

## TRAINING

A well trained dog is a happy dog! They need to know where they stand in their "pack" (family).

The first two things that the puppy must learn are it's name and the word 'no'. The puppy should be discouraged from jumping up on people as when older, it could easily knock over a child or a frail adult. Start off by saying 'no' in a firm voice, accompanied by a light tap on the nose. If the puppy persists, again say 'no' in a yet firmer voice and tap the puppy on the nose a little sharper. The most important thing though is when the puppy obeys these commands, you must make a big fuss of it so that it will learn what is and what is not acceptable.

Puppies chew things naturally, just as children put things in their mouths in the name of exploration! BUT, your puppy must learn that toys are for chewing and your best shoes or expensive rug are not! When 'caught in the act', say 'name, no'. When he obeys, make a big fuss of him. It is important that you only tell him off when 'caught in the act' so that the puppy knows and understands what disobedience the scolding relates to.

The key words in training are consistency, firmness and kindness.

## DOG CRATES

We highly recommend training crates. We think they are great for giving the puppy a haven for lots of sleep and peace and quiet away from a noisy household! Crates should NEVER be used as a punishment though.

## LEAD TRAINING

As mentioned earlier, your puppy cannot go out in public until a week after his last vaccination, but, lead training can start in your garden from the week you take him home. This will take patience as the puppy needs to get used to the sensation of having something round its neck and being restrained but they will quickly learn to accept it. When the puppy is allowed out in public, it should only be for short walks. (see exercise section).

## GROOMING

Labradors, being a short-coated breed do not need much attention in terms of grooming, but, they enjoy being brushed as much as the next dog!

It is a good idea to handle the puppy all over though from an early age. Labradors need the natural oils in their coats to maintain their 'waterproof' properties of their coats so bathing unnecessarily is not recommended. Bathing should be restricted to when they have just swum in smelly water or have rolled in horse dung etc!

## FINALLY

We like to think that our puppies are going to permanent homes but we understand that it doesn't always work out that way. If it becomes necessary to re-home the dog for whatever reason, please contact us in the first instance and we will assist you in finding a good home.

But we hope this will not be necessary, lecture over, we wish you many years of happiness with your new friend!



## Caring for your Labrador Puppy

We are here to help, if you have any concerns, give us a call on:

**01337 857812 / 07730 943825**

**Lomond Hills Labradors**

**Near Cupar**

**Fife**

[www.lomondhillslabradors.co.uk](http://www.lomondhillslabradors.co.uk)

[enquiries@lomondhillslabradors.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lomondhillslabradors.co.uk)

Thank you for choosing a Lomond Hills Labrador! We hope that you enjoy many years of friendship and entertainment! We would ask you to read through these guidelines. They are designed to help your puppy settle into his new home and to give him an excellent start to a happy, healthy life with you. We are always here to help if you have any concerns or need some advice.

### THE FIRST NIGHT

Feed your puppy about half an hour before you go to bed so that he has time to go to the toilet afterwards but still has a full tummy to sleep on.

Leaving a radio on softly or wrapping a loud ticking clock up in a blanket can help to settle the puppy down but leaving the light on is unnecessary.

### FEEDING

Your puppy has been fed on "Oscars" and we recommend that it remains on it. If you decide to change the diet for whatever reason, make sure that it is a gradual change as an abrupt change will cause stomach upsets. It is a complete dry food so no additional supplements are required. The food should be fed dry in accordance with the following guide:

Up to 12 weeks:	4 feeds per day
12 weeks—6 months:	3 feeds per day
6 months + :	2 feeds per day

Up to 12 weeks, there should be roughly 50 grams per feed. This should increase as your puppy grows. NEVER feed cooked bones as they will splinter. RAW meaty bones are excellent and

these should be offered from 12 weeks of age. They are very good during the teething stages but also help to keep clean healthy teeth and gums throughout the dogs life. When your puppy turns one year old, you should GRADUALLY change from "Oscars Puppy" to an "Oscars" adult variety. The Labrador should have a definite waistline, the ideal weight being to feel the ribs, but not see them. If in doubt, you can contact us about weight issues. Your puppy should have access to fresh, clean water at all times. Do not offer milk of any variety.

### HOUSE TRAINING

There are many different ways of house training puppies but we believe that the most successful way is to bring the puppy outside into your garden immediately after meals, drinks and sleeps. Use the same phrase every time you go out so that he associates this phrase with toileting. e.g. "Busy, busy, busy." Overnight will take a bit longer.

### VACCINATIONS

Within 4 days of collecting your puppy, you should take him to your vets who will tell you about their programme of vaccinations. We do not vaccinate our puppies before they leave us due to difference in various vaccines. The puppy MUST NOT go into public areas until 1 week after its final vaccination.

### WORMING

Your puppy has been wormed on Drontal Puppy and we recommend that the puppy stays on this wormer , every 2 weeks until 12 weeks old.

Once 12 weeks old, your vet will advise you on wormers.

### SPAYING / NEUTERING

These procedures should be carried out between 6 months and 1 year old. Your vet will advise you when it should be done.

### EXERCISE

We cannot emphasise enough how little exercise your puppy needs up to 1 year old. Roughly 5 minutes supervised exercise per month of the puppy's age. Over exercise can cause damage to the puppy's skeletal formation. Hip and elbow problems are not just congenital! Environmental factors such as over-exercise can play a large part in the hips and elbow problems. Once your dog is a year old, it can walk the legs off you!

### TRAVELLING

It is very important that you travel your puppy on an empty stomach. (i.e. no food within 2 hours of travelling). It is unfortunate that a new puppy's first car journey with the new owners is to the vet! Apart from this, it is a good idea to take the puppy for lots of short car journeys with a treat at the end of each. e.g. a walk in a new environment. Try and stick to the same place in the car where the dog will always travel so that it will get into a routine. Puppies are often sick during their first few journeys. This is nothing to worry about. If it persists, speak to your vet.