**FAQ**

**What do I feed my new puppy?**

You will feed your puppy dry food. It is recommended that you continue with the food your puppy is used to eating to minimize the transition of going to a new home. I generally will reach out to all families approximately one week prior to pick up to let you know exactly what we are feeding. It will give you plenty of time to get the supplies you need.

We often will add in a bland diet as well. If this is the case, I will give you information about this on a litter by litter case.

**How much should I feed my puppy?**

Puppies will not over eat if given a quality dry food. Generally, this is approx. ¼ cup for minis/medium sized puppies and ½ cup for the standard sized puppy. Your puppy should be allowed to eat as much as it once at each meal offering of 10 to 15 minutes. After this time, you should remove the bowl. Then you can put the water dish down at this time. You should only for the water dish enough to cover the bottom. You will find your puppies appetite will increase as he or she goes through a growth spurt. His or her appetite will decrease when it less energy is required for growing. Don’t take this as a sign your puppy no longer likes his or her food. Offering a new food will entice your puppy to eat if you want it is not hungry.  I Peed four times a day for two weeks, three times a day for two weeks and then finally two times a day. Your vet will also help you and determining whether or not they should be adjusted.

**Do I need to soften the dry food before giving it to my puppy?**

Those puppies have a full set of teeth when they go to their new homes. As long as this is the case, then your puppy can and should eat the food dry.

**Will my puppy have a normal appetite when I first take him or her home?**

Most puppies do not eat well for the first few days during a transition. It is common for them not to eat at all the first day in their new home. Sometimes wetting the food with warm water for the first few days will entice them to resume a normal eating schedule. Your puppy should be weaned back to dry food within the first few days.

In some litters we will recommend a bland diet for the first few days. If this is the case, we will give you information on what to do.

**My puppy doesn’t seem to like it food anymore. Should I change brands?**

Dogs do not do well with abrupt changes in their diet. When they are offered something different, they will eat it with gusto. However, if you continue feeding that new food consistently, they will eventually lose the enthusiasm shown when the food was now. You can gradually switch to another protein type of dry food if your dog seems bored with his food. By allowing their diet to become mundane, they will eat just what they need to replenish calories they burn. If you regular switch what you are feeding to keep enthusiasm at meal time, you will not be able to free feed, but instead give it a special ration to avoid over eating a new food. Finding something new to entice them to eat more may please you, but in reality, you were getting them to eat more than they should unless you regulate the volume. This is how dogs develop a weight problem.

**Can I get my puppy treats?**

It is recommended that you give a treat only as a reward for following a command. Think of giving a treat to a dog like giving a piece of candy to a toddler. It isn’t harmful, but should be done so in moderation. It is best that you use a healthy treat.

**Crating**

**Where should I place the crate at night?**

It is recommended that you place the crate next to your bed. Your puppy is going to go through separation anxiety when leaving littermates and only home it is known up to this point. You do not want your puppy to feel deserted and having you close by I will be comforting to him or her. If necessary, the crate can be place next to the sofa in the family room and a family member can sleep on the sofa. Once your puppy is sleeping through the night consistently, the crate can be moved elsewhere in the house. However, you want to be sure it is located where you can hear the puppy if he/she needs to go out.

**How long will it take for my puppy to sleep through the night?**

About 50% of puppy sleep through the night (6-8 hours) On night three or four. Most are sleeping through the night by day 14.

**How often should I walk my puppy during the night?**

The first rule is never wake a sleeping puppy! Walk the puppy last thing before you go to bed. Allow it to cry self to sleep if necessary. Only take your puppy out if it wakes up and complains and has been at least two-three hours since the last outing. Placed it back in the crate an allowed to cry itself back to sleep.

**When my puppy cries, should I allow it to get out of the crate?**

You should try to avoid ever opening the crate door when the puppy is crying. He/she will learn very quickly that crying makes the door open. Once you have established this, it will be difficult to break. You want to wait for the puppy to calm down before opening the door.

**How many consecutive hours can I puppy confined to his crate during the day?**

The rule of thumb is one hour more than the total age in months. Therefore, a two-month-old puppy has a three hour limit. As long as you are crating your puppy at least one three hour stretch each day, an hour can be added the following month and so on.

**Can I move the crate from its original location?**

Yes. You may find it handy to have one in the bedroom and another in the living area of your house so you always have one handy without having to move them around from place to place.

**Can I use more than one Crate?**

Yes, it is fine to have multiple crates in your house.

**General maintenance**

**Should I brush my puppy’s teeth?**

Your puppy’s teeth are baby teeth and they will fall out at about six months of age.  However, you will want to brush her teeth as a puppy so it will be a custom to this one it is an adult.

**Should I clean my puppy the ears?**

The ears should not need to be cleaned on a regular basis. A healthy ear will have no bad odor or waxy buildup. If you see this or reddening of the ear canal, it probably means your puppy has a bacterial or yeast infection in the ears.

**How often can I bathe my puppy?**

As long as you use a tearless puppy shampoo, you can be made as often as you like. A tearless shampoo does not have grease cutter’s, and therefore, will not dry out your puppy’s coat by frequent bathing.

**When should my puppy have its first haircut?**

Your puppy will probably be ready at six months of age, but it its coat is becoming too long, you can have your puppy clip sooner. Be sure to take photos of goldendoodles with the haircut you like to assist and explain to the groomer what you want done.

**How often should I brush my puppy?**

Your puppy needs to be brushed 3-4 times a week with a slicker brush followed by a metal comb which will help you detect any mats that are forming. This will keep mats from forming and will also teach your puppy that grooming is a routine event your groomer will thank you for this!

**How often should I click my puppy’s nails?**

Typically, they need to be clipped monthly. You will want to massage/play with your puppy’s toes on a regular basis to desensitize it to make clipping meals easier. A groomer will typically clip nails as part of the grooming service.

**Traveling in a car**

**How to my puppy travel in the car?**

It is recommended that your puppy learn to wear a harness made for dogs that can be secured to seatbelt. However, your puppies ride home from Little Mountain Doodles, it is important that the stress be as minimal as possible and show your puppies memory of riding in a car is a good one. Riding on an adult slap in the backseat will be much less stressful than writing in a crate. If you were traveling alone, your puppy will have to be confined to a crate or a plastic tote plastic tote.

**How do I get my puppy used to riding in a car?**

Your puppy should go for a brief car ride daily for the first few weeks. Dogs that drool or throw up when riding in a car typically those that are stressed/anxious about riding in a car. Typically, this is because they are not used to riding in a car or the fact that they only ride in the car to go to the vet or groomer. Start with the 5 to 10 minute rides for the first week and extend it to 10 to 15 minute trips the second week. As long as your puppy is not stressed, not drooling or vomiting, your puppy is ready to go anywhere with you. Never leave your dog in the car unattended.

**Interaction with other dog/puppy/cats**

**When is my puppy fully vaccinated?**

Your puppy will need a series of vaccinations that will be completed by four months of age. Until then, you will want to avoid taking a puppy to places of high traffic of a new dog such as a dog park, Petsmart or the floor at your vet. You probably can take walks around the block and can play/interact with other puppies are young dogs that you know and that you know are vaccinated and healthy.

**At what age can I puppy at 10 puppy Kindergarten?**

Most places that offer classes do not allow the puppies start until at least 12-14 weeks of age to ensure that they’ve had a few vaccinations. If you were so inclined, you can hire a private trainer to come to your house. The 8-12 week, stage is very impressionable and a puppy is ready to start learning basic commands at eight weeks of age. The basic commands include: come, sit, stay, off, down. These can all be done by the family. The puppy really needs to know its name prior to going to any training.

**How do I go about introducing my puppy to my existing cat?**

The cat will make the rules on this one! A cat that has not been raised around dogs will probably retreat to higher ground once the puppy moves in. Do not force the issue. Allow the cat to move down to ground level on its own will and timing. You may find that the cat will venture down when the puppy is crated long before it stays on grandmother when the puppy has free run.

**Biting/nipping**

**Is it normal for my puppy to nippy?**

This is how puppies play it often times includes growling. They don’t know any other way. It is your job to find ways for your puppy to expend energy in ways that are acceptable to you. The best remedy is to allow your puppy to play with another puppy or young dog on a daily basis. Without this type of exercise, you will need to walk your puppy several times a day and find activities such as fetching/retrieving to tire them out.

**Jumping**

**How can I get my puppy to stop jumping up on people?**

This is one training issue that takes a village. You will need to put your puppy on a leash. Have someone with a treat approach your puppy. When he jumps up at that person, don’t allow him to jump up using the leash and have the approaching person communion puppy to sit. When he does, this person can give him a treat. Repeat this several times until your puppy sits upon seeing the other person approach. You also must not allow your puppy to jump on you at any time if you wish to be successful in teaching him not to jump. When your puppy jumps up on you, push him away sharply and do one of two things: turn your back on him until he stops jumping and sits and looks at you or sternly say “off”. At that point, you should love him with praise. Again, this only works if you are 100% consistent with the training. Allow your puppy to put his front paws will erase this training quickly.

**Vet expenses**

**My vet wants to perform hip x-rays while my puppy is under anesthesia for being spayed/neutered. Is this necessary?**

Other than the space/neuter procedure, I would not allow your vet to talk to you into diagnostic test of any kind unless you suspect a problem. This has become a widespread problem with that as they dramatically increased amount of your bill for a routine spay/neuter procedure.

**Should I buy pet insurance for my puppy?**

I highly recommend you ensure the health of your puppy. Little Mountain Doodles only covers genetic issues and only for the first two years. That health insurance is like purchasing an extended warranty.