



Puppy Care Packet

****Many of the products I love and use are linked through my website under the SHOP tab - BVS Favorites****

Your puppy now depends on you for everything – food, water, exercise, training, good health and hygiene. Please remember though, that all puppies are different and that you should consult your veterinarian and trainer for specific needs of your pup.

It is exciting to bring your new puppy home and into your life and heart. I know you will be excited to show him/her off and play with him/her right away, but remember to give your puppy some time to adjust!

Puppies do not know English. The best way to train a dog is when it does a behavior you want, praise the pup with a pat, a treat or a verbal praise (keep it short and simple though). For example, don't say "Sit...sit...SIT" and expect a response. Get your puppy to do the behavior (sitting) and then reward. You add the word and hand signal later.

Puppy Chewing

Puppies have needle sharp teeth and this can be tough! Some tricks to help avoid becoming a pincushion are to have chew bones and toys always close by! Don't ever let them chew on you. All it takes is one family member that allows this behavior and it will be possible for the toddler to become a chew toy too. Keep your rules and boundaries consistent. If your puppy chews on you, offer an acceptable item to chew on. If they persist, then take yourself away from them (get up and leave or turn your back to them). They don't want to lose you! Another tip that works for some puppies is make a quick, sharp puppy "cry" noise. This is how they let other littermates know it hurts! I also never let a puppy put his/her teeth on my face. I "speak" to them using their language. If all else fails, you can either flick them in the nose (gently at first but increase pressure if they aren't getting the hint) or lightly wrap your hands around their muzzle and gently squeeze until they are uncomfortable and try to get away.

Jumping

Jumping is another problem that young puppies can struggle with. Their excitement and overwhelming love for people can make this extremely difficult; however, don't even start allowing this behavior. I don't! Don't reward, pet or praise a puppy that jumps on

you. Ignore, turn your back, or walk away! A calm puppy that is sitting is a puppy that is ready for praise and love! Teach calm, self-controlled behaviors now; for it will pay off as they get larger and stronger!

Feeding

I suggest feeding your puppy three times per day for the first few weeks. As they age, cut them back to two times a day and eventually you can put your dog onto a one a day feeding schedule if you prefer. Follow the guidelines on your food bag that correlates to your pups weight to determine how much to feed. It will typically be 2/3 to 1 cup per day. I prefer puppies to be more roly polly than too lean. If you can feel their backbone and hip bones, they are too thin. I strongly recommend feeding your puppy a high quality dog food. I have started the puppy on Muenster Milling food. I believe this to be high quality food and it can be ordered on my website under the SHOP tab. It will be sent straight to you and you can even have it sent via the autoship option.

Potty Training

Remember that your puppy's bladder will not be fully developed until 5 months old, so as he/she gets older he will be able to hold it longer. If you do have to take your puppy out at night, please do not make this a play session. Be matter of fact (as little talking as possible). Praise the potty behavior and right back into the kennel. These puppies are very bright and if they know that you will get up in the middle of the night and play, talk sweet and love on them, they will start waking you for this attention alone. I strongly suggest kennel training and potty training is one large reason why. My puppies will never to rarely potty where they sleep. This is one reason I begin "potty training" at 3 weeks old by dividing their whelping box into 2 sections - one for a nurse and sleep area and one for a potty area. When put into an appropriate sized kennel (not too large, just enough room to turn around and lay down) they will fuss when they have to go potty! If you cannot watch your puppy or it is naptime, tuck them into their kennel. When it is time to go out, place the pup by the door and let the puppy walk him/herself out. In the beginning you may need to place the kennel right at the door, sometimes they squat just after a few steps! Over time, you can move the kennel farther and farther away from the door. While the puppies are using the doggy door here and going potty over 90% of the time outside, they clearly understand the concept of den vs. elimination area; nonetheless, you are bringing them to a new "den" and you will have to show your new puppy the ropes! When your puppy has an accident, please just clean it up thoroughly and move on. Only clap hands and scold vocally IF you catch the pup going potty. Rubbing their nose in it, etc... is not acceptable and is completely a waste of time. In your pups brain they are wondering why you are making them smell their own urine or feces. They know what it smells like! Your pup will generally need to potty every 30 minutes if they are awake, as well as after a nap, vigorous play, exiting the kennel and following eating time. When in doubt, take out! Again, if you can't watch your puppy, in the kennel they go!

Kennel Use

Dogs are den animals and actually prefer sleeping in small places. The cost of a crate may initially seem expensive, but when you compare the cost of ruined rugs, chewed up furniture, or an emergency vet visit for eating something they shouldn't, it is well worth it! It is best to begin using the crate right away. There are many different crates, but I suggest you use the 100 series for them initially and then later purchase their adult 200 size crate. Some 200 size crates come with dividers so that would mean you only need to buy one. You could also get creative and find something that fits in the back of the crate that would make the size smaller but you need to be sure it's something the pup can't destroy if they get bored and start chewing on it. The kennel needs to be large enough for them to walk into, turn around and lay down! Kennel training, makes potty training easier, gives you and puppy a few breaks throughout the day and helps keep your puppy safe when you can't watch him/her! I suggest putting a small plastic bin with a lid on the top of the kennel filled with many different toys to keep puppy occupied while in the kennel. Toys like Kongs, busy bones, nyla bones, ect... are all great. They will like to go into the kennel and see what special surprise you have for them! Even though I expose puppies to kennels, they have free reign in and out of them. Once you close the door, protest will occur. This is where tough love comes into play – you will need to ignore the outright screaming (make sure pup does not need to potty or that something is not wrong). If you let them out you are teaching them that screaming will get them out! If you “console” them you are teaching them that they are correct in their feelings of disdain. Both behaviors from you will make this process very difficult. Try to get the pup to enter the kennel on his or her own, by luring them with one of those special treats/toys and then close the door. Make sure you name the behavior as they walk in with the word, “Kennel” or something more clever if you prefer. Generally the crying and protesting only lasts 3 days if you are consistent!

Socializing and Developmental Stages

It is imperative that your new puppy socializes with other people and pets. Try to steer clear of other dogs and any areas populated by puppies and other dogs for a few weeks, until your veterinarian has administered all vaccinations. Having your puppy around other people, dogs, new locations, in the car, etc... will give you a much happier dog that you will be proud to take anywhere with you but you must be cautious of Parvo which can live in the environment for years and be tracked in your own house on your shoes.

Obedience/Training

Whether you know it or not, you are training your puppy the moment you take it home. Make it count! They are smart, eager to learn and want to please! You will be amazed at how much they can learn starting at 9 weeks old. It is very exciting and rewarding when your pup learns something new! Start with sit, down, stay, kennel and go potty. I highly

recommend enrolling your puppy in a puppy kindergarten class! They get to socialize, start learning self-control and begin on basic obedience tasks. Please don't stop there and upon graduation enroll in a basic class as well. There are three critical concepts to help lay a nice foundation for your pup: hand-feeding, the "sit on the dog" activity, and tether training. I have linked videos of all 3 of these on my website under Educational Info. I also have lots of other educational videos linked for you! These exercises are very beneficial in teaching your pup self-control, focus and pack order.

Veterinarian Care

Vaccination records are enclosed in the puppy packet. However, your vet will advise on what is best for the proper care of your pet. Do not spay or neuter your pup before 6 months old or it will void the health warranty.

Parasites

Unfortunately, parasites in pups are extremely common and it is estimated that 95% of pups have parasites. At Belle Vista Kennel, I do my very best to keep my puppies parasite free. They are dewormed at 4 weeks, 6 weeks and 8 weeks. However, not all parasites respond to particular deworming. I do perform random fecal tests to gauge any issues and if any arise I treat all of the puppies. Medication may be sent home with you to continue if there is an issue. Nonetheless, it is much easier to stop continuous transmission when whole litters are not together, since they keep re-infecting each other! Please ensure that a fecal exam is performed after 2 weeks of going home and that puppies receive additional medication if needed. There is really no point in getting a fecal at your first health check up within 5 days of taking your little one home (per the contract). The puppies have just received medication. It is best to have it done when you go back for their vaccinations.

Grooming the puppy

Brushing your puppy regularly helps keep their hair looking nice and feeling good too! This is a great time for you and your pup to bond. I have had the best results with a slicker brush and metal comb (links on the BVS Favorites portion of the website). Make sure nails are kept trimmed as well. As far as how often they need to be taken to the groomer will be up to you! Most Schnauzer owners keep an 8 week schedule but some people go more or less often. Please be very clear to the groomer on how you want your puppy groomed (take a picture of how you want your dog groomed)!

Bathing

Only bathe your puppy as needed. Otherwise, it can create dry skin. Using conditioner, especially on the leg furnishings will help make it easier to comb out. I love "The Stuff" which is a spray on conditioner after the bath that will help to keep matts from developing. I have a link to it on the BVS Favorites.

Puppy “Massage”

At Belle Vista Kennel, I begin puppy-handling procedures at 3 weeks old. I strongly suggest you continue many of these handling techniques to ensure that your puppy continues to allow touching and handling in any way shape or form. Here is what I do (order does not matter): rub between toes on all 4 paws, twist and gently tug on tail, tap on nails, open mouth and inspect teeth, rub and manipulate ears, clean corner of eyes, cover eyes, run your hand down face, hold muzzle, rub tummy in circular motion, and run your hand upward along the back. During this process praise your puppy for being a good puppy. Do not try to perform this task while your puppy is in play mode. Wait for he or she to be tired but not overly tired either! If they resist, simply stop, but maintain holding them, once they have calmed down, continue. If you put them down when they are resisting you are teaching them that resisting = getting their way!

More Resources

Please visit my website and under the Health & FAQ Tab there is a link for more educational info.

Love and Patience

You have made the important decision to let a BVS puppy into your heart and home. I sincerely thank you for trusting us to give your puppy the best start possible. I know there will be frustrations and patience tested in having a puppy, but I also know the rewards are great. Enjoy the complete innocence of a puppy, their ability to stop and smell the flowers, and maybe even taste them, their curiosity is contagious and playfulness is humorous. I can promise you that you will gain a comedian, confidant, companion, and ultimately a new family member. Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email me if you have any questions and of course please send lots of updates and pictures! Welcome to the BVS Family!