

# Puppy Care Information Sheet

- 1. All supplies should have been bought and the home prepared before the puppy arrives home. A letter regarding “puppy preparedness” should have been received by buyers 2 weeks prior to puppy’s arrival.**
- 2. The first question people ask is “how much food do I feed my puppy?”** Being that litters eat differently than single puppies, it is not something that the breeder is able to measure. Our advice to you is that you start with about  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup puppy food three times a day. If you notice that your puppy is finishing his/her food and searching for more, increase the amount until the pup seems satisfied. It usually takes anywhere from 5 – 15 min. for puppies to eat. If there is any food left over after 15 min., remove the dish and offer about what was eaten at the next meal. **DO NOT ALLOW A BERNESE TO FREE FEED, OR TO EAT MANY SCRAPS and TREATS.** The eyes that captivated your heart are **USED** to get more food than what they really need. Feeding is the most essential element in turning out a healthy dog. If a Berner puts weight on too quickly, you can be sure of bone problems later on. It is not recommended that your dog be starved, but he/she should look a little lean. That big, muscular dog that you can’t wait to have needs to be put off to the future when he/she is around 5 years old. Be sure to feel your puppy regularly for an accurate assessment of his weight. Fur is deceiving! Run your hands along the rib cage and you should feel ribs, but they should **NOT** be boney! Next feel that tell tale tummy. It should be nice and tight and not sag. Your Berner will continue to increase the amount of food it eats until maxing out at between 4 – 8 cups a day. Never feed a Berner all food at one meal, as they will engorge themselves and be prone to bloat which is deadly. Continue this pattern of feeding and you should not have an issue with weight. You may reduce the amount of feedings to two times daily when they are around 4 months old. After your puppy is 6 mo. Old, switch from puppy food to Nutro’s Lamb & Rice Large Breed Adult. Remember from all your reading that you should never feed a dog after heavy exercise or drinking a large amount of water. Again, bloat is the concern.
- 3. Supplements.** Everybody seems to want to add lots of wonderful things to boring dry dog food. Don’t fall into that trap. We recommend a few supplements only. Ester C should be added to one meal a day (preferably the AM feeding). This will be the first introduction to Vit. C so go gently. Split a 500mg tab in half and crush it to powder. Add 250mg in AM feeding and 250mg to PM feeding. Do this for about a week checking for loose stool. If this is not an issue you can do the whole 500mg at one meal. When your puppy is tolerating this well, you may increase to 500mg am & pm. Although the dog food you will be feeding has Glucosamine/Chondroitin in it, I still give this as a supplement as well. Feed according to manufactures directions. I also give Salmon oil. This is high in Omega 3 & 6 and is better digested than flax oil for dogs. You can find this in the catalogue included with your pack.
- 4. CAUTION.** Parks are prime places for your puppy to pick up diseases especially Parvo. Puppies are particularly susceptible to this disease as it attacks the growing cells in the digestive track. While your puppy will be vaccinated for this virus prior to leaving my home, it does not imply full immunity. Some veterinarians recommend that you do not take your puppy to a park of any kind until they are atleast 6 months old. Use your own best judgment, but be aware of the dangers.
- 5. Exercise.** This is the other critical issue. Your puppy must **NOT** be allowed to jump from high places for at least 2 years (i.e.: back of pick-ups, off of retaining walls, picnic tables, or anything else that they decide looks like tons of fun to fly off of. Their growth plates will be damaged. As far as walking and running, try to keep the puppy on grassy or dirt paths. A puppy should **NEVER** run more than its own set pace. They will make good jogging partners after they are two years of age. Again, the reason you are watching their exercise is their joints. Just like concrete and asphalt is hard on our joints, it is hard on theirs too. The puppies will set their own pace for

**play. Remember that people are their favorite things, so if you encourage them to keep playing they will, but try to let them rest when you see them tiring out.**

- 6. The rest is basic care covered in the flyers I have included in this pack, and in your books. Please remember FOR NO REASON LEAVE A DOG IN A CAR UNATTENDED. I can't tell you the numerous horror stories I have read and seen for myself.**
- 7. More than anything else enjoy your puppy. Love him/her and meet her needs. He/she will pay you back with a lifetime of loyalty and love.**