

Shadymist Kennel, LLC

~From Our Home to Your Hearts~

The First 48 Hours With Your New Puppy

What's in the Bag?

Please take a few minutes to unpack and review everything in your New Puppy Kit as soon as you get home. Some of these items you will need to refer back to and/or take with you to your puppy's New Puppy Exam with your vet.

- 1) Gallon size ziplock baggie of the current food he/she has been eating the last 5 weeks.
- 2) Stuffingless toy or other soft toy appropriate size for your puppy
- 3) Small felt blanket square
- 4) Edible chew toy
- 5) Small Shadymist Kennel slip lead
- 6) "The Complete Guide to Golden Retrievers" book
- 7) Green folder that includes
 - a. Copy of your Pet Agreement
 - b. Small 5 generation pedigree of your puppy's litter
 - c. Pet Passport (Medical history booklet)
 - i. Wallet-size card w/your puppy's microchip number
 - ii. Previous deworming schedule and type
 - iii. Current vaccines already given and when

Feeding instructions:

I recommend exploring your yard and your home with the puppy for just a few minutes starting with where your puppy's designated "potty area" is and giving him/her time to go potty then offering food and water in the place in your house where you will always have his/her food and water bowls.

I will typically withhold food the morning puppies are going home to reduce the risk of car sickness, so your puppy will be hungry as soon as you get home. Also, puppies don't think to look for water when they're thirsty, but when they hear it being poured, or hear another dog drinking the sound triggers the instinct to drink and then they run to where they hear it.

So please be sure to offer plenty of fresh water as soon as you get home and several times throughout the day for the first couple days until it clicks for them so they don't get dehydrated.

Never put food or water bowls in their crate. (Side note: never leave a collar on the puppy either when in the crate.)

Purpose of toy and blanket:

I send these items home with puppies because they carry the scent of my house, their littermates, and their mom. Placing the blanket in the crate with him/her along with their “snuggle puppy” makes the transition from being one of many, to being “one only” much easier for them.

The Complete Guide to Golden Retrievers book:

First and foremost I want to make it clear this book isn't very insightful for new puppy families and I found some information within that is simply inaccurate. However, I and several Shadymist dogs/puppies are featured in the book, so it's a nice keepsake.

You can find us on the following pages:

Page 12, Tattor (Ben x Luna puppy)

Page 30, Cooper (Luke x Majik puppy) & his little brother, Jetty (Zazu x Glory puppy)

Page 36, quoted

Page 48, quoted

Page 113, Tattor again

Page 126, a group pic with Bekah kissing Scott, Grace right as his elbow, Luke standing sideways, and Scott's wife Louise smiling on the left

Your Puppy Folder:

Contract

Your contract will have your puppy's microchip ID# and AKC registration# on the bottom of the front page. In some cases, the AKC number may not be available yet so you'll only see his/her microchip number. I register these chips on your behalf with Microchip ID Systems. Its prepaid in the case of “chipsets” that I buy from them. So if you want to register your puppy right away instead of waiting for me, that's fine. Just click on the “prepaid “ chip registration and enter the 15 digit number there. As you proceed through the registration process, be mindful of the “pre-checked” boxes for purchasing additional items like a metal tag (never put a metal tag on your puppy, it will turn the coat on his/her neck black.

Pet Passport and VACCINES

You'll find the wallet card tucked into the back flap of the Pet Passport. You can store your rabies' certificates in that handy flap! (Also, the orange tag on his/her collar when you pick up your puppy is etched with your puppy's microchip number and the 800# for the national registry so be sure to transfer that to the collar you got for your pup)

Please take this booklet with you when you go to your new puppy vet appointment so they can transfer the information I've recorded for your puppy to their own records and then set you up with the next series of visits for additional vaccines, heartworm preventative, and flea and tick prevention. (Heartgard and K9 Advantix II are all I ever recommend and all I use for my own dogs.)

My Own Personal Losses Because of UNDER-VACCINATING

I lost Grace's sister, (and Majik's mom), Isis, at 4 years old to leptospirosis because my vet at the time discouraged me from giving the lepto vax at all because of potential adverse reactions. Isis died from acute kidney failure caused by lepto just under 2 years after the last lepto vax I'd given her. You HAVE to keep your puppy safe from something so easily prevented with a vaccine. The

first year you must give 2 leptovax within 2 to 3 weeks of each other, then only once a year. But leptovax HAS to be boosted annually!

The same is true for Lyme disease. My beautiful girl Rhythm is currently suffering from chronic kidney disease caused by Lyme disease because her Guardian failed to keep the appointment I scheduled for her booster 3 weeks after my vet gave her the initial Lyme vaccine because I learned their other dog had contracted Lyme and was actively being treated at the time. This was February 2019. My vet here diagnosed her with Lyme disease exactly a year later in February 2020. We treated the Lyme disease with 30 days of doxycycline, but it was too late. Her kidney damage was already so severe at that point that it's irreversible. She is only 4 years old. The vets speculate she will die within the year. Please don't let this happen to your puppy.

Please don't let your puppy become another one of my tragedy stories.

It's an absolute MUST that you have your puppy receive the following vaccines and in this specific timeframe:

9-10 weeks old: 1st DHPP booster

12-16 weeks: leptospirosis vaccine and Lyme vaccine with 1st year booster in 2-3 weeks (then annually)

13-16 weeks old: 2nd DHPP booster with a 3 year booster in 2022

16-20 weeks old: first year rabies, with 3 year booster in 2022

*****NEVER GIVE LEPTO/LYME VACCINE WITH OTHER VACCINES BECAUSE OF INCREASED RISK FOR SEVERE ADVERSE REACTIONS!!!**

Dog Food v. Puppy Food:

The food I'm sending home with your puppy is Kirkland Signature Chicken Rice and Veg ADULT. If you have a Costco near you, this is the best food for your puppy, but Diamonds Naturals Large Breed Puppy Lamb and Rice, or Victor Performance or Victor Professional are equally good options. Whichever of these varieties you decide to feed, I'm asking you to keep them for at least the first year, but probably longer.

Please trust me. There is NO BETTER FOOD AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PUPPY THAN THESE! I am constantly doing research on nutrition for dogs and puppies, and you just have to trust I know I know what I'm telling you. The higher priced foods are NOT better options, and just because a label says "puppy" doesn't mean it's safe or healthy for your golden retriever puppy. I can support all of my recommendations with evidence based, peer reviewed research, or from other nutritional reports issued from veterinarian cardiologists, canine orthopedic specialists, and recent class action lawsuits won in court in the last 24 months with 250 million dollar judgments or settlements.

If your vet complains that you should feed him/her actually puppy food, let me know and I will provide you with the data that supports my recommendation and why most puppy foods are more problematic than helpful for many puppies, especially large breeds, and especially goldens! Any veterinarian cardiologist can confirm my statements in one word: peas.

So please just trust me.

When & How Much:

Start with 1 cup dry food. If you're switching to one of the other foods, mix $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of what I sent home with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of whatever you bought and then step it up to 50/50, then 25/75 until the bag I sent is gone. Probably about 10 days, give or take.

Pick it up when puppy stops eating and walks away.

Do this 3 times a day, 4 times a day if your schedule permits, but nothing after 6-7ish in the evening to help with housebreaking and crate training so they can sleep during the night.

Your puppy won't eat a whole cup at a time yet, but it's a good place to start then eventually reaching up to 3.5-4 cups a day maximum! Once you find you're feeding more than 3 cups a day please be mindful of excessive weigh gain (refer to the Body Mass Conditioning scale filed in our Facebook group). Some males might need as much as 4 cups for maybe 6 months to a year, but not if they are carrying extra weight. At about 18 months old 3-3.5 cups/day over two feedings should be plenty. If they're still overweight you can cut them back more and add fresh veggies like green beans, cauliflower, carrots, so they'll feel full. Or you can switch to what I feed my retired, and/or my "plump" dogs: Diamond Naturals Light Lamb and Rice. I've been a huge fan of Diamond Naturals for over 12 years, and Kirkland Signature Chicken Rice and Veg is produced by Diamond Pet food as the generic version of their Chicken and Rice and bagged under Costco's generic line label.

Your First Night Home

One of the most important things you'll do with your new puppy is bedtime the first night home. Make sure you've picked up the food and water bowls by 8pm at the very latest, and carry him/her outside to the designated potty area in your yard and make sure they go potty before going to bed.

Yes. You really do need to use your crate. I **recommend keeping the crate in your bedroom with you**, and if you have a large two-story house, you might want a second one for downstairs. They want to be where you are. They're already adapted to a noisy, busy household so no need to whisper or keep things quiet when they're sleeping or in their crate.

- 1) Tonight, the first night home, he/she might, well probably *will*, cry and throw a tantrum. About 70% puppies do that first night, and for about 20-30 minutes tops.

You **HAVE TO BE STRONG!** You have to ignore it. Do not interact with, talk to, stick your fingers in the crates, try to sooth them, or get angry/frustrated with him/her. Trust me, this is a one-time only event if you follow these simple instructions. If you interact with, touch, talk to, or shush them you are encouraging the whining by giving them hope that if they continue or get louder you'll let them out. So it will take twice as long for them to settle. And it could even set up a pattern of this behavior in their crate that you won't be able to live with. Let him/her work it out for themselves, hearing and smelling you around the room with the snuggle puppy and blanket in their crate with them.

- 2) Just this first night home, he/she will wake up at 2-2:30am (95% of my puppies do this first night, its uncanny). This is a critical moment for both you and your puppy! They've awakened in a strange place, strange sounds, strange smells, and no littermates. Get up with your puppy as soon as they begin to stir. Don't turn on a bunch of lights, or makes big excited sounds. Simply, quietly, go to the crate, and **PICK HIM/HER UP** and carry him/her outside to your designated potty area, use the word you'll be using for going potty, then praise them

calmly, gently, and quietly after they pee as you pick him/her up and carry them back inside, straight back to crate, lights off, back to bed.

- 3) Your puppy will go back to sleep without a fuss and will sleep until about 5:30-6am. Then you'll want to get up and carry them out again to potty and this time give them breakfast, some water, some snuggles, a few minutes of play time, potty time, and he/she is asleep again already.
- 4) If you do these 3 steps, your puppy will sleep through the whole next night, and every night after, without waking up at 2am! He/she might wake up at 5:30-6 again that 2nd morning, but often they'll sleep until 7-7:30am. If you need your puppy to sleep a little later in the mornings, you can have them wait an additional 10 or 15 minutes each morning after the first week until they're getting up at your regular normal time.

A few final words:

--I've found those that don't get up with their puppies at the 2:30am awakening have a much harder time crating at night and the puppies seem to continue to wake up and cry at 2:30 every morning. See this first night 2am awakening as a bonding and trust test. They are alone and confused and scared, and then there you are to reassure them they're not alone and not trapped, but safe. And if you have one of those puppies that doesn't actually wake up at 2:30am, even better! Let them sleep through!

--Please always approach your puppy's crate calmly and without a high pitch voice or excitable energy. It keeps them calmer in their crate as adults.

--Please pick your puppy up immediately when you open the crate door and carry him/her to the designated potty area for at least the first two weeks. I always say their bladders open the minute the crate door opens so it will take them a few days to learn to hold it. If you open the crate door and expect them to run to you or follow you outside, you'll discover they're going to stop and pee real quick first, before "we go play!"

--Remember, everything your 15lb puppy does might not be so cute when he/she is a 65-85lb adult in just a few short months! Always require them to have all 4 feet on the ground before you'll pet or play with them. Then you can teach the puppy to jump up on you if want to, but he/she won't just automatically jump up when greeting a 20yr old guy, 80yr old woman, or 2yr old toddler.

--If you aren't directly interacting with and supervising your puppy inside your house, make sure he/she is crated. Even if you're home, but busy or distracted they should be crated. If he/she never has an opportunity to chew a power cord, or furniture, or pee on a rug (oh yeah, pick up all area rugs in your home for a few weeks or your pup might decide they're puppy pads!) while you're distracted, you're already ahead of the game! You won't have to waste energy breaking bad behaviors. Instead you can use that energy teaching the 7 Basic Commands: Sit, Stay, Down, Come, Off, Heal and No.

--Know this: a 6 week old puppy can learn anything an adult dog can learn! It only requires short, but consistent commands, repeated frequently, one thing at a time, and start each lesson with something they've already gotten right to build positive momentum and confidence, and always finish on a successful command. Make everything you teach him/her fun!

--And remember, patience, persistence, and praise are all you need to have a sweet, well-mannered, well-adjusted adult that everyone enjoys being around.

I am always here for my puppy families for the rest of my life. Use me as a resource when you have questions or problems, and remember to share the good stuff too!

Thank you choosing us for your new family member.

Welcome to the Shadymist Family! ♥