

Frequently Asked Questions

Feeding

WHAT DO I FEED MY NEW PUPPY?

PawTree



No need to stress over your puppy's diet. Your puppy's nutritional regime has consisted of an excellent PawTree all-stage formula. You will know which we are using when we send you're your two-week informational letter. This kibble what he will be used to when he comes home with you. It is recommended that you continue with the food your puppy is used to eating to minimize the transition of going to a new home. PawTree is a high-quality, nutrient-dense kibble that will keep your puppy much healthier and potentially greatly extend his or her life. PawTree is a holistic and natural dog food formulated for all stages, so puppies and adult dogs benefit alike. For dogs who are sensitive to chicken or with different nutritional needs, lamb, beef, and turkey are also available. In this particular recipe, real chicken is the first ingredient. There are NO poultry by-products or artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives. There is no corn, wheat, or soy added. Let's take a moment to touch on grain-free dog food and the recent connection to heart issues, namely dilated cardiomyopathy. The possible link between grain-free foods, which may contain low levels of taurine and resulting instances of canine heart disease (DCM), is not an issue in PawTree's grain-free dog foods which were supplemented with taurine when originally formulated. Their supplementation already meets the new higher levels of taurine recommended recently by the FDA. Furthermore, they took this one step further and added even more taurine as an added precaution to ensure the safety of your pet. PawTree is one of the highest rated dog foods, and the manufacturer strictly monitors the sources of the ingredients. Seasonings are also available that make the food irresistible, as are healthy supplements such as probiotics and salmon oil.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE APPROPRIATE LINKS BELOW TO ORDER YOUR PUPPY HIS OR HER FOOD **WELL IN ADVANCE**, AS WE WILL NOT BE SENDING FOOD HOME WITH YOUR PUPPY.

<https://shop.pawtree.com/BeechwoodGoldendoodles>

HOW MUCH SHOULD I FEED MY PUPPY?

Puppies will not overeat, if given a quality dry food. Your puppy should be allowed to eat as much as it wants at each meal offering of 10-15 minutes. When time is up, remove the bowl.

There will be times of growth spurts when appetite will naturally increase. Likewise, appetite will decrease when less energy is required for growing. Sometimes owners confuse this time, interpreting it as a puppy no longer liking his or her food. Offering a new food will entice your puppy to eat even when he or she is not hungry.

DO I NEED TO SOFTEN THE DRY FOOD BEFORE GIVING IT TO MY PUPPY?

By the time you take your puppy home, he will have a full set of teeth. As long as this is the case, he or she should be able to eat the dry food.

WILL MY PUPPY HAVE A NORMAL APPETITE WHEN I FIRST TAKE HIM OR HER HOME?

Most puppies do not eat well for the first few days during a transition. It is common for them to not want to eat at all that first day in their new home. Wetting the food with warm water for the first few days will entice them to resume a normal eating schedule. Your puppy should be weaned back to dry food within the first few days.

MY PUPPY DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE ITS FOOD ANYMORE. SHOULD I CHANGE BRANDS?

A dog's diet becomes mundane. It's OK, and it's actually healthy. Dogs do not do well with abrupt changes in their diet. When they are offered something different, they will eat it with gusto. However, after he or she has had THAT food for a length of time, the enthusiasm will also grow old. Dogs do not need a variety of different foods as humans do, as long as they are fed a high-quality, nutritionally-balanced food like PawTree or Life's Abundance. By allowing their diet to become mundane, they will eat just what they need to replenish calories they burn. Finding something new to entice them to eat more may please you, but in all reality, it is causing them to eat more than they need. The result of this will be a weight problem.

CAN I GIVE MY PUPPY TREATS?

We recommend giving a treat only as a reward for following a command. You can think of it similarly to giving a toddler a piece of candy. Of course, it isn't harmful, but needs to be done in moderation. Click on Beth or Deanne's PawTree or Life's Abundance links above for tasty AND healthy treats.

Crating

WHERE SHOULD I PLACE THE CRATE AT NIGHT?

Next to your bed is where we recommend placing the crate. Your puppy is going to go through separation anxiety when leaving littermates and the only home he or she has known up to this point. You don't want your puppy to feel deserted. Having you close by will be comforting. If necessary, the crate can be placed next to the sofa in the family room, and a family member

can sleep on the sofa. The crate can be moved elsewhere in the house once your puppy is sleeping through the night consistently. Do make sure the crate is placed in a location where you can hear the puppy if it needs to go out.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR MY PUPPY TO SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT?

The first rule is never wake a sleeping puppy! Walk your puppy the last thing before you go to bed. It is okay for it to cry itself to sleep, if necessary. If it wakes up and complains, and it has been at least three hours since the last outing, then take your puppy out. Place it in the crate and allow it to cry itself back to sleep.

WHEN MY PUPPY CRIES, SHOULD I ALLOW IT TO GET OUT OF THE CRATE?

You should try to avoid ever opening the crate door when your puppy is crying. He or she will quickly associate crying with getting that door open. Once this has been established, it is difficult to break. You want to wait for the puppy to calm down before opening the door.

HOW MANY CONSECUTIVE HOURS CAN MY PUPPY BE CONFINED TO ITS CRATE DURING THE DAY?

The rule of thumb is one hour more than the total age in months. For example, a two-month-old puppy has a three-hour limit. As long as you are crating your puppy at least one three-hour stretch each day, an hour can be added the following month, and so on.

CAN I MOVE THE CRATE FROM ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION?

Absolutely. Even better, you might find it handy to have one in the bedroom and another in the living room or kitchen. This way, you always have one handy without having to move the puppy around from place to place.

CAN I USE MORE THAN ONE CRATE?

Yes! As mentioned above, it's often quite convenient.

General Maintenance

SHOULD I BRUSH MY PUPPY'S TEETH?

Right now, your puppy's teeth are baby teeth. They will fall out about six months of age. However, you will want to brush its teeth as a puppy so it will be accustomed to this when it is an adult.

SHOULD I CLEAN MY PUPPY'S EARS?

Ear cleaning need not happen on a regular basis. If the ear is healthy, it will have no bad odor or waxy build up. If you see this or notice any red in the ear canal, it probably means your puppy has a bacterial or yeast infection in the ears.

HOW OFTEN CAN I BATHE MY PUPPY?

You can bathe as often as you like AS LONG AS you use a tearless puppy shampoo, such as Johnson's Baby Shampoo. A tearless shampoo does not have grease cutters, so it will not dry out your puppy's coat by frequent bathing.

WHEN SHOULD MY PUPPY HAVE ITS FIRST HAIRCUT?

By the time your puppy is six months of age, he will most likely be ready for his first cut. If you notice his coat becoming too long, you may need to have him clipped sooner. TIP: On the way to the groomers, take along a picture of a goldendoodle with a haircut you like to assist in explaining to the groomer what you want done.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I BRUSH MY PUPPY?

Ideally, your puppy should be brushed daily with a slicker brush. Follow this with a metal comb. The comb helps detect mats that are forming. This will help keep the mats from getting an upper hand and will also teach your puppy that grooming is a routine event. Your groomer will thank you for this!

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I CLIP MY PUPPY'S NAILS?

First, make sure you are massaging and playing with your puppy's paws on a regular basis. This desensitizes him or her so clipping nails is easier. Typically, they need to be clipped once a month. A groomer will also clip nails as part of the grooming service.

Traveling in a Car

HOW SHOULD MY PUPPY TRAVEL IN A CAR?

It is recommended that your puppy learn to wear a harness made for dogs that can be secured to a seatbelt. However, for your puppy's first ride home from Beechwood Goldendoodles, the emphasis should be making sure it is a pleasant experience for your puppy, with stress being kept to a minimum. Your puppy will be much more content and happier riding on the lap of an adult in the back seat. If you are travelling alone, your puppy will have to be confined to a crate.

HOW DO I GET MY PUPPY USED TO RIDING IN CAR?

Your puppy should go for a brief car ride daily for the first few weeks. Dogs that drool or throw up when riding in a car are typically those that are stressed or anxious about riding in a car. And this is because they simply aren't used to it, or worse, only ride in a vehicle when on the way to the vet or groomer. Start with 5-10 minute rides the first week and increase this to 10-15 minutes the second week. As long as your puppy does not drool or throw up, they are ready to go anywhere with you. Never leave your dog unattended in the car.

Interaction with Other Dogs/Puppies/Cats

WHEN IS MY PUPPY FULLY VACCINATED?

The series of vaccinations your puppy will need will be completed by four months of age. Allow another week or two for that final vaccine to take affect on your puppy's immunity. Until then, you will want to avoid taking your puppy to places of high traffic of unknown dogs such as a dog park, PetSmart, or the floor at your vet. Your puppy can take walks around the block and can play or interact with other puppies or young dogs that you know and that you are confident are vaccinated and healthy.

AT WHAT AGE CAN MY PUPPY ATTEND PUPPY KINDERGARTEN?

Most places that offer these types of classes do not allow the puppies to begin until they are at least 12 months of age. This is to ensure that they have at least a few vaccinations completed. One option would be for you to hire a private trainer to come to your house. The eight to 12-week stage is very impressionable. The puppy is ready to start learning basic commands at eight weeks of age.

HOW DO I GO ABOUT INTRODUCING MY PUPPY TO MY EXISTING CAT?

It's no surprise, but your cat will make the rules on this one! If your cat has not been raised around dogs, she will probably retreat to higher ground once the puppy moves in. Do not force the issue. When your cat is ready, she will move down to ground level on her own will and timing. She may venture down when the puppy is crated long before she does during times when the puppy has free-run.

Biting/Nipping

IS IT NORMAL FOR MY PUPPY TO BE SO NIPPY?

This is normal playful behavior. Sometimes it even includes growling. They don't know any other way. Make it your job to find ways for our puppy to expend energy in ways that are acceptable to you. The best remedy is to allow your puppy a play date with another puppy or

young dog on a daily basis. Without this type of exercise, you will need to walk your puppy several times a day and also find activities such as fetching/retrieving to tire him out.

Jumping

HOW CAN I GET MY PUPPY TO STOP JUMPING UP ON PEOPLE?

You will need to get the whole family in on this one! Put your puppy on a leash. Have someone with a treat approach your puppy. When he jumps up at the person, don't allow him to jump up using the leash, and have the approaching person command your puppy to sit. When he does, this person can give him a treat. Repeat this several times until your puppy sits upon seeing the other person approach. It's critical that you not allow your puppy to jump on you at any time if you wish to be successful in teaching him not to jump. When your puppy jumps on you, push him away sharply and turn your back on him until he stops jumping and sits and looks at you. At that point, you should lavish him with praise. Again, this only works if you are 100% consistent with the training. Allowing your puppy to put his paws on you erases this training quickly.

Vet Expenses

MY VET WANTS TO PERFORM HIP X-RAYS WHILE MY PUPPY IS UNDER ANESTHESIA FOR BEING SPAYED/NEUTERED. IS THIS NECESSARY?

I would not allow your vet to talk you into diagnostic tests of any kind during the spay/neuter procedure, unless you suspect a problem. This has become a wide-spread problem with vets as they dramatically increase the amount of your bill for a routine spay/neuter procedure.

SHOULD I BUY PET HEALTH INSURANCE FOR MY PUPPY?

Beechwood Goldendoodles highly recommends that you insure the health of your puppy. We only cover genetic issues and only for the first two years. Pet health insurance is like purchasing an extended warranty.