



A Great Adventure Begins

Pick up your puppy, cradle its wide-eyed eagerness and look closely; you are standing at the beginning of a great adventure. Everything your dog is to become starts now, in puppyhood. The length of your dog's life will be influenced by three factors: genetics, nutrition, and care. We have done our very best to breed puppies with good genetics, but you still have a great deal of influence on the length and quality of your puppy's life.

Giving your puppy excellent care, training, and attention will help it grow into a healthy, happy dog and a faithful companion. This packet provides essential information regarding feeding, vaccinations, training, and equipment recommendations.

VACCINATION WARNING: Your puppy is not yet fully vaccinated. You must schedule an appointment with a licensed veterinarian for a well-puppy examination. Do not allow your puppy to be on the floor at the veterinarian's office until it is fully vaccinated.

Equipment & Supplies

Proper equipment ensures the safety and comfort of your new companion.

- **Food:** Our puppies are raised on Purina Pro Plan Sport 30/20 - Chicken & Rice.
- **Bedding:** We recommend Kuranda Pet Beds (44 x 27 Poly Resin with vinyl weave fabric). They are durable, easy to clean, and discourage chewing or urination common with cushion-style beds.
- **Crate:** We recommend a plastic crate for young puppies to provide a secure, den-like environment. Use a Medium (27"x20"x19") for a puppy; move to a Large or X-Large as an adult.
- **Collar & Leash:** Start by training your puppy on a slip lead, like Alvalley nylon slip lead or Waterdog lead. In adults, use a flat leather or nylon collar. We recommend Flexi leads for walks. Note: Remove collars in the crate to prevent tags from catching on bars.
- **Bowls:** Stainless steel is preferred for hygiene and durability.
- **Chews:** Large knuckle bones or Nylabones are excellent for teething. Avoid rawhide, as it poses significant health risks.

Puppies have a lot of energy and are naturally curious, loving to explore the world around them. While this is part of what makes them fun, it can also lead them into harmful situations. It is your responsibility to keep your puppy safe and to know what steps to take in an emergency.

- **Toxic Plants:** Learn which of your plants are toxic to dogs and replace them with nontoxic plants or put them out of reach. Don't forget outside plants; many are very toxic, and puppies don't know the difference.

- **Medications:** Do not leave any medications or vitamins where a puppy can reach them, as they are quick at pulling things off low surfaces. Remember: Tylenol (acetaminophen) is poisonous to dogs.
- **Trash Safety:** Put scraps and bones immediately into a dog-proof trash can. Don't forget bathroom trash cans; keep them high enough that the dog cannot reach them.
- **Electrical Hazards:** Puppies love to chew electrical cords. Tie up loose cords and keep them out of sight, or run them through spiral cable wrap or cord concealers.
- **Household Dangers:** Swallowed clothing (socks, hose, underwear) is a major cause of intestinal blockages and often requires surgical removal.
- **Hazardous Foods & Items:** Chocolate, onions, grapes, raisins, alcohol, coffee, and tea are hazardous. Sugar-free gum (xylitol) and tobacco products (including nicotine gum/patches) can be toxic or fatal.
- **Storage:** Properly store gasoline, oil, lawn fertilizers, insecticides, antifreeze, and rat poison.

CRATE TRAINING

Crate training is a great way to protect your puppy and give them a "safe place" of their own. All Greenstone puppies start sleeping in a crate as soon as they can walk, so they are accustomed to it by eight weeks.

1. **Introduction:** Use a tasty treat or favorite toy to lure the puppy into the crate. Praise them and make a "big fuss" while they are inside. Do this 2 to 3 times in a row, several times a day.
2. **Command:** Once your puppy is happy entering, put a "word" to the action, such as "Kennel," "Crate," or "Bed".
3. **Duration:** Gradually increase the time the puppy spends inside with the door closed. If the puppy cries, ignore them; only open the door when they are quiet and calm.
4. **Safety:** Never leave anything in the crate that the puppy could swallow. This includes blankets, towels, or bedding they can chew.
5. **Usage:** A crate is a training aid and safe house, not a total way of life. Never use the crate as "punishment".

SOCIALIZING YOUR PUPPY

The socialization period lasts up to about 12 weeks of age. What you do now will affect your dog's behavior forever.

The Goal: A properly socialized puppy is well-adjusted, makes a good companion, and is neither frightened by nor aggressive toward everyday things.

Rule of Sevens: Get your puppy accustomed to seeing different objects like umbrellas, bags, vacuum cleaners, and lawn mowers. Introduce them to stairs, ramps, and a variety of surfaces.

Outings: Once fully vaccinated, take your puppy on as many walks as possible. Avoid high-risk areas like dog parks or neighborhoods with stray dogs where they could pick up diseases.

Variety of People: Ensure your puppy meets people of all ages and appearances (e.g., children, people with facial hair, people in hats) to prevent future fear or aggression.

Positive Reinforcement: Keep interactions fun and positive. Use treats to reward non-fearful responses when meeting new friends.

GROOMING YOUR DOG

Most people assume that because they have short coats, Labrador Retrievers don't need to be groomed. They are mistaken; just like their long-haired counterparts, Labrador Retrievers need to be regularly groomed. Regular grooming sessions will keep you apprised of any health conditions your pet might develop and will minimize the amount of hair shed inside your house. You and your dog will both appreciate the time you spend together.

Things You'll Need: To be fully prepared, you should create a grooming kit for your dog, ideally kept in a small rubber container with a lid. Eventually, your Labrador will recognize this kit. Your kit should include:

- Toenail clippers
- Narrow and wide-toothed combs
- A bristle brush
- Wire slicker brush
- A short-haired rake (such as a FURminator)

The Grooming Process

Step 1: Patience with Puppies For a puppy, grooming sessions may initially be a frustrating experience as they are more interested in playing than sitting quietly. We have started baths and nail trimming early to help make your job easier, but you must continue this on a regular basis. Be patient with your "wiggle worm".

Step 2: Remove Dead Hair When you sit down to groom, first remove the dead hair from the coat using a rake-type brush or FURminator. The more dead hair you remove now, the less you will have to vacuum off your furniture.

Step 3: Distribute Natural Oils Once the dead hair is removed, use a bristle brush. This helps pull your dog's natural oils through the hair, leaving the coat with a healthy shine.

Step 4: Clean Eyes and Ears Use a warm washcloth to remove any eye residue from the corners of the eyes. Take a few minutes to examine the ears; if there is wax build-up, use a moist washcloth to gently remove it.

Step 5: Inspect Paws and Nails Examine the pads on the bottom of the paws to ensure there are no cuts, swelling, or splinters. Check the length of the toenails and trim them whenever they get too long.

Critical Emergencies

Poisoning: Call your veterinarian or Poison Control immediately.

Inducing Vomiting: One cup of **3% Hydrogen Peroxide** can induce vomiting if given within one hour of ingestion.

WARNING: DO NOT induce vomiting if the dog swallowed petroleum, cleaning products (like bleach), or strong acids/alkalis.

Snake Bites: Seek immediate veterinary care. Keep the animal calm and immobilized, holding the bitten area below heart level during transport.

Physical Injuries

Fractures: Control bleeding and shock first. Do not push bones back through the skin. Cover open fractures with clean dressing. For fractures below the elbow or knee, apply a Robert Jones bandage from toes to shoulder/hip before ASAP transport.

Stings: If you see a stinger, remove it. Use cool compression to alleviate pain and give oral Benadryl (2-4mg/kg every 8 hours). Seek medical help if the sting is near the head, neck, or throat.

Life-Saving Procedures

Rescue Breathing: Establish an airway by extending the head/neck and pulling the tongue forward. If not breathing, close the muzzle with your hands and breathe forcefully into the nostrils at a rate of **8 to 10 breaths per minute**.

CPR: If there is no pulse, lay the dog on its right side on a hard surface. Use the heel of your hand to compress the chest firmly behind the elbow. Perform **80 to 120 compressions per minute**, giving two breaths for every 15 compressions.

PUPPY FOOD & FEEDING SCHEDULE

One of the most important choices you will make is selecting a **quality dog food**. A good food helps keep your puppy healthy, saves on veterinary expenses, reduces waste in your yard, and helps your puppy reach its full potential.

Primary Diet: Our puppies are fed Purina Pro Plan Sport - Chicken & Rice.

The Schedule: Offer food and allow about 10-15 minutes to eat. Any food not eaten during that time should be taken up; do not allow "grazing". Your puppy will likely need to potty immediately after eating.

Kibble vs. Canned: Stick with dry kibble. Canned and semi-moist foods are much higher in water (up to 83%), fat, salt, and sugar.

Digestive Care: Avoid cow's milk, as dogs lack the enzyme to digest lactose, which causes diarrhea. For a puppy with a loose stool, you can add a little canned pumpkin to their food.

Training Treats: Use treats sparingly for motivation; they should never account for more than 10% of caloric intake. Stella & Chewy Chicken Freeze Dried food topper, Chopper beef lung small pieces of string cheese or hot dogs work, but too much can cause stomach upset.

Weight Control: Do not allow your puppy to become obese. Excessive weight puts stress on joints and can contribute to the development of hip or elbow dysplasia.

SPAYING & NEUTERING

Greenstone Labradors recommends that you spay between **18 to 24 months old**.

LIMITED HEALTH GUARANTEE

We take immense pride in our breeding program and the health of our puppies. This guarantee is designed to protect the buyer, the seller, and most importantly, the puppy.

Initial Health Warranty: The puppy is guaranteed to be in good health at the time of sale. The Buyer has **72 hours** from the time of pickup to have the puppy examined by a licensed veterinarian. If the vet finds the puppy to be ill or unfit for sale, it may be returned immediately for a full refund of the purchase price, provided a written vet report is supplied.

Genetic Health: We take extensive precautions to ensure our puppies are free from inheritable problems. We guarantee that our puppies are "not affected" by:

Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC)

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

Dysplasia Prevention: While genetics play a role, environmental factors are critical. To maintain the health of your puppy's joints: Keep your puppy at a healthy, trim weight (obesity is a leading cause of joint stress). Avoid repetitive pounding or high-impact jumping off furniture or out of trucks until skeletal maturity. Due to the fact that hips and elbows are influenced by more than genetics, we do not guarantee.

Limitations: This guarantee does not cover internal or external parasites (worms, coccidia, giardia, fleas, or ticks) after the initial 72-hour period, as these can be contracted anywhere in the environment once the puppy leaves our care.

PUPPY PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND HEALTH GUARANTEE

1. PURCHASE PRICE AND REGISTRATION

The purchase price of the puppy is \$_____. This puppy is sold with AKC Limited Registration. The Buyer acknowledges that this dog is not to be used for breeding and is not eligible for AKC conformation events.

2. INITIAL HEALTH WARRANTY (72-HOUR WINDOW)

Breeder guarantees the puppy is in good health at the time of delivery.

- Mandatory Veterinary Exam: Buyer must have the puppy examined by a licensed veterinarian within 72 hours of taking possession.
- Return Policy: If the puppy is found to be clinically ill or unfit for sale within this 72-hour window, Buyer may return the puppy for a full refund of the purchase price, accompanied by a formal written statement from the veterinarian.
- Exclusions: This warranty does not cover parasites or common infections contracted after leaving the Breeder's premises.

3. GENETIC HEALTH GUARANTEE

Breeder guarantees the puppy is genetically "Not Affected" by EIC, PRA, and HNPK until the puppy reaches 24 months of age. If the puppy is diagnosed by a board-certified specialist as clinically "Affected" by these specific conditions, Breeder will provide a replacement puppy or partial refund at Breeder's discretion.

4. ORTHOPEDIC EXCLUSIONS (HIPS AND ELBOWS)

The Breeder provides NO guarantee, express or implied, regarding the orthopedic status of the puppy's hips or elbows. Buyer acknowledges that Hip and Elbow Dysplasia are significantly influenced by environmental factors (weight, nutrition, and impact) which are within the exclusive control of the Buyer.

5. STANDARDS OF CARE

The Buyer agrees to maintain this dog in a humane and healthy environment as a household companion. This includes:

- **Nutrition:** Providing high-quality nutrition (Purina Pro Plan Sport Performance).
- **Weight:** Maintaining a trim, healthy weight to protect joints.
- **Safety:** Following the safety and equipment guidelines provided in the Greenstone Puppy Packet.
- **Sterilization:** Waiting until the dog is 18 to 24 months of age to spay or neuter. Early sterilization voids all health guarantees.

6. RIGHT OF RECOVERY & ANTI-SHELTER CLAUSE

The Buyer agrees that this dog shall NEVER be sold, given away, or surrendered to a humane society, animal shelter, rescue group, or pet store.

- **Life-Long Commitment:** Greenstone Labradors is committed to every dog we breed. If the Buyer can no longer care for the dog, the Breeder will assist in rehoming or will take the dog back into their care to ensure it is never abandoned.

7. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Breeder is not responsible for any veterinary expenses or third-party fees incurred by the Buyer. Breeder's total liability shall never exceed the original purchase price of the puppy.

8. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This document represents the entire agreement between the parties. This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Texas.

Breeder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Buyer Signature: _____ Date: _____