

## BRINGING PUPPY HOME

Bring a crate, water bowl, and lead.

**Do NOT stop at rest stops to air your pup.** Your puppy has received his first shots but you need to limit his exposure to other dogs or to areas where other dogs have been. The primary risk is Parvo and Distemper.

## THE FIRST NIGHT

Crate training begins the first night. *See section on Crate Training*

## DAILY SCHEDULE

### OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

6:30 AM	go outside, eat, then go outside again.
8:00 AM	go outside
11:00 AM	go outside
12:00 PM	go outside, eat, then go outside again.
3:00 PM	go outside
6:00 PM	go outside, eat, then go outside again.
10:00 PM	go outside, go to bed

## SOCIALIZATION

I cannot overemphasize the importance of socialization. A poorly socialized puppy that has not been properly exposed to different environmental experiences will likely have a lifetime of dysfunctional behavior.

Primary socialization occurs from 3 to 6 weeks of age. All puppies are handled daily by adults and kids. Mom weaned the pups herself, so they have learned “no” from mom.

Your puppy has started secondary socialization which occurs from 6 to 12 weeks of age. Once this window of time has closed, you can never regain it. When you get your puppy home, expose him to as many sites, sounds, and places as possible. Letting a puppy meet as many new people as possible helps him learn that strange people are a good thing. Isolated pups will be unsure or unstable around strangers. Anytime you are going to the hardware store, the lumber yard, the paint store, or any place not governed by the Health Department, take the young puppy along. I have never been turned away from any of these places when carrying an 8- to 10-week-old puppy in my arms. Everyone wants to see and pet the puppy. Not only are they getting exposure to people, but your puppy is also exposed to all the sights and sounds in a trusting way.

**\*\*\*Always keep your puppy away from any other dogs that you do not have personal knowledge of vaccine history. Diseases such as Parvo and Distemper are nothing to play around with and are life threatening diseases. Do NOT take your puppy to a doggie park or public park until he has received all of his vaccines. AVOID REST AREAS AT ALL COSTS.\*\*\***

It is never recommended to raise young puppies outside the home, such as in the backyard or in an outdoor kennel. They will not receive the proper human interaction needed to properly develop behaviors.

## HEALTHCARE

Your puppy has received his first round of a four-shot series. I encourage you to have your puppy examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible when you bring him home. The remaining shots should continue at three-week intervals.

It is not uncommon for young puppies to have internal parasites or worms. Many times, these parasites are passed on by their mother's milk even though mom was evaluated by a veterinarian prior to breeding. Other parasites are environmental. These can appear when the environment outwardly appears clean and healthy. Your vet will check your puppy for these parasites and treat them with a mild dewormer. Your puppy has been dewormed twice just as a precaution.

→ Your puppy was last dewormed with NEMREX-2 on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

## NUTRITION

Consistency of diet is more important than brand of food. More people make unnecessary trips to the vet's office for gastrointestinal (diarrhea) issues than needed. Obviously if your puppy has a bad case of diarrhea, do not hesitate to get to your vet as the puppy can become dehydrated very quickly.

## - What and how much should I feed my puppy?



Changes of diet can cause diarrhea. Your puppy has been eating Fromm Puppy Gold. We will provide some food to send home with your new puppy. We are not exactly sure how much food your puppy has been eating per meal because we feed all of the puppies from the same dish. So when you feed your puppy, start by giving them a cup of food and see how much they are eating in a sitting. After doing this a few times you should have a good idea of how much to feed your puppy each meal.

## - Where should you feed your puppy?

Feed your puppy in his crate at meal time to ensure your puppy can focus on eating without getting distracted as well as allowing you to evaluate how much food they are eating. It is important to remember, once the puppy is done eating, take the bowl and food up until the next meal. Your puppy should NOT be given access to their food outside of meal times.

## - How often should you feed your puppy?

age	Meals Per Day
8 weeks	at least 3 small meals
14 weeks	can be cut back to 2
5 months	can be cut back to 1

\*\*\* At our kennel, all dogs are fed twice daily.

After the evening meal, cut off all food and water unless your intention is to be getting up at all hours of the night to take the puppy outside to the bathroom.

## WEIGHT CONTROL

It is very common to say that a fat puppy is a healthy pup. Do not buy into this theory. With so many breeds having so many different problems with joints such as hips and elbows, it is extremely important to not let your new puppy gain too much weight during the first one or two years of his life when their joints and growth plates are growing and closing.

Daily walks and controlled exercise also provide socialization by exposing him to different sights and sounds as well.

## CRATE TRAINING & HOUSE-BREAKING

### CRATE TRAINING

Your puppy has already been introduced and has slept in a crate overnight, but only with his siblings. The puppies have been sleeping to “baby sleep music”. We encourage you to continue this. You can use any instrumental/ classical baby sleep music playlist.

The crate becomes their safe space and they should have access to the crate when they need it. At first your puppy will likely cry in his crate, this is okay. However, if crying/whining continues, without talking to your puppy, take him out of his crate outside to potty. Simply give him the “potty” command and allow him to go. If you find that the puppy is simply trying to play, pick him up and place back in his crate. Crying should NEVER be your puppy’s way of getting out of his crate.

When putting the puppy in the crate, give the command “Kennel”. The puppy will learn to associate this word with the act of going into his crate. At first you may have to struggle with getting your puppy in his crate but soon all you will need to do is give him a slight nudge as you give the command, and he will go straight in. Down the road, you will have the puppy sit in front of the crate and wait patiently for the command.

As your puppy starts learning “sit”, it is a good idea to say “No-Sit” each time you open the crate door. You do not want a puppy to learn the habit of busting out of the crate as soon as the door opens. You want your dog to learn early that he must wait until he is invited out before he is allowed to exit the crate. He should be taught this habit of coming out and sitting immediately. This will pay dividends at the boat ramp, parking area of the vet, or your favorite hunting ground. If your dog learned the behavior of busting out each time the door is opened, he is at great risk of getting injured or killed if he darts in front of or behind a moving vehicle.

### HOUSE-BREAKING

The best and easiest way to housebreak your dog is to crate train it. Put your puppy in the crate to sleep. If your puppy falls asleep outside of his crate, gently place him in his crate. When the puppy wakes up, it will need to urinate and will typically cry or whine. This is your sign to immediately take him outside. Always take him to the same spot. Create a command word such as “hurry up”, “go potty” or “get it done”. The words are unimportant as long as you and every member of your family use the same word every time and your hunting buddies won’t tease you.. We have been using “go potty”. Repeat the word or phrase as the puppy sniffs around on the ground for just the right spot. Once he begins, be sure and give

him lots of praise. When the puppy is out of his crate inside the house and he squats to urinate, do not over react. Simply pick up the puppy and carry him straight outside to the spot you have chosen and give it the bathroom command. Remember that you must show him what you expect, he does not know. Dogs do not like to use the bathroom where they sleep so he will not want to go in the crate. If you find that the puppy is going in the crate excessively, your crate is too big, or you are not taking him out enough.

The general rule is: when a puppy wakes, eats, or drinks, he will need to go to the bathroom.

Once the puppy has eaten and had some water, take him straight outside to use the bathroom. Take them to your chosen spot and give them your bathroom command. Since puppies have a short attention span and he may seem to wander a bit. Give him ample opportunity to both urinate and defecate. Remember to praise them when they do.

- **How often should I take my puppy outside to use the bathroom?**

For the first few weeks, take him outside in 30–45 minute intervals then slowly begin to increase the time between each interval. If you notice your puppy having more accidents, shorten the time between the intervals.

## BATHROOM GUIDELINE

Be flexible, this may vary slightly from pup to pup. You will quickly learn your puppy's routine and habits.

- Awakens from sleep or nap - Anytime the puppy has been asleep and wakes up, take him straight outside to your chosen spot.
- After eating or drinking - After each meal, take the puppy outside to the chosen spot. Follow up 20-30 minutes later.
- In between meal intervals - In between meals, your new puppy will need regular bathroom breaks at 30-45 minute intervals. Take your puppy outside and give them the opportunity to go to the bathroom.
- Nighttime - This will vary from pup to pup. As they age, they will gain better and longer control of their bowels and bladder. So, at first, when the puppy cries out in the middle of the night, get up immediately and take him outside to the chosen spot. Do not play with him before returning him to his crate. Then 15 to 30 minutes later if he cries again, ignore him. He wants to get up and play. If you get him to console him, you have just taught him that crying equals play time.

## OTM PUPPY PACKET

2022



If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call, text, or email me. I am looking forward to seeing you and your OTM puppy in the field or at upcoming trials. Welcome to the OTM family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Huddleston'.

John Huddleston

*Personal contact  
information*