

PUPPY LOVE SHELTIES
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PUPPY TO ADULT FEEDING SCHEDULES:

Just about any of the good name brand of puppy and/or dog food are acceptable - **WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY OF THE LOW COST "STORE" BRANDS BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN TOO MANY FILLERS AND TOO MUCH SUGAR ALONG WITH INFERIOR INGREDIENTS.** Feeding a hard dry dog food also helps clean your puppy's teeth. Remember - **ANY CHANGE IN FOOD SHOULD BE DONE SLOWLY!** If needed (and ONLY if needed) you can add a teaspoon of a name brand canned dog food, cottage cheese, yogurt or a SMALL amount of hamburger to help stimulate eating for your puppy. Your puppy should be given a "puppy food" for the first year of its life.

The following is a very GENERAL feeding schedule and may well be too much food for our puppy - adjust the amount of food as necessary!

General Puppy Feeding Schedule:

Morning Feeding	Approximately 1/3 cup dry food
Afternoon Feeding	Approximately 1/3 cup dry food (you may moisten with warm water)
Evening Feeding	Approximately 1/3 cup dry food

PLEASE NOTE that these amounts must be adjusted up or down depending on the growth rate and size of your puppy as well as its activity level. If your puppy is eating ALL of its food at each feeding, feed it a little more until it does not eat all of its food. If it is leaving food at each feeding cut back until it is eating all of its food. **PLEASE** do not overfeed or underfeed your puppy. Puppy vitamins are also a good thing to give your growing puppy.

"Free feeding" or "Self feeding" is fine for an adult that is not overweight but it can make it harder to "housebreak" a puppy!

Avoid "people food" as it can cause vomiting or diarrhea. Milk, raw eggs and meat can also cause digestive problems. **REMEMBER - NO CHOCOLATE and NO CAFFEINE for dogs!**

You may give your puppy large **COOKED BEEF** bones to play with. **DO NOT** give raw bones because they may become rancid and make your puppy sick. **NEVER GIVE CHICKEN or PORK BONES** as they can splinter and kill your puppy!

SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR OF AGE:

At this point you can go to two feedings a day - morning and evening. At bedtime you may wish to give a “dog biscuit” as a treat.

ADULT:

At this point you may go to one feeding a day (evening feeding is recommended) with 1 or 2 biscuits in place of the other feeding. At one year of age you should change over to an ADULT dog food. Make the change SLOWLY giving a little less of the old food and a little more of the new food mixed in its bowl at each feeding until it is eating only the new food after a week or ten days.

MEDICAL:

We send our puppies home with a record of vaccinations and wormings that the puppy has had. We STRONGLY recommend that the puppy is taken to see your veterinarian within three (3) days for a checkup. REMEMBER - your puppy MUST have its full series of shots in order to build up immunity to all of the diseases, and some dogs may never build up full immunity to “Parvo”.

HOUSEBREAKING:

Training your new puppy will be far easier if you remember to be CONSISTENT! From the moment your puppy steps in to your home, training begins. BE CONSISTENT. If you do not want the puppy on the furniture, DO NOT let him on the furniture AT ALL. If you do not want him in the living room (or dining room), don't let him in there PERIOD! Place something in the doorway to block the entrance such as a “baby gate” , cardboard, plywood or something else that will work. If the puppy climbs or jumps over (or tries to) tell him NO and place him GENTLY back in the desired area. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND that you give your puppy complete run of your home. Confine him in an area that can be easily cleaned (such as a laundry, bath room or kitchen) until such time as he has learned to “respect” that area - then slowly allow him in to other areas where he will be permitted. Please keep in mind that many bath rooms and laundry rooms DO NOT HAVE GOOD VENTILATION!

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU CRATE-TRAIN YOUR DOG! We have sent home instructions for this, remember that a puppy may need to “go outside” at anytime from right after eating to about a half hour after his meal. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER rub a puppy's nose in his mistake - it has been proven to do nothing except get his nose dirty and your hands messy! DO NOT CORRECT THE PUPPY IF YOU DID NOT CATCH HIM IN THE ACT - he will NOT know what he is in trouble for! Instead, take your puppy outside and when he has gone as you want him to - PRAISE HIM, TELL HIM HOW GOOD HE HAS BEEN - this works wonders!

GROOMING:

Shelties are easy to keep. Usually a good brushing once a week will keep them looking good. The more brushing your Sheltie gets the better. For grooming you will need a “pin” brush for a puppy and a “slicker” brush for an adult along

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with a metal “rake”. ALWAYS brush the hair while slightly damp. We use a plastic spray bottle with water in it to LIGHTLY spray the dogs coat.. Begin by brushing against the adults coat and finish brushing with the coat. Pay special attention to the hair behind the ears as the fur tends to “mat” there.

Hair may need to be trimmed between the pads of the feet and toenails (claws) must be trimmed as well.

A Shelties thick long coat is a form of insulation both in summer and winter - DO NOT SHAVE IT OFF! Minor clipping may be necessary if your Sheltie becomes matted behind the ears. Bathing is only necessary once a month in the summer and every two in the winter (you may wash your Sheltie more often if it is needed, up to once a week).

OBEDIENCE & DISCIPLINE:

Shelties are VERY sensitive to their owners’ desires. A sharp word will do more than an actual “spanking”. Remember that a Sheltie is an intensely loyal family dog - they may not like some people that come over to your home and may not be comfortable around that person. NEVER force your Sheltie to “make up” to someone or he may resent the person even more.

CHEWING:

All pups will chew, therefore they need some toys that are designed for chewing, such as cooked beef bones, “Nylabones”, and hard rubber balls and toys. Make sure all playthings are sturdy and do not have small pieces that may be chewed off and swallowed or choked on.

SAFETY:

Try to “Puppy-Proof” your puppy’s area. Check for electrical cords, make sure they aren’t hanging or placed in an area where your puppy can reach and chew on them. Make sure there are no poisons around that your puppy can get in to. Make sure that there are no places the puppy can crawl into and get stuck. Check the “Items poisonous to dogs” pages further in this book.

NEVER use “Egualvan” (Ivermectin) for prevention of “Heartworm” - this medication has been known to be fatal to Collies & Shelties. NEVER give a dog chocolate or caffeine to a dog. Carpet fresheners can be an irritant to your dogs skin. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER leave your dog in the car on a hot day - heatstroke occurs very suddenly! DO NOT USE MORE THAN ONE FLEA PRODUCT AT A TIME! Do not give your dog a “flea bath” then put a “flea collar” right back on him!

BREEDING:

WE INSIST that ALL our puppies sold as “pets” be spayed or neutered. In females, this eliminates the messy “heats” and prevents cysts and tumors commonly found in the adult that has not been spayed. In males, it eliminates the possibility of Prostate Cancer as an adult. BREEDING A LITTER OF PUPPIES IS A BIG RESPONSIBILITY!