



THE KENNEL CLUB

ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME

Derwent Spire Labradors
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Labrador Retrievers

PUPPY INFORMATION PACK

KENNEL CLUB REGISTERED NAME:	
KENNEL CLUB REGISTRATION NUMBER:	
MICROCHIP NUMBER:	
MICROCHIP DATABASE REGISTERED WITH:	





CONTENTS PAGE

Your Puppy Information Pack includes the following:

- **Basic Kit list**
- **Daily Routine**
- **Settling in**
- **Socialisation advice & chart**
- **Exercise advice**
- **Training advice**
- **Feeding advice & puppy's diet information**
- **Grooming advice**
- **Worming advice & puppy's worming record**
- **Immunisation advice, including advice specific to your puppy**
- **Information on features and characteristics of the Labrador Retriever breed**
- **Contract of sale**

BASIC KIT LIST

Much equipment choice is down to personal taste but we recommend you consider the following 'basic' kit:

- A soft nylon 'puppy' collar and lead – you will need the collar when you arrive to collect your puppy! You will need new adult collar and lead as your dog grows but that can come later.
- An Identity Tag. The Control of Dogs Order 1992 mandates that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the owner's name, address and postcode engraved or written on it. (*A microchip is also a legal necessity too but ask yourself, does your neighbour in the next street own a microchip scanner?*)
- A stainless steel food bowl and water bowl (These cannot be chewed).
- A crate suitable for your fully-grown dog. Our dogs sleep in 42" large crates [42" x 27" x 30"]
- Some bedding – we use VETBED Luxury Fleece Dog Bedding (cut to the exact size of the crate), the choice is yours.
- A good quality brush to groom your puppy. We recommend the FERMINATOR range, especially for an adult dog. FURMINATOR do a puppy range but any puppy brush will do to start you off.
- A claw clipper – We recommend the Mikki Grooming Claw Clipper (large claw) (available from Amazon)
- A toy box and some suitable puppy toys. Whatever toys you buy, make sure they are fun, safe, durable and washable. You will need to teach your puppy that its toys are the best things to chew on, not the sofa or your furniture! (get used to putting the toys away and not having them out all the time). If you wish, unlike children, it's possible to train your dog to put their toys away after playing with them!
- A dog training whistle, we use an Acme 210.5 (widely available from E-bay, gundog supply websites, etc)
- A tick remover – makes pulling out ticks so much easier.
- Poop scooper and bags
- Some new towels for you as your old ones will be used for drying / cleaning your new pup
- Easidri Pet and Equestrian Grooming Towel for Dog/ Horse/ Around the Home, M, 68 cm/ 43 cm – essential for drying a wet dog, especially as they get bigger – available for Amazon and other retailers.
- Toothbrush (good to start this really early so your pup accepts it as normal) Do NOT use human toothpaste, needs to be a toothpaste for dogs purchased from pet shop.
- Big supply of Kitchen Roll – Handy for wiping floor from waterworks problems, mopping up drinking water, etc.
- You can now buy absorbent pads from most large pet stores, to absorb the odd little toilet accident your puppy may have. We've never used these and are not essential but it's your choice.
- It is also a good idea to get your puppy insured. Your puppy comes with 5-weeks free insurance.

SUMMARY OF YOUR DOG'S DAILY ROUTINE

6.30-7.00am Let out from crate and put straight outside, given fresh water

7.00am First Meal of the day let out again following food

11.00am Second Meal of the day let out again following food

3.00pm Third Meal of the day let out again following food

7.00 pm Fourth Meal of the day let out again following food

Between feeds regular letting out for the toilet, play & sleep

8.00pm Water lifted (*wake puppy for final drink before 9.00pm*)

11.00-11.30pm Final let out.

Make sure your puppy has a last poo before bedtime, They have been doing one just after or before final meal and another one at 10-11ish, make sure you have the second one before crating!

Put in the crate with door shut, VetBed filling the crate; our puppies are usually clean and dry at night since they were 5 1/2 weeks old.

SETTLING IN

So, now you have collected your new pup, what next? Remember, the ride home, especially if it has been a long one, will probably have made them uneasy. Ensure that your puppy is offered water as soon as you arrive home.

Everyone in the family will want to meet your new puppy, but it is probably best to make the introduction low-key so as not to overwhelm your puppy. Hi-pitched screams from children may communicate excitement to the human ear but will strike fear into the heart of a puppy! Especially as they will already be apprehensive as it will be the first time they have been separated from their pack.

It's important for your puppy to have human contact, as at this stage an instant connection between your pup and his human family will be formed. Gentle soothing words and stroking will also help console your puppy, as well as putting them down and letting them explore their new home. (*under your watchful eye of course*). Each family member should spend some time with your puppy, let your puppy sniff at their hands and stroke her gently. Puppies need human attention and need to be touched - this is how to form an immediate bond.

Puppies need to sleep a lot! Please ensure that your dog has opportunity to do this amidst the excitement of arriving in a new home.

The first night will be strange for your dog and no doubt they will cry. Some people suggest leaving a radio on in the room where they will be kept at night. We have NOT done this and your dog has been sleeping from approximately 11.30pm to 6.00am. Other advice is to wear an old t-shirt when picking up your dog and leave this in the cage overnight for a few days. A chew proof toy that they can curl up against for the first few nights can help and also their smelly blanket from us. Our advice is to ignore crying, if not your puppy will soon learn that crying in their crate gets a response and they will do it all the more! They will be distressed and may mess in their crate the first night but they soon adjust. For the first few nights, I would go to them anything after 5.00am in case they need to be let out for the toilet but I would change that gradually to 6.00am after a few nights or you will always be up at 5!! You can try putting a blanket over the crate but make sure they can't pull it through the bars!

All dogs like a routine and need to know who the 'leader of their pack is'. The more you stick to this the better your dog will settle in to your new home and thrive. Once you give in, your dog will persist in this manner.

DON'T FORGET to take your dog's collar off when they go into their crate at night or during periods of not being attended. There have been reports of dogs jumping up at crates and strangling themselves by their collars getting caught in the bars, better safe than sorry.

SOCIALISATION ADVICE

Socialisation is a term that is often used in dog training books, in dog magazines and by breeders and trainers. But what does it actually mean and how will it affect you as a new puppy owner?

Like human children, puppies are not born with the social skills that they require to live with their family, be that a canine family or a human one. The term "socialisation" in simple terms means the learning process that a puppy must undergo in order to learn key life skills to ensure that it is happy and confident in its environment, and can communicate effectively within its social group. We ask a huge amount from our dogs in their role as a companion animal, as not only do they need to understand humans and the human world, they also need to become fluent in the language of dog.

This involves having pleasant social interactions with adults, children, vets, adult dogs and other animals, as well as careful exposure to different situations in the environment like traffic, crowds, travelling in the car, vacuum cleaners and any sights and sounds it will have to cope with in life. It is so important that this is done thoroughly and correctly when your puppy is still young and he is young enough to happily accept new things.

Puppies that have been socialised effectively in these early weeks are far less likely to react negatively to new situations, noises, people, dogs and animals than their counterparts, who have not had these important early experiences. A well socialised puppy is far more likely to integrate easily into your life, therefore making your life together much more enjoyable and rewarding.

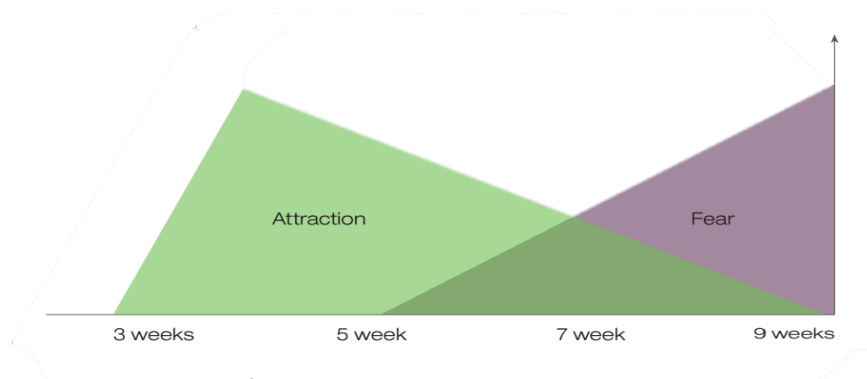
There are two parts to socialisation and both are equally important. The first is teaching the puppy to be social with people and other dogs, while the other (called habituation) is about teaching all the things we want the puppy to ignore and not be worried about (noises, traffic, household objects etc.).

Being a companion is the hardest job we ever ask a dog to do as our expectations are so high. We want dogs to get on with everybody and everything, and to go everywhere with us when we want, but be happy to be left alone without complaint when we don't, to be accepting of loud noises, strangers, other dogs... The list is endless. It is a sad fact that one of the major causes of death in dogs under two years old is euthanasia, as a result of behaviour problems. Most of these behaviour problems arise from fear (fear of strange noises, fear of being left alone – and indeed aggression nearly always arises from fear – fear of strange dogs, fear of strange people or fear of strange situations). In addition, far too many dogs are ending up in rescue centres. Behaviourists and trainers up and down the country are seeing dogs with problems that could so easily have been prevented if the first 16 weeks of that dog's life had been properly managed, and they had been prepared for the life they were going to lead.

Some breeds need far more socialisation and habituation than others – with more reactive breeds (such as those bred to guard, some terriers etc.) needing more – and earlier – socialisation than others. Therefore, it is important for breeders and new owners to know how reactive their chosen breed is so they can focus their socialisation accordingly.

On the breeders' part, socialising their litter can start as early as when the puppies are a few days old. Gentle handling and checking the progress of the litter are all important steps in the first few days of a puppy's life. Over the course of the following weeks the breeder can introduce noises, different surfaces, different play items as well as different play and feeding locations around the house – all of this habituation and novelty contributes to the puppies' early development. The early ground work that the breeder puts into their litters' social and emotional wellbeing has a direct impact on their puppies' ability to be fit for function as a family dog.

It is imperative that the puppy's new owner continues this when their new puppy comes home. From around 5 weeks and continuing at the time the puppy goes to his or her new home, an important transition takes place in the puppy's ability to take in new situations as his natural fearfulness increases.



It is therefore so important that new owners don't miss this valuable window of opportunity for their puppy to experience new things – which will close at around 14-16 weeks. This time also coincides with the puppy's vaccinations, so a balance must be struck so not to miss out on this important learning opportunity. This can be achieved by taking your puppy out and about in your arms, while not allowing them to come into direct contact with other dogs until their vaccinations have taken place. Getting out and about with your puppy is key to them accepting everyday things, such as traffic and busy places, as part of normal life. It is important that you think about what life as part of your family will entail for a puppy – for instance, if you live in the inner city spending a significant amount of time socialising your puppy to farm animals may not be of great benefit, as it is unlikely they will encounter them in their day to day life:

Rural Lifestyle	City Lifestyle
Farm animals	Heavy traffic
Farm machinery	Crowds of people
Horses with/without riders	Emergency sirens
Road walking	Public transport

The same also goes for all the different people your puppy is likely to meet such as: people with beards, people wearing hats, people wearing high visibility clothing, babies, children, people with pushchairs/prams, elderly people, people with walking sticks and people in wheelchairs to name but a few, or anyone else you are likely to meet.

Puppy parties

Vet surgeries often hold 'puppy parties' for their new clients, but these should be treated with some caution. Well managed puppy parties can be great social interaction for puppies of all ages and sizes. Well managed parties should:

- Match puppies up according to their size so that the bolder puppies don't intimidate the more nervous or smaller ones, and thereby create negative experiences for the smaller puppies, and make the bolder ones 'social bullies'.
- Manage any off-lead play carefully and if necessary, separate puppies that get a bit too boisterous so that they can calm down and re-join the party once they are calmer.
- Discourage any kind of anti-social behaviour, such as biting that gets out of hand, very rough play and also show the owners how to discourage this.
- Show owners how to handle and groom their puppies – and have others do this too.

- Be fun positive experiences for puppies and owners.

The Puppy Socialisation Plan

Until now there was no definitive plan for effectively socialising your puppy, which was resulting in rescue centres seeing increasing numbers of dogs coming to them with behavioural issues that could have been avoided with proper socialisation. In order to counteract this, the Kennel Club and Dogs Trust have jointly devised a socialisation plan for both breeders and new owners to follow as a step by step guide - it is called the Puppy Socialisation Plan. Both the Kennel Club and Dogs Trust recommend the Puppy Socialisation Plan as an effective plan for breeders and new owners to prepare their puppies as best they can for life as family pets. It is simple to complete, and can be tailored to suit you and your lifestyle, so it is highly recommended that novice breeders and new owners follow the Plan.

It is critical that this is done from birth up to 16 weeks of age, otherwise important learning and development phases have passed. The Plan covers everything from getting used to household noises, to getting out and about and meeting new people and other dogs. Therefore, you need to plan and incorporate some extremely important life lessons during the early stages of your puppy's development, so that you end up with a well-balanced and sociable dog.

You can find The Puppy Socialisation Plan located at -

<http://www.thepuppyplan.com/>

SOCIALISATION CHART	Tick a box for each encounter						
PEOPLE							
Men							
Women							
Babies							
Young children							
Teenagers							
Elderly people							
Disabled people							
Loud, confident people							
Shy, timid people							
People in uniform							
People wearing hats, crash helmets etc.							
People with beards							
People wearing glasses, sunglasses etc.							
Delivery people e.g. postman, milkman							
Visitors							
Joggers							
AROUND THE HOME							
Washing machine/tumble dryer							
Vacuum cleaner							
Lawn mower							
Kitchen noise							
TV/Radio							
ANIMALS							
Friendly large dogs							
Friendly small dogs							
Domestic pets e.g. rabbits							
Livestock							
Cats							
Horses							
OUTSIDE THE HOME							
Traffic							
Motorbikes							
Bicycles							
Buses							
Trains							
Crowds							
Fireworks							
Umbrellas							
Car travel							
Different surfaces (gravel, slippery floors, grass etc.)							
GENTLE HANDLING							
Head							
Ears							
Mouth							
Tail							
Paws and legs							
Grooming (short periods)							

Gentle restraint								
By family and friends								
By strangers								

EXERCISE ADVICE

An important part of a dog's life is exercise, not only for fitness, but also for mental stimulation. Indeed exercise times and feeding times are often the most exciting parts of a dog's day, and your puppy will grow to keenly anticipate them.

Small beginnings

Puppies need much less exercise than fully-grown dogs. If you over-exercise a growing puppy, you can quickly overtire it, and more importantly damage its developing joints, which may cause early arthritis. A good rule of thumb is a ratio of five minutes exercise per month of age (up to twice a day), until the puppy is fully grown, i.e. 15 minutes when three months old, 20 minutes when four months old etc. Below you will find breed-specific exercise information relating to your puppy:

Exercise Requirements

- 0-12 weeks. Until a puppy has completed its course of vaccinations, there is a risk of infection. Therefore, it is usually better that exercise is restricted to within the confines of your garden. Exercise in the garden also provides an excellent opportunity to start early training, and to get your puppy used to wearing a collar. Make sure your puppy has a number of safe toys, and always accompany them in the garden. This way, you can engage your puppy in suitable levels of activity, and start to reward good toileting behaviour, which can usually provide all the puppy's exercise needs during this time. If the opportunity arises, take your puppy to other safe environments where there is no risk, and it is able to mix with other animals and people, such as private gardens where only vaccinated dogs have access. Socialising at an early age is a vital part of your dog's development.

Age of Puppy	Duration of Exercise Required (per walk)	Number of Walks (per day)	Total Amount of Exercise (per day)
3-4 months	10	2	20mins (max)
4-6 months	15	2	20-30mins (max)
6-9 months	20	2	30-45mins (max)
9-12 months	30	2	45-60mins (max)
1 year +	30-60	2+	60-120+mins

It is important that puppies and dogs go out for exercise every day in a safe and secure area, or they may become frustrated. Time spent in the garden (however large) is no substitute for exploring new environments, and socialising with other dogs. When you go out, make sure your puppy is trained to recall, so that you are confident the puppy will return to you when called (see the accompanying sheet on 'Training your Puppy'). You should never exercise your puppy on a full stomach as this may contribute to bloat or stomach dilation which can sometimes prove fatal.

All dogs require regular exercise to remain fit and prevent them from becoming overweight, which may also lead to health problems. You should remember however, that exercise needs to be introduced gradually, and that a young puppy will not have the same exercise requirement as an adult dog.

The duration and frequency of exercise should remain consistent and any increases should be gradual. For the majority of dogs, exercise is an important part of their life and so they will take as much as you can give. A dog will also enjoy play, whether with you or on its own, and so toys play an important part in a dog's life.

Dependant on breed and temperament and mobility, a dog will normally be capable of walking to the same capability as its owner, however as a dog becomes older, exercise should be reduced and your dog should be allowed to walk at its own pace.

PUPPY TRAINING ADVICE

Bringing your puppy home for the first time is naturally a happy and exciting occasion, but it can be a little daunting too – there is so much for both you and your puppy to learn! The information below should help you on your way to raising a happy and well trained dog right from the start.

Important training tips:

Start as you mean to go on. If you are always consistent you will avoid confusing your puppy. Puppies have a very short attention span so train for short spells on a regular basis. Keep it short and keep it simple, but most of all keep it fun. Puppies respond better to cheerful voice tones rather than to threatening orders. Gentle play builds trust and a strong bond between you and your puppy as well as making training fun. Patience is the KEY ingredient in dog training. If you try to rush things you will only get frustrated and confuse your puppy. Keep it interesting: cultivate a range of different rewards incorporating play, fuss, praise, treats and toys. This will stop both of you from getting bored.

Toilet training puppies the easy way

Toilet training is obviously a crucial part of your puppy's early learning. Getting it right is relatively simple, and will make those first weeks so much more enjoyable for you both. However, like all things, bad habits learnt early on can lead to problems that may take weeks or even months to resolve.

Initially, you will have to build your daily routine around your puppy's needs. Fortunately, these are quite predictable when they are very young, and with careful supervision you should quickly establish when it is the right time to go outside and minimise any accidents.

Like babies, puppies have poor bladder control, and need to go to the toilet several times an hour when they are awake. They will also usually need to be taken outside first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after each meal, waking from a nap, and after any exercise, play or excitement. You may find it useful to keep a record of when your puppy sleeps, eats and goes to the toilet so that you can identify any patterns that emerge. One tip is to use a food timer to remind you when it is time to take your puppy outside to relieve itself. If you find that your puppy needs to "go" every 20 minutes then set the alarm as soon as he has gone and take him outside the moment the alarm goes off.

Always go with your puppy into the garden and establish a regular spot. Puppies are creatures of habit, so as long as you introduce the garden to the puppy as its toilet area early on, you should be able to avoid most accidents. Decide on a cue word or phrase to use when the puppy is actually going to the toilet, so that the puppy will start to associate the word with the action and should learn to go on command. By accompanying your puppy into the garden each time, you will be there to attach cue words and praise to any successful actions.

If toilet training is not going quite as well as planned, some common reasons for why your puppy is struggling are as follows:

Feeding

- You are feeding the puppy too much.
- The puppy food you are giving is unsuitable or you are giving too much variety for a puppy of their age.
- You are not feeding at regular times.
- You are feeding at the wrong times (which could mean your puppy needs to go to the toilet during the night).
- You are giving foods which are too salty, causing your puppy to drink more.

Training

Punishing your puppy for accidents indoors may make it scared of going to the toilet in front of you – even outside. Expecting your puppy to tell you when it needs to go to the toilet is unrealistic. It is far better to go outside at regular intervals. Leaving the back door or outside access open for your puppy to come and go as it pleases can cause confusion – particularly when that access is closed. Do not leave your puppy too long on its own so that it is forced to go indoors. Leaving your puppy alone in the garden means that you are not there to praise and reward, or to reinforce the idea that the garden is the correct place to go. Try to avoid using the words “good boy/girl” when your puppy is going to the toilet - you don't want your puppy going to the toilet every time it is praised. Puppies can exhibit submissive or excitable urination when greeting you on your return home. Toning down greetings can help prevent your puppy from becoming overexcited. Young puppies will not be able to go through the night without needing to go to the toilet. If they do wake you up, it really is worth getting up to let them out.

Environment

Being surrounded by lots of absorbent or grass-like surfaces, such as rugs and carpets, may confuse your puppy. Ammonia based cleaning products used around the house can smell like urine to your puppy, and lead to unwanted accidents. If your puppy does have an accident inside, the scent will still be apparent to the puppy for a long time afterwards, even if you have thoroughly disinfected the area. Specialist cleaning products specifically designed to mask the odour are available.

Beyond the garden, many owners can be disappointed that their young puppy does not initially toilet when first venturing out on walks. Often, your puppy will only relieve itself the second you get home. This is because the puppy has not yet associated going out for a walk as an opportunity to go to the toilet, so will wait until they return home to their garden, which they know is a good place to go. To break this habit, get up a little earlier in the morning (when you have plenty of time) and take your puppy out on a walk before it has had a chance to visit its usual spot. Stay out with your puppy for a reasonable length of time until it has been to the toilet, and then give plenty of praise. If you are not successful, make sure the puppy is whisked into the garden to relieve itself or you will run the risk of a large puddle indoors!

Remember, patience and consistency is key. All puppies take different amounts of time to learn, so don't worry if your puppy seems to be taking longer to get the hang of things. Your patience will pay off and you will both get there in the end.

A trained dog is a happy dog

Housetraining aside, every puppy also needs to be taught good manners and have constructive lessons in basic control and social interaction. This includes:

- Responding to its name.
- Learning how to greet and behave politely around other people and dogs.
- To come back when called.
- To walk nicely on the lead.
- To sit down and stay on command.
- To allow itself to be groomed and examined by you and your vet.

Dog training classes

Most owners can benefit from attending good training classes, and training in the company of other dogs is very useful, because of the realistic distractions it involves. Ideally, you should start your classes as soon as your puppy's vaccinations are complete, but classes can be invaluable for older dogs too, and continue throughout the dog's life.

There are lots of schools of thought on dog training and it is naturally important that you find a class and training instructors with the right approach for you and your puppy. Dog training can be lots of fun and very rewarding. After all, a trained dog is a happy dog, and a happy dog makes for a happy owner too.

Finding the best dog training club

Before enrolling with a dog training club it can be beneficial to go and visit several classes first (without your puppy) to make sure you have made the right choice. Things you may wish to consider include:

- Do you like what you see – are the trainers friendly, are people happy and enjoying training their dogs?
- Are the dogs happily focused on their human family?
- Are the instructors giving lots of encouragement and information to all attendees?
- Are the instructors maintaining a controlled, safe environment for all?
- Are instructors treating everyone fairly and meeting the needs of the whole group?

You can find training classes by using the Kennel Club's Find a Club service – visit www.findaclub.org.uk to find a club near you running training classes, or call the Kennel Club on 01269 318540. . You can also ask your vet and other dog owners for recommendations.

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is the UK's largest dog training programme, and has been introduced to assist owners in training their dogs to be obedient in every day situations. Its simple but effective dog training techniques encompass all the skills necessary for a happy and rewarding partnership with your dog. There are four levels of the Scheme, namely Puppy Foundation, Silver, Bronze and Gold. Each level is designed to further develop an owner's understanding of training, while building a dog's confidence and levels of obedience. All dogs are eligible to take part, whether they are young or old, pedigree or crossbreed. Over 2000 dog training schools throughout the UK offer Scheme training courses.

The Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour

The Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour (KCAI) is the UK's first and only national and verified qualification in dog training and canine behaviour, recognised by City & Guilds. Representing the 'gold standard' in teaching, advice and service, members of the Scheme abide by a strict Code of Practice designed to ensure that dog owners are provided with the best advice and service. Look for the badge of quality when you are choosing a trainer. You can see which clubs have KCAI Accredited instructors on the Kennel Club's Find a Club service.

DIET ADVICE

Feeding your puppy sensibly and correctly is vital to its health, development and general wellbeing. Below you will find details of your puppy's current diet:

Your Puppy's Current Diet

Number of Meals (per day)	Current Meal Times	Type of Food Given	Quantity (per meal)
Four	7.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 7.00pm	James Wellbeloved (puppy) Turkey & Rice	45g

Little and often

Like all infants, puppies grow very rapidly (up to twenty times faster than an adult dog), and so require a specially formulated diet to aid their physical development. A high energy growth food is recommended and needs to be fed at evenly spaced intervals to avoid over stretching your puppy's small stomach.

Meals should be split during the course of the day and ideally a young puppy should go approximately 4 hours between meals.

It is better not to leave food down (so throw away any uneaten food after 20 minutes) and not to change your puppy's food regularly as this could cause havoc with its digestion and toilet training regime. Make sure that water is always available to your puppy.

Quantities

The quantity of food should be approximately the same for each meal. Young puppies, particularly those of a large or fast growing breed, can sometimes need more food as puppies than they require as adults. Increases of food should always be gradual and a good idea is to increase the amount on a weekly basis from 8 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks old. Typically, by the time a puppy reaches 16 weeks, it will need roughly the same amount as when it is an adult.

Puppies can be greedy or picky with their food so it can sometimes be difficult to gauge how much to give them. Care should be taken not to over or underfeed your puppy. Puppies can often appear 'chubby', particularly after they have eaten, but under normal circumstances they should have a defined 'waist'. If in any doubt about your puppy's weight or diet, consult your vet when you next visit for a puppy check-up.

Below is some information about feeding your puppy in the future:

Future Feeding Recommendations

Age of Puppy	Number of Meals (per day)	Type of Food	Quantity (per meal)
2 months	4	James Wellbeloved (puppy, Turkey)	71g
3 months	4	James Wellbeloved (puppy, Turkey)	92.5g
4 months	3	James Wellbeloved (puppy, Turkey)	131.5g
5 months	3	James Wellbeloved (puppy, Turkey)	133g
6 months	2	James Wellbeloved (puppy, Turkey)	197g

Transfer to junior or large breed junior after 6 months.

Should you wish to change your dog's food at any time in the future it is imperative that you follow the correct weaning process to ensure that your dog does not experience tummy upsets or loose bowels. The weaning process is as follows:

Day 1	90% James Wellbeloved / 10% new food
Day 2	80% James Wellbeloved / 20% new food
Day 3	70% James Wellbeloved / 30% new food
Day 4	60% James Wellbeloved / 40% new food
Day 5	50% James Wellbeloved / 50% new food
Day 6	40% James Wellbeloved / 60% new food
Day 7	30% James Wellbeloved / 70% new food
Day 8	20% James Wellbeloved / 80% new food
Day 9	10% James Wellbeloved / 90% new food
Day 10	100% new food

There are many varied feeding regimes to choose from: dry complete diets, semi-moist or pouch, tinned food (with or without biscuit mixer), raw food, and home-made food. Each food category has different qualities, and finding the right balance for your puppy is extremely important.

The most suitable diet should be easily digested and produce dark brown, firm, formed stools. If your puppy produces soft or light stools or has wind or diarrhoea, then the diet may not suit your puppy or it might have some kind of digestive problem or infection. If the condition persists for more than 2 days, consult your vet for advice.

Please remember that stability in the diet will help maintain good digestion. Any change in diet should be made very gradually over at least a week to avoid upset and you should try a new diet for at least 10 days before making any further changes.

Dry complete foods

There is a wide range of dry complete foods on the market and the quality varies widely. To get the best out of your puppy's development choose a food specially designed for puppies. Some puppies are not accustomed to complete dry foods immediately after weaning but will normally grow to like them with time. If your puppy does not seem to like eating dry complete and this is what you wish to feed, you can try soaking the food in a little warm water to soften it, or mix in a little tinned puppy food, gradually reducing the quantity until your puppy is fully weaned and accepts dry complete.

Semi-moist, pouch, tinned and frozen foods

As with complete dry foods, semi-moist, pouch, tinned and frozen foods can vary in quality. Again, choose a good quality diet which is easily digestible, nutritionally complete and does not require additional foods to be added to it. As before it is best to avoid changes in your puppy's diet - so if you find a product that works for your puppy, stick to it.

Home-made food (raw fresh or frozen meat)

Before the advent of commercial dog foods, it was quite common to feed dogs raw or cooked fresh meat. Many people still consider that there is no substitute for feeding raw meat; these diets are sometimes referred to as BARF (Bones and raw food diet). Just meat on its own however, is not enough, and dogs need other ingredients and supplements to maintain a completely balanced diet. Puppies in particular, need a balanced and nutritious diet whilst they are growing up, as even a slight imbalance may harm their development and growth. Additionally, home-made foods obviously necessitate a fair degree of pre-planning and preparation. However, there are a number of manufacturers now providing pre-packaged complete BARF diets, which make the feeding regime easier to administer.

Treats

Giving treats is a good way to reward your dog during training and encourage the behaviour you want. There are a wide variety of prepared and natural treats on the market which vary hugely in quality. Some commercial treats have lots of sugar, colourings, milk products and fat in them, so always check the ingredients label. Good quality prepared treats have been developed with dogs dietary needs in mind.

However, all treats should be given sparingly, and never comprise more than 15% of your puppy's total calorie intake. If you use treats regularly, reduce the amount of main meal food your dog is receiving in order to avoid obesity. Some chew treats have proven ability to help prevent dental diseases, but again check the label to ensure you are getting a genuine product.

Human chocolate is poisonous to dogs and can cause liver damage and even be fatal, so never give your dog any chocolate, or leave any lying around where it might be found and eaten. Be especially careful at Christmas and Easter time.

Avoid giving your puppy any sweet biscuits or sugary treats which are bad for its teeth as well as its waistline, and can cause sugar 'highs' and 'lows'. Stick to prepared which tend to be much more popular.

Always remember that table scraps contain calories so they should be taken into account as part of the daily diet. Better still; don't be tempted to feed table scraps at all.

Food sensitivities and intolerances

Like humans, some dogs are sensitive or intolerant to certain foods, and this can cause a variety of problems. In extreme cases, they may develop colitis (slime and blood in their stools). Always consult your vet if you notice your dog displaying any of the following symptoms:

- Lethargy.
- Aggressive or hyperactive behaviour.
- Chronic skin and ear problems.
- Light to mid-brown loose bulky stools or diarrhoea.
- Slime or jelly being passed with stools and flatulence.
- Bloating and weight gain or loss.

Feeding tips

- Clean fresh water should always be available. Dogs eating wet food (i.e. canned) will receive moisture through their food and therefore require less water than dogs eating dry food. However, whatever the diet, water should always be made available.
- Do not refill half empty bowls, but ensure that fresh food is always provided at each meal time. This is particularly true in the hot weather when food left in bowls can attract flies and other insects.
- Half full cans of dog food should be kept covered in the fridge, but allowed to stand until the food is up to room temperature before feeding.
- There are two different types of dog food manufactured "complete" and "complementary", clearly marked on the label. A complete food can be fed as a sole source of nutrition and is available as both canned and dry food. A complementary food is designed to accompany the complete food and should not be used as the only source of daily nutrition.
- It is better to stick to one variety of complete puppy food, so you don't need to add anything to the diet. Always remember that over-supplementing can be harmful to your puppy.

- If your puppy does not eat all of its meal in one go, you may be offering it too much. Not all puppies eat the amount recommended by the pet food manufacturers. Puppies' appetites can vary enormously, with some eating much less than the recommended amounts, whilst others scoff their meal down as if it was their last!
- As long as your puppy is not showing any growth or digestive problems, resist the temptation to change its diet or offer it a range of foods, as you may turn your puppy into a fussy eater.
- Never change your puppy's diet abruptly (unless under the direction of your vet). If you want to change its diet, do it gradually over a period of a few days to a week or longer if necessary.
- Avoid feeding your puppy before travelling in the car, as this can encourage car sickness.
- Do not feed your puppy an hour before or after exercise or play, as this could lead to stomach dilation and torsion (also known as bloat), which is a life threatening condition requiring immediate veterinary intervention. For owners of breeds which are thought to be susceptible to this condition, you should seek advice from your breeder, vet and/or breed club on further precautionary measures.
- Leave your puppy in peace while it is eating from its bowl. Taking the bowl away while it is eating causes anxiety and this can lead to food aggression. If you want to be sure that your puppy is comfortable with you approaching it during mealtimes, add a little food to the bowl while it is eating, so it sees you as an asset, rather than a threat.
- Never feed your dog from the table or your plate, as this encourages drooling and attention seeking behaviours, such as begging and barking.

Potential Toxins/Poisons (this list is by no means complete and always consult your vet if you puppy ingests anything it shouldn't)

- Alcohol.
- Chocolate.
- Coffee/Caffeine.
- Grapes/Raisins/Currants/Sultanas.
- Artificial sweeteners containing xylitol.
- Some human vitamins and supplements.
- Mouldy food.
- Onions, chives and garlic.
- Slug pellets and other pesticides.
- Yeast/Dough.
- Some garden/household plants.
- Macadamia nuts.
- Brassica plants (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, swede, turnip)

Information reviewed by PFMA Veterinary and Nutrition Committee. For more information on poisons please visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/pet-health-information/common-canine-poisons/

GROOMING ADVICE

All dogs will benefit from regular grooming, whether they are a short haired breed or one with a long or fluffy coat.

Reasons for grooming – Remember ‘CHAIR’

Cleanliness – keeping your dog’s coat clean by removing dirt and dead hair helps encourage new hair growth, and reduces the amount of hair deposited on household furniture

Health – grooming helps to stimulate new coat growth, and prevents the formation of knots or matting which may lead to skin irritation

Appearance – most owners take a pride in their dogs looking smart, and regular grooming will certainly help your puppy to look its best

Inspection – regular grooming is also a great way to check for parasites, or any suspicious lumps and bumps

Relationship – grooming is part of dog’s socialisation activities. Regular grooming helps create a bond between you and your puppy, and accustoms your puppy to being handled. Do remember that grooming should include checking ears, nails, teeth, and eyes etc. on a regular basis.

Getting started

It is important to groom your puppy at a height which is comfortable for both you and your dog. For many dogs it may be advisable to groom them on a table and custom made grooming tables are available. But any sturdy table or work bench with a non-slip surface will suffice. Remember: **never** leave your puppy unattended on the table for even a short moment.

Start the grooming experience at an early age as part of your puppy’s socialisation programme and routines. Keep the sessions short to start off with – just a couple of minutes, gradually increasing the time spent on the table. Always make the experience positive, rewarding with praise and suitable treats. Any struggling should be dealt with firmly but kindly, as your puppy may be frustrated, mischievous or even afraid.

Build up the experience and your puppy will come to accept the grooming routine and also being handled on the table. This will help with other activities such as veterinary visits.

Finish the grooming if your puppy shows signs of getting bored or tired, so that each session ends on a positive note.

Dog coat types

It’s worth bearing in mind that factors like neutering, age, poor diet and poor health can dramatically influence your dog’s coat.

There are 5 categories of coat type:

Coat type	How often	Breed examples	Suggested equipment
Double coats – a dense coat with soft undercoat concealed by a long topcoat	Approximately 30-40 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lhasa Apso • Old English Sheepdog • Shih Tzu • Tibetan Terrier • Bearded Collie • Labrador Retriever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slicker brush • Pin brush • Wide toothed comb
Silky Coats – as its title describes, a silky texture not necessarily with coat length	Approximately 20-40 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afghan Hound • Maltese • Yorkshire Terrier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristle brush • Pin brush • Wide toothed comb • De-shedder tool • Rubber palm brush
Smooth Coats – short and tight to the body. Very low maintenance. Grooming achieved by removing the dead coat to leave a glossy finish	Approximately 10 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxer • Weimaraner • Staffordshire Bull Terrier • Dobermann 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massage mitt • Bristle brush • Cloth
Wire coat – these coats have a coarse, harsh topcoat with a soft undercoat	Approximately 30 minutes once a week to prevent heavy shedding and matts and tangles forming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Highland White Terrier • Wire Fox • Border Terrier • Scottish Terrier • Schnauzer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slicker brush • Terrier pad • Wide/narrow toothed comb
Wool coat – dense, bouncy coat requiring great care. A coat of high maintenance which requires specific drying techniques and trimming styles	Approximately 40 minutes twice a week to prevent matts and tangles forming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poodles • Bichon Frise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slicker brush • Wide/narrow toothed comb

Your Puppy's Grooming Requirements

Coat Type (e.g. wire, double)	Amount of Grooming Required	Suggested Grooming Equipment
Short (<i>water resistant</i>) Double coat	Weekly to prevent heavy sheeding	FERMINATOR range, especially for an adult dog. FURMINATOR do a puppy range but any puppy brush will do to start you of.
Additional Information:	Labradors have a short, thick, straight topcoat, and a soft, weather-resistant undercoat. The two-layer coat protects them from the cold and wet, which helps them in their role as a retriever for hunters. The coat comes in three colours: chocolate, black, and yellow.	

Knots and matts

A knot occurs where the coat is slightly tangled but it can be removed by careful brushing or combing out. Mats are formed when dead, loose undercoat hair becomes trapped by the top or guard hair, and starts to clump and twist together. If this matted coat becomes wet, the matting tightens and becomes almost solid. Do not attempt to remove matts unless trained in the procedure. Otherwise, refer to a professional groomer.

Care of ears, nails and eyes

- Check your puppy's ears to see if they are clean. You can remove excess dirt from the inside of the ear flap with damp cotton wool. Never probe inside the ear as you may perforate the ear drum. Any odour is usually a sign there is something wrong and your puppy should be taken to a vet.
- If nails are excessively long remove the tip of the claw, taking care not to cut the quick or blood vessel.
- If needed clean the eyes with clean, damp cotton wool using a separate piece for each eye.

External Parasites

A parasite is something that lives on another animal (the host) and gets its nourishment from the host. If left unchecked, the parasite causes disease or even death. The most common external parasites found on dogs are fleas and ticks.

- Fleas are very small, brownish black, extremely agile creatures. Excessive scratching and self-biting can be symptoms of flea infestation. Even if no fleas are to be seen the presence of shiny black specks like coal dust (flea excreta) is a sure indication of the presence of fleas (dab the specks with a damp piece of cotton wool and if it goes pink it confirms the presence of fleas; these are the remains of a digested blood meal from the host).
- Ticks are largish grey pea shaped parasites that can be 3 to 4mm in length. They attach themselves to other animals in order to have a blood meal. There is evidence that ticks are also a threat to human health as they can spread Lyme disease.

There is now a wide range of proprietary powders, sprays, 'spot-on' treatments and anti-flea and tick collars available. A dedicated pet care professional will be happy to advise on suitable products.

Other skin problems

- Ringworm is a fungal disease, affecting the skin, nails and hair. Circular lesions appear causing hair loss, which become scaly and crusty. Ringworm is contagious and is a zoonotic condition (transmissible to humans).
- Dermatitis causes irritation, hair loss and inflammation and is a result of sensitivity to the environment.
- Alopecia can range from a thinning of hair to total hair loss and can be caused by a number of factors such as skin parasites, hormonal imbalance, infections, stress or poor nutrition. Seek veterinary advice for any skin problems.

Professional grooming

Some breeds of dog may require professional trimming and styling. Most coated breeds will require full grooming about once every four to six weeks but even short coated breeds can benefit from a 'wash and brush' up more regularly to remove dust and dirt.

WORMING & FLE ADVICE

Worming your dog throughout its lifetime is important, and you should talk to your vet about a suitable worming programme for your puppy at the earliest opportunity. Regular worming not only protects your dog's health, but helps to prevent the spread of infection and potentially hazardous health risks to other animals and humans too. Worm infections carried by your dog do not always display obvious symptoms, so an adequate treatment schedule is vital.

Some worming treatment has been carried out prior to you receiving your puppy and a record of this is provided in the chart below. Do discuss this further with your own veterinary surgeon.

For September 2020 Litter

Date Wormed	Product Used	Amount Given
11 th 12 th 13 th August	Panacur 10% oral suspension	<i>As per weight</i>
31 st August 1 st 2 nd September	Panacur 10% oral suspension	<i>As per weight</i>
22 nd September	Milbemax	<i>1 Chewable tablet (vet)</i>
Date next treatment due:	Next treatment due at 12 weeks – consult with local vet for agreed treatment regime	

Signs aren't always obvious

Dogs can appear healthy even when they have worm infections. Detecting an infection can be tricky, particularly as worm eggs are too small to be easily visible in your pet's faeces. In addition, your dog may be more at risk from some worm infections than others depending on where you live. It is therefore extremely important to keep your dog's treatment regular and up-to-date.

Specific signs will be described for each worm, but remember that not all worm infections will be obvious in your dog, so some more general signs to look for include:

- The presence of visible worm segments that could stick to your dog's bottom and become itchy. This can cause dogs to "scoot", whereby they drag their bottoms along the ground with their back legs. Doing this also means that your dog will be rubbing its infected bottom on your floor or carpet, which is naturally unhygienic.
- Weight loss.
- Vomiting.
- Diarrhoea.
- A dull, lifeless coat.
- A change in appetite (it may be either increased or decreased depending on the worms present).
- A lack of energy.
- A pot-bellied appearance (most commonly seen in puppies).
- Breathing difficulties and coughing.
- General changes in behaviour.

You should seek advice from your vet if you see any of the above signs in your dog. Many of these symptoms may be indicative of other illnesses. Your vet will be able to investigate the problem and provide appropriate advice and treatment.

Worming Products

There are a wide variety of worming products available from a number of different sources. These products vary in activity spectrum (the worms they treat or prevent), how you administer the treatment (spot-on / injection / oral medication), dosage instructions and speed or duration of activity. Always check with your vet before initiating a worming regime. This way you can be confident that you are using the most appropriate products, and following the best treatment for the needs of your dog and family.

How Often Should You Worm?

All animals are at risk from acquiring worm infections. However some animals will be at higher risk than others depending on factors such as their lifestyle and area in which you live. Children are at increased risk of disease from worms; if you have a young family or your dog often comes into contact with children, you should pay particular attention to regular worming. Again, always consult with your vet with regard to the most appropriate treatment schedule.

Control Check List

As well as following a worming plan following consultation with your vet, there are also many other practical things you can do to help prevent the spread of worm infections among your pets and family. These are as follows:

- 'Poop scooping' - make sure you pick up your dog's faeces immediately on a walk and remove it from the lawn or surrounding outdoor environment daily - bag it, and put it in designated poop bins, double bag it, and put it in with the domestic waste, or check with you local council.
- Ensure you and your children wash your hands after handling / stroking your dog.
- Wash all food including fruit and vegetables before eating them.
- Don't allow children to put dirt in their mouths.
- Throw away any food dropped on the floor / ground rather than eating it.
- Cover children's sandpits when not in use.

Travelling Pets

There are specific parasitic worms to which your pet may be exposed to on visiting countries outside the UK. Two notable worms are [Heartworm](#) (*Dirofilaria immitis*), transmitted by a mosquito bite, which could be fatal if your dog is not protected, and one type of [Tapeworm](#) (*Echinococcus multilocularis*), which can cause serious and fatal disease in people.

If you are intending to travel with your dog, you should talk to your vet in plenty of time to establish the best worming regime to ensure the protection of both your dog's health and that of your family. For further information about what you need to do before, during, and after travel abroad with your dog, refer to the [Pet Travel Scheme guidelines](#) on the DEFRA website, www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel.

Further reading and information

ESCCAP UK provides practical advice to dog owners to protect pets from parasitic infections and to minimise the risk of their transmission between animals and humans. To find out more, visit www.esccapuk.org.uk.

Flea treatment

Your dog has been flea & tick treated at their final vet check using Effipro spot treatment. This will provide your dog protection for 4-8 weeks. They will need to be treated again after this.

If you wish to continue using Effipro this is a veterinary product and so you're best to visit your vet. Other treatments can be purchased either from your vet, your local pharmacist or from good pet supplies. For instance, Frontline is applied to the back of the neck by body weight of the dog (i.e. 0-10kg, 10-20kg and 30-40kg) and will come in packs of 3 treatments if purchased from your local pharmacist or Pet store. We recommend that this is purchased from your vet until your dog is of adult weight to ensure the correct dose. As always, consult with you vet if you are unsure.

VACCINATION ADVICE

There are a number of common infectious diseases that dogs are susceptible to throughout their life. Some of these diseases are life threatening and young puppies are particularly vulnerable, so It is important that your puppy is vaccinated against them. Further vaccination as adult dogs may be required to ensure that your dog continues to be healthy and happy throughout its entire life.

Some vaccination may have been carried out prior to you receiving your puppy and a record of this is provided below. Please take this with you on your puppy's first visit to a veterinary surgeon.

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Vaccination Given	Age of Puppy	Date Administered
1 st	Eight weeks	22 nd Sept 2020 CANIGEN
2 nd	Due at 10 weeks	
Next Vaccination Due:	Annual boosters thereafter	
Please seek the advice of your puppy's veterinary surgeon for information on future vaccination.		

First vaccinations

Normally, your puppy can receive its first vaccination from approximately eight weeks of age although this can vary depending on the normal practice of the treating vet. The vet will most likely start your puppy on a course of vaccinations against the four main infectious diseases; canine distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and leptospirosis. All of these diseases can be fatal, so after its first course of vaccinations, your puppy may need booster vaccinations according to your vet's advice.

Keeping a record

Once a puppy is vaccinated, the vet will issue a vaccination certificate showing a record of exactly when the puppy was vaccinated and which product was used. This should be kept safe, as you may need to show them at boarding kennels, dog-training classes, or if you take your dog abroad. If you change vet, they may recommend a slightly different regime, and it will be useful to see what vaccination your puppy has had in the past.

Vaccination and socialisation

Until your puppy is fully vaccinated you should prevent them from being exposed to dogs that could be infected or areas that infected dogs could have had access to. Puppies are most receptive to new environments and situations at this age, so keeping them confined to your house and garden may be counterproductive. During these important first weeks at home, you could take your puppy out to different places in your arms or the car to get them used to different situations and noises, as well as letting them meet new people. Further details on socialisation is available in the Kennel Club "Puppy Plan" which can be viewed at www.thepuppyplan.com.

What is titre testing?

A titre test is a type of blood test that can detect if your dog has antibodies to a disease, and to what degree. Antibodies are made when a virus or a bacteria triggers a response from the immune system, which could be from natural exposure or from a

vaccination. Since a titre test can check for immunity, it has been suggested that it can be used to determine if a booster vaccination is required, rather than giving annual vaccinations regardless of the level of immunity.

The Kennel Club is not a veterinary organisation and is therefore unable to provide veterinary guidance on the use of titre tests, instead you may wish to talk to your local vet. Further information on titre testing can be found on the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Guidelines for the Vaccination of Dogs and Cats (found in the section on 'Questions about the use of serological testing' at the following address:

<http://www.wsava.org/sites/default/files/WSAVA%20Vaccination%20Guidelines%202015%20Full%20Version.pdf>).

Useful references

Guidelines for the vaccination of dogs and cats compiled by the vaccination guidelines group (VGG) of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). Journal of Small Animal Practice. Vol 51. June 2010

www.wsava.org/sites/default/files/VaccinationGuidelines2010.pdf

Vaccination guidelines for new puppy owners World Small Animal Veterinary Association, Vaccination Guidelines Group (2013)

www.wsava.org/sites/default/files/New%20Puppy%20Owner%20Vaccination%20Guidelines%20Updated%20July%2029%202013.pdf

YOUR DOG AND THE CAR

There are no laws relating to carrying domestic pets in your car in the UK but there is advice in the Highway Code - Rule 57 says:

"When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves, if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, pet carrier, dog cage or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars."

Something that the Code doesn't say is 'keep a firm hold of your dog's lead when getting in and out of the car'.

This one might sound like common sense but it's amazing how many people don't follow this advice. Clearly if you're in your driveway, or somewhere without any moving traffic, perhaps the beach or similar, allowing your dog to jump freely in and out of the car is not a major problem, but if you're the side of a busy road it only takes a moment for disaster to happen.

REMEMBER – Dogs can die very quickly in a hot car, caravan or glass conservatory. When it's 22°C/72°F outside, the temperature inside a car can soar to 47°C/117°F within 60 minutes. SO, NEVER leave your dog alone in these environments on a hot day. Always make sure water is regularly available to a dog when they travel. Heat stroke kills.

Under the Animal Welfare Act you have a legal duty to care for your animal and if you put your animal at risk, you could face prosecution. You would also have to live with the fact that your actions resulted in terrible suffering for your pet.

Labrador Retrievers

BREED SPECIFIC ADVICE

The UK's favourite breed has come a long way from its hard-working Newfoundland roots, but today's Labrador still makes a reliable working dog because the breed is active, eager and easy to train. They adore getting wet and are naturally efficient swimmers, but their double coat is soon dried with a good shake. For a good-natured family pet, the Labrador is a sensible choice.

Vital Stats

Breed Group:	Gundog Labradors are gundogs, bred to flush out, locate or retrieve game shot down by hunters. They are usually highly trainable, keen to please and have a balanced, pleasant temperament
Vulnerable Native Breed:	No
Size:	Large (53cm – 60cm)
How much exercise?	More than 2 hours per day for adult dogs
Length of coat:	Short
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?*	Yes
Town or Country:	Either
Type of home:	Large House
Minimum Garden Size:	Large
Lifespan:	10-12 years

** If you are asthmatic or have an allergy, you should consult your medical advisor before considering obtaining a dog.*

Behaviour & Personality

Labradors are naturally very playful and affectionate dogs, well into their senior years; you'll find they're easy-going, rewarding pets with high energy levels, meaning they love extra attention and exercise. Labradors are playful and intelligent, with a warm, friendly temperament that makes them ideal for first-time owners. They make excellent companions, as well as assistance dogs. Labradors do well with both sole owners or as a part of a family, and get on well with children and other pets. They are energetic, mostly placid, and cope well with the hustle and bustle of modern life.

As puppies they are clownish and goofy and are known to keep their owners amazed at the funny things that they do. They are also very pronounced chewers and mouth objects longer than other breeds. Providing a Lab puppy and dog with a lot of different types of chewing toys is important in preventing a major disaster when the puppy is left alone. Although most Labs are through the chewing stage by about one year of age, they are always dogs that mouth objects and tend to carry things around with them. They are known for piling their toys all-together and even constantly carrying a ball when they are out on walks. Maddie, Bella and Daisy are never without something in their mouths as they walks!

The Labrador Retriever is an excellent hunting dog and is one of the best at retrieving fallen birds. They carry this natural instinct into any type of game, making them wonderful at teaching fetch and retrieving commands. The Lab is highly work oriented and will continue to fetch and retrieve as long as people will keep throwing. They have

to be taught an "enough" command so that they stop the activity before they become a pest or a nuisance.

While not prone to barking the Lab will bark to sound the alarm that strangers are approaching. They typically, however, only go as far as barking and are not known as effective protection or guard dogs. Often the Lab is too eager to make another friend and welcome company to be a serious guard dog. However, Labs can, if provoked, defend themselves, their families and their territory. Our thirteen year old Lab saved us from being burgled one night by barking at an intruder who had climbed in through an open window! (whilst we were waiting for the Police to arrive our Lab tried to befriend the burglar and would have gladly made him a cup of tea if she could). True story!

Most Labs, as a very general statement, are low on the scale of dog-aggression. Intact male Labs, as with any breed, are typically the most aggressive and then only if female dogs in heat are present. Even though the Lab is dog friendly they still need routine, frequent socialization as they mature and once they are fully-grown. This constant socialization prevents any tendency of possessive, aggressive or territorial behaviour from developing. Since Labs are such dog friendly dogs they are ideal for work in public settings such as those required by guide, assistance and therapy dogs.

Labs, in general, also get along very well with cats and other household pets. Some Labs may not be suitable for houses with small rodent type pets; however, there are few breeds of dogs that make a good match for these types of pets. Labs that are raised with cats or kittens become very affectionate towards the cats and may play and interact with friendly felines on a regular basis. They can be taught not to chase however some may still engage in this type of behaviour if not routinely trained and worked with.

The Lab is a relatively high-energy puppy but will become less rambunctious as he or she matures. They do stay an above average activity level dog all their lives, however the Lab can get his or her exercise from one or two brisk moderately long walks per day combined with obedience work and a few games. They love being outdoors in all types of weather and are terrific walking, hiking, jogging and just being outside with the family types of dogs. The Lab can tolerate both heat and cold provided they have appropriate shelter from the elements. While they can be an outdoors dog they really do prefer to be inside with their family whenever people are home.

Labs are outstanding with children if they have been raised with kids, properly socialized and are obedience trained. Although naturally very playful they can also be too rambunctious and prone to knocking smaller children down in play if they are not properly trained. The Lab is very willing to work with children and typically, once trained, will respond to kids as well as to adults in the family without any hesitation. Some Labs, like some people, are a bit more independent but this is not typically a huge issue with training this breed.

Some Labs are prone to digging and, like dogs that do dig, can become escape artists from most fences. Thankfully, however, most Labs, especially if they are spayed or neutered, don't have a huge need to roam and wander. This aspect of the dog's personality has made them a popular farm dog where they may not be inside a fenced yard and rather stay close to the home because of their desire to be with the people they know.

The Lab is really a playful, outgoing and very extroverted type of dog. They are always willing to go for a walk or jog, and they are especially fond of water. A Lab will go swimming whenever he or she gets the chance, and most will make a beeline for any body of water, no matter how mucky or swampy, as soon as they see it. As a dog bred for water work, this is a trait that is as much a part of the Lab personality as their friendly behaviour. Some Labs are slightly to moderately intolerant of heat, but this is not common for most healthy, in shape dogs. Older and obese Labs, which can be a problem with the breed as they age, are more likely to have difficulty in extreme heat and humidity.

Health & Nutrition

Keeping an eye on your Labrador's weight is crucial to their health, especially as they can be prone to gaining a few extra pounds. The right balance of calories, protein, minerals and vitamins is important for your Labrador puppy. Vets recommend that Labrador puppies receive dog food that's specially formulated for a fast-growing large breed, which can help prevent joint disease as they develop.

An adult Labrador Retriever should be fed two portions of high-quality pet food a day. If in doubt, follow the recommended amount on their food packaging and try to keep food rewards and treats to a minimum.

As a dog owner you will want what's best for your pet's health so they can live a long, happy life. Like all breeds, Labradors are prone to certain health conditions. To help you be more aware and prepared for these potential ailments if they should arise, here are the health issues most common in Labradors.

SKIN CONDITIONS: The skin is the largest organ of a dog's body and a number of disorders can affect it. Like other dogs, Labradors can suffer from allergies that lead to dermatitis (skin inflammation). Allergies can be caused by many different items, including things that are inhaled (such as pollen or dust mites), items that are eaten (for example, wheat), items that the dog comes into contact with (for example, washing powders), or bites from parasites such as fleas. Another skin problem, pyoderma (meaning 'infection of the skin') is usually caused by bacteria, fungi ('ringworm') or yeasts. Skin disorders can be managed using various treatments, usually required long-term, which means the dog can get on with enjoying life.

HIP & ELBOW DYSPLASIA: Larger breeds like the Labrador can be prone to hip and elbow dysplasia. This develops when the bones that form the hip or elbow joint develop abnormalities in the cartilage that lines the surface of the joint or structures around it. This leads to the development of arthritis, which shows as stiffness (especially after lying down), and a reluctance to exercise or go up and down stairs. Long-term treatment or surgery will be required to keep the dog active.

LUMBS & BUMPS: Like all dogs, Labradors can develop masses (lumps and bumps) in the layers of fat, skin and muscle that cover their bodies. These might be warts, cysts, abscesses, lipomas or tumours, such as mast cell tumours. Mast cells are normal skin cells that help dogs respond to trauma and damage by releasing histamine. However, these cells can sometimes replicate into a serious type of tumour called a mast cell tumour. They vary widely in size and shape, but most take the form of a solitary lump within the skin. Lipomas are benign (non-cancerous), slow-growing fatty lumps. Generally, treatment depends on the size, location and exact nature of the lump, but almost always involves surgical removal.

GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS: Labradors, like all dogs, can suffer from problems affecting the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. The GI tract is a long, winding tube that starts at the mouth and ends at the anus, with various twists and turns along the way. Conditions such as gastroenteritis or an obstruction within the bowel (due the dog to eating stones, cloth or string, for example) commonly cause vomiting and/or diarrhoea. Because of their big appetites, Labradors are particularly prone to eating things they shouldn't, in which case veterinary advice should be quickly sought. Surgical removal of obstructions usually means a dog will go on to lead a normal life.

CRUCIATE LIGAMENT RUPTURE: All breeds of dog are susceptible to cruciate ligament damage. A dog's cruciate ligaments cross inside the knee joint and hold it stable. These ligaments can fray and rupture, leading to a lack of stability in the knee. Rupture can occur as a result of a physical injury, such as landing awkwardly when running and jumping. It can also happen more gradually, where the ligament slowly degenerates and weakens over time, particularly if the dog is overweight. Treatment usually takes the form of surgery to stabilise the knee joint.

***THANK YOU** to PetPlan for providing some of this information (<https://www.petplan.co.uk/pet-information/dog/breed/labrador/>). I'm sure they would be delighted to give you a quote for pet insurance!*

HISTORY

Labrador Retrievers belong to the Gundog group of dogs and are currently one of the most popular dog breeds, both in the United Kingdom and in the United States according to the number of dog ownership registrations. Known for being the 'Andrex' puppy today, the Labrador's origin goes back over 200 years, not to Labrador in Canada as many think, but to nearby Newfoundland. The modern day Labrador retriever is descended from the 'St Johns' dog. This name was used as early as the 1500's. Some even call these dogs Newfoundland dogs because two breeds of working dogs were present in the region at that time: the Greater Newfoundland and the Lesser Newfoundland or St. John's dog. The Greater Newfoundland was used mainly to haul carts loaded with 200 to 300 pounds of fishes. These dogs were really big and had a coat that was both longer and tickier than that of the Lesser Newfoundland or St. John's dog. The Lesser Newfoundland or St. John's dog accompanied fishermen to help in their fishing occupation. These dogs would get into the often icy water and bring back fishes that had fallen off from the fishermen's hooks. They would also haul fishing nets in the water. The Lesser Newfoundland or St. John's dog had a coat that can repelled water and could stand the coldness of the winter sea. The Lesser Newfoundland or St. John's dog also had webbed paws that they used for swimming. It is the Lesser Newfoundland/ St. John's dog that is believed to be the ancestor of the Labrador breed we can see nowadays. The history of the Labrador retriever is therefore also the history of the Lesser Newfoundland/St. John's dog. These fishermen's dogs were noted for their love of water and of retrieving and for their excellent temperament. As a result they soon became popular hunting and sporting dogs too.

An important step in the history of Labrador Retriever was taken in the early 1800's when the first St. John's dogs were imported to Poole, England by the 2nd Earl of Malmesbury. He saw what these dogs could do and instantly liked them. He began calling them his Labrador Dogs. He might have got the name from Labrador which is located at the northwest of Newfoundland. As early as 1809, the Earl of Malmesbury started using St. John's dog in England for shooting sports. a few years later another was set up by the 5th Duke of Buccleuch. These enthusiasts were important influences in the history of the Labrador. They bred and imported some more St Johns dogs, but not in any great numbers and the breed would probably have died out had it not been for a chance meeting between their sons in the late 1800s. As a result of the meeting between the 3rd Earl of Malmesbury and the 6th Duke of Buccleuch, and the gift of some breeding stock from Malmesbury to Buccleuch, a successful breeding program was established at the Buccleuch Kennels in Scotland in the 1880s. The Buccleuch breeding program was the foundation of the modern working Labrador Retrievers we know and love, and is still going strong today!

In 1903 the English Kennel Club acknowledged the Labrador retriever as a separate pedigree breed. It would take until 1917 before the American Kennel Club in the United States also recognized the breed. Labrador retrievers gained popularity during the 1920's and 1930's and the breed has become increasing popular over the succeeding generations, as a service dog, family pet and favourite all round shooting companion.

ENDORSEMENTS

Under Kennel Club regulations, there are two endorsements that may be placed on a dog's record, by the registered owner of a dog, whilst the dog in question is still in their possession. A breeder, therefore, is entitled to place two endorsements on a puppy's record with the Kennel Club: One restricts registration of any of its future offspring (progeny) and the other prevents the issue of an export pedigree.

Your dog is subject to the following Kennel Club endorsements:

Endorsement 'R' ("Progeny Not Eligible For Registration")

This does not prevent a dog being bred from, but it does prevent this dog's progeny from being registered at the Kennel Club.

Endorsements can only be lifted by the person who placed them (i.e. ourselves as breeders). We would need to send a written & signed instruction to this effect to the Kennel Club.

We will lift this endorsement on your request if we are satisfied that:

- The best interests of the Dog have been considered
- The Dog is over two-years old and under six-years old
- The Dog has a proven hip score of 10 or lower
- The Dog has zero elbow scores
- The Dog has undergone satisfactory DNA testing
- The Dog has clear eyes

There is a significant financial commitment to breeding – it could cost up to £1,000 just have the initial tests carried out even before you know whether your dog is suitable for breeding or not. Stud fees, and other costs could easily add another £1,000 of expenses before you have even the prospect of a financial return. Add to that vets fees, registration fees, puppy food, etc.... and you're looking at a lot of outlay. We say this to discourage breeding for profit; if you do it right there is very little! If you want to breed then do it because you love dogs and love the breed. It's hard work but a great experience and very rewarding – we'll help and support you as best as we can if you choose to have a go.

FINALLY

To sum up:-

- Your dog will thrive if he/she feels safe and knows what the boundaries are in relation to food, bed time, toys and toileting.
- Play time, exercise, food and water are essential to all dogs.
- Have fun and be patient and your dog will be happy and learn fast.
- Always use positive reinforcement and never smack as this only leads to aggression, confusion or anxiety which in turn leads to behavioural problems
- We are always available for any advice or guidance; just give us a call and we will do whatever we can to help you.

ABOVE ALL THINGS - ENJOY YOUR DOG



ALWAYS HAPPY TO OFFER ADVICE POST SALE.

Mel Barnes
Derwent Spire Labradors

Tel: 01246 567534
Mel: 07926 629161



THE KENNEL CLUB

ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME

Contract for the sale and purchase of a puppy

1. PUPPY DETAILS

Breed: Retriever (Labrador)

Date of birth: _____

Sex: _____

Colour: Yellow

Kennel Club registered name of Dog: Derwentspire _____

Kennel Club registration number: _____

Microchip Number: _____

This is to confirm that the sale of the dog described above ("the Puppy") is between:

2. DETAILS OF PARTIES

Seller's name: Mrs Melanie Barnes
Seller's address: 674, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S40 3NU
Seller's telephone number: (01246) 567634

and

Buyer's name(s): _____

Buyer's address: _____

Buyer's telephone number: _____

Definitions

- **“Puppy Information Pack”** means the puppy information pack that sets out the Dog Health Information and Future Health and Welfare Needs and forms part of this agreement.
- **“Dog Health Information”** means the information about the Puppy, its parent and grandparents, and these animals’ health and temperament.
- **“Good Health”** means a condition of health free of parasites and hereditary disorders and of reasonably sound physical condition and temperament.
- **“Future Health and Welfare Needs”** means the measure that should be taken to ensure that the Puppy is and remains in Good Health and is properly housed, fed, watered, trained, socialised and exercised and that it receives appropriate veterinary attention. “Seller” means the seller of the Puppy defined above, whether or not the breeder of the Puppy

3. The Seller warrants:

3.1 That if the Buyer has previously selected the Puppy from a litter or in any other circumstances, that the Puppy sold under this contract is the puppy that the Buyer has previously selected.

3.2 That the genetic health checks and health screening set out in the Puppy Information Pack have been carried out on the Puppy’s parents and explanation of what this means for the puppy is provided in the Puppy Information Pack.

3.3 That the Puppy is not the result of a mating of two dogs related within two generations.

3.4 That the Puppy is in Good Health, other than as is outlined in the Schedule and as the Seller specifically informs the Buyer before the date of sale.

3.5 That he/she has supplied the Puppy Information Pack prior to the Buyer viewing the Puppy or a reasonable period in advance of the Buyer’s decision to buy the Puppy and has communicated to the Buyer within the Puppy Information Pack:

- a) the possible consequences of buying the Puppy given the Dog Health Information, the genetic health checks and health screening carried out under **clause 3.2** and the particular considerations that are likely to affect the puppy given its breed;
- b) the meaning of any Kennel Club endorsement;
- c) the measures that should be taken, whether by neutering, contraception or otherwise, to guard against unwanted pregnancy; and
- d) the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy

3.6 That the information contained in the Puppy Information Pack, supplied to the Buyer under clause 3.5 above is accurate and materially complete (to the best of the Seller’s knowledge and belief where the information is supplied by a third party) and all diagnostic tests for the Puppy have been undertaken as recorded in the Dog Health Information and that reasonable care and skill is and/or will be

used when explaining to the Buyer the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy and any advice or recommendations provided under clause 4.5 below.

3.7 That he/she is a certified member of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme, he/she has adhered to the Standard and all requirements and recommendations under the Scheme as set out at:

http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/726864/abs_standard.pdf

and/or as provided to the Buyer.

3.8 That he/she, having made reasonable enquiries of the Buyer, in good faith believes that the Buyer is able to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.

3.9 That the Puppy is more than 8 weeks old at the date of sale.

3.10 That the Puppy has received adequate care and that the Seller has provided it with the opportunity to socialise with dogs, humans and other animals it is likely to come into contact with and it has experienced and become accustomed to the sounds and experiences of typical family life.

3.11 That, any pedigree indicated for the Puppy is correct. Where appropriate, the Seller will provide the Buyer with all relevant registration papers and pedigree certificate within one month of the date of sale, or as soon as it is available.

4. The Buyer warrants:

4.1 That he/she has read and understands the information provided to him/her under **clauses 3.2-3.5** above and contained in the Puppy Information Pack.

4.2 That he/she in good faith believes that he/she will be able, and intends, to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.

4.3 That neither he/she nor any member of his/her household has been cautioned for or convicted of any breach of animal welfare law such as neglect, cruelty or abandonment.

4.4 That he/she shall not breach the terms of any Kennel Club endorsement.

4.5 That in the event that he/she is no longer able or willing to provide a home for the Puppy or otherwise to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs he/she will contact the Seller and have regard to any advice and recommendations that the Seller provides, including return of the Puppy at the option of the Seller.

4.6 That he/she is purchasing the Puppy for himself/herself and not as agent for a third party.

5. Both Buyer and Seller agree and understand:

5.1 That the Puppy is a living creature with interests independent of both Buyer and Seller.

5.2 That the Buyer may suffer distress and inconvenience as a result of the Puppy suffering pain or discomfort and one purpose of the Seller's warranties is to reduce or avoid such distress and inconvenience.

5.3 The Buyer shall be entitled to recover from the Seller his reasonable veterinary fees and costs to treat a serious disorder suffered by the Puppy that relates to a breach of any of the Seller's warranties.

5.4 Nothing in this contract affects the Buyer's statutory rights including any warranty of satisfactory quality of the Puppy implied by sale of goods legislation or other law.

5.5 The Buyer agrees to take the Puppy to their vet, soon after purchase, for a general health check and advice on inoculations and worming.

4. Date, Declarations and Signatures:

DATE OF SALE AND PURCHASE: _____

PURCHASE PRICE RECEIVED BY SELLER: £900

Buyer: By signing this contract I agree and understand that I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Seller: By signing this contract I agree and understand that I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

SCHEDULE (delete if not applicable)



THE KENNEL CLUB

ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME

Addendum to
Contract for the sale and purchase of a puppy

1. ENDORSEMENTS

Under Kennel Club regulations, there are two endorsements that may be placed on a dog's record, by the registered owner of a dog, whilst the dog in question is still in their possession. A breeder, therefore, is entitled to place two endorsements on a puppy's record with the Kennel Club; one restricts registration of any of the Puppy's future offspring (progeny) and the other prevents the issue of an export pedigree for the Puppy.

This Puppy is subject to the following Kennel Club endorsements:

R Progeny not eligible for registration

X Not eligible for the issue of an Export Pedigree

Endorsements can only be lifted by the breeder who placed them, and the breeder would need to send a written and signed instruction to this effect to the Kennel Club.

The Buyer hereby acknowledges any endorsements detailed above have been fully explained.

Buyer:

Signed:.....Date:.....

2. VETERINARY CHECK

The Seller has taken every care with the breeding, rearing and welfare of the Puppy. The Seller makes no warranty however as to the long-term health or disposition of the Puppy. Every effort has been made to avoid any possible inherited conditions.

Relevant, existing screening schemes have been used and copies of relevant screening results have been provided.

The Puppy has been checked by a veterinary surgeon prior to sale. Although no warranty can be given on the future health of the puppy, the outcome of that check has been passed on to the Buyer together with the details of the veterinary surgeon who carried it out.

Date Puppy checked: _____

Prime Veterinary Practice

93 Newbold Road, Chesterfield, S41 7PS

The Seller hereby confirms that any faults or defects in the Puppy, as identified by themselves or during veterinary examination, have been outlined in the Schedule above.

The Buyer hereby acknowledges any faults or defects in the Puppy, as identified by the Seller or during veterinary examination, and as outlined in the Schedule above.

Seller:

Signed:Date:.....

Buyer:

Signed:.....Date:.....



THE KENNEL CLUB

ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME

The Kennel Club aims to promote the health, happiness and general wellbeing of all dogs, and to provide you with an invaluable resource for every aspect of life with your dog.

To find out more, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk

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