

## Belle Vista Kennel's Puppy Go Home Instructions

We suggest the following protocol when taking home your puppy to ensure your pup is given the best transition. Stress, lack of sleep, etc... can create an environment where the pup's immune system is compromised and puppy parasites can flourish. While they are ALL treated on a deworming schedule, pups are leaving me "clean" only to be home for a week or two and have a parasite. All dogs/puppies have parasites. When you deworm and or medicate you can kill all live/active parasites; however, parasites and protozoa have a plan for survival in place. They lay eggs to be dormant in the tissues of the host. The ONLY way these can be "activated" is through stress, lowered immune system, pregnancy (hence the puppy parasites – they are passed from mama to baby) and sickness/disease. Our job is to treat live parasites and then keep pups healthy to ensure their body is not a place where they can thrive. Unfortunately, a puppy is a preferred host since they are 80% water upon birth, grow at an incredibly fast rate and have a compromised immune system. After a lot of thought and research, I would like you to try these things:

1. Keep the house completely calm and stress free for at least a week (no new visitors, lots of commotion, lots of handling, etc...) Treat them like a newborn baby coming home. Do not take your puppy anywhere except their required vet visit within the first 5 days. When you do take your puppy to their vet visit, carry your puppy in and out, do not let their feet touch any surface except a clean exam table. Sick pets go to the vet and you don't want your puppy coming in contact with any surface those animals have touched. When you come home or visitors have to come over, please have all shoes removed at the door. Parvo and other communicable diseases can be brought in on shoes.
2. Do not wake up the "sleeping baby". Puppies sleep an incredible amount of time. Do not worry. As long as your pup wakes up with puppy energy, silliness, eats well, drinks well then all is good! Your puppy should be able to sleep through the night as long as they've had plenty of time to wear themselves out and relieve themselves before being put to bed. If they do wake you, take them out and then put them right back to bed. No playtime in the middle of the night!
3. Mushy poop is common with stress, please do not change their food from what they have been eating here at Belle Vista. You can add in a little canned pumpkin (not pie filling) or psyllium husk powder, for the first three days.
4. Do not feed ANY treats (includes bones, etc..). Just the kibble and their NuVet tablet. We don't want an upset tummy due to food or treats. Upset tummies create a nice environment for parasites.

5. We are on city water. You may want to give bottled water for at least a week and then slowly transition them if you have well water. The switch in water can cause an upset tummy.

When to worry:

1. Poop contains mucous or blood (feed a bland diet for 24 hours and if it remains, a fecal test might be in order).
2. Puppy is lethargic, does not play with same vigor and or refuses to eat.
3. Puppy cannot poop and vomits. This can indicate he/she ate something and has a blockage. This is an emergency.
4. Liquid poop. Be careful. A puppy can dehydrate quickly, so if poop does not improve quickly, then a vet visit will be needed.

I hope this makes the transition for your puppy easier and healthier. Thank you for ensuring their safety and well-being!