



## New Puppy Guide

We are so excited to help you embark on this journey with your newest family member. We also want to make sure you are completely prepared to be the best Doodle parent you can be.

### Puppy Pick Up Day

The big day is quickly approaching where you will meet your little fur baby for the very first time. In preparation for this day you will want to make sure you have already ordered their food, treats, crate, bed, playpen and other essentials that are found on our **Amazon Shopping List**. These are the exact same items we have used to raise or recommend for your puppy. A link to this list is on our web site at [texasminidoodle.com](http://texasminidoodle.com). Next, click on **Baxter and Bella** on the web site, watch the video and read through the **Survival Guide** which will help prep you for your new puppy coming home. We also strongly encourage you to join Baxter and Bella's online puppy school as it will give you a firm foundation for training your puppy in the weeks ahead. If you will use our discount code **TMD25** you will receive 25% off their lifetime membership. Also, read the articles and watch the videos under the **Helpful Info** tab on our web site. This is excellent material that will prepare you for your first few days with your fur baby and teach you how to begin the potty-training process as well as proper use of a crate for crate training. Please plan to spend 45 minutes to an hour on this day with us as we talk about your puppy's schedule, vaccinations, and initial days in his/her new home.

### Veterinary Care

We require a puppy wellness exam within (5) days of receiving your new puppy. We will provide you with a copy of your puppy's vaccination and deworming records. Your vet will advise you when to begin Flea, Tick and Heartworm prevention and when to have follow-up vaccinations. We strongly encourage you in the interim to **avoid** taking your puppy to parks, restaurants, rest stops, pet stores, and other public places until your puppy is 14-16 weeks of age and has received their final round of puppy vaccinations.

### Nutrition

We believe nutrition helps establish the foundation for a puppy's health that's why we feed our puppy's vet recommended Hill's Science Diet Puppy Small Bites. Your puppy currently eats 1/4 to 1/2 cup of food at morning, noon, and evening. At (12) weeks of age you can drop the noon feeding and simply feed at morning and evening. There is a feeding chart on the side of the Science Diet bag that specifies the appropriate amount of food according to your puppy's weight. We suggest weighing your puppy once a week and adjusting their food intake according to the chart. Please follow this guide as your puppy grows. For treats we use the Bil-Jac chicken and liver treats in moderation. These are excellent for training and to reinforce a behavior such as going potty outdoors in the intended area. One of the most sensitive areas of a puppy is their digestive system especially as they are adapting to their new home. We highly recommend that you do **not** introduce any new foods or treats to your puppy as you will risk upsetting their tummy. We never recommend giving **rawhide** bones or treats to a puppy as it is very difficult on their digestive system. It's important to feed at the same times each day and when it's apparent they are done eating and drinking remove the remaining food and water. Do not let your puppy always have food available as they will become grazers and have to go potty numerous times throughout the day, making it significantly more difficult to potty train. **Tip:** Having the final meal complete and all food and most water up by 6 pm will help eliminate the need to go "out" during the night. **Structure** is key when it comes to feeding a puppy.

### Potty and Crate Training

When you get home with your puppy gently introduce them to the crate by bringing it into the family room, keeping the door open so they can freely walk in and out, and feed them some treats inside. We do not want them to view the crate as a threatening environment. Your puppy can typically "hold it" for 3-4 hours at night

before needing to go potty. Adjusting to a crate without their siblings might take a few nights. We highly recommend that the crate be kept in your bedroom at night so your puppy knows you are nearby. Some pups are comforted by having a blanket draped over the crate. The **Surviving The First Night** article under the Helpful Info tab on our web site provides a lot of good information. **Structure** is also key to the potty and crate training process.

### **Grooming**

Brushing your puppy is very important. We recommend brushing your puppy every couple days at a minimum to avoid matting of the coat. It's also important to keep the sanitary areas of your puppy trimmed and clean to avoid any type of infection. Bathing can begin as soon as needed. We do not recommend more than twice a month as overbathing a puppy can cause them to lose the important oils on their skin that help promote fur growth. Your puppy can be taken to a professional groomer after they have received their rabies vaccination at twelve weeks. We recommend waiting till they are at least 16 weeks of age as their immune system is still developing.

### **Spay/Neuter**

Our Doodles are sold as family pets and not for breeding purposes. We ask that you have your puppy spayed or neutered by their first birthday but not before 8 months of age as this can interfere with their normal growth process. Please watch the video entitled **Spaying/Neutering** under the Helpful Info tab on our web site.

### **Physical Activity and Socialization**

Our family-raised mini Doodle puppies are fun-loving little fluffs that grow into active and excellent companions. With energy levels well-suited for plenty of adventure and park visits. Mini Doodles adaptive physical activity takes a cue from your lifestyle — making them a particularly easy going breed to own. When taking your puppy for a walk we recommend using a harness and a leash – never a collar and a leash as their little neck/throat is just too small to receive pressure from a leash/collar. While they should typically get at least an hour of daily physical activity for health purposes, they're perfectly happy snuggling up for a quiet movie night or loafing around the house. Mini Doodles are social animals and they love being around their family. If you find you are going to be gone for a number of hours each day, we highly recommend using the playpen that is on the Amazon Shopping list. The playpen will give them significantly more room to exercise and play while you are gone. This is also where you will want to put down one of the potty pads giving them a place to relieve themselves. Also, make sure they have plenty of puppy toys to play with and chew on. Playing soft or soothing music can also help them to relax.

If you ever have any questions, please contact us!



**Texas Mini Doodles**  
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