

## Puppy Instructions For Puppies 8 to 12 Weeks Old

### *Labrador Retriever*

#### **FOOD**

- ▶ Feed 1 - 1¼ cups of puppy kibble and cover kibble with water twice a day during feedings.
- ▶ Work up to 3 cups of food by the age of 6 months.
- ▶ Around 6 months of age, transition from puppy to adult dog food (research is linking too much protein at an early age to too much growth too quickly, which can lead to potential health issues).

#### **WATER**

- ▶ Give fresh water outdoors each time the dog goes out. Do not over water your puppy. Puppies will drink out of boredom.

#### **GENERAL FOOD & WATER**

- ▶ Do not leave food and water down in the house at all times or you will have difficulty house breaking; give food and water when the puppy is supervised.

#### **CRATE TRAINING**

We strongly recommend crate training your puppy from the start. By crate training the puppy, you are protecting your puppy from potential **deadly** situations. With crate training, you are training your puppy in positive and safe ways. No harm is done to the puppy while it is in the crate for reasonable periods of time.

- ▶ The Puppy should be in the crate when an adult cannot supervise it.
- ▶ Leave it in there through the night; like a baby it will cry but if you take it out you are training it to cry.
- ▶ A puppy will adapt to your schedule; though remember that it takes time (months of proper nutrition and growth) for your puppy's bowels and bladder to grow enough to make it through long periods of time without an accident.
- ▶ **Never Use Newspapers**; this adds a step to housebreaking.
- ▶ Remember to pick the puppy up and take it out as soon as you open the crate door.

#### **GENERAL HEALTH and SAFETY**

- ▶ Be sure to stick with the booster regimen for your puppy's optimum health and protection.
- ▶ Do not take your puppy to very public places where there is much unknown traffic (parks, rest areas, school yards), and hold your puppy in the vet's office.
- ▶ Stick with meat based dog food; stay away from grocery store foods.
- ▶ Do not give chew toys that can be pulled apart, ingested, or that resemble human objects.
- ▶ Do not leave your puppy unsupervised when tied up. They can hang themselves.
- ▶ Do not leave a dog unattended in a car or truck for any amount of time.
- ▶ Always keep your dog under control, for its own protection.
- ▶ Never leave your puppy alone and unsupervised with children or a dog that you don't know.

#### **GENERAL TIPS**

- ▶ Never allow your puppy to jump up on any person; this is a dangerous practice.
- ▶ Never allow your puppy to chew on people or their clothing; this can lead to aggressive behaviors later in the puppy's life.
- ▶ Never play tug-of-war with your dog as this activity can encourage aggressive behavior.

**Remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.**