



It's time to meet your new **Son Shine Farms** puppy!

## Starting Out



Your puppy has just entered a whole new world. Sights, sounds, smells, people... all are new to him. Allow him to explore his new surroundings with as little restriction as possible. Treat him with "kid gloves", talk softly, move slowly, cuddle and play with him. All of this will help him learn that he is home.

## The Basics

- Food and water bowls (We recommend stainless steel- avoid plastic as it can leach into the food/water.)
- Bed
- ID tag and collar
- Puppy pads and holder if you plan to have them learn to use them for pottying or its too cold outside to start training.
- Crate/Kennel or Exercise Pen (If you plan to crate train your puppy) (Midwest is a great brand...Puppy Playpens and Exercise Pens are a great choice or just a regular wire kennel. Stay away from plastic as they tend to chew on the sides.)
- Toys, toys and more toys!!!
- Be careful of puppy treats as a young puppy can choke, and also look for nutritional value of treats.
- We send your puppy home with a blanket that smells like his/her family to help with the adjustment

## Car Sickness

Car sickness is common among puppies. It is a good idea to bring paper towels just in case. Holding the puppy in your lap may help him feel more secure and help prevent car sickness. Car sickness generally decreases with age and more frequent car trips.

## Feeding and Potty Training Your Puppy:

### A high-quality puppy food

Your puppy has been eating **FREE CHOICE Nutrisource small/medium puppy** food for the past 4 weeks. If you decide to choose another brand of high-quality puppy food—mix the new food with what we sent home to slowly introduce the new kind.

The dogs at Son Shine Farm are fed using the **FREE CHOICE** method. We always have a bowl of food available to them. This works well for puppies and dogs that do not gorge

themselves, but prefer to graze throughout the day. Check with your vet to see if this method is suitable for your pups weight & temperament.

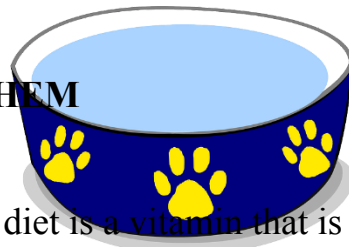
Be aware the FREE CHOICE method does not work well for multiple dog homes with an overweight or “piggy” dog.

For people who stay at home and want to potty train their puppy the best choice is a feeding schedule. Take your puppy outside 15 minutes after each of his 3 or 4 daily feedings. Eventually this will become a learned habit and he will want to go outside regularly. As he grows older he will only require feeding once a day but will already understand that his potty place is outside. (Or on the paper if you go that route). For paper training we recommend "Wee-wee pads". Placing him on the pad after each feeding. Once he's used to the pad you can make a slow conversion to paper by first covering the pad with the paper and eventually using paper only. It is a wise idea to make the puppy's last meal in the early evening to prevent any night time accidents. Also if your puppy gulps his food when you feed it (sometimes making himself sick) he's probably not getting enough food or not getting it often enough, making him think he has to hurry or it won't be there.

**Be careful not to give too many treats right away as it might upset their tummy or make them not hungry for their regular food. Love them with attention instead!**

Puppy tummies can be sensitive to abrupt changes.

**ALWAYS HAVE FRESH WATER AVAILABLE TO THEM**



### **Vitamins**

Besides food, the next most important thing in your dog's diet is a vitamin that is going to give them the other nutrients they need that isn't found in their main food. We highly recommend NuVet Plus. Nourish your precious pet with a treat they love! NuVet Plus helps OPTIMIZE health. Even the highest quality dog foods are cooked, and as a result, the heat minimizes nutrients. While they do provide macro-nutrients, NuVet Plus is cold processed and provides rich micro-nutrients that optimize health. It's a treat they love. NuVet Plus is a full spectrum immune system builder; not a vitamin. It's filled with synergistic blend of anti-oxidants, amino acids, enzymes, vitamins, minerals and more designed to promote healthy cells and to help the pet's immune system at its peak. Healthy cells = healthy pets! NuVet Plus is natural; no artificial flavors, artificial fillers, artificial binders, or grains. This gives it superior absorption and utilization in the body, allowing the ingredients to be more effectively absorbed through the cellular walls. NuVet Plus is sourced & manufactured in the USA in an FDA registered, human pharmaceutical laboratory; almost unheard of in the pet food & pet supplement industry. This assures the very highest quality, potency and purity. In other words, what you see on the label is what you get, exactly. Studies have shown that products manufactured with less controls, don't always provide what it says on the label and may contain harmful ingredients. NuVet Plus ingredients are natural and human grade. So, called “animal or feed grade” allows for a manufacturer to include by-products, chemicals, fillers and meats from dying or diseased animals; something NuVet Labs would never allow or condone. NuVet Plus is perfect for

outwardly healthy dogs. By keeping the immune system functioning at peak performance the pet is better equipped to stay healthy. For puppies and kittens, it helps to boost their still maturing immune system – critically important! Note: A pet that appears healthy may not be. Taking NuVet plus daily can help eliminate this potentially dangerous situation. NuVet Plus can help your pet deal with environmental conditions, including pollutants in the air, pesticides and more. The powerful antioxidants found in NuVet plus can help combat the free radicals resulting from the environment. NuVet Plus is safe! It's virtually 100% water soluble and food based, making it almost impossible for a pet to overdose. It's also safe to take with medications. NuVet Plus really works! View the testimonials, found at <http://www.nuvet.com>. NuVet Plus comes with a 100% satisfaction guarantee (60 days) or your money back. We feed NuVet to our puppies starting at 5 weeks of age. We highly recommend that you keep on giving it to them after they are placed in their forever homes

### **Hypoglycemia:**

- **Definition:** Hypoglycemia is low blood sugar .
- **Physiology:** Glucose is the main source of energy for the body and the only source of energy for the brain. When most of the glucose in the blood is used up, the body responds by releasing glucose from the liver and by breaking down fatty acids and other energy sources. If no more stored glucose is available, the brain runs out of energy and can even be damaged beyond repair.
- **Causes:** “Puppy Hypoglycemia” is seen in toy breed dogs less than 5 months of age. These dogs have more brain mass per body weight compared to other breeds and therefore need more glucose for brain function. A puppy that is not eating well is more prone to getting "down".
- **Signs:** Weakness, loss of mental alertness, wobbliness, muscle twitching, seizures, and death.
- **Treatment:** If the puppy is not eating well a little honey or corn syrup can be added to his food to help alleviate any drop in his blood sugar. Intravenous dextrose (a sugar) is needed for treatment of most severe cases. If the dog is having a seizure at home, the owner can try rubbing corn syrup on the gums while transporting to the hospital. Large amounts should not be fed unless the dog can swallow. Once seizures are controlled, blood work and other diagnostic tests should be performed to determine the cause of the problem.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more in-depth information about hypoglycemia.

### **Parvo:**

- **Definition:** A very common and very serious viral disease in dogs. The virus is officially known as Parvovirus. The disease caused by this virus is commonly referred to as "Parvo".
- **Physiology:** Parvovirus affects puppies much more frequently than it affects adult dogs. The virus grows in rapidly dividing cells. The intestinal lining has the biggest

concentration of rapidly dividing cells in a puppy's body. The virus attacks and kills these cells, causing diarrhea (often bloody), depression and suppression of white blood cells -- which come from another group of rapidly dividing cells. In very young puppies it can infect the heart muscle and lead to "sudden" death.

- **Causes:** Canine parvovirus is carried by dogs. Adult dogs may be infected carriers without showing any clinical signs. Dogs with the typical diarrhea that parvovirus causes shed the virus as well. It can last a long time in the environment, perhaps as long as 9 months or longer.

Generally, it takes 5-10 days from the time of exposure for dogs and puppies to start showing symptoms and to test positive for parvo. Parvo is highly contagious to unprotected dogs. It is recommended that puppies receive a preventative shot at 5,8,12 and 15 weeks of age. **Even puppies who have been vaccinated on a regular basis are not protected until they are at least 18 weeks old.** Parvovirus can remain infectious in ground contaminated with fecal material for five months or more if conditions are favorable. Extremely hardy, most disinfectants cannot kill the virus, however chlorine bleach is the most effective and inexpensive agent that works, and is commonly used by veterinarians.

The ease with which infection with Parvo can occur in any unvaccinated dog must be stressed. The virus is extremely hardy in the environment. Withstanding wide temperature fluctuations and most cleaning agents. Parvo can be brought home to your dog on shoes, hands and even car tires. It can live for many months outside the animal. Any areas that are thought to be contaminated with parvo should be thoroughly washed with chlorine bleach diluted 1 ounce per quart of water. Dogs and puppies can contract parvo even if they never leave their yards. Parvo virus, despite what you might hear, is NOT an airborne virus. It is excreted in the feces of infected dogs, and if someone -- human, dog, bird, etc. -- steps in (or otherwise comes in contact with) the excrement, the possibility for contamination is great. Some people speculate that birds invading a dog's food dish can deposit the parvovirus there. If you think you may have come in contact with parvovirus, a strong solution of bleach and water does kill the virus, so you can wash your shoes and clothes, even your hands with it, to reduce the risk of infecting your dog. Rest assured that parvovirus is specific to dogs alone and cannot be transmitted to humans or other pets.

- **Signs:** When dogs and puppies contract parvo, they often have diarrhea - usually bloody foul-smelling, vomiting and lethargy. Symptoms usually begin with a high fever, depression, and loss of appetite. In many cases, dehydration, shock, and death follow.
- **Treatment:** The best form of treatment is prevention. **DO NOT TAKE YOUR PUPPY TO HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS WHERE IT CAN INFECT OR BE INFECTED UNTIL IT HAS HAD ALL OF IT'S PUPPY SHOTS!** By isolating your puppy you may be saving it's life!

Without intense treatment, the puppy will die of dehydration. Treatment generally consists of IV or subcutaneous fluids and antibiotics. **There is no cure for Parvo.** Veterinarians can only treat

the symptoms aggressively, and try to keep the dog alive by preventing dehydration and loss of proteins. Because there is no cure for any virus, treatment for parvo is mostly that of supporting the different systems in the body during the course of the disease. This includes giving fluids, regulating electrolyte levels, controlling body temperature and in severe cases giving blood transfusions when necessary. Parvo strikes fast and without mercy.

This information is not given to put fear in you, but to show the importance of vaccinating for Parvo. Your puppy has had its first 2 shots at 5 and 8 weeks

## **Puppy Proof**

Puppies have a charming tendency to CHEW!

Go through the area the pup will spend most of its time and remove anything you don't want chewed, and anything that might hurt them!

For example:

- ✓ Kid's toys
- ✓ Shoes
- ✓ Laundry (dirty socks are a doggy delicacy)
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Video game controllers
- ✓ Cleaning supplies
- ✓ Plants (find out the dangers in your area)
- ✓ Grapes
- ✓ Chocolate
- ✓ Mice/Rat Poison
- ✓ **ANTIFREEZE**
- ✓ **ELECTRICAL CORDS**
- ✓ **MEDICATIONS AND PILL BOTTLES**
- ✓ **SUGARFREE GUM (These last 4 can be fatal)**



It is best not to allow the puppy access to every room right away. More access= more opportunities to get into mischief. Use baby gates and closed doors to keep the pup where you can supervise.

## **Gather your puppy essentials**

## **Potty-Training**

**Please do NOT expect your 8 week old puppy to hold their bladder (or poop) for hours at a time!**

A good rule of thumb is that a puppy can hold its urine for the number of hours that corresponds to her age in months, plus one.



This means that when you first receive your puppy it will be able to hold its bladder for **no more than 2-3 hrs.**

Potty training can be frustrating—but human **CONSISTENCY** is the biggest indicator of success!

- Set a schedule your puppy can count on.
- Supervise closely to prevent accidents.
- Offer frequent bathroom breaks.

The internet is full of many great resources so check out different potty-training strategies that worked for others.

### **Keep it Low Key**

While it is fun to show your puppy off to friends and relatives we recommend letting it settle in to its new surroundings to prevent overwhelming it for the first week.

### **Finally—How to Get Through the First Nights**

Remember your puppy is a baby that is spending their first night away from his/her littermates

Expect some whining

Expect that your puppy will be a little timid when experiencing new things, different sounds, people, surroundings, etc.

Do not expect to get much sleep

Make sure to take them potty during the night—their bladders are small



**Don't forget to find a good veterinarian you can trust. Check with other “doggie friends” to find a good one. They will guide you on the vaccination schedule and when it is best to spay/neuter your dog.**

**Lastly—we love each and every puppy we raise at *Son Shine Farm*! If for any reason you become unable to care for the needs of your puppy we would like to be contacted so we can assist you in re-homing them appropriately.**

**And finally we absolutely LOVE updates of pictures and videos! We NEVER get sick of seeing pics/videos of the puppies we've loved and cared for during the first eight weeks of their lives! Email [wjs@wikel.com](mailto:wjs@wikel.com) or text 218-686-8577**



