



## New Puppy Adoption Guide





"The face of a golden retriever feels like home."

David Rosenfelt

## *Welcome Home!*

Congratulations on bringing home your new Southern Water Dogs puppy! We're thrilled about the start of your adventure together and are committed to supporting you and our community of water-lovin', fun-havin' dog owners.

We've rounded up advice and inspiration from our fellow breeders, puppy owners, and our own experience with the breed. Enclosed are what-to-expect guides, training recommendations, and easy-to-source products that have been successful in our puppy rearing.

Over the next few days, you and your pup will probably find yourselves dog-tired. As you're navigating choppy waters with potty training, boundaries, and new experiences with your puppy, know that we are here to support you. Our contact information is listed below for easy access.

With much love and support,

*The Southern Water Dogs Team*

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Haley Rollins, GM & Puppy Manager  
Jordan Beck, Owner  
(828) 600-4717

Southernwaterdogs.com  
info@southernwaterdogs.com  
Mail: 121 S Naples Rd #688, Naples, NC 28760

# PUPPY NUTRITION

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Like a hundred-year-old tree, we are deeply rooted in our food selections and we thrive with a proper balance of nutrients. We've spent countless hours on the research and selection of our recommended foods. In the end, we selected three products that provide all necessary nutrients and are easy to find.

Your puppy has been slowly weaned off her momma's milk, and was started on Purina Pro Puppy Chow around four weeks of age. Purina Pro Puppy Chow has approximately 30% more protein than other brands and can be locally sourced at Tractor Supply, Petco, and PetSmart, as well as found online at Amazon and Chewy.

Mealtime is a special bonding opportunity between your family and your new puppy. We encourage you to use kibble as your treat when training to avoid unnecessary weight gain and to run your hands through the puppy's food bowl while eating to prevent rude mealtime behavior around children and other dogs (such as growling and biting).



## PRODUCTS

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Purina Prop Plan Puppy  
Chicken & Rice Formula  
Dry Kibble

<https://amzn.to/3P3xpHC>

Salmon Oil with Omega 3

<https://amzn.to/3Pik51u>

NuJoint Plus

<https://www.nuvet.com/618874>

## FEEDING SCHEDULE

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Morning: 1 cup

Evening: 1 cup

\*Increase per your vet's instructions.





"Before you get a dog, you can't quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can't imagine living any other way."

Caroline Knapp

## 3-3-3 Schedule

It takes approximately 3 days to decompress after the puppy leaves his siblings, 3 weeks to get comfortable in his new environment, and 3 months to feel at home. Expect your puppy to be very sleepy over the next few days.

## Housetraining

We've laid a foundation for potty training. Be consistent, use words of praise, and take your puppy to the same place each time. Avoiding using physical touch as a punishment. We've found an indoor playpen with a designated potty tray works great!

## Chewing

Discourage your puppy from nibbling on your hands. It may not hurt you, but it communicates the wrong message. When your puppy tries to chew, offer a toy.

## Supervision

It's so important you supervise your puppy at all times. This means you'll want to take turns with family members or use a crate when you're taking a shower or sleeping. The puppy is much safer and happier in a crate than at an emergency veterinary facility.

WHAT TO EXPECT



# TRAINING TIPS

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As much as we would like for puppies to know everything when they go home... they don't. Self-control, routine, and obedience training has to be taught, just like a human. Between 8-12 weeks of age is a critical point in your puppy's life for learning right and wrong, getting into routines and developing healthy behaviors. They will need your help with this training, and we are here to help you!

## Routine

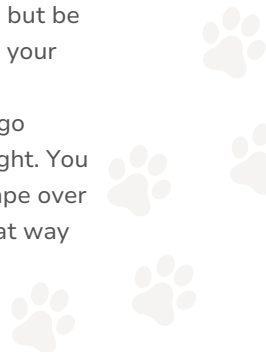
Getting into a routine as quickly as possible will help you and your puppy in every aspect including potty time, feeding time, bedtime, etc. Your puppy will pick up on when these things should happen and will get on a schedule quicker than you think. Life happens, and while we know that sometimes dinner can't be fed at 6pm every night, sticking to a routine as much as possible will make things easier on everyone.

## Frequent Potty Trips

Puppies have accidents...we all know this. However, you can avoid consistent cleaning of your rugs and floors by taking your puppy out frequently (almost excessively) for the first few weeks. Puppies are easily distracted, especially when they are playing. They get caught up in all of the fun they are having and will have accidents inside, but frequent trips outside and knowing common times to take your puppy out will be a huge help. Puppies should go out to potty immediately when they wake up from naps, when they wake up in the morning and right before bed at night. They should also be taken outside to potty about 20-30 minutes after eating a meal. Puppies are smarter than you think, especially when being rewarded after a successful potty trip outside. You may run into the issue of them going outside, not going potty, and running back to go inside because they know there is a yummy treat waiting for them. If this happens, walk around outside with them until they potty and only reward them after they have done the 'deed.'

## Bedtime/Crate Training at Night

This is one of the most difficult parts of bringing a new puppy home. When someone asks me if they should or should not crate their puppy at bedtime, we always tell them, "It's totally up to you." Some people want their dogs/puppies to sleep on the bed with them and other people don't. One critical thing to remember is that you don't want your puppy to think that the crate is punishment. Leaving the crate open during the day when you are at home and allowing them to go in and out as they please or while they take naps is a great way to prevent them from feeling like they are in trouble when you put them in the crate at night. Having a small, cozy blanket or a stuffed animal will comfort them during the night, but be sure to avoid stuffed animals with glass eyes and keep an eye out to ensure your puppy isn't shredding the blanket and swallowing pieces of it. You have to remember they have been with mama and/or their littermates up until they go home with you, so they will need time to adjust to being alone during the night. You can also try putting a blanket over the top of the crate and allowing it to drape over the sides to soothe and comfort them. Crate training isn't fun, but it is a great way to ensure your puppy is safely and peacefully contained when necessary.



## Leashes/Collars

Please remember that these are just suggestions for you. You can choose whatever type of leash/collar that you would like, but the following leashes are what we find the most useful. We are firm believers in a “slip leash” rather than a clip-on or a retractable leash. A “slip leash” has an adjustable opening at the end opposite of the handle that slides over their head. It does not attach to anything, such as a collar or harness. We like this style of leash so much because we have seen and heard so many stories about dogs and puppies pulling their heads out of a collar and running off, and there stands the owner with a leash and collar attached but no puppy. A slip leash makes it nearly impossible for the dog to pull their head out of it as it tightens when they pull. This is also helpful when they are learning to walk on a leash because when they pull, it tightens and tells them to stop pulling (this does NOT hurt the dog!). Slip leashes can be found in many sizes (even for puppies), but getting one that is 5'-6' long is ideal. The smaller diameter is best for puppies, and upgrade to a thicker one as they age.

## Food

We feed the puppies Purina Pro Plan (Shredded Chicken and Rice) for puppies less than a year old. You are more than welcome to feed them whatever you choose once you take them home, but if you go with something different, we encourage you to buy a 5lb bag of the Purina food to mix with the food you want to feed them and blend it gradually so that their little bellies don't get upset. We suggest 1 cup of kibble twice daily and gradually increase over time to approximately 4 cups daily by the time they are around 10 months to 1 year of age. Your vet will give you personalized recommendations as your puppy ages.

## Vaccines

Puppies come with their first 2 rounds of vaccines and are dewormed. They will be due for their 3rd round of vaccines at 9 weeks and the 4th round at 15 weeks of age. All the info you will need to take to the vet with you will be in the your puppy folder. It is critical that the puppies get all 4 rounds of that vaccine to help strengthen their immune systems. We do NOT encourage dog parks, pet stores, etc. until they have had all 4 rounds.

## Spay/Neuter

Even if you purchase your puppy with a limited registration (no breeding rights), you should wait until the puppy is AT LEAST 12 months of age before they are spayed or neutered. It is critical for their development to wait. If you spay/neuter your puppy early (some vets will recommend at 6 months), you can be risking their livelihood in the long run. There are many connections between early spay/neuter and hip dysplasia, etc. We understand that there are some exceptions for health/behavioral reasons but we absolutely advocate you to wait until at least 12 months of age, or, ideally, until two years of age.

## QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS?

If you have further questions or would like suggestions for other puppy care products, please feel free to contact us and we'll try our best to help you out!

Haley Rollins, GM & Puppy Manager  
Jordan Beck, Owner  
(828) 600-4717



# THE DO'S AND DON'TS

## ✓ Do

Your puppy goes home at exactly 8 weeks because that's when it will bond the most with you and your family. Here are some helpful things to do once you arrive home with your puppy:

- Start using words you'd like your puppy to recognize, and offer treats using puppy kibble when your dog responds to those words and phrases.
- Clean your puppy's ears using an ear cleaner about once weekly to avoid buildup and ear infections.
- Use a leash at all times outside. Your puppy doesn't know its name yet and can run away quickly!
- Stress can occasionally cause diarrhea, but you can mix in canned pumpkin to the feedings to ease it.



## ✗ Do Not

Your puppy has been dewormed, had its first series of vaccinations from the vet, and has had a negative fecal test. However, your puppy's vaccination program is not complete. Your vet will administer the final doses of vaccines to ensure your puppy's health. Don't skip these vet appointments.

Do not take your puppy to public places like dog parks, pet stores, or play dates. Also avoid lakes, rivers, creeks, etc. where your puppy can catch Leptospirosis. Without the completion of the puppy vaccination program at your veterinarian's office, your puppy can catch infectious diseases that can be fatal.

"Happiness is a warm puppy."

Charles M. Schulz



# RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Redbarn Real Bones (These last forever!)

[Link to purchase](#)

Potty Training Tray (Use puppy pads underneath.)

[Link to purchase](#)

Slow Feeder Bowl

[Link to purchase](#)

KONG Puzzle Toy (Great for peanut butter; must get large size!)

[Link to purchase](#)

Ball Launcher (Must get large size!)

[Link to purchase](#)

Wunderball (These last forever!)

[Link to purchase](#)

Ear Cleaner (Use cotton balls.)

[Link to purchase](#)

Nexguard Plus Tick Prevention

[Link to purchase](#)

Heartgard Chewables from your vet for heartworm



Scan the  
QR code for our  
recommended  
puppy products!





## People Food Pups Love!

Canned pumpkin (great for upset stomach!)

Green beans

Salmon

Blueberries

Cooked white rice

Cucumbers

Carrots

Natural peanut butter

Natural rawhide bones

Real beef femur bones



## Dangerous Foods

Grapes & Raisins

Onions

Flower bulbs (tulip, daffodil, hyacinth, etc)

Fruit pits

Cherries


Tomatoes

Mushrooms

Chocolate

Chicken and turkey bones

Peanut butter with Xylitol sugar

A close-up photograph of a golden retriever dog sitting at a light-colored table. The dog's head is resting on the table, and its pink tongue is sticking out. The dog is wearing a brown collar with a gold ring. The background shows a window with a view of trees.

"I want to work like a dog, doing what I was born to do with joy and purpose. I want to play like a dog, with total, jolly abandon."

Oprah Winfrey

# Thank you!

Furiendz,

We sincerely thank you from the core of our souls for your trust in us as breeders. We recognize the weight of your decision to adopt a puppy from us and are truly appreciative of your support. Please reach out if we can be of any assistance now or down the road. We'd love to keep in touch with you during your new adventure together with your pup!

- *The Southern Water Dogs Team*



## Review Request

Over the coming days you'll have completed the full experience with Southern Water Dogs. If you have feedback on how we can improve the experience for future puppy owners, we'd love an open and honest dialogue about what we can do even better.

If you've had a good experience with us, will you leave us a positive review on Google? Follow [this link](#) to easily leave a review, or scan the QR code to the right.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to positively impact our breeding program and help guide the decisions of future puppy owners!

