



### **Congratulations!**

You are now the proud owner of an Eraky Labrador Retriever. The Labrador Retriever is an intelligent, active dog who loves human contact and being a part of the family. They excel in obedience work, and to bring out the best in your dog, enrolment at your local obedience club is recommended. Your local obedience club may be found through Dogs NSW on 1300 728 022.

Please read through the attached puppy information and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding your new puppy.

Erin & Kyle Charnock

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Dogs NSW Member #2100013119

## Your Puppy's Diet



### Breakfast

3/4 cup of *A La Carte All Life Stages* biscuits soaked in hot water and Di-vetelact puppy milk (optional).

### Lunch

Approx 125 grams raw chicken mince (human quality) mixed with half a cup of *A La Carte All Life Stages* biscuits soaked in hot water. Mix the mince and biscuits together so that puppy cannot just eat the mince. Puppy will prefer it if the biscuits/mince mix is warm.

### Dinner

3/4 cup of *A La Carte All Life Stages* biscuits soaked in hot water, and raw chicken mince and Di-vetelact puppy milk (optional).

We put the biscuits in the puppy's bowl and put enough boiling water in the bowl so that the biscuits are covered. We then leave the biscuits for one hour until they have gone soft. We then mix in the mince. The puppies like eating their biscuits at a warm temperature.

After one week at home, you can start puppy on 1-2 chicken necks after her evening meal. At first give puppy one chicken neck (after she has eaten her biscuits) and expect her to take approx 10 minutes to eat it up.

Please do not to change this diet during the first few weeks at home as it may cause your puppy to develop an upset stomach. If you do want to change the brand of biscuits do so slowly over a few days.

Don't worry if your puppy does not eat all of her food, as she has to adjust to her new home and one puppy does not eat as quickly as when she is with her litter mates.

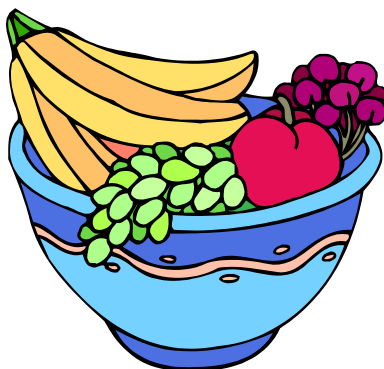
The above feeding information is a guide only. Individual puppies require different amounts of food depending mostly on how active they are. As a general rule, you should be able to feel your puppy's ribs but should not be able to see them.

**It is very important that whilst your puppy is growing (i.e. up to 12 months of age) it is not allowed to become overweight.** An overweight puppy will be putting increased stress on its developing joints. Please contact us if you are unsure if your puppy is the correct weight.

**We recommend that you switch your puppy over to a low protein adult food at approx 3-5 months of age (eg Bonnie or Supercoat).** Doing this will ensure that your puppy grows at a slower, more healthy rate and hence puts less stress on their developing joints

You should cut out the lunchtime meal once puppy is six months old, or earlier if puppy starts to become fussy with his/her food.

## Additions to puppy's diet for variety



Add raw crushed fruit and vegetables (carrots, pumpkin, bananas, apples, celery, cauliflower, broccoli etc), sardines, raw eggs, natural yogurt to her dry food to vary her diet

We suggest feeding three meals at three months, two meals at six months and one meal at twelve months with a large dog biscuit in the morning to keep teeth clean.

## Raw Bones

Labs love to chew raw bones and this is also very good for them, especially while teething. It keeps the jaws exercised and the teeth clean.

Your puppy is ready to begin eating chicken necks and chicken wings. When they get older, other bones to consider are chicken frames (carcasses), lamb shanks, lamb flaps, lamb necks etc.

**Never give your dog cooked bones** as they are prone to splintering and may cause internal damage. **Also, don't give your puppy too many bones while they are young as it could cause the puppy to become constipated.**

## **Grooming & Bathing**

Regular brushing is recommended, try to aim for at least twice per week. Puppies enjoy the handling and you can check their ears for any sign of infection, and if living in a tick area, daily checking is necessary.

It is best to groom and examine the dog in a stand position to get the dog used to being examined.

Puppies should be bathed no more than once per fortnight. We use "Fidos" brand shampoos.

## **Bedding**

Your puppy's bed must be warm and free from any kind of dampness or draughts. Our dogs sleep on raised dog beds with a hession bag on top which you can buy from any pet shop. We also get woollen blankets as it gives extra warmth and something for the dog to cuddle in to.

If you would like your puppy to sleep in a kennel bear in mind puppies like being very close to their human companions. A kennel placed too far way from the back door is unlikely to be used.



## **Flies**

Labrador's ears are highly prone to fly bites during the warmer months of the year. To prevent flies biting your dog's ears we recommend the use of a fly repellent spray twice per day over the dog's head and body. We use Troy Repel-X

## **Socialisation**

It is most important that you begin socializing your puppy as soon as you take her home. This will ensure your puppy grows up to be a happy, well-adjusted dog. You should socialize your puppy the following ways:

- Introduce your puppy to as many different people as possible
- Take your puppy for regular car rides
- Take your puppy to new places – eg beach, park, markets etc – after the second vaccination
- Introduce your puppy to strange noises – eg vacuum, washing machine, loudspeakers etc

## **House Training**

Puppies have no control over their bladders and need to relieve themselves frequently. They usually need to go outside when they wake up, after eating, after an active play and when they start to wander around in a circle, sniffing the ground. They tend to want to go outside about 2-5 minutes after eating and sleeping. When we take our puppies outside we stay with them until they do what they have to and then give lots of praise and take the puppy inside as its reward.

## **Lead Training**

Lead training can be started at an early age but only for very short periods of time. Playing is the best kind of exercise for a young puppy and they shouldn't be taken on long, tiring walks whilst their bones are still developing (i.e. up until the puppy is 12 months of age).

As a guide, a puppy should not be walked any further than 1km per day until it is over 12 months of age.

## **Jumping & Playing**

Whilst the puppy is under twelve months old it is best that they be encouraged not to jump. Jumping off furniture, staircases, retaining walls etc may do irreparable damage to their developing joints. Puppies also should not be allowed to run on slippery surfaces such as polished floorboards.

Similarly, puppies should be supervised when they are playing with older dogs whose rough play may accidentally hurt the puppy.

## **Immunisation**

**This is most important.** Your puppy has had a temporary vaccination and must receive additional shots at approx ten weeks and fourteen/sixteen weeks of age. Upon pickup we will provide you with your puppy's vaccination card which will confirm when the next shot is due

Keep your puppy away from other (unvaccinated) dogs and do not take it out on the street or other public places until one week after its second vaccination as up till then it has only temporary immunity.

## **Worming**

Your puppy has been very well wormed since 14 days of age. Continue with the following program.

Use an All Wormer medication at the following intervals: 10, 12, 16, 20, 24 weeks of age. The 10 week worming dose is due approx 2 weeks after you pick up your puppy – we will confirm an exact date when you collect your puppy.

At six months of age worm your puppy every two months ie. 8, 10, 12 months of age. At twelve months of age worm every 3 months ie. 15, 18 months etc.

The brand we use is Milbemax.



## **Heartworm**

There are three choices for heartworm preventative – daily or monthly tablets or an annual vaccination. Monthly is very highly advised as it is more convenient. Monthly tablets can be obtained from the vet or pet food stores. We recommend you discuss heartworming options with your vet when your puppy receives its second vaccination.

## **Water and Milk**

Fresh water should always be available for your puppy. We recommend that a strong bowl (terracotta or concrete) be used for their drinking water as puppies tend to play in their water and can knock plastic bowls over very easily. We don't suggest giving your puppy normal cows milk as this can cause digestive upsets. We usually buy puppy/pets milk from the pet store. The brand we use is called Di-vetalac



## **De-sexing**

De-sexing of both males and females is highly recommended. It usually has a calming effect on both sexes, reduces the incidence of cancer and controls the problem of unwanted puppies. De-sexing is very easy on young animals especially if they have never had a season (our Labradors generally come in season for the first time at 11-12 months of age).

De-sexing can cause some dogs to gain weight. However this is easily rectified by decreasing the dog's food intake by a quarter to a third and increasing its exercise.

## Limited Register

Puppies purchased as pets from us are registered on the "Limited Register" with Dogs NSW. The limited register was devised by Dogs NSW so that concerned breeders had some say over which animals were used in a breeding program and exhibited.

The details of the Limited Register are as follows:

A dog on the Limited Register **CANNOT** be exhibited at a dog show or have any of its future puppies registered with the Canine Council. It **CAN** compete in official obedience trials, agility trials and of course be a loving family companion.

A dog registered on the Limited Register is just as good as one on the Main Register, but a puppy bought as a pet is not always a show dog, nor should every dog be bred from. The use of the Limited Register is to protect you, your new puppy and the breeders.

In the meantime, enjoy your puppy for what it is, a happy fun loving Labrador Retriever.

## **Pet Insurance**

All our puppies are sold with six weeks pet insurance from Petplan. **The cover starts 72 hours after the puppy goes to its new home.** Further details will be posted directly to you in the near future. As a general guide, the policy covers:

- Up to \$3000 for veterinary fees resulting from injury or illness
- Death from illness or injury
- Loss by theft or straying
- Up to \$400 for advertising and reward

There is an approx \$300 excess on the puppy policy

## **Flea Control**

For the control of fleas we recommend the use of Bayer Advantage or Advantix. These are simple spot treatments where you squeeze the liquid onto the dog's neck.

## **Precautions to Help Prevent Bad Hips & Elbows**

There is research to suggest that genetics is only responsible for about 25% of the bad hips and elbows in dogs. This means that 70% to 75% of the bad hips and elbows are caused by environmental issues.

There are things that you can do to help your puppy:

- 1- Keep your dog thin – This means you can see a definition between the ribs and loins of your dog. I cannot stress this enough. The more weight a dog carries the more pressure on the hips. This is extremely important when the dog is growing (between 8 weeks and 18 months)
- 2- Do not over-exercise your young dog. **DO NOT TAKE A PUPPY JOGGING !!!** Not until its older than one year of age. Over exercise is the fastest way to destroy hips.
- 3- Feed a low protein diet once puppy is 12 weeks of age until puppy is 12months of age. Look for an adult biscuit with a protein ratio of approx 20%-22%. We feed our young puppies Bonnie Adult Complete biscuits
- 4- Swimming is the best exercise you can do for a dog. It is much better than jogging the dog.



Nestlé PURINA

# BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN

1

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3

Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

IDEAL

4

Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5

Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

6

Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7

Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.

8

Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9

Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



1



3



5



7



9

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Mawby D, Barlges JV, Moyers T, et. al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs. Compendium 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Lafontaine DP. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. Canine Practice July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Kealy, et. al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. JAVMA 2002; 220:1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VET5 (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT



Nestlé PURINA

## **Crate Training**

We highly recommend having a crate or puppy pen inside the house that you can put your new puppy in.

We “crate train” all our dogs. This means that we can put them in a crate for a period of time and they will sit there/sleep contentedly until we let them out. There are a number of benefits to crate training your dog or puppy

- **Convalescence** – If your dog is unwell or suffers an injury, if they are crate trained you can restrict them to crate to allow them to have sufficient rest for their injuries/illness to heal
- **Socialisation** – one of the major benefits of crate training is that it allows your puppy or dog to come into the house to get used to all the sights and sounds without being constantly underfoot. Puppies are more content and well adjusted if they receive this type of interaction with you and your family life.
- **Toilet Training** – A lot of the time, toileting accidents happen because puppy needed to go and no one was around to notice. Crate training won't completely solve this problem but it will help. Dogs, by nature hate to go to the toilet near their bedding (or eating) area. Puppy will usually whinge and whine in their crate if they need to go to the toilet. You can then let them out before they have an accident.
- **Showing/Visiting Friends/Travelling etc.** – You may want to travel somewhere with your dog where it is not practical for you to hang onto them on a leash the entire time or it is not safe for you to leave them off the leash. Crates are very portable. Many you can fold up and take with you. Once you get to the dog show, a friend's house, your accommodation etc, you can set up your crate and know that your dog is safe and secure whilst they are in it.
- **They like it!** – Our dogs love their crates. They happily go into their crates and are very content whilst in there. With



our older dogs we can leave the crate door open whilst they are inside our house. When they are tired they will put themselves in the crate for a rest!

- For a Labrador we recommend a crate at least 60cm wide, 90cm long and 75 cm high. You could consider a crate one size larger for a male if you have the space.



Our dogs in their crate at a show



Puppies in the "puppy pen"