

General Health Information

Johnson Point Labradors

Feeding

-Our puppies are all fed Purina Pro Plan Focus Puppy Large Breed Chicken and Rice Formula dry dog food. We feel it offers proper levels of meat based protein, natural fats and oils, and the essential vitamins and minerals a growing puppy needs. We follow the guidelines on the bag for the amount of feed to give, based on weight and age. A large range is given, so judge the amount based on your puppy's activity and body condition.

-Puppies respond well to a schedule and can easily adapt to being fed on your schedule. The puppy should be fed 3-4 times daily. Currently, each puppy is fed 1/3-1/2 cup of dry food, three times daily.

-Water is available all day, then removed as bedtime approaches for younger puppies.

-Feeding quality food and in appropriate amounts can significantly lower the risk of hip dysplasia and other skeletal problems during growth. Studies show that up to 60% of hip dysplasia is related to poor nutrition. Large breed puppies have different nutritional needs than smaller breeds. Normal bone and joint development can be adversely impacted by inadequate diet. Large breeds grow slower and remain puppies longer-until 12-24 months of age. We continue our dogs on puppy feed until 15-18 months.

-Take care not to overfeed. Excessive weight can put undue stress on developing joints and bones.

We do not recommend free feeding, especially with young puppies. Juvenile pups normally appear relatively long legged and this is normal. The idea of a chunky puppy is actually an overweight puppy.

-Be cautious with giving the dog bones-they can splinter and cause choking or intestinal blocking. Bones have little nutritional value and chew toys and simulated bones are a better option.

Vaccinations

-The puppy has received the first vaccination at seven weeks of age. The vaccination series needs to continue ideally every 4 weeks until 15 weeks of age. -The rabies vaccine should be given around 18 weeks of age, then again at one year old. -Please consult your veterinarian about their suggested vaccine schedule and any additional vaccines they recommend.

Worming

-Your puppy has been dewormed at 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks of age. It is recommended that a puppy be wormed monthly until 6 months of age, then again at one year. We use Pyrantel Pamoate 50 mg until six weeks of age, then worm with SafeGuard at 6 and 8 weeks of age. We do our very best to prevent parasites, but any exposure to the outdoors creates risk. Parasites can be picked up from any location.

Grooming

-Beginning a grooming routine as early as possible will be beneficial to both the puppy and owners. Regular brushing, nail trims, eye, ear, paw, and dental checks will keep you familiar with your dog's normal state in case a problem should ever arise. As with training, keep the sessions short and fun. End with a treat.

-Eyes should be cleaned by gently wiping away discharge with a cotton ball or washcloth soaked in warm water. Do not rub the eye.

-Ears should be cleaned a few times a month. There should be no odor in the ears. Gently wipe out the ears with a cotton ball, going no deeper than the knuckle on your first finger. Keep the ears dry and clean.

-It is recommended that teeth be cleaned frequently. Brush the dog's teeth regularly with a finger brush or gauze pad to begin with. As they grow, a canine toothbrush can be used with canine toothpaste.

-Paw pads should be checked for foreign objects or injuries.