

Hello Puppy Moms and Dads!

It won't be long before your new baby will be home! On my website you find articles about puppy training and also a Q&A section.

Please contact me to schedule your puppy's pick up date. We ask all puppies be picked up no later than 8.5 weeks old.

The final payment is due upon pick up. We can accept Zelle, Venmo or cash without any processing fees. We can also take a credit card, but we unfortunately have to add a 3% fee that goes to the processing company.

If your puppy is being shipped or delivered out of state, we ask that you pay online 10 days prior to delivery.

I will email you an email containing the Purchase Agreement via Docusign. Let me know if you have any issues with it. When you pick up your puppy you'll get a paper version puppy's AKC registration form, your puppies first shot record, vet record and some food to take home and either a toy or a towel with a familiar scent of mama on it.

Here's what you'll need to prepare for your puppy's arrival:

1. **Wire dog crate.** You can buy this at Walmart for about \$75.00. The length of the crate should be 42" for average sized standards (40-60lbs) For intervariety poodles (mom is a standard, dad is a mini) I'd recommend a 36" crate, and for moyens (20 or so lbs) I recommend 30"-32". What I have learned is this is not a time to go cheap because you'll use this crate for a long time. You can try looking on www.craigslist.com, yards sales or the newspaper for used crates. I suggest you get the collapsible kind for easy storage. You can also try Ryan's Pet Supply. This is a wholesale supplier and not a regular store, when you visit, it is set up like a warehouse. Their website is www.ryanspet.com. You need to make sure that the crate has a puppy divider. It's a wire piece that goes in the middle of the crate so you can make the crate smaller. When you first put your puppy in you will need to make the crate just big enough for them to turn around in. If it's small, their "den instinct" will kick in and they will not want to go to the bathroom in their den. See the potty training article on my website that will outline this in more detail. * Never put your crate on carpet, if the dog has an accident it will most likely splash over *



2. Metal Exercise Pen. I love using exercise pens to keep puppies in a safe place that is larger than a crate and allows them more room to play. These pens are also useful for separating rooms. I like to use them to keep my dogs just in the kitchen which is close to the back door. I have a video on my website about teaching your puppy to stay calm in an exercise pen.



3. A Few Towels or Blankets for inside the crate. I recommend buying some white bath towels for the “bed” in the crate, you can buy them at Walmart for \$2.00. Then if the dog has an accident you can bleach it. You should get more than one, that way if the dog has an accident you have spares. Do not use towels with holes or towels that are ripping. Small puppies can get their heads stuck in the holes or swallow pieces of it if the towel has strings on it. I do not recommend buying an expensive dog bed and putting it in the crate. It will most likely be chewed on at some point during your puppy’s babyhood. This is what happens when you buy a dog bed for a puppy or young adult.



4. **Dog dishes.** I like the stainless steel bowls that are bottom heavy. I recommend feeding your puppy in his crate. But I do not put water in the crate because it will inevitably be dumped out.



5. **Collar and Leash.** The first collar I buy is an adjustable collar like this. Think about cat size. When you take your puppy home his neck will be approximately 8" for standard poodles and about 5" for moyens and intervariety. An adjustable collar like this will last a long time.



For leashes, I like to buy a 6' very, very thin leash. Even as your dog grows to full size, you'll need a thin 6' leash for training anyway. I don't like the very thick leashes. You're not walking a tiger. Even for my full grown adults I use the thinnest 6' leash I can find.

When the puppy starts going to for walks, I like the martingale collars or no-slip collars, you can find them at Petsmart. The martingale collars are mostly material with a little bit of chain, they are good for puppy obedience classes. If you ask a trainer at Petsmart they can point you in the right direction. These collars may be located in the “training” section at the pet retailer, not the collar section.



It's a good idea to have one collar for wearing in the house and another collar to wear during walks. Puppies can tend to buck or back out of collars when learning how to walk on a leash. The no slip collars prevent puppies from backing right out of the collar and getting away. You should also get a dog tag. I recommend that you write REWARD and then your phone number. Keep in mind that it may not be safe to leave the collar on when the dog is in the crate and you're not home. The collar could get stuck on the bars and the dog could choke. I prefer dog tags that are flat and nailed onto the collar so they do not dangle at all. These flat tags are available at Petsmart and Petco.



6. Resolve Carpet Cleaner (NOT the pet kind, just the regular kind in a red spray bottle) If your little baby has an accident , absorb as much of it as possible with a dry cloth. I pour some warm water on it to dilute the urine. Soak all of that up with a dry cloth. After you've absorbed as much as possible, spray the Resolve on it, let it sit for minute and soak it all up with a dry towel. The Resolve specified to pets took the color out of my rugs but the regular Resolve works fine, of course you should test it in a corner or closet to make sure it does not remove the color of your carpet.

7. Dog Food. The puppies are now eating Diamond Naturals Lamb & Rice. This food is available at Pet Club, Chewy.com and Amazon.

I will send you home with a baggie of food, so that you can switch it to a different brand if you like. Avoid food with corn, it is a cheap filler that dogs don't need. If you choose to switch the puppies to a different brand, give them 75% old food and 25% new food and make the switch over 5 days. I recommend you talk to your vet and do your own research on which food is best for your puppy as he/she grows throughout life. I am not married to one brand of food forever. Do what works for you and your family.

9. Brushes & Nail clippers

For brushes, I recommend a steel comb and a slicker brush. Ask me to show you how to use them.



When puppies are young, I use large human nail clippers and they work very well!!! Once they get older you'll need dog nail clippers. Ask your groomer to show you how to cut nails.

This is the style of nail clipper I prefer



10. Shampoo & Conditioner

I wish I had a good shampoo and conditioner to recommend to you, but the truth is when my human

babies were little I started using the human baby shampoo and conditioner in-one on my puppies! It is inexpensive and gentle. You need something tear free. I like to add some water to the bottle because it helps spread the soap out more evenly when you wash.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is Limited AKC registration?

When puppies are sold with "limited" registration, it means that you will get AKC registration puppy registration papers, and when you register your puppy you will receive a certificate saying you own the dog, and if you pay extra, you will receive an AKC pedigree. The only difference between "full" and "limited" is that if you breed a dog with "limited" registration, the AKC will not register any progeny. Puppies sold with "limited" registration are not to be bred, whether it be to registered dogs, mixed breed dogs or to create "designer" dogs like goldendoodles. You can read about "limited" registration here. <http://www.akc.org/register/information/limited-registration/>

How often should I feed my puppy?

I would start with feeding 3 times a day for the first week or so, as they are adjusting to their new home. You can consult your vet and do your own research about how best to feed them. Keep in mind, if you feed your puppy 3 times a day he will probably poop 3 times a day. If you feed your puppy at 10pm you're going to find a poop in the crate by midnight. Puppies will most likely poop within 30-60 minutes of eating if they are exercising. After the first week or so of having your puppy you can change the schedule to twice a day. If your puppy seems to be uninterested in food or losing weight, try moistening their food with chicken broth. It's not a bad idea to buy a dog pro-biotic. Yogurt doesn't contain the correct pro-biotics for dogs, but you can buy a dog appropriate one on Amazon or Chewy.

How much should I feed my puppy?

Consult the instructions on the bag of dog food you buy. When it comes to dry kibble, I personally don't measure. I just go by feel because I've been doing it a long time. I don't measure MY food, and I don't measure my kid's food. I just go by what feels right. A good rule of thumb is see what puppies eat within 15 minutes, remove the rest. If puppies over eat they may get loose stool. If you see loose stool try reducing the amount of food. Also refer to my document on Loose Stools.

I'm going out of town soon, can you watch my puppy?

Unfortunately, we are not able to board puppies. Even after a few weeks puppies have often forgotten their first home and are startled by all the adults dogs at my house. They also tend to cry at night and keep us up! We just aren't set up to accommodate visiting dogs. Additionally, I have to keep as sterile an environment as possible. If you take a dog off of my property and it picks up a parasite or contagious disease and brings it back here, we're in big trouble.

The best thing to do when you're going out of town and you have a puppy, is have a friend watch him. Young puppies shouldn't go to boarding facilities until they have been fully vaccinated.

I recommend Top Dog Training in Gilbert. <http://www.topdogaz.com/>

Can you hold on to my puppy after 8 weeks?

We will hold a puppy until he is 8.5 weeks. We expect you to change your schedule and not plan trips for the week your puppy is going home. If you cannot pick up your puppy by 8 weeks. You must ask if we are available to hold the puppy longer. We reserve the right to cancel a purchase and keep your deposit if you cannot pick up your puppy by 8.5 weeks. If we agree to hold a puppy later than 8.5 weeks, we charge \$30 a day until he is picked up. This fee includes grooming, additional vaccinations, food and boarding. We must have a pick up date pre-arranged and we reserve the right to decline a puppy hold. The reason we put this policy in place is because people were putting a deposit on a puppy and then going out of town for a month and not picking up their puppy!

What should I do when I get my puppy home?

When you first arrive home, carry your puppy straight to the backyard and encourage them to go to the bathroom. Also give them water. I often will remove water for a few hours before you pick up your puppy in order to decrease the chances of them having an accident in the car. The more they run and get exercise, the sooner they'll go pee. Once they go to the bathroom you can play inside for awhile. I would take them out again in half an hour. When they're loose in the house they should be taken out every half an hour or even more often. When the puppy starts to lay down in the house and act tired, put them in the crate and let them go to sleep. They may go right to sleep, they may cry. No matter what, DON'T TAKE THEM OUT OF THE CRATE WHILE THEY'RE CRYING. They will remember this and cry even more!! Every time the dog comes out of the crate he goes straight to the backyard. We have articles on our website on how to introduce puppies to your adult dog.

Who is Your Dog Trainer?

The trainer that I have used and recommend is Top Dog in Gilbert. Top Dog can be reached at 480-650-1650. <http://www.topdogaz.com/>

Who is Your Groomer? What do I do about ear hair?

I use 4 Paws Pet Resort in Mesa, their website is <http://www.4pawspetresort.com/> they do an EXCELLENT job but they are not cheap. If you are looking for inexpensive grooming, try Petsmart or Petco. They do not do nearly as good of a job, but will be less expensive. You can also try alternating between grooming them yourself and taking them in. If you do groom yourself, don't forget about the ears! The hair in a poodle's ear grows in the ear canal and if not removed can cause yeast to grow, giving the dog an ear infection. When a poodle is groomed, (every 4-8 weeks) the groomer will remove the hair. If you groom yourself you can take them to Petco (not Petsmart) and they will remove the hair for under \$20. I recommend that you take your puppy in for their first ear hair pulling by the time they are 12 weeks old, and every four-six weeks after that. You can ask your vet about this, but make sure that they are familiar with the breed. Standard poodles can be prone to ear infection if the ear hair is allowed to grow too long. Prevention is the best medicine.

When should I take my puppy in for his first grooming?

I recommend that you take your puppy to the groomer to have his ears looked at when he is 12 weeks old. Standard poodles have hair that grows inside the ear canal. As the puppy ages the ear hair will start to block the flow of air into the ear, causing a build up of yeast and bacteria. Eventually that hair will need to be plucked by a groomer. When you take your puppy in for their first ear hair pluck you should be able to do a walk in to the groomer, or call and tell them that you are only wanting his ear hair pulled. You shouldn't need to drop him off and leave him for an ear hair pulling.

For a full service groom, it is up to your discretion. If you want to let his hair grow long but just want his face and feet shaved you can ask your groomer if they will just do face, feet and rear end for you. Poodle hair grows EVERYWHERE. So eventually his rear will need to be trimmed or poo will get stuck in the fur. You can always trim his rear with scissors.

How Often Should I Bathe My Puppy?

This just depends on how dirty they get. There is chance that you can dry out their skin by overwashing, but you would have to be washing them A LOT for that to happen. If you don't think they're dirty, don't wash them. If they are too dirty to snuggle them, wash them. Don't overthink it!

Should I Spay or Neuter and when?

I have recently changed my stance on this. I am now recommending that you wait until your dog is 18-24 months to spay or neuter. Research is showing that early spay and neuter can increase the risk of hip dysplasia by 70%.

- Early spay/neuter causes loss of bone mass.
- Dogs who are spayed/neutered before 6 months have a 70% increased risk of developing hip dysplasia.
Dogs who are spayed/neutered at all are twice as likely to develop bone and other cancers.
- Dogs who are spayed/neutered too early have an increased chance of developing undesirable behavioral issues such as phobias, fear aggression and reactivity.
- Early spay/neuter triples the risk of developing hypothyroidism and becoming obese.

<https://rockysretreat.com/early-spay-neuter/>

I encourage you to do your own research and talk to your vet. The primary reason that spay/neuter is pushed is to prevent pet overpopulation. I understand that when thinking of the entire population of dogs in America, you must preach to the entire community as if they were the ones most at risk. But if you feel that you can control your dog from unwanted breeding, I recommend waiting as long as possible.

I have had a few puppy owners tell me that their vet has wanted \$500.00- \$1000.00 for a spay/neuter and I think that is way too much money. Recently I have used the Spay Neuter Clinic and Niki's Place. They have discounted spay/neuter surgeries and they also do shots and micro chipping for a fraction of the cost of a regular vet. They have offices, in Phoenix, Mesa, Chandler and Tempe. Their websites are www.spayaz.com <https://nikisplace.com/>

Who is Your Personal Vet?

My vet is Dr. Tom Caldwell based in Tempe. He comes to my house to treat my dogs. He is semi-retired and he's not taking new clients. I also use Arizona Animal Wellness Center at <http://www.arizonaanimalwellnesscenter.com/> and Cornerstone Animal Hospital (480) 857-9229

When Does My Puppy Need Shots and How Many?

Most vets recommend that your dog has four rounds of puppy shots (distemper, parvo, adenovirus, parainfluenza) . I vaccinate puppies at 7 weeks of age. The puppies second shot is due 3 weeks form the date the first shot was received. Keep in mind different vets may have slightly different protocols. I PERSONALLY give my dogs 4 rounds of puppy shots at 7 weeks, 10 weeks, 13 weeks and 16 weeks. Then I get them a rabies shot at 16 weeks as well.

Most vets will charge you an office visit fee, PLUS the cost of the vaccine. This may end up costing you \$100-\$150 by the time you are out the door. If you use a vaccine clinic, they will only charge you for the vaccine. Petco has a vaccine clinic called "Vetco" and the price for puppy vaccines is around \$33. <https://www.vetcoclinics.com/services-and-clinics/clinic-locations-and-schedules-ip/> Niki's Place in Gilbert also does vaccines.

What is required by law concerning vaccines?

Rabies is the only vaccine that is required by the state of Arizona at 4 months. This shot will be good for one year. The second rabies shot is good for three years. Once your dog has had a rabies shot they can be registered with Maricopa County. You can contact Maricopa County Animal Care and Control for details about that.

Will the mama dog miss her puppies?

In a word, no. Normally by 8 weeks mom is annoyed and looking forward to her puppies being gone! Mama dogs are very happy in the house with the people, much more so then trapped with little puppies who are constantly biting her and trying to nurse.

How can I socialize my puppy?

There is a little misconception about socialization. Many people think that they need to allow their puppy to play with other dogs. This is not really necessary. Strange dogs can also be dangerous to young puppies. Adult dogs are often grumpy and annoyed by puppies, and all dogs may be carrying a contagious disease. I would not stress about trying to provide opportunities for your puppy to play with other dogs. What you really need to do is expose your puppy to new environments, new noises and things he's never seen before.

I take my puppies for lots of car rides, Starbucks patios, Home Depot and Lowes and any place that allows dogs. When puppies are not fully vaccinated (under 16 weeks) you want to avoid high traffic dog areas like the dog park, public parks and the vet's office. Keep your pup from sniffing and/or eating dog waste. You'd be surprised at what young puppies find appetizing.....

It's very important that puppies are taken everywhere you go, as much as possible. By doing this you are ensuring that you will have a dog that is comfortable in all sorts of environments.

How should I introduce my puppy to my adult dog?

There is never a need to rush this introduction. I recommend starting by keeping the puppy and the existing dog separated. They can smell each other from across the room. As the new puppy's "mom" it is your job to create a boundary and protect the puppy. Mama dogs naturally will set a boundary to other dogs and tell the other dogs "Come no further." This is your role. The puppy is your cub and you will tell the other dogs, "Come no further." Although this may seem harsh from a human perspective, from a dog perspective this is natural, normal, and necessary for safety. The existing dog will realize that this is your cub and is now a part of the pack. If your existing dog does not obey your boundary, you will need to use a fence or exercise pen to separate them, or keep the adult dog on a leash. If you cannot control your existing dog and keep them at bay with your tone, hand signal and energy, you need to focus on correcting that as soon as possible, so the young puppy doesn't learn bad habits. Feel free to talk to me about how to do this when you pick up your puppy. Every adult dog is different, so it's not always possible to have a blanket policy.

How do I introduce my puppy to my cat?

We have cats in our home. Most puppies will trot up to the cat and say hello. So a lot of how you handle this will depend on your cat. If you think your cat will bolt at the sight of a puppy, keep the puppy on a leash so he cannot chase the cat. There is no need to try and get the cat and the puppy face to face. Let the cat decide if she wants to get close. If she does not, do not force her. Keep your puppy on a leash when the cat is loose so the pup does not learn to chase. My website has an article on cats and puppies. Make sure the cat has ways to escape and stay up high where she can slowly get used to the puppy.

Should I buy two puppies?

Maybe. In my opinion, the only way to raise two puppies is if you have two adults (or an older responsible child). The hardest part of raising two pups is potty training them in the early stages. It's best to take them out individually so that when they pee you can mark the behavior by praise. If you have two puppies they start wrestling and get distracted, and it's harder to "mark" the behavior. Also keep in mind two poodles is double the grooming bill.

If you decide to buy two puppies, you MUST have times where you separate them. They need to bond with you, and if they are together 24/7 they bond to each other. This can be done, but you must be committed.

We have lots of articles on our website about training and bringing your puppy

home. Please email me or talk to me in person at pick up if you have questions!

Vanessa