

# Red Spring Farm Puppy Take Home Video Follow Along Notes

(Please print and take notes! NOT a replacement for watching the video)!

**Direct Any Questions to Kristen Morgan**

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## 1. Before You Bring Baby Home

Our Puppy Pack Includes:

- A Copy Of Your Contract and Health Warranty
- Records For Your Vet (Includes Vaccine and Deworming History)
- Lifetime Microchip Registration with Your Login Information
- 30 Days of Free Pet Insurance through Trupanion
- A Puppy Blanket That Smells Like Our Home
- A Puppy Collar
- A Packet of The Shampoo We Use
- A Pig Ear For The Ride Home
- A Small Toy
- Any Items That You Mailed To Us For Scent Purposes (Ex. Snuggle Puppy)

Remember To Bring (When You Pickup):

Paper Towels and Clorox Wipes in case of accidents or car sickness

An adult friend or family member to hold the puppy on the ride home!

Before You Come:

- Plan Your Daily Schedule
- Have A Support System (Vet, Trainer, Groomer, Dog Walkers, Dog Sitters)
- Make An Appointment With Your Veterinarian
- RESEARCH Parasite Prevention
- Order Your Dog Food (20 or 40lbs All Life Stages "System" or Healthy Start Pack)
  - LA Biodeodorizer
- Toys... Don't Go Crazy!
- Safe Puppy Playpen
- Appropriate Sized Crate
- Easy To Clean Bedding
- Collars, Harnesses & Leashes
- Get The Grooming Basics
- Remember, Grooming Includes Ears, Nails, and Teeth!
- Provide Good Footing on Hard Surfaces

Other Products:

See Our Recommendations Page

[www.redspringfarm.com/recommendations](http://www.redspringfarm.com/recommendations)

Training Program:

- First 12 Weeks we use Puppy Culture (not necessarily a must-buy)
- Zak George!!!! **Free** on youtube! Highly recommend to Puppy Families!!!

## Prepare Your Children:

- Dr. Sophie Yin Posters (simply google and print) are excellent.
- Get a stuffed animal puppy and practice



## Puppy Care:

### Water:

- Keep fresh water available at all times during the day!
- Puppies get dehydrated easily, don't leave them outside!
- Signs of dehydration
  - Pale/dry gums
  - Skin loses elasticity
  - Remember, diarrhea can cause dehydration
- Remove/Limit water 3 hours before bedtime when your puppy is in potty training
  - This helps keep puppies from "wetting" their crate
  - Obviously, if they play hard and need a drink, don't refuse to give them water! Just be conscious of water intake so you can properly prepare for the night ahead

### Food:

- Feed as much kibble as your pup wants to eat in one sitting 3x a day (typically 1-2 cups per day). Once puppy leaves food alone for 5 minutes, pick up the food until his/her next meal.
- Increase the amount as your puppy grows and as recommended by your vet
- After about 2-3 months (or whenever pup seems less interested in lunch) switch to feeding only 2x a day. I do NOT recommend only feeding 1x a day, as this increases the risk of bloat.
- Don't let your dog get overweight! Overweight = Health Problems!

### First Few Days Home/Food:

- It is not uncommon for puppies to refuse to eat in the first 24-48 hours in their new home. That is okay! They are just distracted by everything else going on.
- Sometimes puppies have some loose stool, this is very normal. If it continues beyond 24 hours, a heaping spoonful of plain canned pumpkin (NO SUGAR added) can be mixed with their food to help firm up their stool. This should only be used a few times and is not a long term solution.
- Remember! Persistent loose stool or diarrhea needs to be addressed by your vet.

## Grooming:

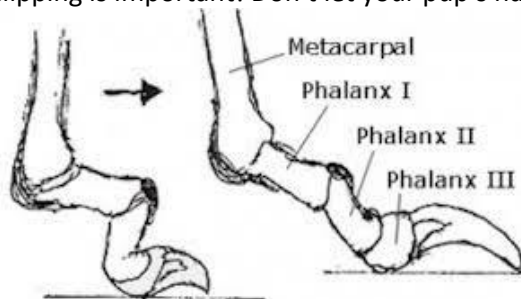
- Puppy coat is different than adult coat! Puppy coats are easy to maintain, adult coats are NOT!
- Give puppy a massage before you start to comb them. Brushing/combing should be done often with a slicker brush, rake, and wide tooth metal comb.
- Buy an electric toothbrush to “brush” puppy with to simulate a groomer’s clippers.
- Safari de-matting comb works great for getting out matted fur! Watch out behind ears!
- Use Life’s Abundance shampoo as needed. Dilute the shampoo by at least 50% and bathe as often as you like. RINSE WELL! Follow up with the spray mist and use this as needed. Smells great!
- A couple short trips to the groomer when they are small can produce a positive experience for grooming to come
  - “Triple F Puppy Groom” (Face/Feet/Fanny) immediately after shots are complete.

## Groomers Are The Professionals!

- Even if you plan to 100% home groom and clip your dog in the long run, I highly recommend that you take your dog to a professional for the first year so that your dog can become accustomed to the experience.
- Make friends with your groomer, listen to your groomer, and tip them well!
- Your dog should go to the groomer EVERY 6-8 weeks.
- Start your dog young, go regularly, and remember that regular home grooming is a necessary part of owning a doodle. Your groomer will know if your dog had not been properly groomed.
- PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE don’t be the person that brings in a matted dog to the groomer 2-3x a year. This is painful for the dog and for the groomer! If you do not want to regularly and thoroughly brush your dog at home, keep it in a short clip (and still go to the groomer regularly so that your pup stays short).
- When it is time for their first “serious” groom, take photos of what you want your puppy to look like. Since there is no standard doodle cut, it may take a couple tries for you and your groomer to get on the same page.

## Grooming- Nails/Ears

- Nail clipping is important! Don’t let your pup’s nails get extremely long.



- Some doodles need their ear hair plucked, others get an infection when they are plucked (especially if it is all removed at once)! We typically find that most dogs do just fine without ear plucking as long as you keep the hair around the ear trimmed to allow air flow.
- Use Life’s Abundance Ear Cleaner in dog’s ears once a week
  - Floppy eared dogs are more prone to ear infections so make sure to smell ears daily and if they smell funny make sure to clean them out! Once they start scratching/shaking, time to go to the vet! Dry and Clean Ears = No Ear Infections!

## Grooming and Allergies

- If you are a family that is prone to allergies (maybe not dog allergies, but pollen, grass, dust, etc.) remember, your doodle's long coat acts like a mop, absorbing all of those allergens into its coat.
- Keeping hair short- a short hair cut will keep your pooch comfortable and help you stay sniffle free.
- The Life's Abundance Shampoo is herbal based and many of those with certain plant allergies cannot handle the shampoo. In this situation, try Allerpet!
- Schedule more regular grooming appointments with your groomer. A well groomed dog is cleaner and may result in fewer symptoms.
- Ultimately, remember that no dog is hypoallergenic. Doodles have dander and saliva just like every other dog on the planet, and these two things (not shed hair) are the primary cause of allergies.

## Crate Training

- The secret to helping ease your puppy's transition... best if pup sleeps in bed with you 1st night! This gets it used to your smell and helps them to adjust to their surroundings. Then you can slowly transition to the crate.
  - If this is not possible, keep kennel at a spot where the pup can see you and you can physically touch them (ex. on table next to bed)
- Common Question: How long can puppy be in crate? Age in months +2 (ex. 2 month old pup can be in crate for 4 hours).
- Go out 1x in the middle of the night the first few nights. CARRY pup outside to go potty, then right back to bed!
  - Ex. Bedtime at 11:30PM, Potty At 3AM, Wake Up At 6:30AM
- Stick with a routine... bedtime needs to be at the same time every night!
- Invest in earplugs! Crying in a crate is very common, and every pup is different, some may whine and bark for 15 minutes and then go to sleep, others may continue on and off throughout the night. Be patient!
- Don't leave pup's collar on when it is in the crate! Dogs have died from collars getting caught
- Crate = Happy Place, NOT a punishment. Feed your puppy it's meals in the crate, and give them a special crate treat or chew (we use pig ears)

## General Training

- Have a universal "NO" noise that the whole family uses. Be sure your children can make this noise. Be FIRM and confident when you make this noise! Don't use the word "no" as it is too common.
- Life's Abundance Training Treats for training rewards (break them up into very small pieces).
- Teach pup their name by tagging it on the end of "puppy puppy," after a few days drop "puppy puppy."
- Practice recall early using treats! You will have success!
- No excited greeting when you come and go... this creates separation anxiety.
- Leash train with a harness (or a martingale collar as your pup gets older) and a non-retractable leash! Retractable leashes = pulling and safety issues.
- The only time we use retractable leashes is for nighttime potty breaks when we don't want to step off the porch!

### Potty Training: The Perfect Formula...

- Install Potty Bells! Your puppy will catch on quickly.
- Set your stove clock every 30 minutes for puppy to go outside.
- When he is successful at 30 minutes for a day, increase the time in increments of 15 minutes. If an accident occurs, reduce the time by 15 minutes.
- At first, if you suspect that your puppy may be about to potty, immediately pick the puppy up and carry outside.
- Go to the SAME spot outside every time and use a command (go potty). Reward with a treat once they have finished.
- When potty training, puppy belongs in 1 of 3 places.
  - Directly interacting with you/an adult... this means you have both eyes on the puppy at all times!
  - On a leash tied to you. This helps leash train and prevents the puppy from sneaking off to potty (typically they do not want to potty in their “living space.”
  - In his/her crate (<2-4hrs) or puppy pen (>2-6hrs)
- Remember... a puppy naturally does not want to use the bathroom in a place where it sleeps and lives, it will wander away from these areas to potty.

### If puppy has an accident...

- Use a rolled up newspaper and hit YOURSELF in the nose! You likely missed something. Think about why this occurred and what you can do differently.
- Do not scold or punish the puppy. Do NOT rub their nose in it! This will only teach them NOT to use the bathroom in front of you (even outside).
- If you catch the puppy in the middle of an accident, let them finish and immediately take them outside.
- Enclose Rooms and Areas with Baby Gates/Puppy Fences
  - As you puppy gets older and begins to earn freedom around the house, don't immediately give them the entire home to live in. Start with 1 room (that you are in) and block off the exit with a baby gate.
- If you are a busy person/family, consider installing a dog door that goes to a fenced yard. Dog doors are not a replacement for potty training. They do not teach a pup to “hold” it and it is not safe for a young puppy to go outside unsupervised – but once a pup is trained, this makes things much easier for a busy family.

### Vaccine Schedule and Parasite Prevention

- Take your puppy to the vet within 3 days of pickup day! This is a requirement for the Health Warranty! We will provide a health, shot, and deworming history to give to your vet.
- Our vet, Dr. Behren's at Randolph Animal Hospital, will give your puppy its first vaccine (called a DHPP) at 7 weeks of age.
- We recommend either Heartgard Plus OR Interceptor Plus for Heartworm Protection. It must be given year-round! (We give it on the 1st every month).
- We recommend either Frontline Plus OR the Seresto Collar for flea/tick prevention, only administered as needed. We do not treat year-round.
- This is our vaccine schedule, your vet may recommend something slightly different, that is okay! Just make sure that you vaccinate based on your lifestyle
  - 7 Weeks: DHPP (we administer this vaccine)

- 10 Weeks: DHPP and Bordatella
- 13 Weeks: DHLPP and Rabies
- 16 Weeks DHLPP and Influenza\*
- 18 Weeks: Influenza Booster\*
  - (As of 2018 we recommend and give our dogs the influenza vaccine, depending on the prevalence of canine influenza, we may stop administering the flu vaccine to our dogs in a couple of years)

Your puppy is NOT safe around unvaccinated dogs OR in areas where your puppy could pick up germs left behind from unvaccinated dogs!!! This includes, but is not limited to, dog parks, pet stores, animal shelters, feed and seed stores, parks, dog-friendly restaurants and breweries, around the neighborhood sidewalks, dog groomers, dog trainers... the list could go on and on!

#### Watch Out For Poop:

- The primary mode of transmitting viruses and parasites (such as parvo, a deadly virus) is through contact with an infected dog's poop.
- Secondary contact is also a concern.
- Practice safe "biosecurity" habits, remove shoes at the door!
- Symptoms that something is wrong...
  - Abnormal Temperature (Normal 100.5-102.5 Degrees Fahrenheit)
  - Dehydration
  - Lethargy
  - Severe Diarrhea
  - Depression with sudden Lack of Appetite
  - Crying or Occasional, Unexplained Yelping
  - Rigid, Painful Abdominal
  - Vomiting or Heaving
  - Bloody, mucousy, or black, tar-like stool

#### Pet Insurance:

- Your puppy goes home with a certificate to activate 30 days free through Trupanion. Most Pet Insurance companies require a 14-30 day waiting period for various accidents and illnesses... so if you decide to use another company than Trupanion, sign up for it right away! This way, the Trupanion trial period will cover you during the waiting period.
- Pet Insurance is worth investing in, especially for that first year where they are more likely to swallow something. In some areas, blockage removal is \$5,000+! Depending on your deductible, most Pet Insurance policies run about \$30-\$40/mo.
- A lot of our puppy families end up using Healthy Paws.

#### Balancing Biosecurity with Socialization:

- **EARLY socialization is absolutely crucial to raise a well rounded pup.**
- Be safe- but don't harm your puppy by confining them in a "bubble" for the first 2 months with you.
- Socialize with "safe" vaccinated, adult dogs! They will teach your puppy canine manners. Ideally, visit a friend's home for playdates with their vaccinated dogs 2-3x a week, or more if possible.

- Avoid socializing your puppy with older puppies or larger puppies (anything less than 12-18 months of age)
- Allow older dogs to correct your puppy
- When in doubt about the safety of a situation, just pick up and hold your pup!
  - At the vet
  - In pet stores
  - On walks around the neighborhood
  - If a strange dog approached you

Do These Things Daily:

1. Massage/Brush
2. Hold paws and squeeze between toes
3. Check ears for infection (put in Life's Abundance ear cleaner once a week)
4. Check collar (2 finger rule)
5. Clean eye boogers! Doodles get them because of their long hair
6. Get your puppy socialized with other dogs and new situations on a daily basis! BE SAFE!
7. Work on some obedience training, even for just 5 minutes
8. Have puppy spend 15-45 minutes in its crate while people are in the same general area (during dinner is a good time).

Final Tips/Emphasis:

- Find a good trainer and start taking puppy classes the second your puppy has finished its vaccines. I cannot stress all the benefits that come from this.
- Make friends with your groomer, listen to your groomer, and tip them well!!!
- Socialization and early exposure to new sounds, sights, people, animals, and situations is key to a balanced adult dog.
- Positive reinforcement training is always better than negative.
- Parasites in puppies are an unfortunate fact of life. Giardia and sometimes coccidia nearly always infect pups between 6-12 weeks of age, whether they are with me or with you. As your puppy grows, its immune system will kick in and you should no longer have issues with these "puppy bugs" after about 6 months of age.
- I do not recommend Banfield Pet Hospital.
- I do not recommend any oral flea/tick preventatives.
- DO NOT FORGET to give your monthly heartworm prevention!!! SO IMPORTANT!
- Vets are wonderful, but they are not always right (especially when it comes to nutrition). If you feel like something is wrong, listen to your gut.
- A slim dog is a healthy dog, you should be able to easily feel your dog's ribs and see a prominent belly "tuck." Even a few extra pounds can cause health issues, including hip dysplasia!

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU! We are always available to you if you have any additional questions. Make sure you check out our "New Owner's Page" and our product recommendations.

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