



SMALL PUPPY & CHIHUAHUA INFORMATION AND CARE SHEET

You have just purchased a new Chihuahua / small puppy. Now you have a new "baby" and of course you want that baby to grow up and be a healthy playful part of your family. BUT there are certain things that you need to know and do to make this happen. In the following paragraphs these are just the basics of how to care for a new puppy and some information that may save our baby's life in an emergency situation. I will also try to educate you to be observant so you may meet the needs of even the tiniest of little puppies.

*** EXTRAS TO BE PURCHASED WITH CHIHUAHUAS / SMALL PUPPIES – Tube of Nutrigel, Lactade, Prime, can of puppy food, warm jumper, a heat pad with an enclosed style bed.**

TAKING YOUR PUPPY HOME

One of the biggest mistakes people make when they purchase a new puppy is they immediately have to take it visiting to show it off. NOT A GOOD IDEA!! Do not take your dog out in public or to parks or to visit friends. Take your puppy straight home and try your very best to keep it there until it has adjusted to its new surroundings and it's new "parents" and completed all of its vaccinations. Don't do anything that stresses the puppy out like going out shopping for new puppy clothes with puppy. You will have plenty of time later. You can place a small stuffed toy with your puppy for a little company. Do not allow your puppy to have run of the house. Your puppy should be placed in a small area or playpen etc. He will not be able to find his food and water if he goes out exploring a big room or house. Please remember these are very small puppies and even a small room to us is a huge place for them. Make sure your puppy is comfortable and feels safe.

GOING TO THE VET

When going to the vet, use some common sense. Keep your puppy in a crate or in your lap when visiting the vet's office. Do not let it romp on the floor or furniture and most certainly do not allow it to socialize with other animals that also may be in the office at the same time. Do not let others handle or pet your puppy. Their hands may carry germs that will cause your puppy to become sick. Where do all people take sick dogs? To the vet! Where is the best place to pick up germs or contract disease? Naturally, it's where everyone takes sick dogs. TO THE VET!!

Your puppy will already have its first series of puppy shots when you receive it. Make sure that you complete the proper series of puppy shots as this could save your puppies life. However it is vital that you do not overload your little Chihuahua's immune system, so no more than the standard vaccinations is required. Make sure that you do not do more than one treatment in a visit. If your puppy needs a worm treatment, give a couple of days after the vaccination was given. The puppy vaccinations that your vet will give puppy, will protect it from catching several different deadly viruses.

DIET AND FEEDING

If you were caring for a human baby you would be feeding it every few hours and constantly changing its diaper and keeping the environment clean. Use the same idea for your new Chihuahua / small puppy. You should keep the puppy on the same food that was provided for you so that you don't stress the puppy any more that necessary. Don't ever change the puppy's diet or eating routine too abruptly. The smaller a puppy the more times a day it has to be fed. It is best to leave dry food out for tiny puppies at all times (until they can go several hours without eating). You have to remember that because of their small stomachs they have to eat more often to sustain themselves. Never confine the puppy for any length of time with no food or water. This means during the night also. Small puppies have to eat and drink during the night time hours just to sustain themselves. Make sure to confine them in an area that has enough room for a bed, food, water and some paper down so they can relieve themselves. Until they are older they will not be able to go very long without eating, drinking and going to the potty. They are babies. Do not put the puppy in bed with you to sleep during the night. They will not have access to food! They can also fall of the bed. That is too far of a fall for a small dog. Provided access to dry kibble at all times for your puppy. It has been weaned from mom for several weeks and should be eating dry food with no problems. It is very important to make sure the puppy is eating once you get it home. Do not be concerned with your puppy eating the same kind of food every day. You should decide on a good puppy food and keep it on it. When you offer different kinds of food all the time "trying to find one he likes" you are actually creating a picky eater. The food purchased with your new puppy is a great holistic puppy food. You can change to adult small bites as your puppy becomes an adult.

HYPOGLYCEMIA

This is the scientific name for a condition where the sugar level suddenly drops. The first signs of this problem is usually staggering and falling over as if they are drunk. Or they can be observed lying on their side paddling with their front feet as though they are swimming. If these symptoms are observed you must act very quickly in order to save your puppy's life. You have to get the sugar level up to bring the puppy out of this situation. And it must be done quickly. I suggest you buy a tube of Nutrigel to have on hand. You can get this at Passion for Pets. If your puppy does show any signs of low blood sugar or if it is not eating, give it some Nutrigel. If the puppy is not willing to lick the Nutrigel you can put some on your finger and rub it on the puppy's gums. Sometimes when they get like this their mouth will clinch shut and you will have to pry it open. This should help get the puppy's blood sugar back to a more normal level. Once the puppy is responsive you must get it to eat. If your puppy has an episode like this it is not eating enough food. Make sure you offer the puppy the Nutrigel several times a day, even if it is acting fine until 16 weeks of age.

HOUSE TRAINING

A young puppy cannot be expected to "hold it" until it is taken outside. You should have a pee wee pad on the floor close the where your puppy is at all times. If it is introduced to the option of not having a pee wee pad it will forget about it and just go when needed. Make sure the area that you keep you puppy when you are not with ' it has a bed, food, water and a place to eliminate away from the bed, food and water. They do not like to eliminate where they eat, drink and sleep. Once your new puppy is familiar with its new surroundings and getting use to its new routine you can start introducing eliminating itself outside. Chihuahuas and some puppies are really smart and catch on pretty fast as to what you expect of them.

HAIR LOSS OR THINNING IN CHIHUAHUAS

In Chihuahuas when they are between 8 and 12 weeks of age you may notice a sudden thinning splotchy pattern in its coat. This is often misdiagnosed by vets and they suggest skin scrapings to determine if mites are present. It is a normal condition and should only last a couple of weeks. You should only be alarmed if it is accompanied by a rash. That could be a sign of démodé tic mange mites or some sort of allergy. So try and wait it out and everything is always fine.

TEETHING

Chihuahuas and most puppies usually have their full set of puppy teeth by six weeks of age. But some of them lack jaw muscles strong enough to crush dry kibble. When puppies are about 13 weeks old they start to cut their permanent teeth. This process can go on for 3 to 6 months. It can affect puppies differently. Sometimes their ears will droop or they will have one ear up and one down. This can change from day to day. At this age they will want to chew on everything so make sure to provide a lot of puppy safe chew toys. This will discourage them from chewing on your good shoes or nice leather couch.

REVERSE SNEEZE IN TINY DOGS

Occasional bouts of sneezing, snorting, honking and wheezing are not unusual in Chihuahuas. This is sometimes called a reverse sneeze. This is usually caused by an elongated soft palate that is thought to become temporarily misaligned. It is a common trait in toy breeds. Pulling hard on a leash, drinking too fast or getting overly excited can lead to an episode of reverse sneezing. Reverse sneezing should not be confused with a different condition call a collapsed trachea. Although reverse sneezing may be scary, it only lasts a short time and can be ended by massaging the dog's neck and throat and encouraging the dog to swallow or lick. Another way to slow the reverse sneeze is to clap your hands to distract the dog, or pinch closed the dog's nostrils with your fingers, forcing it to breathe through its mouth and to swallow.

SHIVERING IN TINY DOGS

This is a trait of the Chihuahuas. It is usually a communication of sort. They may be scared or unsure of something or someone. Or they may just be cold. Young dogs often shiver after they have been fed. Shivering is generally caused by the fact that the Chihuahua is so small that its body temperature changes very quickly. Shivering is a way for their body to compensate for this difference. Please make sure your small puppy is nice and warm during the winter months. It doesn't take much for these little guys to catch a chill. You will notice that Chihuahuas love to bury themselves under blankets or when it's warm, they love to bask in the sun. Jumpers or coats are ideal for these small puppies / dogs.

EXTRA INFORMATION ON TINY PUPPIES

Due to their small size Chihuahuas must replenish their energy more frequently than all larger puppies. The only way to do this is by supplying plenty of nourishment in the form of extra food and water. You must remember that puppies only eat very small amounts of food at a time but they use large amounts of energy.

Never give your Chihuahua puppy the run of the whole house until they are at least 6 months old or older. With such a large space to run around in, it is easy for them to tire and lose track of where their food is and most important their potty pads or potty place! And if their not getting food on time that could result in a hypoglycaemia attack or even death for your puppy if they can't find their food and water please This Is No Joke!! For the first few weeks do not let your baby Chi out to play for longer than a one hour period at a time, Just play with them for a short time like 15 mins, then give them a small dose of the Nutrigel and then place them back in their play area so they can potty, eat drink and rest for a while. Remember that they are very small babies and tire easily. Please be careful not to over-tire your puppy especially in the first few weeks. A puppy will play until it drops. It may play so much that it is too tired to even eat or drink water. It is up to you as the owner to be responsible and see that your Chihuahua puppy gets enough rest. Most very small puppies need as much as 20 out of 24 hours rest. Be especially aware of the amount of time children play with the puppy, you don't want your puppy getting really sick. These are just like human babies and must be treated as such, and think of the tiny teacup size puppy just like a premature human baby that really needs extra care!

IMPORTANT > STRESS: in Chihuahuas & Small Puppies

Puppies can become stressed easily and this is the main cause of illness and even death to newly acquired puppies!!! Taking your puppy to your home, holding him/her too much, having to deal with other pets in the home, not eating right or playing too much in a big open area are some of reasons your puppy will become stressed and can get real sick. Your puppy should be in a warm dry area to sleep, Crates, Playpens, are great for keeping your new puppy in, it provides a safe place for your puppy and will help limit the stress he or she may feel. It can also help with potty training, and give them a sense of security as their safe place. Provide a comfy bed in the area as puppies do sleep a lot. They will need food and water available at all times (this will also help with hypoglycaemia) Avoid handling your puppy too much, this can add stress and overtire. A tired puppy will not eat, he will only want to sleep and missing a meal can be life threatening to your new small puppy. As the puppy grows older and stronger he/she will be able to play for longer periods of time. It's also important that puppies are not left alone for many hours each day, this too can cause over stress and could cause your puppy to refuse to eat and drink.

Tiny Chihuahua puppies have Tiny Little Tummies - but a very fast metabolism! This basically means that their little bodies 'use up' their food very quickly. To help make sure that their blood sugar levels remain constant in spite of this, it's important to make sure that your puppy eats 'Little and very often'. Any Chihuahua puppy should be fed at least 4 times a day, for the first 6 months or just leave the dry food out all day for them. After that, 3 times a day should be okay until your puppy is mature (around 1 year of age), when you can go down to 2 feedings per day. Little dogs like Chihuahuas will always need to be fed at least twice daily when they are adults. Water and dry food should be freely available always, but make sure the water bowl is tip-proof and not big/deep enough for your puppy to fall into! Tiny puppies may try to climb into a bowl that seems too big, and it is perfectly possible for them to drown in this way. It's also important to be prepared for hypoglycaemia, just to be on the safe side. Before you bring your puppy home, familiarize yourself with the symptoms of low blood sugar (which can include weakness, confusion, low body temperature, poor co-ordination, drowsiness or even loss of consciousness), so that you know when to take action fast. Hypoglycaemia can be a very serious condition, so have a tube of Nutrigel on hand before you bring your puppy home. Nutrigel is a vitamin and calorie rich paste, which is used as a dietary supplement, which gives an extra 'boost' of energy.

FEEDING TIPS AND TINY PUPPY CARE Water: Water is necessary for good health and should be available at all times; Lactade should also be added to provide essential electrolytes. If your puppy is not drinking enough, pet milk can be used as a supplement to encourage drinking. If your puppy still does not drink enough, you may use a dropper.

Food: Knowing when, what and how much to feed is critical to your puppy's success. If possible, a set schedule is very helpful, especially as you work on housetraining. Put the food down for approximately 15 minutes and then take it away. If you have to be gone over a meal time, put the next feeding out. Leave fresh water out at all times. Remember that every puppy is different. How much and how often he feeds will depend upon his size and metabolism. The following recommendations are just that-recommendations. It is your responsibility to monitor and adjust your puppy's food intake.

6 - 12 weeks You will most likely be taking your puppy home during this age span. We recommend feeding your small puppy 4 times a day through this growth period. When you take him home, he may tend to skip a few meals because of the new environment, new schedule, new people, etc. A small puppy cannot afford to do this, as it may cause low blood sugar (see hypoglycaemia). If he refuses to eat, try softening his food with warm water, or offer him Prime or canned puppy food. A chicken and rice formula is easy on the stomach. If your puppy develops diarrhoea as a result of stress brought on by all the changes in environment, food, and more, try cooking rice and adding some roast chicken to the rice. Make sure he doesn't skip more than one meal per day for the first several days.

3 - 6 Months We recommend 3 daily feedings during this stage. Unless it's a Micro Teacup, Your puppy may start to show less interest in one of the meals. Don't worry about a small skipped meal but watch his body condition. Dogs of the same breed and size may require different amounts of food to maintain the same body weight. Micro teacups need to have extra food because of their body is so small

6 - 12 Months Somewhere in this time-span you should be able to reduce the feedings to just twice a day. Supplements are not necessary. If you are feeding a dry food, the only supplement he needs is water. Careful observation tells us when a puppy is healthy and growing well (but not getting fat). By this time you are the expert. You know his schedule, likes, dislikes, feeding times and amounts, and you know better than anyone else what is best for your puppy.

Picky Eaters: The smaller size puppies can be picky eaters. We normally hold onto these little ones until they're past this stage, but in case you end up with one, here are a few suggestions of things that may help whet their appetite. Offer Gerber baby meats such as veal, chicken, or turkey. It's easy to slip some onto the puppy's tongue to get those saliva glands working. For a puppy who is not thriving properly because of lack of appetite, you should contact your veterinarian. Avoid giving your tiny young puppy people food as their system is not able to handle sugars, and starches, etc., except for meat such as chicken, turkey, or hamburger. But remember hypoglycaemia can happen real easy, mostly with a new baby, so you should keep Nutrigel on hand and give your baby some every ten minutes and if not better call your Vet!!

IMPORTANT!!! Hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar):

This is a central nervous system disorder caused by a low blood sugar. It occurs mainly in toy breeds between 6 and 12 weeks of age, but it can occur at any time up to adulthood and is often caused by a lot of 'Stress, Exhaustion, Over-Activity, Etc. Hypoglycaemia can occur without warning when a puppy is placed in its new home, or while being transported. It might even appear if a puppy misses a meal, or has an upset stomach, or chills. The first signs are those of listlessness and depression. They are followed by muscular weakness, tremors (especially in the face and legs), and later convulsions, coma and death. The entire sequence is not always seen. The dog may simply appear depressed, wobbly or jerky, or may be found in a coma. Prolonged or repeated Hypo' attacks may cause permanent damage to the brain. Treatment is directed at restoring blood levels of glucose and should begin immediately. If the puppy is awake, Nutrigel, honey, or sugar in water may be given by mouth. Lactade (electrolytes) may also be given. The puppy should begin to improve in minutes. If the puppy is unconscious he will have to be given a Dextrose solution (IV) intravenously. In this case, call Passion for Pets (0409 145 368 - 24/7) immediately as stated in the Health Guarantee for instructions. A veterinarian should be consulted also. Recurrent attacks may be prevented by feeding a high quality puppy food diet and adding to it sugar, syrup, or honey. At times it may be necessary to feed a prescription puppy food (such as AD) for a certain length of time. The most important thing is to not leave your puppy alone for more than a few hours at a time, without you checking on the puppy or having someone else check on the puppy and know how to give treatment and take the puppy to the vet if needed.

If you need more information, are concerned with your puppy, please call Anessa on 0409 145 378