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  TAILS Lantau

PUPPY CARE BASICS

Thank you for giving your time, attention and love to one of our rescue puppies. Here's a brief refresher on basic puppy care. Please get in touch with any concerns or questions. We are happy to offer support!

DIET

As puppies grow they undergo important developmental changes. There are various reputable puppy food brands available that provide a healthy, balanced diet for our puppies growth needs. Pups are omnivores and can thrive on a range of diets. Typically, puppies should be fed at least three times a day. If your puppy is very eager for food, they may be going through a growth stage and need bigger portions or more frequent feeds. Please confirm with your vet if you are unsure. Here are a few things that can be **dangerous and deadly** to pups that you should **not** feed: Chocolate, raisins, grapes, onions, garlic, corn on the cob, cooked bones, xylitol (artificial sweetener, in some processed foods). This list is not exhaustive; if you are unsure about other foods, please check with your vet. All puppies should have constant access to fresh water.

TOILET TRAINING

Young puppies may pee/poo anywhere, whenever they feel the need. Be prepared that they may also step into their own puddles. We need to be patient with our pups as they are still learning about the world. We recommend using positive conditioning training to teach them to use a pad or newspaper for their toilet. When they are older, the same training can be used to teach them to do their business outside.

CHEWING

Puppies like to explore the world with their mouth, which can be dangerous or undesirable when it involves cables, shoes or other hazardous/valued items. Typically, pups grow out of this habit after teething or once they can differentiate 'play' from 'no-play' items. Chewing is natural dog behaviour: When taking away a no-play item, it is best to replace this with a play or chew item. When we cannot supervise our pups, we can put them in an area where they cannot hurt themselves. We recommend making this space as fun as possible, for example providing food and toys, so it can become an enjoyable, calm, safe place for them to rest in.

EXERCISE

Once puppies have been fully vaccinated, they can go for regular daily exercise outdoors. Exercise length and level depends on the age of the puppy. Walks are not just good to keep our pups healthy, but regular pee/poo breaks are important for their house-training. Besides, walks provide a range of interesting smells, sights, socialization, and other experiences that will keep our pup excited about the world.

HEALTH & DOG LICENSE

Puppies who have not received their full set of basic DHPPiL vaccinations should stay indoors to minimize risk of catching disease from unvaccinated dogs. After these are complete, boosters are due annually. At the age of 5 months, dogs are **required by law** to be microchipped and licensed with a rabies vaccination. This needs to be renewed every three years. Furthermore, pups best receive regular prevention against fleas, ticks, parasites, and heartworm (age-dependent). These can be given at home on a monthly basis or as recommended by your vet. It is our policy that all our rescue animals are de-sexed at 5-6 months of age.



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SOCIALIZATION

It is crucial for pups to be able to spend time with other pups and adult dogs to play, socialize and ‘learn how to be a dog’. This is also a good time to introduce them to other species and show them that they are friends, not prey. Pups also need to have their pack humans around the home: They should **not** be left alone, caged or tied up for long periods of the day. This can make them feel anxious and lonely. Instead, puppies need to receive plenty of attention, care, and touch to encourage their development and make them feel loved and safe.

TRAINING

Training is important for puppies and can be started at a young age. Not only can this provide stimulation for their developing brains, but it also strengthens our bond with them. Plus, it can make life safer and less stressful. For example, training our pups to walk calmly on lead, come back when called, feel relaxed in a crate, or accept a short-term muzzle can be important for circumstances in which these may be required.