



Greyhound Rescue West of England

PUPPIES

Occasionally at GRWE we get greyhound or lurcher puppies in, and it is a good idea if you have a puppy from us to get a good guide to owning puppies. Many Vet surgeries and food companies give these out free. This is only a brief starter sheet to having puppies. Please make sure you get a puppy book and find out all you can. If we put everything you need to know about puppies in this fact sheet it would be 100 pages long!

Is a puppy right for you?

Puppies are sweet but they are a huge commitment. It is like having a toddler in the house. They are into everything. They have periods of manic activity when you need to watch to make sure they don't harm themselves by doing things like eating electric wires or putting their tongues in the paper shredder!!! These periods are short and are followed by periods of deep sleep. They will need to learn toilet training, recall, no go areas etc and it is down to you to spend time teaching this. Please don't have a puppy unless you have plenty of time and are fully committed. The rewards in bringing a puppy up to be a lovely, well-adjusted dog are tremendous but the job is not for the faint hearted.

Food

Your puppy will require proper puppy food; adult dog food does not have the necessary ingredients for growth. If it is very young, it will need four meals a day gradually reducing to two meals a day by the time it is a year old. Buy a good quality puppy food and follow the directions on the packet. As your pup gets bigger you will need to raise its food bowl so that by the time it is an adult it is using a raised bowl on a stand. When the puppy is about 6 months old it can go on to a commercially produced "Junior" diet. It should not go on to adult food until it is a year old.

Exercise

Puppies do not need "walks" although they do need to learn to go on the lead. Resist the urge to walk your puppy for more than 5 minutes on a lead, or even to take it off lead marching across fields. Young animals' growth can be stunted by damage to the growth plates in their bones. Too much exercise can cause this. Don't even think of taking your pup on an 'adult dog' walk till it is about 9 months old. Practice walking on lead every day in the garden at first. Keep changing direction so your pup realises that he needs to keep an eye on where you are going rather than trying to forge ahead and pull you along. You might think it is ok for him to do that now but it won't be funny when he weighs 30 Kilos and is still dragging you along. If your pup pulls, stop and gently winch him back to you before walking on again so that he understands he won't get a walk if he is pulling. It is really easy to teach a puppy this but VERY hard when he is older, so do it now!

Responsibilities

Normally GRWE dogs are vaccinated micro-chipped and neutered before they are homed. If your puppy was too young for this when we homed him to you, you are required to get this done. Register your puppy with your vet as soon as you bring it home and he will advise you of the right ages to have

For more help and advice please visit www.grwe.com or call our hour help line on **07000 785092**



Greyhound Rescue West of England

PUPPIES

these done. Please contact GRWE about registration of the microchip before you have this done as his microchip should be registered to us.

Play

Make sure your puppy has toys to play with and that you play with him too. He needs mental stimulation as well as physical. If, when you are playing, he nibbles or mouths you remember this is a precursor to biting as an adult and NOW is the time to stop it. Act like one of his litter mates would by yelling OUCH! (Even if it doesn't hurt) and turn your back on him and refuse to play for a minute or two. Just think, if you don't deal with this right now he may become an adult that has to be put to sleep for biting someone.

Night times and when you go out

All puppies in a new home will be anxious about separation. They have just left their Mum and their litter mates. It is really a good idea to buy or borrow a dog crate so that you can leave him in a safe place. Ask your neighbours to bear with you while he learns to be left as it may be a noisy process. Explain that the more you concentrate on getting it right now, the quicker he will learn. Make the dog crate a nice place to be, cosy and warm, with an un-spillable container of water, toys and treats. Leave the door open so he can wander in and out. Shut the door occasionally when he is in and ignore him if he cries. When he stops crying and settles down (however long it takes) praise him. Gradually start leaving him for longer periods. NEVER go to him when he is crying otherwise he will know that crying gets results. You will need to harden your heart for this – they can cry very pitifully for ages! At night time if he cries enough to wake the neighbours you can sit beside him, or have him in his crate by the bed but do not speak to him or comfort him or he will know how to demand comfort at night.

Toilet Training

This is much easier than people think. Every time your pup is fed, or wakes up, or looks restless, or starts sniffing the floor, take him quickly outside. As soon as he goes to the loo praise him and have a rewarding game with him. If you concentrate on this in the first few days it is soon sorted. Sometimes a relapse happens especially if he picks up a slight bladder infection, just repeat the same pattern. Soon he will wander to the back door of his own accord to ask for a loo trip. A small puppy will not be able to go right through the night without going to the loo. He only has a tiny bladder, so NEVER tell him off. Just grin and bear it. Mop it up with a proper pet scent remover from a pet shop so the place doesn't smell like a public loo to him. If you are cross with him when he has an 'accident' you will increase his stress about the situation which will make him have more 'accidents'

If he gets ill

Remember he is a baby and if he is ill he will dehydrate very quickly and go downhill fast. If he seems off colour don't leave it for a few days. Get him to the vet as soon as you can.

For more help and advice please visit www.grwe.com or call our hour help line on **07000 785092**



Greyhound Rescue West of England

PUPPIES

Socialisation

Take your puppy out and about to experience as much as he can before he is old enough to build up fears. Take him to noisy busy places, walk him around livestock, and let him meet other dogs and other people and children. The more experiences he has as a puppy, the better he will cope with them as an adult.

Now you have read all the warnings believe us when we say puppies are huge fun and very rewarding. Spend time working with your puppy and you will see what we mean!

For more help and advice please visit www.grwe.com or call our hour help line on **07000 785092**