive and non-traumatic as possible - don't insist on doing a salon quality job, just focus on exposing your puppy to familiarity with being groomed without scaring them!

Puppy health

Desexing

Early desexing has serious proven implications to the physical and mental health of dogs for the rest of their (often much shorter) lives.

Your veterinarian may encourage you to desex your puppy at around 5 months of age. However sterilization before 6 months of age is recommended only in breeds particularly susceptible to mammary cancer as it is preventative. Those breeds include Poodles (toy and miniature), spaniels (English springer, Cocker, and Brittany), Puli, English setter, Pointers, German shepherd, Maltese terrier, Yorkshire terrier, and Dachshund, and also Dobermann Pinscher and Boxer.

Notice that the Golden Retriever is not among them!

For all other breeds, studies have shown that the ideal time to desex your dog, whether it be a male or a female, is between 1 and 2 years of age

Accordingly I **do not recommend desexing until dogs are at least 1 year old**, and my puppies are not sold desexed.

Issues linked to early desexing include:

- **Joint dysplasias:** The sex hormones are involved in development of proper joint alignment. Early desexing significantly increases the risk of patella luxation, hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia.
- **Autoimmune diseases:** The sex hormones are also involved in the development of a proper functioning immune system. Dogs sterilized at a young age have been shown more at risk of suffering from a raft of autoimmune diseases such as diabetes mellitus, atopic dermatitis, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, canine myasthenia gravis, colitis, hypoadrenocorticism, hypothyroidism, immune-mediated polyarthritis, immune-mediated thrombocytopenia, inflammatory bowel disease, and pemphigus complex. More info here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5146839/> and here <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2019.00397/full>
- **Cancer:** Neutering increases the risk of certain cancers in dogs, especially those the breed are genetically inclined to get. It also lowers the risk of cancers related to their reproductive organs such as mammary tumors in females and testicular cancer in males. Overall however, when scientists look at lots of data from different dog breeds, they find that *neutering generally increases the risk of several types of cancer in both male and female dogs*.
- **Urinary incontinence:** Bitches sterilized at an early age are significantly more likely to develop urinary incontinence later in life.

More info at these links:

<https://ivcjournal.com/spay-neuter-considerations/>

<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/three-reasons-to-reconsider-spayneuter/>

Parasite Prevention

Parasite treatments are quite toxic!

I advise minimising their use as much as possible. Only treat for fleas if fleas are actually present (keep a close eye out for them and, if possible, stop any flea ridden dogs from visiting your home). I only have to treat my dogs for fleas about every 6 months or so :). Heartworm preventatives need to be given at least every 3 months to be protective. You can buy those separately and treat quarterly. Intestinal wormers are hardly necessary in adult dogs (except for bitches while breeding). Picking up their poo from the yard every week prevents yard contamination with infective intestinal parasite larvae. Treat for intestinal worms once a year - if at all. Healthy adult dogs naturally only harbor a small number and these are shown to be quite beneficial to the development and proper functioning of their immune system.

Worms

All puppies require worming with a complete wormer (that handles tapeworms as well as the usual roundworms and hookworms) starting at 2 weeks of age. Pups and their lactating mothers are the most susceptible to intestinal parasites, which are “switched on” to greater activity and egg and larvae production as whelping approaches and throughout lactation. The untreated lactating bitch is thus the most dangerous potential source of infection for puppies and children alike (children up to 4 years old are most at risk). Puppies can even be infected while still in the womb! Infection can even occur while suckling via the bitch’s breast milk. The feces of untreated lactating bitches and their puppies will be absolutely loaded with parasites.

Affected puppies are poorly grown, listless and often have a pot-bellied appearance that seems out of proportion with their weak and spindly legs. They will commonly also suffer from diarrhea (which will be similarly heavily contaminated with parasitic eggs and/or tiny larvae).

Worming should therefore begin at 2 weeks of age and continue fortnightly until the puppy is 8 weeks old. Thereafter it is commonly recommended to worm the puppy again at 12 weeks of age, then every 3 months throughout its lifetime. As I said earlier, once a puppy is 6 months old I would only worm it yearly, if at all.

Better I believe to dramatically reduce the contamination burden in your dog areas through basic hygiene. Clean up and remove all feces before they have been there 7 days or more. After 7 days, the stages of many common parasites will leave the feces and no longer be amenable to easy removal. All public places frequented by dogs will be heavily loaded with hookworm larvae (especially during warm, moist conditions) and most particularly roundworm eggs, which are long lasting in the environment under all conditions and tend to adhere to fur and shoes by which means they can invade your home space.

Vaccination

Up until it is about 7 weeks of age, a puppy suckling off a vaccinated bitch has received reasonable levels of antibodies to common diseases from the colostrum - the first milk from it's mum, and thus have some measure of protection.

Current recommendation is to vaccinate at 6 weeks of age (your breeder routinely does this) and then once again at 10 weeks using an "early finish" puppy vaccine such as Protech, Canigen, Duramune or Nobivac. The advantage of using an early finish vaccine at 10 weeks is that your puppy is free to go out in the world 7 - 14 days later (ie at 11-12 weeks of age). This allows more thorough socialization that will help him or her become the best dog for you they can be. It also minimizes the number of vaccines (and toxic preservatives and adjuvants they contain) injected into your pet.

Early finish vaccines are proven to be effective in the possible presence of lingering maternal antibodies. Request this from your veterinarian when you make your appointment for the 10 week vaccination. You may have to shop around.

The next vaccine (any brand) after this is due a year later **and this is all they need to be protected for life**. However, to be sure take your dog in every 3 years for a booster or antibody serum level check first to see if its needed.

The most commonly vaccinated for diseases (in Australia) are Canine Distemper, Canine Hepatitis and Parvovirus. These are the three basic ones vaccinated for at 6 weeks of age (using a split vaccine will reduce toxicity). It is possible to vaccinate for kennel cough as well at this age or at 10 weeks but I prefer not to as it is important not to overwhelm the young puppy's immature immune system. Down the track you may choose to cover him for other diseases common to your area.

In wet areas Leptospirosis is commonly vaccinated for. In rabies endemic areas, rabies is naturally also on the list. Ask you veterinarian about diseases common in your area, and vaccinate accordingly.

If you plan to board your dog in a kennel one day while you go on holidays, then you should also ensure it is vaccinated against Kennel Cough ahead of time. Reputable kennels insist on this as though not usually a serious illness, it is extremely infectious.

Some immunity will develop after two weeks from their first vaccination. And given the importance of proper socialization during the puppy stage to the temperament of the adult dog, careful exposure to vaccinated dogs in clean environments should be risked by the new owner (see above section on socialization).

Once they are 3 months old you can take your dogs out into the public arena every day for a good solid bout of exercise. In this way they will be exposed to what is known as "street boosters". Every post, dog or poo they sniff will be a potential source of exposure to infection, acting in much the same way as a vaccination. As such, they will be able to maintain a strong immunity status to most common diseases.

Heartworm

If you live in a heartworm endemic area, you will also need to provide your puppy with heartworm prevention medication to destroy the larval stages - the microfilaria - before they develop into adults in the heart and pulmonary artery (the main artery from the heart to the lungs). This protection should start well before the dog reaches 5 months of age and continue every few months (the drug companies and your vet will say every month) for the life of the dog.

If you get a dog that has not had such a treatment regime maintained, then you must not give it heartworm prevention medication! That is because it may have adult worms already living in the heart. If you medicate, these can die and float off into the arteries of the lungs, to lodge in and block the smaller arterioles, leading to massive death of lung tissue and a possibly fatal outcome!

Flea Control

Fleas are carriers of many diseases, including tapeworms, epidemic typhus and bubonic plague. Allergy to fleas is also the most common skin disease afflicting dogs and cats. In dogs, apart from evident frenzied scratching, flea-bite allergy shows up as a tell-tale loss of hair on the lower back just above the tail.

The first principle to understand in effectively controlling fleas is that the adult fleas you see on your dog are only the tip of the iceberg of your flea infestation. So control aimed only at killing the adult fleas on the dog - such as with collars, sprays, spot-ons, powders and shampoos - is utterly flawed. Apart from leaving unscathed the 95% of your flea population that will exist as eggs, larvae or pupae off your dog they also rarely kill every flea on your pet, nor prevent them all from breeding.

Given the difficulty of getting at immature flea stages, prevention of flea population buildup is by far the best strategy.

Timing

Fleas breed mainly during warm, moist times of the year - typically in late winter and spring. This is when intervention is most important as without it, enormous flea populations can establish themselves by mid to late summer and control can be a losing battle.

Three-pronged strategy

Your flea control strategy must deal with all stages of the flea infestation, and include:

- Treating your pet
- Preventing fleas from laying viable eggs
- Reducing numbers of immature stages in the environment

1. Treating your pet and preventing fleas from laying viable eggs:

To be effective, any control program must prevent future generations by eliminating the egg-laying adults and/or by killing the eggs as they are laid on the pet. Taking action before flea problems get out of control is the easiest way to do this. Timely breaking of the cycle of flea development on the pet may also avoid any need to apply toxic insecticides throughout the home environment. There are several convenient and effective products available to achieve one or both of these aims.

Forget old-fashioned flea powders and flea rinses. New generation products are both better and safer. However, no matter what product you use check the label to see if the product is considered safe to use on young puppies.

REMEMBER: Use all insecticides cautiously, follow all safety precautions, read the label directions, and only use those products registered for use by your local authority!
--

Note: If the treatment chemical is ineffective, suspect flea resistance. It is wise to rotate between different chemicals on a regular basis (e.g. yearly) as fleas can develop resistance and thus become immune to any particular chemical used for prolonged periods.

2. Reducing numbers of immature stages in the environment:

Effective Indoors Flea Control

As you now know, the immature stages of the flea are the eggs, larvae and pupae. You will never be able to eradicate them. However, while they can be difficult to dislodge from the base of carpet fibers, daily vacuuming will certainly both reduce their numbers and prevent massive population buildup. The vibration produced will also stimulate the hatching of pupae into adult fleas - a stage more amenable to control measures. After vacuuming the dust collected should be placed into a closed plastic bag and immediately disposed of into the garbage.

Ensure that you vacuum thoroughly, including your pet's bedding plus household mattresses, cushions, curtains, doormats and lounge chairs in rooms that your pet visits. Your dog's bedding can also be further decontaminated by regular washing in bleach and air drying.

If your infestation is already out-of-control, you may want to consider knocking it down to manageable levels by using a flea bomb (which is available from supermarkets and hardware stores). However, such drastic measures should not be considered lightly. Flea bombs are highly toxic and should only be used with extreme care. They are only suited to enclosed spaces such as inside your home.

Precautions include:

- Closely follow all directions that come with the flea bomb.
- Turn off all naked flames.
- Remove all pets and cover fish tanks.
- Evacuate your family from the building for at least 2 hours.
- Put all food away before using the bomb, and cleanse food preparation areas after using the bomb.
- Dust and vacuum the house after using the bomb, once the dust has settled.

To increase their effectiveness, open all inside doors and cupboards, and close (and seal if necessary) all outside doors and windows.

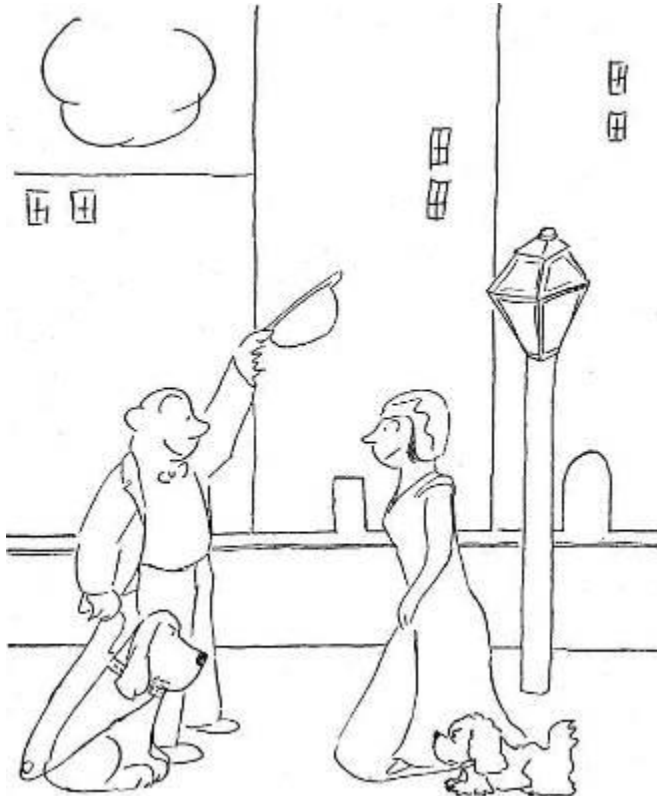
Effective Outdoors Flea Control

If not on your pet, fleas (of various life cycle stages) will be found in the moist, shady areas of your yard. It is usually best to target such areas rather than trying to treat the whole yard. For pets that spend most of their time outdoors, it may be necessary to spot-treat their resting areas, as well as washing their bedding using bleach, and hanging out in the sun to dry. The safest product available is the pyrethroid spray. It is a longer-acting and less toxic derivative of Pyrethrin which is an insecticide derived from the chrysanthemum plant. An alternative option is to kill eggs and larvae that may be lurking in damp shady spots of your yard by heavily soaking them with water.

Exercise

To be healthy and happy, your puppy (and you!) requires daily exercise. So, chuck in your gym membership, and commit yourself to at least 20 minutes of brisk walking with your dog every day. Make daily exercise a routine and you and your puppy will enjoy greater health and fewer medical bills for the rest of your life!

There are other benefits too. Did you know that walking a dog is the best way to meet other people? They'll often say hello to him and give him a pat, totally ignoring you! But such meetings can and do lead to getting to know the other people in your community and sometimes even the develop of valuable new friendships.



If For Any Reason You Cannot Keep Your Dog

Golden Retrievers are keenly sought after! If you need to rehome your dog, you are recommended to place a free notice on our facebook page. It is very likely you will attract a fantastic new home for him or her within a few days.

Give us a call and we can help you with this: 503-572-9960

Otherwise, in the event that a situation arises and you cannot or do not want to keep your puppy, we will always take the puppy back. In this case, we are not obligated to refund any money paid towards dog (initial cost, vet bills, travel costs, etc.) but require the surrendering of all health records, registration papers, or any other corresponding info for the dog. We can either take the dog back or assist you in finding an appropriate home.