

Ludwig's Doodles - Puppy Care Information 2018-2019

Things to buy:

Type of food: Purina Pro Plan Focus Large Breed Puppy – it is chicken based. PetSmart always has it in stock. If you are going to use a different food you must do a gradual change over a 2 weeks period or you will have a bad case of diarrhea. I strongly suggest staying on the Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy Formula our dogs have done well on it for 20 years.

Crate: Optional – If getting one 42” – safe space must be provided – crate and small area preferred. You can have newspaper down at the beginning until a routine is set up.

Bed: They love the large dog pillow bed be available at Costco. Washable.

Feeding Bowls: 2 – water and food if you have young kids I would go with aluminum it doesn't break – sometimes they will prefer drinking from a toilet when they are older – make sure it is always flushed or closed. Do not use the toilet chemicals that stay in the water. Always flush a few times after cleaning. I prefer them to drink from bowls so we keep the toilet closed.

News Paper – start collecting. Only use newspaper as a backup plan. Try to get the pup used to going outside right away instead. Have the paper near the door so you can see when it is moving towards it. Use the same door each time. When the puppy wakes up, immediately pick him up and carry him outside. Do not talk to him until he is on the ground outside. You may get him excited and then you may have a water fountain effect from the excitement. After a play session the pup needs to go again, take him out. Always give the command for the action. After chewing a bone, will need to go out again. Count how many seconds the steam lasts. Never talk to the pup once the stream starts or it will stop.

Toys: Rope chew toy, balls and a Kong. Squeaky noise balls or toys could be used to get their attention but they may destroy it and choke on the squeaker. There are many safe dog toys don't choose a shoe or anything else that resembles an item that will be off limits. Do not play tug of war with the puppy. Always touch the pup everywhere and have quiet time.

Bones: Rubber bones as pups and rawhides need to be supervised. Always throw out rawhides when they are small around 2's. The 10” pressed type rawhide is the best it lasts the longest. Only use the large kind even for a pup. Costco has regular 10” rawhides for a reasonable price they get through those quickly, so watch them. Our dogs have chewing need, as all dogs do. Give them appropriate chewing items and they won't need to destroy any furniture. Dirty underwear needs to be kept away. Feminine hygiene products are like a steak. Dirty diapers - yum. So have a garbage container that is elevated to avoid embarrassments. They love chocolate even though it is really bad for them. Keep it away in a safe place. The pup needs a safe space so socks and clothing should be put away.

Training:

As soon as your puppy wakes up from a nap – take her/him outside immediately. They prefer to do their business outside and may cry to be let out. From the age of five weeks they have been encouraged to do their business in a separated area with paper. They will make a bowl movement within 1 hour of eating and first thing in the morning before eating. Monitor your pup to find out the schedule. Here it varies so I don't know for sure. They often bark or whine before they do the job giving you a chance to move them outside. They do it quickly – so don't hesitate if you want success. When the pup is young and you see it's nose down I would pick him/her up and put her outside. Tell her to make a “P” or whatever you want to name the action of eliminating. Always make the pup think he is so clever for doing it outside, Good boy for, the action that gets the most human sounds will be repeated.

We suggest tiring out the puppy – playing outside with the fresh air accomplishes this task or during the cold months playing indoors is good. Let him follow you, play with a ball but encourage interactive play. Do not let them jump up on anyone at anytime! It may be cute when they are 12 pounds but no so when they are 35. Never pat your dog when they are standing on two feet. Put the dog down, say off and then say “good off” patting its head. They love the attention and it will form a strong bond with you. A great exercise and training is having two people stand apart in the backyard – about 15 – 20 feet to start and call the pup with a really happy voice. Tap the ground. When he/she gets there say “good come, good name of dog” a lot of praise. Look at them like they are the smartest dog in the world and you are so proud of them. Always look into their eyes. They can read your eyes and you will be able to read theirs.

Make sure you are touching the puppy everywhere! Handle their food while it is eating, take things from its mouth, take his/her back legs and just hold the paws. Do any housework around it. It is used to these things already and there is no reason that it should start to fear or become annoyed with it. If you intend on clipping the dog yourself – learn how. It will save a lot of money in the long run. If not send him/her to the Groomer even before it needs a first haircut – after all shots of course. Just to familiarize the puppy with the environment. The Groomer can just cut his nails and minor grooming. The puppy is used to his nails being clipped.

Beware of sharp puppy teeth. They are teething and it does hurt. If he is chewing you or anything you don't want him to, replace it with a toy of his that he enjoys chewing. Also say no firmly then when it takes the alternate item say good boy/girl. Love him, kiss him and hug him regularly. It is better to reinforce positive behavior than to yell at bad. When the puppy is over tired it will be nippy. Crate time and watch how fast they fall asleep. When the pup is really going crazy do not try to correct him. Just separate him into his safe area and he will go to sleep. Never try to teach no bite when the pup is in a “crazy state” you will get hurt. Puppies have crazy times of the day, learn the time and let it work the energy out.

If you have any further questions – I may have the answer. Don't hesitate to ask. I hope this helps a little. Use our forum to ask the other owners for advice. I believe we are all willing to help each other.

Remember:

Do not take your pup out to public places until the third set of shots are complete. You can take him with you but hold him. Only let him down in places that dogs do not frequent.

Socialize him with people and dogs that you know well and are up to date on all vaccines.

Puppies at 8 weeks require a lot of rest. When they get hyper they are over stimulated let the go to sleep.

Feeding

Start with 1/4 cup three times per day. Last food offering should be as late in the evening as possible. So if she hasn't eaten all her food from the other meals offer it to her again at 8 p.m. If a puppy has their stomach empty too long they vomit bile. Later in the night = later in the morning. Even if you feed them 4 times per day it's o.k. Likely they won't finish everything at once but they do prefer to graze.

At 8 weeks, take the puppy out every 1 hour or 1.5. Wake the puppy up and take her out. Don't let her get up on her own or she will pee so fast you won't be able to stop it. Exercise her in the backyard – she will need room to really run so practice the come command a lot. Get her to sit when she comes. When she jumps up say down put her down and tell her to sit. Push her bum down don't repeat the word many times. Maybe twice at most.

Puppy nipping is normal. Have a toy in your hand to get her to chew it instead of you. Don't let her mouth you at all even if it is gentle.

When washing a puppy, make sure you put cotton or Kleenex in his ears so that no water can get in. Water in the ear will give the puppy an ear infection. Use an Oatmeal shampoo diluted. The dry cold makes a puppies skin dry out very easily. Do not over wash the puppy. As an adult the dog should be washed every 4-8 weeks as required.

Good luck! Call me at 416-420-8823