

Danfords Golden

New Puppy Packet

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RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DOG OWNER

Thank you for selecting to purchase a DANFORDS GOLDEN RETRIEVER Puppy. We hope to create a good working relationship that will continue for the life of your dog. We will only sell dogs to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the dogs concerned. We require that:

1. The Golden must be maintained in good health, including adequate attention, grooming, inoculations, feeding, routine care and exercise and must be kept in proper weight, and in safe and sanitary conditions.
2. The Golden will not be permitted to run at large, that proper fencing is provided and the dog will not be chained or tied in any manner.
3. In no instance will this Golden be strictly an “*outside dog*”.
4. The owner will train the Golden properly so that the dog is an asset to the community and not a nuisance – that means enrolling in an obedience class as soon as the second inoculation is given.
5. The Golden will *not be spayed or neutered* before:
Males, 12 months
Females, 12 months
(*More on this subject later in the packet.)
6. You will need to find a reliable and knowledgeable veterinarian for your puppy. If you don't already have one, we can talk about how to go about finding the veterinarian that you will feel comfortable with.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Worming - Your puppy was wormed at 3 weeks and 5 weeks with *Strongid-T* – at 7 weeks with *Panacur*. As a preventative measure, we routinely treat our puppies with *Albon* prior to leaving our kennel to prevent **coccidiosis**.

At 6 weeks your puppy received a thorough veterinarian examination from the East Paulding Animal Hospital in Dallas, GA.

Vaccinations – Option #1 - At 7.5 weeks, your puppy received an *Intervet Distemper/Parvo Puppy* shot. Ongoing research indicates that repeating the MLV vaccines too frequently, especially in puppies, may be responsible for seizures and immune related diseases in 50 breeds, including Golden Retrievers. We do not recommend any vaccines by given for at least 3-4 weeks from the last vaccine. **Option #2** – see Recommended Vaccination Schedule

We recommend *Bordetella* if you are planning to board your Golden. We **do not** recommend *Corona virus* (ineffective) or *Lepto* shots (unless your area is high risk).

Bladder Infections - Puppies with cystitis will strain to void and will squat often with limited results. (More common in female pups).

Heartworm - Your vet will recommend year round monthly **heartworm** control depending on your location.

Limping (especially in male pups) between the ages of 5-18 months is not uncommon. Crate rest, limited exercise and 1 **coated** aspirin 2 times/day will usually care for those “growing pains.” **Panosteitis** does not run in our line. **Hip dysplasia and OCD** are also not prevalent in our Goldens. Please give 2 WEEKS of crate rest and aspirin before X-rays are taken.

BOOKS and IMPORTANT WEBSITES

How to Raise A Pup You Can Live With – Rutherford (book)

Super Puppy (call 619-489-1818)

www.DogTrainersWorkshop.com - for a complete guide to obedience training your pup from 8 weeks to adult. It is the BEST website I have found.

www.DogFoodAnalysis.com - compares ALL dog foods

www.NaturalRearing.com - for raising your dog in a more natural approach

www.Morningsagegoldens.freesevers.com/Grooming.html - EXCELLENT website for grooming your golden.

HIP DYSPLASIA

Canine Hip Dysplasia is the most prevalent joint problem found in Golden Retrievers. At one time experts felt that CHD was solely a genetic disease. However, after years of study, researchers have determined that environmental factors play a far more significant role than previously thought.

Cornell University Veterinary School states, “Canine hip dysplasia is probably about **40 percent inherited and about 60 percent environmental** due to weight gain, muscle mass and hormonal influence.” September 1998, Volume 12, #7.

We feel we have done our part by providing you with a puppy whose pedigree has tremendous depth of hip clearances. It therefore is incumbent upon the owner to control the environmental factors. Please follow these guidelines to keep your puppy fit and trim:

- Feed suggested brand of food.
- Keep your puppy on a regular feeding schedule.
- Feed restricted amounts; factor in treats.
- No intensive jogging for 18 months.
- No extended periods of jumping for balls or frisbees.
- Regular moderate daily exercise is good. Resting all week and marathon sessions on the weekend should be avoided.

WEIGHT GUIDELINES

7 Weeks	10 - 12 lbs
9 Weeks	15 - 17 lbs
12 Weeks	20 - 22 lbs
16 Weeks	30 - 35 lbs
20 Weeks	40 - 45 lbs
6 Months	45 - 55 lbs
1 Year	65-75 lbs (males) 55-65 lbs (females)

FEEDING YOUR GOLDEN

Please have the following on hand before the puppy's homecoming:

OPTION #1

1 – 35 lb bag of *Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy Food* or equivalent recommended by me.

2 – **Stonyfield Farm Organic Low Fat Vanilla Yogurt** (32 oz.) You will only need one of these containers.

Your puppy will use *Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy* until 6 months. Afterwards, switch to any premium **ADULT** dog food. Always mix food with water. We do not recommend dry or free feeding. Feed puppies in their crates. **Pick-up uneaten food after 15 minutes.**

SCHEDULE

Please understand that recommended amounts are *guidelines*, you may have to adjust. Do not feed after 6pm.

7.5 – 9 Weeks:

Feed a scant $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup puppy food plus 1-teaspoon yogurt, and water 3 times per day. Alternate 1 tablespoon of Pedigree Puppy canned food if fussy.

9 – 12 Weeks:

Feed a scant $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 cup puppy food and water 2-3 times per day

3 – 4 Months:

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 cups plus water 2 times per day

4 – 6 Months:

2 cups plus water 2 times per day

At 6 months slowly switch to adult food. (Mix with less and less puppy food until the switch is complete.) These premium foods are available at pet or discount feed stores. **Do not feed grocery brand foods.** Keep your dog trim. Only use stainless steel pans (plastic bowls cause the nose to loose pigment and are unsanitary).

VITAMINS AND COAT SUPPLEMENTS - optional

Our growing and adults dogs all get **(1) Adult Vitamin supplement, (1) Vitamin C tab** (500 mg / day), **Kelp powder, and Nupro**

We recommend either *Missing Link* , *NUPRO* or *Prozyme* supplement.

Feeding: OPTION #2

On a daily basis, you may add the following ingredients up to 10% of the daily ration:

- 1) **RAW MEAT** – beef, chicken, turkey, lamb, cold water fish (ground or cubed in smaller pieces seem to easiest to work with)
- 2) **RAW VEGGIES** – green leafy veggies, broccoli, carrots, yams (raw pureed in a food processor/ blender or lightly steamed for easier digestion)
- 3) **RAW FRUITS** – apples, peaches, pears, grapes, bananas (pureed or over ripe are more easily digested)

ADDITIONAL ADDITIVES:

Yogurt, Raw Eggs (3/week), **NUPRO, Vitamin** – 1 daily human grade

Fresh Raw Marrow Bones – for chewing - get from butcher (do not cook them)

All dogs should be evaluated every 6-8 months to determine if they need a diet change – coat condition, flaky skin, energy levels will show how healthy a dog is.

Excellent Supplement – **NR Daily Health** and **NR Herbal Compound** – from www.naturalrearing.com

References:

Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs/Cats – R. Pitcairn, DVM

Raw Food Recipes – Monica Segal, AHCW

The Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog – Volhard/Brown

Give Your Dog a Bone – Billingham

The K-9 Kitchen – Monica Segal, AHCW

www.doggiedietician.com

www.naturalrearing.com

PARASITE CONTROL

DANFORDS GOLDENS takes a very **proactive** position on parasites. Your puppy will be totally free of worms and fleas. We therefore recommend you treat your environment before the puppy arrives to ensure proper, safe, and sanitary conditions.

FLEAS:

Please treat your yard and house for fleas three times at weekly intervals. We find **Diazinon** to be the most effective outside. Pick a name brand product for inside use. Please use all the pesticides according to manufacturers instructions. Let dry before reintroducing pup back into the home/yard. **Diatomaceous Earth** is a natural product that is also effective against fleas.

If you find fleas on your pup, shampoo your Golden with a good flea shampoo. Lather and leave on for 15 minutes, then rinse.

The product “**Frontline**”, “**Advantix**”, and “**Advantage**” are flea adulticides. They are revolutionary flea control products that work on contact and are used once a month. “**Program**” is an oral treatment that breaks the fleas’ reproductive cycle. Please note these products should not be used to “clean up” your environment but as a tool in flea control. They are available from your vet or through any good pet catalog.

HEARTWORM:

Your vet will send you home with “**Heartguard**” or “**Interceptor**” to prevent heartworms. Both are administered by mouth once a month. Please start on the “first” of each month.

WORMS:

We routinely worm our Goldens with “**Panacur**” and “**Drontal**” every 6 months regardless of the stool sample results. Tapeworms and whipworms sometimes cannot always be found on a fecal slide.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Your puppy is a baby. Please let him/her have plenty of rest and constant supervision. Please consult your vet if your puppy develops **diarrhea** – it is life threatening if not treated quickly.

Children under the age of 5 should never be left alone with a puppy.

Do not engage in “war games” or “rough housing”. Discourage the dog’s mouth from ever being in contact with human skin. If you allow biting or mouthing, you are giving the dog permission to be orally aggressive and possessive of his toys. Doggy licks (kisses) are the exception.

Never leave your dog in a parked car.

Never leave your dog unsupervised around a swimming pool or dock.

Please keep your puppy away from public areas until after the SECOND shot.

We would be delighted to speak to your vet with regard to any questions or problems pertaining to your puppy.

Please commit yourself to taking a very proactive approach to rearing your puppy. **YOU** must build a dog of your dreams slowly and with knowledge of dog behavior and training techniques. **YOU** must take responsibility by providing appropriate leadership based on a method of sound principles in order to raise a well-mannered, enjoyable and reliable companion. Take the time to go to **obedience classes** with your puppy. Remember a good relationship requires a time investment now. **What you sow you will reap in your puppy.**

Thank you again for the confidence you have placed in us by purchasing a Golden from **DANFORDS GOLDENS**.

CRATE TRAINING & HOUSE-BREAKING

(Portions of this section have been excerpted from www.dogtrainersworkshop.com)

EARLY TRAINING — CRATE TRAINING

Crates are the cribs and playpens of dog training. They:

- § Prevent your dog from chewing and soiling the house.
- § Protect dogs from consuming things in the house that could be harmful.
- § Help calm anxious dogs.
- § Teach hyperactive dogs to sleep when left alone.
- § Are a home-away-from-home whenever you are traveling with your dog.

Correctly used, your dog will regard the crate as a 'room of his own.' It is a clean, comfortable, safe place to leave your dog when he cannot be supervised. It is invaluable for housebreaking because most dogs will try not to urinate or defecate in the crate.

§ Introduce your dog to the crate by placing it in a 'people' area (kitchen or family room). Use an old towel or blanket for bedding. Put your dog's toys and a few treats in the open crate, allowing your dog to come and go as he wishes.

§ Feed your dog in the crate with the door closed. Clean up any spills promptly □ it's very important for the crate to stay clean. Your dog doesn't need to stay in his crate long, but should get comfortable eating his meal there.

§ Put your dog in the crate when he is tired and ready for a nap. As soon as you hear him start to wake up, go to him and take him outside. Do not let him out if he is merely barking or whining in complaint because this will reward him for being noisy.

When training is complete, how long can your dog be left? For young puppies, use this rule of thumb. The time limit should be your puppy's age in months plus one. For example:

§ A three month old pup should not be crated for more than 4 hours.

§ A four month old pup's limit is 5 hours.

§ The self control of puppies varies, but most usually can hold it overnight by the age of four months.

The adult dog's self control is usually great enough that it can be left for eight to nine hours in the crate. But keep in mind that long confinements are likely to present other mental and physical difficulties.

Crate or no crate, any dog consistently denied the companionship it needs is going to be a lonely pet and may still find ways (destructive ways) to express anxiety, depression, and stress.

A dog crate offers many advantages for owner and dog, the most important being peace of mind when leaving your dog home alone. You'll know that nothing can be soiled or destroyed, and that your dog won't get into anything harmful while you're gone.

EARLY TRAINING — HOUSE-BREAKING

Dog owners call us every day with questions about housebreaking. Too often we hear that a dog was acquired to be an indoor animal but because he soils the house, he has been relegated to a life in the yard. Our goal at Dog Trainers Workshop is to help train dogs to be welcome and enjoyable members of the family. In order to do this, one of our first jobs is to help you get your dog housebroken.

Basic Principles

Housebreaking a dog can be quite simple, if you understand some basic principles and follow some simple rules.

Dens and Rooms

Dogs are naturally den animals, so a dog does not want to go to the bathroom where he lives. Most of us live in homes that are so big that, unfortunately, the dog does not equate our entire house with his den. Therefore, it is important to keep a dog that is not housebroken in the same room with you. If you let him leave the room, he will equate this with leaving the den, and think it is acceptable to go to the bathroom. If you are in the bedroom, shut him in the bedroom with you. If you go to the kitchen, take him with you. If it is not possible to shut a door, put up a gate or tie him in the room with you.

Activities, Not Clocks

Don't watch the clock to determine when your dog needs to go outside; his activity causes his need to go to the bathroom, not the time that has elapsed. He should be taken outside every time your dog changes activities. If he wakes up, take him out, stops playing, out he goes, stops eating, out again. Take him out before the accident occurs.

Watch for Signals

Do not think it is the dog's responsibility to let you know when he needs to go out. Instead, watch for his signals to you that he needs to go outside. The signals may be subtle like walking toward the door or sniffing and walking in circles.

Accidents

If your dog goes to the bathroom in front of you, make an exclamation of disgust and take him outside no' or 'bad dog' is sufficient. It is not necessary to drag him to the mess or to rub his nose in it.

If your dog does go to the bathroom in the house while you are not watching, there is absolutely nothing that you can do for correction because dogs do not remember and feel responsible for past actions. If you drag a dog to an old mess and make a fuss, he does not say to himself, "I went to the bathroom there 20 minutes ago, which is why my owner is upset." Rather, he records the situation and makes sure the situation does not occur again. In this case, the dog records, 'If my owner is present, and I am present, and a mess is present, I will get scolded.' The next time there is a mess on the floor and he hears you coming, he will run.

Situations

Our tendency is to give the dog human reason and emotions. Owners call me and say, "But I know my dog knew he was bad, he ran from me and he looked guilty." He is not running from you because he understands that he is responsible for the mess; he is not running because he realizes that if he stays in the situation that includes him, you, and the mess he will be scolded. If you question this observation, pour a glass of water on the floor, Then, talk to the dog in the same tone of voice you use when you find a mess on the floor. He will undoubtedly slink away from you just as he does when the mess is his. This should prove that it is not his guilt that makes him leave, but your reaction to the situation.

CHEWING

A small puppy comes to your home having learned to play with his littermate by chewing on them. Your puppy is going to chew on you. It is inevitable and it does not mean that he is a bad or aggressive puppy. He is simply trying to play with you the same way he played with his littermates. Unfortunately, his needle sharp teeth hurt, so you will want to stop him from biting you as quickly as possible.

When your puppy bites you, make an exclamation of pain and give him a shake. You are mimicking what his littermates did to him when he bit them too hard, you are biting him back, but you don't need to use your mouth to do so. It doesn't matter where you grab him. Young puppies have a lot of loose skin and you can grab him anywhere as you let him know that he hurt you. He should back away and look startled at your response. Your correction should be quick, and then it's over and you can continue playing with him as you were before he bit you.

If you have a young child that you fear your puppy will hurt, encourage your child to play with the puppy with a toy so that the puppy has something to focus on besides the child's clothes or hands.

It is also inevitable that your young puppy will want to chew on your shoes, the table legs, and anything else that is at his eye level. When he does, simply remove the object, or move your puppy, and give him a toy of his own. At this age you are wasting your time by scolding him, he is simply too young to care or to understand what your displeasure is about.

INTRODUCING YOUR PUPPY TO OTHER DOGS

If you already have a dog, don't be in a hurry to introduce your puppy to your older dog. This can happen gradually over the next few weeks or even months. A seven to nine week old puppy of any breed is so small that it can be hurt by an older dog, even in play. However, if your older dog decides to discipline the puppy, there is a good chance the puppy can be seriously hurt. Let your older dog get to know the puppy by visiting with one another through a baby gate or crate. You have a whole lifetime to let them grow accustomed to one another. It doesn't need to happen in the first few days.

BASIC OBEDIENCE

(Portions of this section have been excerpted from www.dogtrainersworkshop.com)

EARLY TRAINING — PUPPIES 9 - 12 WEEKS (TODDLER)

As your puppy approaches nine weeks, you will find that he is awake more, physically more coordinated, and can see more clearly, so he is becoming more inquisitive, bold and courageous. Whereas your little puppy may have followed you closely, this slightly older puppy will start to run off and feel a need to check out all that he hears and sees. Just as you would "child proof" your home if you had a toddler, you should puppy proof your home against an inquisitive puppy. Keep your shoes up, put the trash behind a cabinet door, and keep your children's toys put away.

Your goal remains to have an adult dog that:

- Comes when he is called.
- Stays where he is put.
- Walks well on a leash.
- Only jumps up on people or furniture when invited.
- Plays with his toys, and leaves your stuff alone.

Can be confined away from the family when necessary.

At this stage, the biggest mistake that owners make is failing to realize that you are still dealing with a very young dog. He is not yet old enough to be responsible for letting you know that he needs to go out, or knowing what objects are his to play with and which are yours and you want him to ignore.

Continue to use a crate to confine him when you cannot keep an eye on him. When you are with him, keep your puppy in the room you are in. He is not trustworthy from a housebreaking standpoint, and you need to get him outside every time he changes activities. Furthermore, even more so than during the seven to nine week stage, everything is going to start going in his mouth. This is all the more reason that he should be where you can keep an eye on him.

Fortunately, he is old enough to be introduced to some of the obedience commands that you ultimately hope to teach him. So, have fun getting started!

WALKING ON A LEASH & OTHER OBEDIENCE COMMANDS

This is a great age to let your puppy start to drag a light leash or longer line (10-15 feet) around the house or yard, or whenever you are in a situation where he might not allow you to catch him. First, this will allow him to grow accustomed to being on a leash, and it will also afford you the ability to catch him if he starts to run from you.

Try picking up the leash or line that the puppy is dragging and follow him. This will accustom him to having you hold the leash and also to the idea that the two of you move together.

Try picking up the leash or line that the puppy is dragging and follow him. This will accustom him to having you hold the leash and also to the idea that the two of you move together.

It's not necessary to insist that your puppy go the direction that you want just yet. Most breeds of puppies are still small enough to pick up and carry when they are resistant to going the way that you want, so at this age, feel free to do so.

To begin to train your puppy to respond to simple commands, you are going to have to appeal to what makes your puppy happy. Most puppies are very motivated by bits of food, so this is a good age for you to carry a pocket full of treats to reward him for the behaviors that interest you. Soft treats that the puppy can swallow easily without having to take a lot of time to chew make training the easiest. If your puppy seems finicky, try small bits of cheese or meat to motivate him. If you are worried about your choice of treat, check with your veterinarian. Most people reward the puppy with much larger pieces of treat than are necessary. Find a treat you can break into very small pieces so that you don't fill him up too quickly.

Sit is an easy command to teach your puppy. Start with the treat in front of his nose and gradually tilt his head up and back toward his tail until he falls into a sitting position. As he does, tell him to sit, praise him and then give him the treat. If you lift the treat too high in the air, he will jump up for it. Your treat should be just high enough for him to reach up for it, but not so high that it makes him jump up.

When your puppy has mastered sit, try to get him into a down position. Begin with him in a sit, and hold your treat in front of his nose. Slowly lower the treat to the ground. As his head lowers, stretch the treat out in front of him so that he walks his front legs into a down position. You may need to put your free hand on his back to keep him from standing up and walking toward the treat, but avoid the temptation to push him into a down position. Tell your puppy down as he goes down, praise him and then give him the treat for doing so.

To start to teach your puppy to come, call his name and say come as you run from him. Most puppies love this game of chase and will run after you. When your puppy catches up with you, give him a treat and praise him. You may want to play this game with your puppy on a long line so that if he is distracted, you can call his name and come, and then give a tug on the line to get his attention before you start to run from him.

If you have been feeding your puppy in his crate, you may see him start to run ahead of you toward his crate as you prepare his meal. Tell him to kennel as he jumps in as a way to get him familiar with that command.

This is an age when large breed puppies get big enough to start to jump up on things. When you are sitting in a chair and your puppy jumps up on you, tell him off and gently put your foot on his back foot. When he realizes that his foot is "trapped," he will leap off you and you can praise him and pet him for having all four feet on the ground.

EDUCATIONAL GAMES TO PLAY

Tug of War – Please exercise caution with this. Either do exactly as directed or not at all!

Much has been written about the horrors of playing tug-of-war with your puppy that is simply not true.

The only negative side effect of playing tug-of-war is that you could create a dog that is possessive of objects if you were to always let him win the game.

Contrary, playing tug-of-war affords you a great opportunity to teach your dog what “drop” means.

After you have tugged and played, stop tugging and tell your puppy to "drop." When he does not, blow on his face. Most puppies will spit out the object and jump back from you. If blowing on his face does not cause him to spit out the object, try squeezing your puppy's front foot with your free hand. As he realizes that his foot is trapped, he will open his mouth to look down and see what's happening.

RETRIEVING

It's such a fun thing to have a dog that will retrieve for you. It's also great exercise and a great way to wear out your energetic puppy. Begin with two identical toys. Throw one down a hallway or stand in a doorway and throw the toy into a room. Your hope is that your puppy will chase the object and then want to come back down the hallway or out of the room.

Take hold of your puppy as he comes past you. **Resist the urge to reach for the object.** If you are in a hurry to grab the toy, he will quickly learn to stay out of your reach.

However, if you take hold of him, pet and praise him, and then get him interested in the toy that you are holding, he will willingly come to you as he will not fear that you will take his "prize." He will also learn to drop the object in anticipation that you will throw another object for him.

He knows I won't be in a hurry to grab him when he gets to me.

Instead, I pet him and praise him for coming.

When I'm ready to throw it again, I take the identical object from my pocket and tease him with it so that he willingly gives up the one that he has.

Resist the temptation to throw balls for your puppy. A rolling ball can discourage a puppy that doesn't believe he can catch up with it. Also, resist the temptation to throw the toy more than three or four times. Playing the game until your puppy is exhausted is the quickest way to discourage him and cause him to become disinterested in the game.

As you take your game out into the yard, it may be more beneficial to let your puppy play this game while dragging his rope. As he runs after the object, follow him, pick up the end of the rope, and then call him, running from him, to get him interested in coming back to you.

If you have children, you should expect that when they run and play, your puppy will chase them and jump on them. He played "chase" with his littermates and will be thrilled that there is someone in your home that knows the game!

I happened to have a 12 week old puppy when a friend was coming to visit with her five year old daughter. I showed the little girl how to get the puppy to sit and down and encouraged her to play tug-of-war. However, every time she tried to move through the house, the puppy was right behind her trying to play by jumping on her and biting at her feet.

I gave the child a squirt bottle of water set to administer a jet stream of water if she pulled the trigger. I took the child and puppy into the yard and told her to run from the puppy, and then instructed her that if the puppy touched her at all when chasing her, that she had my permission to stop running, tell him off, and squirt him with the water.

It was no time at all before the puppy would chase her and run with her, but would not get close enough to touch her. The rest of the visit was quite peaceful as she continued to practice her sit, down, and off commands.

PICKING UP UNWANTED OBJECTS

It is inevitable; your puppy is going to start picking up objects that you would prefer he leave alone.

At this age, you have two choices. You can keep an eye on him and try to tell him no every time he disturbs something that is not his. However, this is usually quite frustrating for both the owner and the puppy, and furthermore, it is not uncommon for a puppy to discover that if he grabs the forbidden object and runs, members of his new pack will chase him. This can turn into a fun game for the puppy that is equally as annoying for the owner.

Your other choice is to be nonchalant about his picking up an unwanted object, and then calmly calling him to you. If you run from him, there is a good chance that he will chase after you, sometimes with the object, sometimes after dropping it.

You can reward him for coming, and simply exchange the unwanted object for a toy of his own. This may not discourage your puppy from picking objects up, but what it will do is encourage him to come to you whenever he has anything in his mouth. Not drawing any attention to his picking up unwanted objects may well have the desired result. He may lose interest because you don't chase him, and it never becomes a play toy or something to chew up.

INTRODUCING YOUR PUPPY TO OLDER DOGS

At this age and size, it is important to introduce your puppy to small dogs or cats that you own.

This is a good time for your small pet to teach your puppy to respect him, while the puppy is still small enough for the older pet to do so.

However, remain cautious and protective of your puppy around bigger, older dogs. Your puppy is still small enough that a larger dog could inadvertently hurt him, either in play or in an attempt to correct him for being a pest. A crushed skull or lost eye is not worth the risk of letting your small puppy interact with the older, larger dog in your family.

If your larger, older dog seems curious and tolerant, then you might consider having your puppy on a leash when they are together.

If your older dog growls or tries to warn your puppy that he's had enough, you want to be able to pull the puppy away in the event that your puppy ignores the warning.

GROOMING YOUR PUPPY

Start getting your puppy used to being groomed. Teaching your puppy to be still while you brush him is easier if you place him on a table.

If you don't have a grooming table, stand him on your picnic table, or place a towel or other non skid material on top of your washer or dryer.

Being elevated is often just intimidating enough for your puppy to be willing to stand still! Hold your puppy by the collar with one hand while you practice brushing him with your other hand. It is more important that the puppy hold still than that you effectively brush his whole body, so keep your sessions short. While he's on the table, lift up each foot and look at his toenails. Also get him used to having you look in his ears.

If you decide you need to give your puppy a bath, leave his leash and collar on him so that you can hold him still.

Being still is more important than a first class bath. You may not accomplish much more than rinsing him and toweling him dry on your first attempt.

That's okay; each time you try he'll become more familiar with the routine and be more apt to cooperate.

Your puppy is now three months old, and you have already begun to establish habits to help you achieve much more than the six goals stated at the beginning of the article. You should be getting excited about all that your puppy is learning, but don't relax just yet. You've got a few more tough months ahead. Keep in mind, you're still dealing with a youngster, but you are certainly off to a great start!

PREPARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

YOUR NEW PUPPY BECOMES A WELCOMED MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

Before you come to pick up your puppy, you should have these essentials ready.

Crate – recommended style and size. I have found 24x36x26 is quite suitable for most Golden Retrievers. However, the next size up is what I prefer, especially for my bigger males. I happen to like the wire crates that fold down into a suitcase style. They are far more serviceable than the solid plastic crates

Old Bath Towels – start saving or gathering a few of these to use in the bottom of the crate. They can easily be picked up and washed during crate training.

Stainless Steel Dishes & Bucket– one 2qt bowl, a 3qt water bowl and a 2qt bucket should be sufficient for food and water. You can, of course, choose to get something a little larger for a water bowl. You will also need a clamp or double ended snap to attach the bucket inside the crate.

Collar and Lead – It is best to start a puppy on a buckle collar. There are several made that are very adjustable to size.

Toys – soft toys, tennis balls, nylabone and natural bones. Most anything else is not necessary.

Food of choice – this we will have discussed before your puppy goes home. I will send him/her home with enough of the food he/she has been eating to help you get started.

SET UP YOUR CRATE IN THE CHOSEN PLACE

It is probably best to choose a place where there is some family traffic but not in the middle of confusion. Some people find it is best to have an extra crate set up in the bedroom for nighttime.

In the crate you may wish to put an old towel on the floor, hang your water bucket at a height your puppy can easily reach and put some toys to play with (a bone to chew and a soft toy to cuddle).

DESIGNATE ONE ROOM ONLY FOR THE PUPPY TO PLAY IN

There is NO reason for a new puppy to have Free Run of the house. I usually suggest the kitchen makes the best room for playing and free time. It is very often the room in the house which contains the back door (the one you want the puppy to find with ease when he/she has to go out) and the floor is usually easier to clean in case of accidents.

Keep the puppy confined to this room, at first, when he/she is loose. By doing this, he/she will quickly learn where the door is and go toward it when Nature calls. He/She should do his/her playing here and begin to learn house manners in this room.

Keep everything simple and regimented so there is the minimal amount of confusion in the puppy's life.

OUTDOORS IS ONLY FOR PUPPY BUSINESS, NOT PLAYTIME, YET

For the first few days or weeks it is imperative that the only reason for the puppy to be outside is to go to the bathroom. If you use the yard only for this reason, your puppy will quickly learn what he/she is supposed to do out there.

I know you think the yard is the place to learn to play with the puppy and you can hardly wait to start running around the yard. Well, all in good time. First your puppy needs to know what and where he/she is supposed to go or do outside in addition to playing.

Therefore, take him/her out to go to the bathroom as often as you think he/she may need to. When he/she is successful, praise the heck out of him/her, maybe reward with a small treat and bring him/her in the house to play.

When your puppy is no longer having accidents in the house and is asking to go out to do his/her business, you can then begin to stay out there a little longer and explore or play a little.

If you stick with this procedure, the housebreaking will go so much faster.

WHAT DO I MEAN BY PLAY IN THE HOUSE?

Play in the house does not mean roughhousing or chasing. Perhaps one of the most important things I have to tell you is this ----- **If you want your puppy to grow up to be calm and gentle, a well adjusted little creature that listens when he/she is asked, and has good manners --- YOU MUST KEEP HIM/HER QUIET AND CALM EVEN AS YOU PLAY.**

Over stimulated and highly aroused puppies grow up to be just that as an adult. Start right from day one and raise your puppy in a quiet and calm manner and that is exactly what you will have as an adult.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL OR E-MAIL ME WITH ANY
QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.**

CANINE VACCINATION PROTOCOL

MINIMAL VACCINE USE

As recommended by
W. Jean Dodds, DVM
HEMOPET
938 Stanford Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-828-4804; Fax 310-828-8251
e-mail: hemopet@hotmail.com

NOTE: The following vaccine protocol is offered for those dogs where minimal vaccinations are advisable or desirable. The schedule is one I recommend and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice.

Age of Pups	Vaccine Type
9 - 10 weeks	Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (e.g. Intervet Progard Puppy DPV)
14 weeks	Same as above
16 -18 weeks (optional)	Same as above (optional) Rabies
20 weeks or older, if allowable by law	Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV
1 year	Rabies, killed 3-year product (give 3-4 weeks <i>apart</i> from distemper/parvovirus booster)
1 year	

Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, or more often, if desired. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request.

EARLY SPAY-NEUTER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CANINE ATHLETE

One Veterinarian's Opinion

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Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine athletes need to continually read and evaluate new scientific studies to ensure that we are taking the most appropriate care of our performance dogs. This article provides evidence through a number of recent studies to suggest that veterinarians and owners working with canine athletes should revisit the standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age.

Orthopedic Considerations

A study by Salmeri et al in 1991 found that bitches spayed at 7 weeks grew significantly taller than those spayed at 7 months, who were taller than those not spayed or presumably spayed after the growth plates had closed.¹

A study of 1444 Golden Retrievers performed in 1998 and 1999 also found bitches and dogs spayed and neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered at more than a year of age.² The sex hormones, by communicating with a number of other growth-related hormones, promote the closure of the growth plates at puberty³, so the bones of dogs or bitches neutered or spayed before puberty continue to grow. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered well before puberty can frequently be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrow chests and narrow skulls. This abnormal growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths and therefore weights of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at 8 months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle likely becomes heavier because it is longer, and

may cause increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament. In addition, sex hormones are critical for achieving peak bone density.⁴

These structural and physiological alterations may be the reason why at least one recent study showed that spayed and neutered dogs had a higher incidence of CCL rupture.⁵ Another recent study showed that dogs spayed or neutered before 5 ½ months had a significantly higher incidence of hip dysplasia than those spayed or neutered after 5 ½ months of age, although it should be noted that in this study there were no standard criteria for the diagnosis of hip dysplasia.⁶ Nonetheless, breeders of purebred dogs should be cognizant of these studies and should consider whether or not pups they bred were spayed or neutered when considering breeding decisions.

Cancer Considerations

A retrospective study of cardiac tumors in dogs showed that there was a 5 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma, one of the three most common cancers in dogs, in spayed bitches than intact bitches and a 2.4 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma in neutered dogs as compared to intact males.⁷ A study of 3218 dogs demonstrated that dogs that were neutered before a year of age had a significantly increased chance of developing bone cancer.⁸ A separate study showed that neutered dogs had a two-fold higher risk of developing bone cancer.⁹ Despite the common belief that neutering dogs helps prevent prostate cancer, at least one study suggests that neutering provides no benefit.¹⁰ There certainly is evidence of a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer in female dogs after one heat cycle, and for increased risk with each subsequent heat. While about 30 % of mammary cancers are malignant, as in humans, when caught and surgically removed early the prognosis is very good.¹¹ Luckily, canine athletes are handled frequently and generally receive prompt veterinary care.

Behavioral Considerations

The study that identified a higher incidence of cranial cruciate ligament rupture in spayed or neutered dogs also identified an increased incidence of sexual behaviors in males and females that were neutered

early.⁵ Further, the study that identified a higher incidence of hip dysplasia in dogs neutered or spayed before 5 ½ months also showed that early age gonadectomy was associated with an increased incidence of noise phobias and undesirable sexual behaviors.⁶ A recent report of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation reported significantly more behavioral problems in spayed and neutered bitches and dogs. The most commonly observed behavioral problem in spayed females was fearful behavior and the most common problem in males was aggression.¹²

Other Health Considerations

A number of studies have shown that there is an increase in the incidence of female urinary incontinence in dogs spayed early¹³, although this finding has not been universal. Certainly there is evidence that ovarian hormones are critical for maintenance of genital tissue structure and contractility.^{14, 15} Neutering also has been associated with an increased likelihood of urethral sphincter incontinence in males.¹⁶ This problem is an inconvenience, and not usually life-threatening, but nonetheless one that requires the dog to be medicated for life. A health survey of several thousand Golden Retrievers showed that spayed or neutered dogs were more likely to develop hypothyroidism.² This study is consistent with the results of another study in which neutering and spaying was determined to be the most significant gender-associated risk factor for development of hypothyroidism.¹⁷ Infectious diseases were more common in dogs that were spayed or neutered at

24 weeks or less as opposed to those undergoing gonadectomy at more than 24 weeks.¹⁸ Finally, the AKC-CHF report demonstrated a higher incidence of adverse reactions to vaccines in neutered dogs as compared to intact.¹²

I have gathered these studies to show that our practice of routinely spaying or neutering every dog at or before the age of 6 months is not a black-and-white issue. Clearly more studies need to be done to evaluate the effects of prepubertal spaying and neutering, particularly in canine athletes. Currently, I have significant concerns with spaying or neutering canine athletes before puberty. But of course, there is the pet overpopulation problem. How can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs while still leaving the gonads to produce the hormones that are so important to canine growth and development? One answer would be to perform vasectomies in males and tubal ligation in females, to be followed after maturity by ovariectomy in females to prevent mammary cancer and pyometra. One possible disadvantage is that vasectomy does not prevent some unwanted behaviors associated with males such as marking and humping. On the other hand, females and neutered males frequently participate in these behaviors too. Really, training is the best solution for these issues. Another possible disadvantage is finding a veterinarian who is experienced in performing these procedures.

Nonetheless, some do, and if the procedures were in greater demand, more veterinarians would learn them. I believe it is important that we assess each situation individually.

For canine athletes, I currently recommend that dogs and bitches be spayed or neutered after 14 months of age.

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LIST OF SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Wire crate: 36" x 23" x 27" for females

42" x 28" x 32" for males

Stainless Steel food/water bowls – 2 qt size (2)

Nova-cleanse Ear Cleaning Solution

Grannick's Bitter Apple Spray

Frontline Plus – puppy size

32 oz Simple Solution Stain and Odor Remover (or) Nature's Miracle Stain Remover

Bio Groom shampoo – Super White

Bio Groom Conditioner

Grooming Shears for feet and ears

Untangler/Undercoat de-matting rake

Soft pin Slicker Brush

Chrome-plated steel flat comb

Nail clipper

Kwik Stop = ½ oz

Adjustable collar

Cotton web leash – 6 ft for training

Flexi- leash for long walks

Toys: hard balls

Kong – small and large (great for stuffing a cookie into when older)

Stuffed animals to carry around (avoid plastic eyes, items that can be chewed off)

Nylabones

Hard, raw real bones from your butcher – thigh bones

Sterilized bones

Rawhide – with supervision only

NO – booda bones, greenies, pig hooves, nylabone edibles

Source Websites:

www.jefferspnet.com

www.revivalanimal.com

www.kyvet.com

www.petedge.com

SUGGESTED DOG FOODS

The following is NOT an exhaustive list of some premium brands but a good start in your search for a quality dog food. Not all foods are available in your area, so you will have to find the one that suits your needs, your pup's needs and your budget.

Artemis
Back to Basics
California Natural
Canidae
Chicken Soup for the Pet Lovers Soul
Eagle Pack Holistic
Evolve
Flint River
Fromm
Go Natural
Solid Gold
Innova
Natural Balance
Natural Choice
Pinnacle
Premium Edge
Royal Canin
Wellness
Wysong

Old favorites:

Eukanuba
Diamond
ProPlan
Nupro

NO: Purina please

Look for "Large Breed" varieties when available within a particular brand line.