

Your New Puppy



Introduction

These notes are designed as a guide but should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to call us - we are here to help.

Congratulations!

You are now the proud owner of a very special breed, "Miniature Schnauzer". Your life will never be the same again like having a new baby in the house. So your lifestyle is not too upset there is some work to be done. Puppies grow quickly so there is not much time to get the rules in place. You are the adult the puppy is the child therefore **YOU ARE THE BOSS**. Helping the puppy settle in to its new home will take patience and commitment. How successful he is at adapting will depend on you.

Things you will need

1. A bed and place set up to sleep
2. Food dish and water dish
3. Food, preferable same as breeder has been feeding so as not to upset puppy
4. Pick an area you prefer him to go to toilet and pick a word to say when they go to toilet so you can teach him to go on command
5. A name for your pup
6. Some toys, no need for expensive ones, old soft drink bottles filled with kibble or rice etc
7. Puppy proof the home and yard, puppies love to explore and chew. Check electrical cords, batteries, pesticides and cleaning product are out of reach



Taking your puppy home

Your puppy is being separated not only from the environment it has grown to know, but also from its littermates and mother; therefore, it may take a little time to settle down. I find a warm bed (perhaps with a hot water bottle if its cold), soft toy, a ticking clock etc may help, plus a few cuddles never go astray.

Young pups, like babies need their rest so don't allow children to play too long or too hard. Introduce gradually to any other animals. Don't allow free run of the house and keep an eye on him as a quiet puppy means trouble.

1. Try to pick up your puppy from the breeder as early as possible in the day.
2. Talk to breeder regarding food and times to feed.
3. You will get an immunisation card and notes on care
4. Ask if pup has been fed, if not give a little time in the new home before offering food
5. Always remember to leave your details with the breeder so they can keep in touch. Remember to ring the breeder with any problems or questions no matter how trivial.

When you get home

1. Let the puppy explore the new yard under your watchful eye. If he goes to the toilet in the proper place praise him.
2. Introduce him slowly to other pets. They may need to be separated from each other the first week or so until they accept the new family member.
3. Have rules set out and be sure the whole family knows them and agrees to use them e.g. Is the dog allowed inside? Where will he eat and sleep.
4. Supervise your children with the puppy always, this way there can be no accidents.

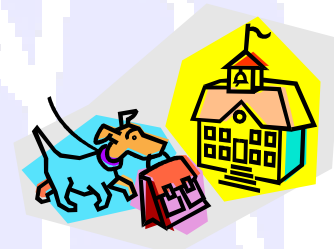
When you first come home, you should think about investing in a crate, the pup will feel secure and the crate can be moved around the house during the day when you are home and can give the puppy time out from children etc.

Other things to organise

1. Make an appointment with the vet for next needle and check up.
2. Worm the puppy according to the breeders instructions, and ask the vet about future treatment.
3. Heartworm treatment can be given daily or monthly , be guided by breeder then check with the vet as to which suits you.
4. Puppy school is a great way to socialize your puppy between 8 - 16 weeks of age and it is a very important way for your puppy to learn to interact with other dogs, cats and people, again check with the vet.
5. Desexing is a must and normally part of your contract with the breeder.
6. Flea control; your breeder and vet will recommend what you should use.

Socialising

To be a good canine citizen and ideal pet, your puppy needs to meet new people, dogs and other animals to give him confidence. Puppy kindergarten is great and you can start this after his final vaccination about 16 weeks. As well as being stimulating for the pup this can be educational for you.



Diet - See pages on our "Diet".

Housetraining

Teach "COME" and "SIT" or some command at least twice daily.

Feed at approximately the same time daily - no titbits between meals.

Establish only one toilet area. Take the puppy there after eating, drinking water, awakening, excitement of chewing on its toys. Stand with it and praise it highly after urination or defecation.

When an accident is discovered, do not make a fuss, except if the dog notices it - growl at it, then shoo the dog out to the proper place. Avoid punishment or social isolation. Do not let the animal see you clean up the mess.

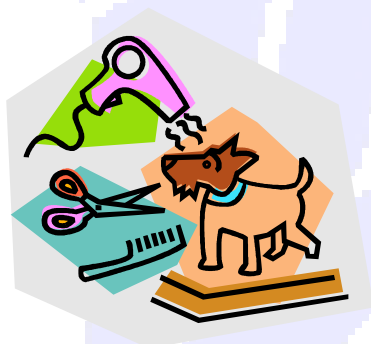
Teething

At about 18-22 weeks of age your puppy will begin to shed his/her baby or milk teeth and will go through the horrors of teething. When teething begins, the best thing you can do is give plenty of things to chew - I usually use a raw carrot or rawhide chews. Remember never give the puppy an item like shoes etc, as he will prefer your new ones. Teething is a time when lots of bad habits can be learned. For puppies teething can be very painful and they may develop sore ears and runny eyes until this period is over, please be patient they are only babies.

Keep vigilant that they loose all of their baby teeth as it is fairly common for Schnauzers to retain some of their baby teeth and it may be necessary to seek Veterinary attention to remove these teeth to prevent an incorrect bite or even worse infections such as gingivitis late in life.

Grooming

A Miniature Schnauzer needs to be brushed well at least twice a week . Bathing needs to be done every 2-3 weeks for maximum comfort and cleanliness (more if required). I recommend either a baby shampoo or a good quality fleas shampoo if needed. After bathing blow dry furnishing upwards with the brush to fluff up.



BEWARE of Hydro bath services as some of these do not clean the bath between dogs and also use the same water for many dogs. In effect, you are exposing your dog to illness and disease. Should you need to use one of these services DEMAND the water is fresh and the bath disinfected before water is added. Check the water yourself to ensure that it is clean.

If they refuse your request, bath the dog in your own tub yourself or you may be off to the Vet with skin problems. It is really important to keep eyes clean and free from hair, check eyes daily. Ears need regular attention, clean and dry often and they need to be plucked free of hair often as build up of hair and wax can cause ear mites.

Nails

Nails need to be clipped or filed weekly. Be extremely careful not to cut quick of nail.

Eyes

Eye "goobers" (mucus build up) is common in Miniature Schnauzers and should be wiped out daily. The colour of the discharge should be dark gray. Yellow or green discharge signals an infection and you should see a vet.

Ears

Clean regularly - at least once a week. Wipe ears out with a little baby oil and paper towel often.



Clipping

This should only be performed by an experienced qualified groomer. It is important that an experienced groomer is employed, as it is very easy to slip and do permanent damage to the dog. Plus you would like the dog to end up looking like a Schnauzer should. A professional groomer knows your dog and can often spot potential health problems long before they actually become a real problem. Clip your dog in summer for various reasons i.e. if you live in a Tick infested area it is wise to keep the dogs coat close to make inspection easier, plus it is healthier to keep the dog trim and tidy around his face and ears and private parts as they can become smelly when allowed to get too hairy and overgrown.

Fleas and Ticks

I use Fido's Fre-Itch Rinse Concentrate, which is a pyrethrin-based product and has a fast knock down action but only has a 2-3 day residual effect. In summer you can make up a spray bottle and spray the dog, it's bedding and any carpeted areas the dog uses. I also use Frontline Plus once a month but do not use in conjunction with a flea rinse.

Remember fleas are the key ingredient in your dog having tapeworm so keep fleas down to a minimum for health and the dog's comfort (no one likes to be itching and scratching continually). Remember to wash the dogs bedding at least weekly and if your dog has/had fleas, spray for fleas in all carpeted parts of the house that the dog has come in contact with.

The best Tick prevention is the 'Preventic' collar which are changeable every three months. 'Frontline Plus' can also be used but is less effective, much more expensive and requires application every 2 weeks.

Training - See *"Training your dog before it trains you"*.

Learning

A puppy learns fast and most between 3-16 weeks. The pup will have been introduced to different things during the time at home with the breeder but be patient when introducing new things and experiences. Slow and gentle. The Miniature Schnauzer tends to think in a much more human way than most dogs and his learning capacity is limited only by the patience of the teacher. Requirements are firmness, repetition, patience and most of all kindness.



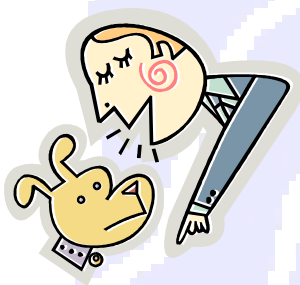
Food and Children

Children should be taught never to go near the dog and annoy it when the dog is eating or drinking. Children should also be taught never to approach and touch a dog that they do not

know. The owner should be able to remove food from the dog's mouth while it is eating, as this is an important exercise and should be practised so that the dog will not become aggressive or overprotective of its food. He/she must trust you in case you need to remove something dangerous out of his reach in a hurry e.g. poisonous plant etc. Simply lift the dog's head and open its mouth and remove the bone or whatever, wait a few seconds and give the food back with words of praise for being good. This will also help later when you have to administer tablets etc.

When Enough is Enough

Children can be unintentionally very cruel. Dogs of all varieties will take so much but a dog's natural instinct if hurt, is to growl or possibly bite. Teach your children to respect the dog's space and to understand that the dog feels pain in the same way they do. A dog will generally move away if annoyed and will do so a couple of times before it will retaliate. Prevention is better than cure.



Expressing unacceptable behaviour

Nothing sounds more serious than a good bash on a wall or your open hand with a rolled up newspaper, these puppies are use to that and shy away from it. We use this method to discourage undue noise, brutal play or unacceptable behaviour and you should rarely need to make contact and then only on the rump, not over the nose as this can actually cause damage to the small bones in the nose. If the dog is barking unnecessarily a water pistol is also another good deterrent.

Playing

Miniature Schnauzers are robust dogs with a great sense of fun and a willingness to play until they drop. Make sure that the play does not become an excuse to bite - all biting even in play should be discouraged.



Climbing and Jumping

Make sure that the puppy does not have the opportunity to jump off walls, stairs or furniture such as couches etc as they have soft bones which can easily be bruised and cause serious injury, both now and later in life, remember they have no concept of height. By being careful you may save on Vet bills.



Tug Games and Catch the Ball

Be careful with young puppies as they can injure themselves. Once they are a little older they can cope with the stress on their growing joints better - remember they are only babies and would you allow a 12 month old toddler to be dragged around by the arms or legs?

In the Car

Most dogs love a drive in the car. PLEASE get a dog crate for travelling as this can be safely anchored down, or a dog brace, which can be attached to the seat belt, otherwise if you have to stop suddenly your dog may end up hitting your windscreen or worse leap into

your lap in excitement causing an accident. In NSW **you are required by law** to have your dog restrained in your vehicle. I prefer a dog crate as the dog is more comfortable, feels secure and has more room to move around. If the dog causes the accident you may find your insurance company may not want to know you.

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER leave the pup or any animal in the car alone. Heat affects dogs much faster than people and heatstroke can occur very quickly.

Holidays

If you are going away without your dog make sure he/she is booked into a good Boarding Kennel then you know your dog is safe and cared for. Boarding Kennels require your dog to have a 'C4' Vaccination. Neighbours may mean well but they sometimes forget and there could be problems they do not notice.

Miscellaneous

Pick up a puppy with one hand under his chest, the other under the rump, never by the scruff of the neck or squeezing in the middle.



Small children should **ALWAYS** sit on the floor to hold the pup and only under **ADULT SUPERVISION**. Pups will remember accidents hurt for a long time. If you must leave a collar on the dog use a soft leather collar or cat collar, only slip/chain collars for walking.

Puppy Kindy is a must. Ask breeders or Vet for referrals.

Disclaimer

These notes are intended to assist and have not be compiled with Veterinary assistance but are based on many years of dog ownership. No liability or responsibility is accepted for use or misuse of the information contained herein.