



FEEDING AND CARE INSTRUCTION

Your new puppy is currently on Purina Pro Plan Sport All Life Stages 30/20 Chicken and Rice. Your puppy must remain on this food for the first month (one 37 lbs bag) of transition to his/her new home and should remain on this food for the first year of life.

If you change the food, your Puppy is to be fed only quality Large Breed Puppy food with NO Corn or Wheat. Regular puppy food or any food with the first ingredient listed as corn or wheat is NOT appropriate. Protein listed should not be any more than 25 % and calcium listed should not be any more than 1.0%.

Food must be lightly softened with water and fed 3 times a day until pup reaches 3 Months of age. Pup may go to two feedings a day after 3 months with plenty of water available at all times. NO CAN FOOD or TABLE SCRAPS! AVOID OBESITY! LEAN IS HEALTHY BUT SKINNY OR OBESE IS NOT.

If you wish to use a vitamin, you may use NuVet multivitamin supplement. Your puppy can remain on this vitamin until all of them are used up in one bottle. Do not feed any vitamins after 5 months. Do Not continue feeding any vitamins after the initial ONE bottle of NuVet Vitamins is complete. At this time, your puppy is reaching its rapid growth stage and you do not want to promote too fast of growth, so please discontinue the use of any vitamin until 1 year of age. At that point, you can continue vitamins if you and your Vet feel it is necessary.

Puppies should get plenty of regular exercise. Low impact exercise is best such as swimming and soft surfaces like sand or grass. Owner should not allow the puppy to jump off of things or out of vehicles for these damage the joints. Owner must avoid jogging with the puppy until 2 years of age to avoid strain or stress on the developing joints. Owner must avoid any agility training until the puppy reaches at least 2 years of age. Training of puppies purchased for hunting purposes should be started as early as 8 weeks but must avoid all of the above to avoid excess strain and stress on the developing joints.

Puppies can run as much as they choose without being forced. Owner should avoid allowing the puppy to walk excessively on slippery surfaces such as hard wood or Pergo floors, for this adds strain and stress on the developing joints. Absolutely NO doggy daycare or dog parks for the first 2 years (24 months) of life. This is where most injuries occur.

This is an English style Labrador Retriever which tends to be heavier boned. An injury free first 2 years of life is crucial for proper growth and development.

I am aware that Orthopedic disorders such as hip and elbow dysplasia are Phenotype, meaning Environment plays a large role in the development of such a disorder. I am aware that not following the proper feeding and care instructions can result in orthopedic disorders, at which case breeder Lexus Mason will not be held responsible. _____

I have read, understand, and received a copy of the feeding and care instructions and agree to follow them.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Approximate feeding amounts for the first year.

2 months old- no more than 2 cups per day

3 months old- no more than 3 cups per day

4 months old-no more than 4 cups per day

***If you feel the feeding recommendation is too much for your pup, you can decrease it to an appropriate amount but do not feed more than recommended.**

***Once you reach 4 cups per day, stop increasing until one year of age. You can decrease as needed but do not exceed 4 cups per day for the first year without contacting me first. There are times they do need more than 4 cups a day, but I want to evaluate them first before an increase is given. _____**

***Once your puppy reaches 5 months old, STOP all vitamin and mineral supplements! Your puppy has now reached his most rapid growth period and excess vitamin and mineral supplements can encourage rapid growth which can cause joint dysfunction. If your puppy remains on Purina Pro Plan 30/20 food, they will be getting the correct number of Vitamins, Minerals, Fats and Protein to grow at an appropriate rate. _____**

***Once your puppy is one year of age, food can once again be adjusted up according to need but do not allow your pup to become overweight. _____**

***Lean is healthy, Skinny is not healthy. If ribs and spine are showing, your puppy is too thin. _____**

***Too heavy is not healthy either. Your puppy WILL have joint problems if allowed to become overweight. _____**

***If you are feeding treats throughout the day for training, adjust feedings accordingly, to stay within the daily allotted amount. _____**

***Do Not under any conditions, feed a vegan style dog food. Dogs are meant to eat meat and doing otherwise is abuse and neglect. _____**

***Do Not under any conditions feed a grain free diet. Grain free dog foods are associated with Dilated Cardiomyopathy which is a deadly condition. _____**

***Do not feed a raw diet for the first 18 months. Feeding raw can be difficult to maintain proper nutrition for a growing puppy. Stick with a good quality kibble, such as Purina Pro Plan 30/20, for the first 18 months. _____**

***Once your puppy reaches 2 years of age, he/she is fully grown. Your puppy should stay on Purina Pro Plan 30/20 All life stages, or a similar quality food. If you want vitamins, I recommend you start your dog on NuVet Plus Vitamins and continue use for the rest of your dog's life.**

Signed:_____ Date:_____