



# Welcome to DBL's Puppy Program

## Welcome

Welcome to the Dogs for Better Lives Puppy Program and congratulations thank you for becoming a puppy raiser! Our puppy raisers are such an integral part of what we do, which is changing lives! Our goal is to help as many people as we possibly can and that starts with our program puppies and amazing volunteers like you. Together we can help provide the program puppy with a strong foundation they will need to eventually become successful Assistance Dogs. What does that look like and mean for our puppy raisers? Here is a quick glance at the journey from program puppy to Assistance Dog.

## Birth

It all starts with our breeder dogs and their breeder caretakers. Breeder caretakers oversee the care and well-being of our breeder dogs. There are a few different types of breeder caretakers:

- Those who care for our stud (male) dogs long-term.
- Those who care for our breeder dogs long-term and whelp litters in their homes.
- Those who care for our breeder dogs long-term but do not whelp litters in their homes.
- Those who host breeder dogs short-term during their pregnancy, for the whelping, and until the puppies are 8 weeks of age.

Our breeder dogs go through extensive health and behavioral examinations before becoming selected as a breeder dog. Once chosen, they are then placed with their breeder caretaker. They will then be bred to carefully selected studs in hopes of setting up the litter for as much success as possible. When the puppies are born, the breeder caretakers will care for both the breeder dog and the puppies until the puppies are seven to eight weeks of age. During their time caring for the puppies, they help to expose the puppies to different sights, sounds, textures, people, and environments.

## Puppyhood

Once the program puppies reach 8 weeks of age, they are then placed with their puppy raisers. Puppy raisers will foster the program puppy until they reach 14-16 months of age. During their time with the program puppy, puppy raisers will ensure that the program puppy:

- Is safe and well cared for.
- Remains healthy, ensuring the program puppy receives routine medical care, stays up to date on all vaccinations, and is current on all heartworm, flea and tick preventatives.
- Attends training classes either with Dogs for Better Lives, or an outside training facility that utilizes positive reinforcement training techniques.
- When the program puppy reaches the appropriate age, puppy raisers will take them on age-appropriate public outings two to three times a week.
- Ensures the program puppy will receive age-appropriate enrichment and play time.

- Puppy raisers will also fill out monthly reports updating their DBL staff representative on the program puppy's progress and identifying any issues they may have.

By providing all these things to the program puppy, puppy raisers will ensure that they are setting a strong foundation for their program puppy to help them be successful when they return for formal training at one of our DBL campuses.

## Formal Training

Once the program puppy graduates from the Puppy Program, they will enter what is called formal training. This means they will return to one of our DBL campuses, undergo a behavioral examination, then be matched with one of our professional trainers. After a few weeks of working with the program puppy, the trainer will determine which Assistance Dog program they would be best suited for. On average, our trainers will spend about four to six months working with the program puppy teaching them all the tasks they will need to become an Assistance Dog. However, the amount of time spent in formal training can vary depending on the needs of the program puppy and the number of tasks they are learning. Once the trainer feels the program puppy can consistently and accurately perform all their tasks, they will then complete an Assistance Dog certification test with the program puppy. Should the program puppy pass their test, their trainer will then match and offer them to a client.

If the program puppy is particularly spectacular, DBL would look at them as a potential breeder dog. The program puppy would then go through additional health examinations. Should they pass all their health and behavioral evaluations, they would then be placed with a breeder caretaker.

## Placement

Once a client has officially accepted the program puppy, the puppy raiser will be notified. While being notified, the DBL staff representative will also ask if the puppy raiser would like to pass along their contact information to the Assistance Dog's new client. They will also be offered the chance to participate in a video call with the client during placement. Should the client also agree to participate in the video call, the trainer responsible for the placement will set up a day and time for the client and puppy raiser to participate in the video call. After the team (client and Assistance Dog) successfully complete the placement, the puppy raiser's contact information is then shared with the client. The client then has the option of whether they would like to establish a connection with the puppy raiser.

## Thank you!

Dogs for Better Lives is able to change so many lives all thanks to our amazing volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time helping the program puppy through their journey – from our breeder caretaker volunteers who care for the program puppies from birth to 8 weeks, to the puppy raisers who care for them for over a year, to our kennel volunteers who walk our dogs living on campus, to our short-term foster volunteers who help spend time with the dogs when they aren't training on campus – we couldn't do this without all of you. From the entire Dogs for Better Lives team, thank you for taking part in our Puppy Program and helping us to further our mission of changing as many lives as we can. Together we can make a difference!



# Puppy Raiser Job Duties, Safety Guidelines and Expectations

## Job Duties

- **General Welfare-** All puppy raisers are expected to provide program puppies love and support during the raising process. Raisers will also ensure the program puppy is provided with fresh water daily, feeding the correct brand of food and appropriate amount set by a DBL staff member, receiving age-appropriate amounts of exercise, receiving enrichment, and are being well maintained and groomed.
- **Health and Safety-** Puppy raisers are to provide the program puppy a safe and loving home environment. Raisers will ensure the program puppy receives routine medical care, vaccinations are kept up to date, the program puppy receives their monthly flea, tick, and heartworm preventative, and will notify their DBL representative in the event of an illness or emergency.
- **Training-** All puppy raisers are expected to follow DBL's training guidelines using positive reinforcement. They will also attend classes regularly whether it is a DBL class, or another puppy class outside of Dogs for Better Lives. If taking classes outside of DBL, raisers will need to attend two sets of classes: Puppy/Beginner and Intermediate. When selecting outside classes, ensure the instructor uses positive reinforcement training methods. Puppy raisers will be expected to continue to apply what they learn in the classes by practicing with the program puppy daily. When age appropriate, raisers will commit to taking the program puppy on a public outing two to three times a week with at least one of those outings being a new environment to the program puppy. Puppy raisers will also fill out monthly reports and communicate any issues they may have with their DBL representative.
- **Grooming-** Puppy raisers will ensure that program puppies are groomed regularly. This includes trimming nails and bathing monthly. While also brushing the coat, cleaning the ears, and brushing their teeth weekly.
- **Role Model-** As a puppy raiser you are an extension of Dogs for Better Lives and our mission. It is important to maintain a professional and positive image when working with DBL staff, volunteers, clients, donors, and the public.

## Puppy Raiser Goals

Your ultimate goal is for the program puppy to graduate from the Puppy Program. To graduate, the program puppy will return to a DBL campus for formal assistance dog training with the goal of eventual placement with a client. What does DBL look for in their future assistance dogs?

- A program puppy who is well rounded and can remain calm and confident in all manner of situations, both in public and at home.
- A program puppy who is calm and comfortable being left at home while in their crate.
- A program puppy who is calm and comfortable around all manner of people of different ages, ethnicities, in different types of clothing, etc.
- A program puppy who walks calmly while on leash.

- A program puppy who is calm and relaxed while being handled by anyone. As well as being comfortable while being groomed and looked over.
- A program puppy who can focus on their handler and respond to commands despite distractions in their environment.
- A program puppy who can settle in any environment despite any distractions.

## Safety Guidelines & Expectations

As a puppy raiser, you will be expected to follow the guidelines stated below for both the safety of the program puppy as well as others.

- Program puppies are to always remain on leash unless they are in a secured/fenced off area. It only takes a split second for a program puppy to potentially run off, not return, or become severely injured.
  - If you are doing an activity such as hiking and would like for the program puppy to have more freedom, you may utilize a 20' long line. Do not use a retractable leash as these can cause harm to both handler and program puppy.
  - If you are doing an activity such as camping and would prefer not to hold on to a leash, you may utilize a tie down or x-pen so long as the program puppy is securely restrained and remains in your sight.
  - If the program puppy is loose in a secured area but that area includes an easily accessible body of water like a pond, pool, and hot tub, those areas will need to be securely blocked off, or the program must be closely monitored.
  - This excludes dog parks- DBL does not allow program puppies to visit dog parks as they can pose as a safety risk to the puppy. There are too many variables such as unfriendly dogs, parasites and diseases that can potentially harm the program puppy.
- Program puppies need to be placed in their crate when left alone or at night. Never leave the puppy loose unattended as this can pose a potential safety risk as well as potentially lead to unwanted behaviors. For example, program puppies left unattended in the back yard could pick up a small item such as a stick or rock and choke, or if bored, they could potentially start digging or barking. The exception to this rule is if while in the home you need to leave the room for a short period of time (no longer than 20 minutes), you can utilize an x-pen or baby gate off a section of the home that is safe for the program puppy to be.
  - Do not leave the program puppy alone with babies, toddlers, or small children. Never allow the children to tease, hit, or harass the program puppy.
  - Program puppies under the age of four months old need to be crated when traveling in a vehicle. Never put the program puppy in the back of an open truck or any vehicle with an open window. If a raiser was to get into an accident, the program puppy could easily be thrown from the vehicle which could result in injury or even death. When program puppies are old enough to ride free in a vehicle, they need to be placed into a sit or down on the back seat or back seat floorboards.
    - Do not allow the program puppy to stick their head out the window. Debris may fly into the program puppy's eye and result in injury.
    - **NEVER** leave the program puppy alone in the vehicle. If you are running errands and you are going somewhere where the program puppy will be denied access, leave the program puppy at home.
- Program puppies are never to be up on the furniture. This includes couches, people's beds, chairs, benches, hammocks, beanbags, etc.
- Program puppies are not to be allowed to jump up at or on people, or from high distances to the ground. Not only is jumping an inappropriate behavior, jumping from high distances can cause injury to their joints that are growing and forming.

- Program puppies are never to get on moving walkways or escalators. Their toenails could potentially get stuck resulting in an injury. Always take the stairs or elevator.
- Program puppies do not have access rights. If you encounter a store or area that denies you and the program puppy access, thank them for letting you know and leave. Should you encounter one of these places, let your DBL representative know so they may alert other puppy raisers to respect that business or area. We want to ensure that we maintain a positive image in the communities we work in and serve.
- DBL does not allow program puppies to be left at boarding or daycare facilities. Similar to dog parks, there are too many risks and variables. They can pick up unwanted behaviors as well as illnesses or have an experience that could negatively affect their training. If you are away from home during the day for long periods of time it is recommended that you have friends or family that can watch the program puppy or hire an in-home puppy sitter.

Planes, trains, and boats oh my! Riding a plane, train, bus, boat, or other mode of transportation can be excellent exposure for an older program puppy. However, if not done correctly it can negatively impact the program puppy's training and potentially their future as an assistance dog. For example, if you get on a plane with a program puppy and they start having a negative reaction to being on the plane, you will be unable to quickly exit the plane and allow the puppy to recover. Instead, you will be stuck on that plane until you arrive at your destination which at that point has caused the puppy to potentially remain in a stressed state for long periods of time. If you are considering taking a trip with the program puppy via one of the modes of transportation mentioned above, check in with your DBL representative first. They will need to ensure the program puppy will be able to handle that type of situation. Program puppies will also need to be at least 10 months of age before being approved.

If at any time a puppy raiser feels they are no longer able to care for a program puppy, or DBL deems that it is in the best interest of the program puppy, Dogs for Better Lives will retrieve the program puppy and place them in a new raiser home. Our number one priority is to ensure that each program puppy is healthy and well cared for no matter what.



# PRIORITY OF USE OF RAISED PUPPIES FOR DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES

## *Policy: Dog Placement and Career Paths*

*Objective: To ensure the dogs in our programs are effectively utilized and placed in suitable roles that align with our mission. Each dog's career path will be determined based on their skills, traits, and potential for different assistance programs.*

## Breeding Stock

If a dog meets our breeding stock standards and possesses desirable lineage that complements our breeding colony, they will be selected for our breeding program.

## Dogs for Assistance Programs

Throughout the training process, dogs will undergo continuous evaluation to assess their skills and traits for assisting individuals with disabilities. They will be assigned to the most appropriate program based on their abilities. The following assistance programs are available:

- a. **Hearing Dogs:** Dogs are trained to alert people with hearing impairments to household sounds that are necessary for everyday safety and independence. They are trained to make physical contact and lead their person to the source of the sound. Through sound awareness and companionship, these dogs provide greatly increased freedom.
- b. **Autism Assistance Dogs:** Dogs are trained to redirect repetitive behaviors such as flailing arms, waving hands, snapping fingers, stomping; apply deep pressure; and to provide companionship to children who experience autism spectrum disorder. Combined with their professional training, their calm and caring behavior have shown to decrease anxiety, increase calmness, reduce emotional meltdowns, and foster more manageable bedtime routines.
- c. **Facility Dogs:** Dogs are specifically trained to assist volunteers or professionals such as physicians, teachers, counselors, and police officers who work with vulnerable populations and people with disabilities. Each dog has been extensively trained tasks designed to motivate, inspire, and enhance the lives of the clients they serve. Facility Dogs do not have public access except when accompanying the professionals and their clients.

## Transfer to Cooperating Assistance Dog Program

Dogs that meet health, safety, and training standards may be transferred to a cooperating assistance dog program if they are accepted. The transfer will be conditional, with the understanding that the dog will be returned to Dogs for Better Lives for adoption if it is not successfully placed.

## Transfer to Working Dog Program

Dogs that are better suited for detection, search and rescue, or as police dogs will be transferred to programs focused on performing tasks to assist human companions. Dogs that meet the standards for strategic partnerships will be transferred to programs focused on outreach, awareness, or education related to assistance animals. These partnerships will raise awareness for the organization. If a dog is not successfully placed in a working dog program, it will be returned to Dogs for Better Lives for adoption.

## Adoption

Dogs not selected for breeding, assistance programs, or working dog programs will be considered for adoption. All potential adopters will undergo a thorough screening process to ensure they are a suitable match and can provide a safe and loving home. The puppy raiser of the dog will be given first choice for adoption after the dog's career change.

## Retirement

The decision to retire an assistance dog, at any age, will be made collaboratively by the dog's partner, our consumer services department, and training team. Retirement is an emotional and carefully considered process. In most cases, our clients will adopt the retired dog as a pet to a friend or family member. Occasionally, the dog may be returned to the Dogs for Better Lives to find the best possible home. After retirement, the dog will be offered back to the puppy raiser or placed in an adoptive home.

Note: This policy aims to provide clear guidelines for dog placement and career paths within our organization, ensuring that each dog's skills and traits are utilized to their fullest potential while prioritizing their well-being and suitable placements.

## **Bringing Puppy Home**

You have gone to the store to get all of the puppy supplies and have puppy proofed your entire home and now it is finally time to bring the puppy home! While you are busy bonding and enjoying time with the puppy, you will also want to work on potty training and getting the puppy to use to their crate (crate training).

### **Bonding With the Puppy**

Bonding with the puppy is a very important part of the puppy building a trusting relationship with you. This will be especially helpful once you start attending your obedience training classes because the puppy will focus on you more. You will want to continuously bond with the puppy everyday throughout the twelve months that you are together. A few ways to bond are quiet time, play time, walking, and training sessions, which are described below.

### **Quiet Time**

Set some time aside from your busy day and spend time with the puppy. This means no distractions like T.V., cell phones, video games, etc. Take the time to figure out what the puppy enjoys the most; for instance, do they enjoy belly rubs or scratching behind the ear better? Regardless, take the time to get to know the puppy and it will strengthen your bond and build trust.

### **Play Time**

Similar to quiet time, you want to take the time to find the games that the puppy loves to play the most. Do they enjoy fetch, hide and seek, or tug of war? Find out what games seem to be the most rewarding. Playing games will also help to release some energy. While younger puppies will have less stamina, as they become older they will want to play longer. Make sure to watch their body language and when they start to slow down, give them some time to rest. Please see the 'List of Games' page to find games to play with the puppy.



## **Walking**

Walking shouldn't be just to let the puppy relieve themselves, but to also be outside and explore their surroundings. Going on walks helps to stimulate the puppy's mind and body. This can be a great experience for both of you to get out and explore together. Take different routes each day and make sure that your the puppy has 100% of your attention, so no cell phones or other distractions. Also, walking gives you a chance to practice your loose leash walking every day.

-

## **Training Sessions**

Having short training sessions throughout the day is also another great way to bond with the puppy. Whether you're teaching sit, name, recall, impulse control, loose leash walking, or whatever it is that you learned in obedience class that week, the puppy will enjoy the one-on-one time, not to mention all the treats and praise! Just remember to keep these sessions brief. If the puppy is losing interest, end the session on a positive note and allow them to rest. You don't want to have long training sessions to the point of frustration for yourself or the puppy. We never want training to become a negative experience. Keep your training sessions short, fun, and full of treats and praise!

# Puppy Raiser Shopping List with Links

## Food

- [Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy Chicken & Rice](#)
- [Stainless Steel Food and Water Dishes](#)
- [Training Treats](#)

## Bedding

- [Dog Bed](#)
- [Wire Crate with Divider](#)
- [Travel crate for smaller puppies when in cars](#)

## Toys

- [Nylabones](#)
- [Kongs](#)
- Puzzle Toys
  - [Kong Wobbler](#)
  - [Outward Hound Rumble Ball](#)
  - [Outward Hound Tornado Toy](#)
- [No Stuffing Toys](#)
- [Balls](#)
- [West Paw](#)

## Clean Up

- [Poop Bags w/dispenser](#)
- [Poop Scooper](#)
- [Enzymatic Cleaner for accidents](#)

## Grooming Supplies

- [Shampoo](#)
- [Slicker Brush](#)
- [Zoom Groom](#)
- [Furminator](#)
- [Ear Cleaner](#)
- [Nail Trimmers](#)
- [Dremel](#)
- [Toothpaste & Toothbrush](#)

## Other

- [Harness](#)
- [Exercise Pen \(X-pen\)](#)
- [Baby Gate](#)

# PUPPY RAISER

## SHOPPING LIST



### CLEAN UP

- ☐ Poop bags
- ☐ Poop bag dispenser
- ☐ Paper Towels
- ☐ Wet Wipes
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Nature's Miracle cleaner
- ☐ Pooper Scooper



### TOYS

- ☐ Kongs: red or black
- ☐ Nylabones: various shapes
- ☐ Stuffless toys
- ☐ Balls
- ☐ Puzzle Games
- ☐ Goughnuts
- ☐ West Paw chew toys

### FOOD

- ☐ Stainless steel food and water dishes
- ☐ Purina Pro Plan:
  - Large Breed Puppy Chicken and Rice
- ☐ Measuring Cup
- ☐ Training Treats:
  - Zukes or something similar

### GROOMING SUPPLIES

- ☐ Grooming Supplies
- ☐ Tearless or Oatmeal shampoo
- ☐ Slicker Brush
- ☐ Kong Zoom Groom
- ☐ Nail Trimmers and/or Dremel
- ☐ Cotton Balls
- ☐ Ear cleaner
- ☐ Dog specific toothbrush or finger brush
- ☐ Dog specific toothpaste



### BEDDING

- ☐ Large wire crate with divider
- ☐ Stuffless blankets for crate bedding
- ☐ Additional dog bed for use outside of crate
- ☐ Medium travel crate for car



### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- ☐ Petsafe Harness
- ☐ X-pen
- ☐ Baby gate



# THE COMMON FAUX-PAWS OF DISABILITY ETIQUETTE

Presented by Emily Sanders

# Disability Awareness

- Treat each individual as a human first
- Use person-first language when describing an impairment (ex: person with a disability versus disabled person)
- Speak directly to the individual (not to an interpreter or caregiver)
- Avoid outdated phrases (ex: handicapped, crippled, retarded, etc.)
- Adults with disabilities are still adults (avoid trying to make their decisions for them or using baby talk when asking their opinion)
- Avoid disempowering words (ex: sufferer, victim, etc.)
- Remember that everyone is unique and each disability has a varied spectrum that accompanies it
- Ask questions when you're unsure!

# Disability Awareness





# What is an assistance dog?

A generic term for a guide, hearing, or service dog specifically trained to do three or more tasks to mitigate the effects of an individual's disability. The presence of a dog for protection, personal defense, or comfort does not qualify that dog as an assistance dog. Assistance dogs are covered under many legislative access laws for public access rights when working with their disabled handler.

# What are the different types of assistance dogs?

- Hearing
- Guide Dog
- Mobility
- Skilled-Companion (Autism)
- Psychiatric
- Facility





# How to show respect for the handler

- Talk to the handler, not to the assistance animal
- Walk on the opposite side of the handler as their assistance animal
- If you believe the handler needs assistance, ask if they'd like help but respect their answer
- Avoid asking the handler overly personal questions (ex: Why do you need the dog? What's wrong with you? Etc.)

# How to show respect for the assistance animal

- Avoid distracting the working animal (ex: cooing, patting your leg, petting, etc.)
  - Let the handler give any cue/command
- If you witness the animal do something that is an immediate safety risk (eat a rock, lick cleaning supplies, etc) then let the handler know if they didn't witness it so they can address it
- If you have a dog with you, remember to keep distance to ensure the success of the working team.

# Hearing Assistance Dog

- Try to stand directly in front of them and speak clearly
- Ask clarifying questions to ensure that you're being understood
- Do not raise your voice unless asked
- Be aware of the lighting in the environment (ex: windows, dark rooms, etc.)
- Speak to the individual not the interpreter
- If you are in a public setting with someone who has hearing loss, avoid speaking for them to others

# Skilled Companion (autism) Assistance Dog

- Understand that the individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may not offer eye contact or want to be touched in general conversation
- Use objective, clear language to avoid miscommunication
- Individuals with ASD can be eager to please, avoid using leading questions to avoid confusion/miscommunication
- Allow the individual with ASD to make their own decisions
- Avoid terms such as high/low functioning when describing an individual with ASD
- Routine and consistency can be sources of comfort
  - On the flipside, if something is changed last minute it can trigger a period of stress/anxiety while they readjust

# Skilled Companion cont.

- Remember that an individual with ASD's face might not match what they're trying to communicate
  - Reading/understanding nonverbal cues are a challenge for individuals with ASD, be direct in what you are trying to communicate
- Skilled companion dogs are meant to be a social bridge in public situations. If you want to approach the team make sure to speak to the individual with ASD
- Try to be aware of the sensory aspects of the environment you're in
  - Large groups or being in public can be overwhelming
  - Try to lessen bright lights, loud/background noises, or other aspects of the environment when communicating important topics to individuals with ASD

# Mobility Assistance Dog

- Use the phrase, 'individual who uses a wheelchair' versus 'wheelchair bound'
  - Mobility equipment is what allows the individual to participate more fully in public, it is a freeing piece equipment not a limiting one
- Assume that the individual's personal space includes their mobility equipment and shouldn't be touched unless asked and granted permission
- If speaking with an individual who uses a wheelchair and there is seating available, sit to be at a similar eye level
- Avoid asking individuals who use wheelchairs to hold things for you

# Guide Dog team

- To avoid startling the handler, avoid touching them unexpectedly and do so only when given permission.
- When approaching the handler, introduce yourself (name and title if applicable) and then begin speaking.
  - If you need to leave, let them know verbally before walking away
- If at a restaurant, you can ask if they would like you to read off the menu for them, but avoid speaking for them in social settings
- Narrate what the environment looks like if asked, with objective language
- If going to a new place, offer a quick tour so the individual can be more familiar with their surroundings
- Using phrases like, "I'll see you later" isn't generally considered offensive

# Psychiatric Assistance Dog

- Be conscious that there is a progressive stigma around mental health illnesses in our society
  - Keep this in mind as these handlers may be very uncomfortable discussing their reasons for having the dog, or even when describing the tasks the dog is trained to perform for them
- Lack of awareness surrounding invisible disabilities affects these handlers the most
- Psychiatric Assistance Dogs can be trained for individuals with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to; OCD, PTSD, schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc.



# Psychiatric Assistance Dog (cont.)

- These dogs can be trained to; provide environmental assessment, signaling behaviors (repetitive/injurious), remind about medications, retrieve objects, guide out of stressful situations, brace, block (creating space for handler), etc.
- Try to avoid sneaking up on these handlers to avoid adding stress/startling them
- Be aware that if the dog is blocking the handler it may be trying to create more space, so try to back up and be aware of your body language

# Facility Dog

- a specially trained dog that works with a volunteer or professional in a residential or clinic setting. The dog must be trained to do specific, skilled tasks in a variety of different situations within the facility environment with multiple clients; it must be more than just a presence within the facility. The volunteer or professional handler is trained by a program. In some countries facility dogs do not have any public access while in other countries public access is permitted only when the dog and trained handler are directly working with a client with a disability.

# Therapy Dog

- a pet dog trained to provide affection, comfort, and love to those it interacts with in many different settings. Therapy dog owners may volunteer their time to visit with their animals to facilities in which the team is welcomed or may be practitioners who utilize the dog in a professional setting. Therapy dogs are not covered under the legislative public access laws, and therefore do not have the same public access rights as an assistance dog and its handler.

# Emotional Support Animal

- a companion animal that provides emotional or therapeutic support to an individual with a mental health condition or emotional disorder simply by being present. Emotional support animals do not receive the same training as assistance dogs and therefore, depending upon the country, may have different laws regarding their public access privileges. For example, in the United States of America, Emotional Support Animals do not have the same right to public access as an assistance dog and its handler.

# Final thoughts

- Assistance animals are supposed to be a social bridge for the handler. Don't feel like you can't approach them but remember to be respectful of these guidelines.
- Everyone is unique and is going to have different preferences, ask questions to see what that person likes!
- Questions?

# Sources

- ADI (<https://assistedogsinternational.org/resources/adi-terms-definitions/>)
- Respectability.org (<https://www.respectability.org/inclusion-toolkits/etiquette-interacting-with-people-with-disabilities/>)
- Unitedspinal.org (<https://unitedspinal.org/disability-etiquette/>)
- Askjan.org (<https://askjan.org/topics/disetiqa.cfm>)
- GDB (<https://www.guidedogs.com/explore-resources/general-information/blindness-and-guide-dog-etiquette>)

# Program Puppy Gear & Usage

*Each program puppy will come with their own set of gear to be used throughout their time in the puppy program. Puppy raisers will receive the program puppy's collar, leash, vest, and gentle leader. As the program puppy continues to grow, the raisers will trade in their gear for a larger size. Never leave the program puppy alone, crated, or while riding loose in the car while they are wearing their gear apart from their collar, otherwise the program puppy may chew on/damage their gear. If the gear becomes damaged, the puppy raiser will be responsible for replacing it.*

## Leash, Collar, and ID Tag

Puppy raisers will receive a black nylon buckle collar, six (6) foot black leash, and a Dogs for Better Lives ID tag. The collar should fit the program puppy appropriately, with enough room to fit two fingers between the collar and the puppy's neck. Any less room will be too tight, and any additional room will be too loose, and the program puppy could potentially slip out of it. Nylon buckle collars are the only approved type of collars to be used on a Dogs for Better Lives program puppy.

## Vest

Each program puppy will also come with a Dogs for Better Lives Future Assistance Dog vest. Similar to the collar, it will need to be sized appropriately with two fingers worth of space between the program puppy and the straps that cross the program puppy's stomach and chest. Vests will have a pocket on each side for raisers to utilize and place DBL information cards in, as well as emergency poop bags.

## Gentle Leader

Gentle leaders will be provided to each raiser as a tool to help redirect the program puppy when they start to pull while walking on leash. The loop of the gentle leader will go over the program puppy's nose and mouth, while the straps with buckles click into place right behind the puppy's ears. The strap beneath the loop will connect to both the leash and the puppy's collar. The loop over the nose should be loose enough to move slightly while on the nose and so that the program puppy can both eat and drink. However, it should not be loose enough that it goes completely over the nose at which point it could then be easily removed by the program puppy.

## Introducing the Gear

Introducing the gear to the program puppy will be the first step you take when utilizing the gear. The program puppy will already have experience wearing a collar and being on a leash from when they were in their breeder caretaker home but will need to be introduced to both the gentle leader and vest. Raisers will introduce the gear to the puppy by utilizing their mealtimes as a training session. To do this, the raiser will lure the program puppy into either their gentle leader or vest. Once the gear is on, the raiser will immediately feed the program puppy their meal. As soon as the program puppy finishes their meal, the gear comes off. Utilizing their meal as part of introducing the program puppy to their gear will help to create a positive association with their gear. Putting on their gentle leader/vest= mealtime! While the program puppy is being fed three meals a day, each meal should include the program puppy either wearing their vest, gentle leader or being in their crate. When they go down to two feedings a day, raisers need to continue to rotate between their vest and gentle leader for mealtimes. Only use one item per meal.

## When to Utilize the Gear

### Collar

The program puppy should always keep their collar with the DBL ID tag on unless they are playing with other puppies/dogs in a secured area. Keeping a collar on while the program puppy plays with another dog/puppy could pose as a safety risk resulting in getting their jaws stuck, choking, and worst-case scenario, death. However, any other time their collar should be kept on.

### Leash

Program puppies need to be on a leash whenever they are in an unsecured area and anytime when they are in public. The leash does need to be attached to their handler. Do not tie down the program puppy while on leash and leave them unsupervised.

### Vest

The vest is to be utilized anytime the program puppy is on a public outing. Also, to help reduce the possibility of gear sensitivity, the program puppy should also have playtime while in the vest. Similar to utilizing mealtimes, a play session while in the vest will also create a positive association with the vest. It is recommended that you use the program puppy's favorite toy or game when they have the vest on. To make it special, you should only use that specific toy or game only when they have the vest on. When the vest comes off, the toy is stored away until it is time for another vest play session.

**Note:** If you notice any signs of potential vest sensitivity, please contact your coordinator.

### Gentle Leader

The gentle leader needs to be utilized anytime the program puppy is on a walk or during a public outing. How the gentle leader works is if the program puppy starts to pull while on leash, the gentle leader will naturally turn the puppy's head away from their desired destination, and back to facing the handler using their own body's momentum.

**Note:** Never pop/jerk or apply pressure while the program puppy is wearing their gentle leader. We want to create as positive of an association with the gentle leader as possible. Naturally program puppies are going to want to fuss with it, but with some consistency and positive association, they will become more comfortable while wearing it. If you notice the program puppy consistently fussing with their gentle leader, contact your area coordinator for some helpful tips on how to work through the issue at hand.



# Nutrition: DBL Puppy Program

*Program puppies will each come with a Ziploc bag of food along with feeding instructions when initially being placed with their new raiser. It is important that the program puppy remain on the same brand of food the entirety of their time with their raiser unless instructed otherwise. All program puppies should be eating Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy Chicken and Rice. They will remain on this diet throughout their time with the raiser, when they come back to one of our campuses for formal training, and when they are placed with their client.*

## Feeding Quantities and Maintaining a Healthy Weight

Program puppies between the ages of 8-12 weeks will need to be fed three times a day. The program puppy will most likely receive between ½ - 1 cups three times a day when placed in their new puppy raiser home. The amount will vary depending on the individual program puppy's needs, metabolism, and their activity level. As the program puppy continues to grow, you will need to gradually increase their food intake by a quarter cup. Once the program puppy reaches the age of four months, they will need to be switched over to two feedings a day. By six (6) months of age, the program puppy should be receiving between 1 - 1.5 cups twice a day. This is the amount they will most likely stay on the rest of the time in the puppy raiser home unless otherwise specified by the raiser's area puppy coordinator. Once the program puppy reaches one year of age, they will then need to be switched over to the adult formula.

You can gauge if a program puppy is ready for an increased amount of food by checking what's called a body conditioning score (see chart below). You will notice with the ideal section of the chart, that they mention you can feel a minimal layer of fat over the ribs, that their tuck is visible from the side, and their hips have a visible curve from the bird's eye view. If the program puppy is leaner than ideal, then you will need to increase their food. The same goes for if they are above ideal, raisers may need to either decrease the food, or look for lower calorie training treats. Initially, program puppies will not have the tuck up and noticeable hip curves as they are storing nutrients for their first growth spurt and that is ok. After their first growth spurt you will notice they are starting to look more like a dog and less like a potato. Puppies will go through many growth spurts throughout their puppyhood, and it is important to keep an eye on their bodily changes.

Another great way to tell if the program puppy needs to increase their food intake is by looking at their stool. If the program puppy is healthy but has loose or watery stools, they could potentially be eating too much. If they are healthy but their stool is hard and/or chalk like, it could be a sign that they are potentially being fed too little.

Puppies, especially Labrador retriever puppies, are very food motivated and are often called opportunistic eaters. This is great when utilizing their food motivation in training. However, it becomes problematic when they start to put on too much weight. Labrador retrievers are especially prone to obesity. Obesity can increase the risk for diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and can affect their joints causing osteoarthritis. So, it is very important to maintain a well-balanced diet. If you are unsure when the program puppy will be ready for an increase, please check in with your area coordinator.



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, Bartges JW, 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

Laflamme 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-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT



Nestlé PURINA

## Feeding Schedule

As mentioned above, our program puppies are very food motivated which means that mealtimes are one of the biggest highlights of their day. This means that feeding schedules can either positively or negatively impact their behaviors. For example, say the program puppy gets fed twice a day, once right before their puppy raiser leaves the house for work, then their next meal happens right after their puppy raiser returns home from work. This can potentially negatively affect the program puppy's behavior since now you have stacked two very exciting events into one causing the program puppy to become overly excited by the raiser's departure and arrival. This could result in creating separation anxiety in the program puppy, especially if there is an upset in routine, like the puppy raiser staying late at work. By doing so the program puppy now has increased frustration and stress. However, if the raiser were to feed the program puppy their meal at least an hour before leaving the house, and an hour after returning, the program puppy will see them as two separate events easing the emotional attachment to both the meal and the puppy raiser.

Also, it is very important that the program puppies are put on feeding schedules and not free fed. Free feeding can potentially lead to behavior and potty-training issues such as resource guarding and having more accidents in the home.

## Utilizing Meals as Training Opportunities

Mealtimes are also a great time to implement some training techniques! When program puppies are between the ages of 8-12 weeks and are being fed three meals a day, this is a great opportunity to create a positive association with their gentle leader, vest, and crate. To do this, pick one item you would like to use for this meal. For this example we will use the vest, holding the vest open with your right hand, lure the program into the vest using a treat in your left hand, once the program puppy has completely walked into the vest, secure the vest then implement the food bowl etiquette (see video in training videos section of the portal) lure the program puppy into the sit position, lower the bowl to the ground and then release the program puppy with the cue "Free!". Once the program puppy has finished their meal, you may take the vest off and put away their food bowl. Only use one item per meal, do not, for example put the vest on the puppy then place them in their crate. We recommend that you rotate each item per meal rather than assigning each item to either breakfast, lunch, or dinner so the program puppy doesn't start expecting that they put the vest on for every breakfast. Assigning the item per meal could potentially lead to the program puppy avoiding that meal if they don't particularly enjoy being in one of the items.

## Training Treats

During training you will be using two types of treats called higher and lower value treats. Higher value treats are what the program puppy would deem exciting and are mostly used when learning a new behavior/cue, or when working in or around highly distracting areas, items, or other stimuli. The purpose of utilizing higher value treats is to regain the program puppy's focus to the handler. Lower value treats are what the program puppy will deem "normal", typically we use the program puppy's kibble as a lower value treat. We utilize lower value treats to reinforce and maintain behaviors. Despite the value, training treats need to be bite size and preferably prepped before the training session for easy delivery. We typically recommend using Zukes Natural Dog Treats for high value treats, they can be easily found in any pet store and are already bite sized. As mentioned above, we recommend utilizing the program puppy's normal kibble for lower value treats.

**Pro Tip:** While on a public outing in a higher distracting area, we recommend mixing the high value treats in with the lower value treats a little bit before heading to your destination. Not only will the scent and flavor of the higher value treats rub off on the lower value treats making them more enticing, but during the outing the program puppy will receive the higher value treat at random resulting in them being more inclined to check in with you more often!

## Water

It is very important to allow the program puppy to have access to fresh water during the day, especially during the warmer months. The only exception to this is during the potty-training stages where we recommend picking up the food bowl 2-3 hours before bedtime to reduce the number of overnight accidents.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Do not switch the program puppy onto another food brand, protein type, or feed them human food unless otherwise specified by your area coordinator.*

# Approved & Inappropriate Toy List

*Program puppies will need to be provided with age-appropriate toys throughout their puppyhood. As you can imagine, not all toys are created equal, and some can even prove to be harmful. Below you will find a list of both approved and inappropriate toys. We recommend that you provide the program puppy with a variety of appropriate toys, and instead of leaving all the puppy's toys down, rotate the toys out every few days. This will prevent the program puppy from becoming bored with their toys and finding other alternative (and inappropriate) ways to entertain themselves.*

## Approved Toys

### Kong

Kong has a large variety of toys for dogs of different ages and sizes. The rubber they use to make their toys is very durable and is meant to alleviate teething and chewing needs. They are hollowed out and can be stuffed with treats to keep the program puppy engaged. However, despite their durability, they are not indestructible! These toys can be left alone with the program puppy, however, once the program puppy begins to outgrow the current size range, or pieces begin to fall apart, they will need to be removed and replaced.

### Nylabone

Nylabone also has a wide array of toys ranging from puppy/teething to what they call power chewers. They also have a wide selection of different shapes and textures. We recommend getting a few different types with a variety of textures to keep the program puppy engaged. Nylabone has a guide on each package notifying the customer of the appropriate size of the dog should be for that specific toy along with chewing style. The gentler rubber toys should be used with supervision, while the more durable Nylabones can be left with the puppy without supervision for short periods of time. Just remember to continuously check the toys and make sure they are not damaged.

Note: We do NOT recommend edible Nylabones as they can be a choking hazard. All other Nylabones are approved.

### Busy Buddy Squirrel Dudes

Similar to Kongs, Squirrel Dudes are rubber toys great for teething and chewing. They too are hollowed out and can be stuffed with treats to be used as enrichment. So long as the toys remain in good condition, they can be left with the program puppy unsupervised.

### Goughnuts

Goughnuts are a line of rubber toys with shapes like sticks, tires, balls, frisbees, and more. The great thing about Goughnuts is that they have a red indicator in the center of the toy, so once the puppy chews down to the indicator, that lets you know it is time to replace the toy. The other great thing about Goughnuts is that they offer 100% guarantee on all their products, meaning once the program puppy has chewed down to the red indicator, you can send the toy back to the company and they will replace it with a new one. You are only responsible for paying the shipping cost. Since these toys have a softer rubber composition, these toys should be used with supervision only.

### Westpaw

Westpaw is another great company that makes rubber toys for dogs as well as a few other products. They are a small business located in Montana and use recycled plastics in their toys and bedding. Westpaw also encourages their customers to return their used up or damaged products so that they can reuse the rubber for new toys. These toys are also made with a softer rubber composition and should only be used with supervision.



## Chuckit! Balls

Chuckit! Balls are a brand of rubber balls that are safer and more durable than regular tennis balls. Since they are made of rubber and not coated with the soft fuzzy material that tennis balls have, the program puppy will be less inclined to tear it into pieces. Chuckit! Balls are more durable, but it does not mean they are indestructible and program puppies can still take chunks out of the ball if left alone. These toys will need to be used with supervision.

## Rope Toys

Rope toys are great for teething puppies, especially when soaked in water and frozen. However, program puppies are never to be left alone with rope toys as they can be torn apart and ingested.

## Inappropriate Toys

### Antlers

Due to their durability, antlers have recently been advertised for dogs who are determined and aggressive chewers. However, because antlers are so hard, they can damage and potentially break teeth in both puppies and adult dogs. Also, if a dog or puppy does manage to break off a piece of antler, it can do a lot of damage internally.

### Rawhide, Pig Ears, Bully Sticks, and Other Animal Products

Rawhide, pig ears, bully sticks and other animal bones are hazardous for multiple reasons. The first being that they are unsanitary and can contain bacteria such as e. coli. They can also pose a huge safety risk if part of the bone breaks off and is swallowed. Their sharp edges can harm the esophagus and their digestive tract, causing the program puppy to choke or cause a blockage.

### Stuffed Toys

We ask that you do not provide the program puppy with stuffed toys, but rather provide them with toys that have just squeakers or some sort of noise making item. ZippyPaws and Frisco do have a variety of toys without stuffing. Not only can stuffing be messy, but it can be ingested potentially posing as a choking hazard or become a blockage if the program puppy ingests too much. Also, if the program puppy eventually ends up as an Autism Assistance Dog and goes to a child on the spectrum, we do not want the dog to potentially tear up any of the child's toys. As these toys are soft and can be torn apart so they are to be used with supervision. If you notice the program puppy starting to tear the toy apart, pick up that toy and replace it with a Nylabone or Kong toy. This will allow the puppy to alleviate their need to chew, while also teaching them what they are allowed to chew on (it will also save you from having to continuously replace the softer toys.)

### Vinyl Toys

Due to vinyl being a softer material, puppies can easily chew through it and ingest the pieces. Consumption of vinyl can lead to choking or causing a blockage in the program puppy's digestive tract.

### Other

Other items such as fleece toys, water bottles, shoes, clothing, sticks etc. are considered inappropriate items and should be promptly taken away from the program puppy. When taking an item away from the program puppy, always replace the item with an appropriate toy such as a Nylabone or Kong toy as this will teach the puppy what items they are allowed to chew on and which ones they aren't.

# Grooming of DBL Program Puppies

Program puppies will need to be groomed regularly and well kempt. Grooming consists of bathing, nail trimming, cleaning ears, brushing teeth, and brushing. Long haired breeds will also need regular haircuts. Grooming should always be stress free and a positive experience, do not force the program puppy to tolerate grooming. Instead, take your time, be patient with the program puppy, and use lots of praise and treats. With practice, the program puppy will become more accustomed to grooming. Consistent grooming also helps keep the program puppy clean and healthy. A list of recommended tools and supplies can be found in the [Puppy Raiser Shopping List with Links](#) page in the Puppy Raiser Manual.

Grooming is also an excellent opportunity to practice handling the program puppy. For example, you can have the puppy stand calmly while you brush them, while brushing you can also check their mouth, teeth, gums, inspect their ears, feel down their legs working your way to each paw, touching their body and then their tail. Another great example is having the program puppy cradled on their back between your legs while you trim their nails. This helps the program puppy relax in a more vulnerable/submissive position while being handled.

## Bathing

- Should happen every 4-6 weeks. Bathing more frequently than that can cause the coat to lose its natural oils, dry out, and cause itching and flaking. If the program puppy has been in the mud or has been swimming and recently received a bath, you may rinse them off with water.
- Program puppies between the ages of 8-12 weeks should be bathed with a non-scented tearless shampoo. Older puppies may use a lightly scented shampoo. Oatmeal shampoos are recommended as they are gentle and nourishing to the skin. Medicated or flea and tick shampoos need to be approved by a DBL staff member.
- The water temperature should be lukewarm. Aim water nozzle at a 45-degree angle and rinse against the growth of the hair to ensure you are rinsing all of the shampoo out of the coat. If there is any residue left over from the shampoo, it can cause skin irritations.
- Dry the program puppy off with a towel as much as possible.
- If you would like to dry them off with a hair dryer, make sure the hair dryer is on the cool setting ONLY. Do NOT use any of the heat settings of the hair dryer, as you can potentially burn their skin. Introduce the program puppy to the hair dryer slowly in small increments and start towards their backend. Gradually increase the time increments so the program puppy becomes accustomed to the dryer. Do not directly blow the air into their face or ears, and do not allow the program puppy to air snap at the dryer.
- If you notice any raised or red bumps, rashes, balding, or other irregular skin conditions during the bathing process, you may need to contact the vet.

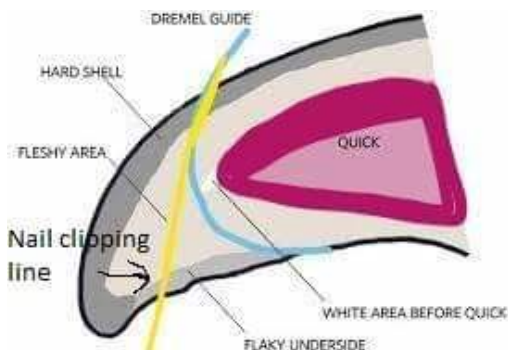
## Brushing

- Program puppies should be brushed 3-4 times a week, and both before and after bathing (once completely dry). Regular brushing keeps the program puppy's coat healthy and shiny. Checking their skin regularly will also help you to identify any potential health issues or irregularities early on.
- Short-haired puppies can be brushed with a soft slicker brush or rubber brush for shedding.
- Longer haired puppies will need to be brushed with both a comb and slicker brush. Depending on how easily the coat tangles, brushing more frequently may be required. Make sure the brush and comb make contact with the skin to ensure there are no tangles.
- Always brush in the direction of the hair growth.
- When using FURminators, slicker brushes, or other brushes with metal teeth, take care to not brush too hard, or repeatedly over one section as this can cause skin irritation.

- If you notice any raised or red bumps, rashes, balding, or other irregular skin conditions while brushing the program puppy, you may need to contact the vet.

## Nail Trimming

- Nails should be trimmed every three to four weeks.
- Nails should be kept short and not touching the ground. Long nails can cause discomfort while walking and can cause injury to the tendons of the paws.
- Nail trimmers and Dremels can be used to trim the nail. Nail trimmers can be used to cut the bulk of the nail off, then the Dremel can be used to smooth the sharp edges left behind by the nail trimmers. It is not recommended solely using a Dremel, as it can take more time to trim the nail down to the quick, which could cause the program puppy to become impatient and start to pull.
- Nails are comprised of two parts, the quick and the outer shell.
  - The quick is a blood vessel comprised of nerves within the nail. The quick will bleed if cut into.
  - The hard out shell protects the tissue inside the nail.
- Nails will either be light colored or black.
  - With lighter colored nails, you will be able to see the quick which is the soft pink tissue in the center of the nail. You can use that pink center as a guide of where to cut and not to cut. As you get closer to the quick, you will see pink at the center of the nail. Stop once you see that pink center, if you continue to go further you will cause bleeding.
  - Darker colored nails are a little more difficult as you will not see the quick from the side of the nail. When cutting darker nails, cut smaller sections at a time until you see a black dot in the center of the nail. The center will start off by looking white and chalky in the beginning, then you will notice a greyish chalky spot, then what looks like a wet black dot. Stop trimming once the black spot looks wet, that is the quick. Going further will cause bleeding.
- If a nail is quicked during trimming, dip the nail in quick stop, or apply pressure, to help stop the bleeding.







## Teeth Brushing

- Program puppies should have their teeth brushed 1-2 times a week. Brushing teeth weekly helps to prevent plaque buildup, keeping the program puppy's teeth and gums healthy.
- Use a soft bristled brush made for dogs or a rubber finger brush.
- Do not apply too much pressure when brushing, the toothpaste will be enzymatic and will do most of the work once applied to the teeth.
- Only use dog toothpaste.
- Do NOT use human toothpaste. Human toothpaste can often times contain Xylitol which is highly toxic to dogs, causing blood sugar drops and potentially causing damage to their liver. Human toothpaste also contains high levels of sodium along with fluoride. Fluoride toxicity can result in drooling, nausea, vomiting, rapid/irregular heart rate, restlessness, incontinence, weakness, seizures, and in severe cases death may occur.

## Ear Cleaning

- Program puppy's ears should be cleaned once a week. Routine cleaning will help keep the ears free of debris, ear mites, and helps to maintain a healthy bacterial balance which will help prevent ear infections.
- Use only DBL approved ear cleaner with cotton balls.
- Wipe the visible parts of the puppy's ears, do not attempt to wipe the portions of the ear canal that aren't visible.
- Do NOT use a Q-tip as that can cause debris to be pushed further into the ear canal, or also damage the ear drum.
- If you notice the ears are inflamed, red, hot to the touch, yeasty smelling, or noticed the program puppy has been shaking their head or scratching their ears frequently, these may be signs of an ear infection and should be seen by a vet.

## Grooming Tools

- Grooming tools should be cleaned off and/or sanitized after each use to keep from spreading potentially harmful contaminants. Doing so also helps aid in the longevity of the tools.
- Tools should be put away after every use and not left out or used as toys with the program puppies.

# DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES PUPPY PROGRAM CURRICULUM



# Table of Contents

Puppy Class Structure .....	3
Practice Sessions .....	3
<b>Setting Sessions Up for Success</b> .....	3
<b>Strengthening Behaviors</b> .....	4
Command List .....	5
Puppy Placement .....	6
Cues.....	6
Feeding.....	6
Discussions .....	6
Level 1 .....	6
Week 1 .....	6
Week 2 .....	7
Week 3 .....	7
Week 4 .....	7
Week 5 .....	8
Week 6 - SAFETY WEEK!.....	8
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	8
Week 7 .....	8
Week 8 .....	8
Week 9 .....	9
Week 10 .....	9
Week 11 .....	9
Week 12 .....	9
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	10
Week 13 .....	10
Week 14 .....	10
Week 15 .....	10
Week 16 .....	10
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	11
Level 2 .....	11
Week 17 .....	11
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	11
Week 18 .....	11
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	11
Week 19 .....	11
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	12

Week 20 .....	12
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	13
Week 21 .....	13
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 22 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 23 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 24 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 25 .....	14
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	14
Level 3 .....	14
Week 26 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 27 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 28 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 29 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 30 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 31 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 32 .....	15
Public Outings- What to Bring.....	16
Age-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings .....	16
<b>8-12 Weeks of Age</b> .....	16
<b>3-8 Months of Age</b> .....	16
<b>8-16 Months of Age</b> .....	17
Non-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings .....	17
Approval Needed by DBL Staff .....	17
Novel Objects, Under footings, and Other Various Stimuli .....	17
<b>Examples of Under Footings</b> .....	17
<b>Examples of Novel Objects</b> .....	17
<b>Examples of Other Various Stimuli</b> .....	17

## Puppy Class Structure

Our puppy classes will be broken down into three levels: Introduction to Cues, Canine Good Citizen's Test, and Polish. Level 1 will occur once a week, with a few breaks in between. While Levels 2 and 3 will occur bi-weekly. Class lengths will vary depending on the age of the program puppy. Raisers are expected to bring the program puppy, their gear (vest, gentle leader, bait bag with treats), and clean up kits to each class.

Raisers attending non-DBL classes will need to sign up for two sets of classes, Beginner and Intermediate. These classes will need to be taught by a trainer who uses positive reinforcement techniques (using food as a reward). Raisers will also be able to utilize this curriculum and training videos found in the Puppy and Breeding Portal to help supplement any cues required by DBL that are not taught in outside classes.

## Practice Sessions

As a puppy raiser, you are responsible for applying and maintaining what you learn in puppy class to your everyday life. This will help build a strong foundation for the program puppy to build upon once they return for formal training.

## Setting Sessions Up for Success

When getting ready to start a training session, check in with yourself! Are you relaxed, calm and focused? Great, then you are ready to start a practice session with the program puppy. Have you had a rough day, are in a bad mood, or are you distracted? Then maybe it would be best to set up a training session at another time when you don't have so much going on. Puppies will pick up on your mood and emotions and this may lead to an unsuccessful training session. Same goes for confidence, if you are confident that the program puppy will easily pick up a cue, then the puppy will pick up on your confidence and in return, feel confident. However, if you feel unsure about what you are teaching the program puppy, the puppy may feel unsure about what they are being asked and may choose to disengage with you or offer a different behavior. So, before you start any training session ask yourself; am I calm and relaxed, am I feeling confident in what I am teaching the program puppy, what is my body language saying?

Pick the right environment for the training session. Are you introducing a new cue/behavior to the program puppy? Don't pick a busy space where maybe the whole family is gathering, eating, watching an exciting TV show, or has music blasting. This type of environment could not only be distracting to the program puppy but to you as well. Instead, pick a quiet room away from any commotion. As the program puppy becomes more consistent and can continuously preform the cue, you can slowly increase the level of distraction in your training space.

Time sessions appropriately. An 8-week-old puppy does not have the same attention span as a 10-month-old puppy. In the beginning, sessions should be short, about 5 to 10 minutes. Watch the program puppy's body language throughout the session, are they staying engaged with you and maintaining eye contact? Or are they starting to lose interest, disengaging with you, finding other items in your environment more interesting than focusing on you? Utilize treats as positive reinforcement/reward to keep the program puppy's attention on you during sessions. If you feel the program puppy is becoming frustrated or losing interest, end the session. Try to end every session on a positive note!

Find opportunities to practice in everyday life! Do you have friends or family coming over while the program puppy is younger? Play the round robin name game which would be great for name recognition and introducing the program puppy to new people. Cooking dinner? That may be a great time to practice place and down stays. Sitting at a desk? Practice the under cue while you play/work.

## Strengthening Behaviors

As you continue to practice cues, you will need to gradually increase the level of difficulty to strengthen their behaviors. You will also need to help them generalize the cues in new environments. We can strengthen and generalize behaviors by practicing the 3 D's: duration, distance, and distraction.

**Duration** – the amount of time a behavior is performed.

Example: The program puppy remains in sitting position for three seconds

**Distance** – the distance a behavior is performed.

Example: The program puppy remains in a down stay while you walk 10 feet away.

**Distraction** – environmental stimuli that may cause the program puppy to become distracted when practicing a behavior.

Example: The program puppy remains in a heel while other dogs and people pass them.

To set the program puppy up for success, you only want to gradually increase the difficulty of one category at a time. Once the program puppy can consistently perform a behavior, then you can increase the expectation. For example, the program puppy can remain in a sitting position consistently in the home for three seconds, so we increase the duration further to seven seconds. However, if we are practicing the behavior in a new environment, we start from the beginning. For example, we choose to have the program puppy practice the sitting position in the backyard, so we would go back to a 3 second sit. Again, we are only choosing one category to increase the level of difficulty, in this example we chose to increase the distraction level by practicing in the backyard instead of inside the home. Even though the program puppy can consistently perform a 7 second sitting position in the home, it does not mean they will be able to hold that position for 7 seconds in the new and more distracting environment.

Examples of increased levels of difficulty:

### Duration

- Level 1: Releasing the program puppy immediately after performing the sit cue.
- Level 2: Releasing the program puppy after holding the sitting position for 3 seconds.
- Level 3: Releasing the program puppy after holding the sitting position for 10 seconds.
- Level 4: Varying the length of time you are asking the program puppy to hold a sitting position between 3, 7, and 10 seconds.

### Distance

- Level 1: Releasing the program puppy from a sitting position while you are next to them.
- Level 2: Releasing the program puppy from a sitting position after stepping in place for 5 steps.
- Level 3: Releasing the program puppy from a sitting position after turning your back and taking three steps away, then returning to the program puppy.
- Level 4: Varying the distances when practicing the stay cue.

### Distraction

- Level 1- Introducing sit- practice in a quiet room in the house that is familiar (not new) to the program puppy.
- Level 2- Once the program puppy is consistently performing the sit cue successfully, move to a busier/more exciting room. For example, a common room with the tv and/or radio going on in the background.
- Level 3- If the program puppy can successfully sit in a busy/exciting common room, practice in the backyard.
- Level 4- When the program puppy becomes more successful in the backyard, move to the front yard.
- Level 5- Start practicing sit in public areas like parks, malls, stores etc.

## Command List

- **Name Recognition**- handler calls name, program puppy stops what they are doing and makes eye contact.
- **Go Potty**- allows program puppy to relieve themselves.
- **Kennel**- program puppy enters their kennel.
- **Dress**- program puppy steps into their vest.
- **Off**- means all four paws are on the ground, used when program puppy is jumping up on an item or person.  
*Helpful hint: Keep your tone calm and relaxed as this is just a way to tell the puppy what behavior you want. There should be no negative connotation when using this cue.*
- **Sit**- program puppy's rear end touches ground.
- **Down**- program puppy's laying down.
- **Stay**- program puppy remains in their placed position until released.
- **Come**- program puppy seeks out/returns to handler.
- **Heel**- program puppy walks on left side and maintains pace with handler- head lined up with handler's thigh.
- **Car**- program puppy enters vehicle.
- **Leave-it**- program puppy disengages with object and gives eye contact to handler.
- **Drop**- program puppy drops object from mouth.
- **Place**- program puppy goes to blanket or bed and lays down then stays until released.
- **Under**- program puppy goes under an item (table, bench, etc) and lays down then stays until released.
- **Side**- program puppy moves to left side of handler and sits.
- **Yes**- marker word.
- **Nope**- disrupter word.
- **Free**- release program puppy from cue/position.



# Puppy Placement

Program puppies are placed at 8 weeks of age into their puppy raiser homes. Raisers will be expected to practice the following with the program puppies before their first class:

## Cues

- Introduce:
  - Go Potty
  - Kennel
  - Name recognition
  - Yes
  - Off

## Feeding

- Cover Feeding Schedule:
  - One meal in crate
  - One meal in gentle leader
  - One meal in vest

## Discussions

- House breaking- Creating a schedule and setting program puppy up for success. Utilizing the puppy manual, watching body language, and consistency.
- Training Methods- Positive Reinforcement- utilizing treats, verbal praise and touch to reinforce good manners and behaviors.

# Level 1

Introducing Cues & Outings- Weekly Classes

## Week 1

9 weeks old

30 minute class

Review:

- Potty Training- Go Potty
- Crate Training- Kennel
- Name Recognition
- Any issues in the raiser home

Introduce:

- Body Mechanics- holding leash, what side dog goes on, treating etc.
- Dog Body Language
- Eye Contact
- Free- explain using a release cue
- Zen Cookie
- Dress- lure
- Sit- lure
- Handling- after training or play sessions

## Week 2

10 weeks old

30 minute class

Review:

- Potty Training “Go Potty”
- Zen Cookie
- Dress
- Sit
- Handling

Introduce:

- Sit- add verbal cue & hand signal
- Down- lure
- Drop- toy/Nylabone

## Week 3

11 weeks old

30 minute class

Public outing-

All raisers- please review pages 20-24 of this curriculum for references on what to bring on an outing, age-appropriate locations, and what to look for when out in the public.

For raisers taking classes outside of DBL- public outings will need to be done outside of your beginner and intermediate classes.

After this first outing, raisers are expected to start taking the program puppies into a public setting 2-3 times a week.

## Week 4

12 weeks old (3 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Sit- with verbal cue & hand signal
- Down- lure
- Drop- toy/Nylabone

Introduce:

- Sit- fade lure completely, use only verbal cue and hand signal
- Down- add verbal and hand signal
- Loose leash walking- capturing a natural urge to follow at this age
- Polite Greetings- sitting for pets- calm stranger

## Week 5

13 weeks old (3 months)

30 minute class

Public Outing

## Week 6 - SAFETY WEEK!

14 weeks old (3 months)

45- 60 minute class

Safety week focuses on building behaviors geared towards keeping the program puppy safe. Having a strong recall with the cue “come” could help keep a puppy on the loose from running into a dangerous situation. “Stay” could prevent a program puppy from bolting out of a door or kennel. Puppies learn about the world around them by using their mouths, so having a strong “leave-it” cue will help prevent the puppy from picking up toxic substances such as antifreeze or medications. All these behaviors are designed to help teach the program puppy to refocus on their handler in any environment, or around distractions, to prevent potentially dangerous situations.

Review:

- Sit- verbal & hand signal
- Down- verbal & hand signal
- Loose leash walking
- Polite Greetings- sitting for pets- calm stranger

Introduce:

- Puppy Push-ups- Sit-Down-Sit
- Stay- verbal and hand signal- varying 3-5 second count
- Come- catches puppy’s attention, runs away excitedly, uses verbal cue “Name, Come!”
- Leave-it- closed fists using verbal cue “Leave it!”
- Polite Greetings- slightly excited stranger

- 2 Week Break -

## Week 7

17 weeks old (4 months)

45 minute class

Public outing

Drop to twice a day feedings

## Week 8

18 weeks old (4 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Puppy Push-ups
- Stay- Verbal cue and hand signal 3-5 second count
- Come- luring and verbal cue

- Leave-it's- closed fist
- Polite Greetings- slightly excited stranger

Introduce:

- Heel- verbal and hand signal
- Stay Pt.2- add motion- marching in place
- Come Pt. 2- drop excited run, walk away calmly- remain in sight
- Leave-its Pt. 2- open hand
- Polite Greetings- exuberant stranger

## Week 9

19 weeks old (4 months)

45 minute class

Public Outing

## Week 10

20 weeks old (5 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Heel- verbal & hand signal
- Stay Pt. 2- adding motion- marching in place
- Come Pt. 2- walk away calmly- remain in sight
- Leave-its Pt. 2- open hand
- Polite Greetings- exuberant stranger

Introduce:

- Stay Pt. 3- add distance, starting with 3-5 feet
- Come Pt. 3- no luring (walking or running away)- remain in sight
- Leave-its Pt.3- dropping item out of immediate reach
- Side- luring to handler's left side and sitting
- Polite Greetings- Rude stranger- doesn't ask for permission to pet

## Week 11

21 weeks old (5 months)

45-60 minute class

Public outing

## Week 12

22 weeks old (5 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay Pt. 3- adding distance- 3-5 feet
- Come Pt. 3- no luring- remain in sight

- Leave-its Pt. 3- dropping item out of immediate reach
- Side- luring to handler's left side and sitting

Introduce:

- Stay Pt. 4- increasing distance- out-of-sight
- Come Pt. 4- out-of-sight recalls
- Leave-its Pt. 4- dropping treats within reach
- Side- add verbal cue
- Car- riding in car freely

- 2 Week Break -

## Week 13

25 weeks old (6 months)

45 minute class

Public Outing

Discussion: hormones- heat cycles and behavior changes

## Week 14

26 weeks old (6 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay Pt. 4- increasing distance- out-of-sight
- Come Pt.4- out-of-sight recalls
- Leave-its Pt.4- Dropping treats within reach

Introduce:

- Stay- handler circles around puppy
- Come- add people distractions
- Leave-its- person offering treat
- Place- walk up to blanket/towel, luring into a down position once fully on the item
- Under- walks up to table, lures under the table and into a down position

## Week 15

27 weeks old (6 months)

45 minute class

Public outing

## Week 16

28 weeks old (7 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay- handler circles around puppy

- Come- people distractions
- Leave-its- person offering treat
- Place- luring
- Under- luring

Introduce:

- Stay- handler steps over puppy
- Come- add toy distractions
- Leave-its- person offering toy
- Place- add verbal cue and hand signal
- Under- add verbal cue and hand signal

- 2 Week Break -

## Level 2

CGC Prep & Test- Bi-weekly classes

### Week 17

31 weeks old (7 months old)

45 minute class

Public outing

- Week Off -

### Week 18

33 weeks old (8 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay- handler steps over puppy
- Place- verbal and hand signal
- Under- verbal and hand signal

Introduce:

- Place- drop lure, increase distance to 3'
- Under- drop lure, increase distance to 3'
- Explain CGC Test and what the next few weeks look like

- Week Off -

### Week 19

35 weeks old (8 months)

Public Outing

## Week 20

37 weeks old (9 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Place- 3' distance send to
- Under- 3' distance send to

Introduce:

Cover the following CGC items (parts 1-5 of the test)

- Accepting a friendly stranger (Polite Greetings)
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.
  - Evaluator approaches the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator and handler do a pretend handshake (hands not touching) and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness.
- Sitting politely for petting
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler.
  - Handler has the dog in a sit position by their side, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place as it is petted. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.
- Appearance and Grooming
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer, or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern, and sense of responsibility.
  - Evaluator examines the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e. proper weight, clean, healthy, and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it, and give encouragement throughout.
- Out for a walk
  - This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog when the dog is walking on leash.
  - The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.
- Walking through a crowd
  - This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control when on leash in public.
  - The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-

exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.

## - Week Off -

### Week 21

39 weeks old (9 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

Parts 1-5 of the CGC test

Introduce:

Parts 6-10 of the CGC test

- Sit and down on cue and stay in place
  - This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's cues to sit and down and will remain in place (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).
  - The dog must do sit AND down when cued by the handler, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20' long. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one cue to get the dog to sit and then down. The evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's cues. The handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns, and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.
- Coming when called
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler.
  - With the dog still on the 20' line from test #6, the handler will walk 10' from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come. Handlers may choose to tell dogs to "stay" or "wait" or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog.
- Reaction to another dog
  - This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.
  - Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20', stop, pretend to shake hands (hands do not touch) and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10'. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.
- Reaction to distraction
  - This test demonstrates that the dog is always confident when faced with common distraction situations.
  - The evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.
- Supervised separation
  - This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners.
  - Evaluators are encouraged to say something like "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay



in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g., “there, there, it’s alright”)

- Week Off -

## Week 22

41 weeks old (10 months)

Public outing

- Week Off -

## Week 23

43 weeks old (10 months old)

Review

- All CGC items

- Week Off -

## Week 24

45 weeks old (11 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 25

47 weeks old (11 months old)

CGC Test

- 2 Week Break -

# Level 3

Proofing- Bi-weekly Classes

## Week 26

50 weeks old (12 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 27

52 weeks old (12 months old)

Review

- Place- verbal and hand signal, send to 3’
- Under- verbal and hand signal, send to 3’
- Side- verbal cue

- Leave-its- stranger offering
- Polite Greetings

Proof

- Place- increase distraction- toys on ground
- Under- increase duration
- Leave-its- increase distraction- overly excited stranger offering
- Polite greetings- increase distraction- overly excited stranger
- Puppy push-ups- sit-down-sit

- Week Off -

## Week 28

54 weeks old (13 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 29

56 weeks old (13 months old)

Rally course-

- Puppy push-ups- sit-down-sit-stand
- Stay- step overs
- Leave-its- toys or treats
- Under
- Place

- Week Off -

## Week 30

58 weeks old (14 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 31

60 weeks old (14 months old)

Last Class- Fun training games

- Simon Says
- Musical Sits
- Red light/Green light

- Week Off -

## Week 32

Graduation!

## Public Outings- What to Bring

All puppy raisers should be prepared when taking the program puppy on a public outing. To set both the raiser and the program puppy up for success, make sure they bring the following items with them on every outing:

- Appropriate Gear:
  - Collar
  - Leash
  - Vest
  - Gentle Leader
- Clean up Kit in case of accidents:
  - Poop bags
  - Paper towels
  - Wet wipes
  - Hand sanitizer
- DBL Treat Pouch
- Training treats
- DBL T-shirt if applicable

## Age-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings

Public outings are an essential part of the program puppy's learning experience. As a future assistance dog, program puppies will need to learn how to be calm and focused on their handler in a multitude of different environments. This means practicing in as many places as possible when they are young to create a strong foundation. However, to do so successfully, we need to ensure that program puppies practicing in places that are age appropriate. You do not want to take an 8-week-old puppy to a boisterous sporting event as their first introduction to the public, this can be loud and overwhelming to the program puppy and may cause the puppy to react negatively or become fearful.

### 8-12 Weeks of Age

Ideal locations at this age will have:

- Tile/cement floorings (for easy clean up if there is an accident)
- Not heavily trafficked by other dogs
- Quieter settings

Examples:

- Mall- during slow/quiet hours
- Outdoor shopping centers

### 3-8 Months of Age

Ideal locations at this age will have:

- Light/moderate traffic- people, dogs, kids, cars
- Feed & Hardware stores
- Parks
- Outdoor stores

## 8-16 Months of Age

Ideal locations at this age will have:

- Heavily trafficked- people, dogs, kids, cars
- Pet Stores
- Grocery stores
- Busy shopping centers
- Restaurants
- Local sporting events

## Non-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings

- |             |                     |                |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| • Dog parks | • Dog Daycare       | • Racetracks & |
| • Zoos      | • Escalators/moving | Speedways      |
| • Gun Range | walkways            | • Dog Show     |

## Approval Needed by DBL Staff

- Air Travel- We do not recommend air travel for program puppies prior to 10 months of age. All air travel will need to be approved by your designated area coordinator. Should you feel the program puppy is able to handle air travel at a younger age, please contact your designated area coordinator. Our goal is to ensure the program puppy has a positive experience flying. If a program puppy has a negative experience, it could negatively impact their ability to handle air travel in the future.

## Novel Objects, Under footings, and Other Various Stimuli

Program puppies will need to be exposed various stimuli both while in the home and while out on public outings. Similar to public outings, you will want to introduce new stimuli to program puppies slowly, to ensure you are building up their confidence successfully.

For example, you would like to expose the puppy to the vacuum. To start, you will want to bring the vacuum into a common room, do not plug the vacuum in or turn it on, just allow it to sit there. Then allow the program puppy to enter the room. Make sure the program puppy is off leash and has the freedom to explore the room and the vacuum if they so choose to. Do not make a big deal of the vacuum being in the room and calmly act as if the vacuum has always been there. If the program puppy chooses to investigate the vacuum on their own, mark with yes, and then reward. During the session, make sure the program puppy is rewarded every time they choose to investigate the vacuum, even if it is just looking in the direction of where the vacuum is placed. When you are done with the session, make sure to put the vacuum away. After the program puppy has become accustomed to the vacuum, then we can move to the next step of turning the vacuum on. Have someone start vacuuming a room out-of-sight from where you and the program puppy are. Mark and reward the program puppy every time they look or walk towards the sound of the vacuum. While the vacuum is going, make sure to not make a big deal of the situation, continue to sit calmly and act as if nothing is happening that is particularly interesting. Eventually the goal is for your helper to be able to vacuum within sight of the program puppy. If at any point the program puppy seems fearful or has a negative reaction, stop the session, and try again at another time.

You will also want to make sure the stimuli you are introducing to the program puppy are age appropriate. When first bringing a program puppy home, you will focus on introducing new stimuli that are commonly found in households like, vacuums, brooms, children, adults, elderly people, other pets, yoga mats, big hats, carpet,

tile, doorbells etc. Then as they grow, you can start exposing them to more stimuli. The goal is for the program puppy to grow into a well-adjusted service dog who is confident in any environment.

## Examples of Under Footings

- Dirt
- Gravel
- Cement
- Asphalt
- Grass
- Astroturf
- Sand
- Wooden decking
- Bridges
- Metal grates
- Metal plating
- Snow
- Wet surfaces
- Slippery surfaces
- Rubber mats
- Textured door mats
- Shaggy rugs
- Yoga mats
- Hay

## Examples of Novel Objects

- Statues\*
- Umbrellas\*
- Flags
- Windchimes
- Fire hydrants
- Hula hoops
- Gardening tools
- Luggage
- Wagons
- Bicycles
- Scooters
- Shopping Carts\*
- Skateboards
- Surf boards
- Kayaks
- Inflatable innertubes
- Mannequins
- Heavy Equipment
- Playground equipment
- Mirrors\*
- Rakes
- Vacuums\*
- Power Tools
- Wheelbarrows

## Examples of Other Various Stimuli

### People:

- Adults
- Seniors
- Babies
- Toddlers
- Children\*
- Male/Female/Non-binary
- Delivery People\*
- Firefighters\*
- Police Officers\*
- Postal workers\*
- Veterinary clinic staff
- Medical professionals

### People with:

- Backpacks
- Beards
- Canes\*
- Crutches
- Scooters
- Walkers\*
- Wheelchairs\*
- Costumes
- Face masks
- Winter jackets
- Hoodies
- Rain Jackets
- Sunglasses\*
- Varied hair styles
- Hats\*

**Animals:**

- Cats
- Friendly, healthy dogs
- Horses
- Cows
- Sheep
- Birds
- Squirrels
- Goats
- Pigs
- Llamas
- Fish
- Reptiles
- Small pets

**Noises:**

- Clapping
- Music
- Sirens
- Thunder & lightening
- Traffic
- Yelling
- Whistles
- Buzzers
- Timers
- Phones
- Doorbell
- Horns

**Different Environments:**

- Automatic doors
- Beauty salons
- Bus stops
- Car rides
- Church/temple
- Doctor's office
- Downtown
- Elevators
- Farms
- Grocery stores
- Libraries
- Pet supply stores
- Restaurants (indoor/outdoor)
- Shopping malls
- Banks
- Train stations\*\*
- Tunnels
- Walk after dark
- Airport\*\*
- Boat rides\*\*
- Car wash
- Drive thru
- Farmers market
- Groomers
- Golf course
- Gym
- Hiking trails
- Hotel
- Schools/Colleges
- Offices
- Parks
- Beaches

\*Expose program puppy to these items as often as possible.

\*\*These environments can be very overwhelming for program puppies. Program puppies should be at least 10 months of age, sessions should be kept short (around 20 minutes), and not during peak hours. If you have questions, please contact your area coordinator.

# DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES PUPPY PROGRAM CURRICULUM



# Table of Contents

Puppy Class Structure .....	3
Practice Sessions .....	3
<b>Setting Sessions Up for Success</b> .....	3
<b>Strengthening Behaviors</b> .....	4
Command List .....	5
Puppy Placement .....	6
Cues.....	6
Feeding.....	6
Discussions .....	6
Level 1 .....	6
Week 1 .....	6
Week 2 .....	7
Week 3 .....	7
Week 4 .....	7
Week 5 .....	8
Week 6 - SAFETY WEEK!.....	8
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	8
Week 7 .....	8
Week 8 .....	8
Week 9 .....	9
Week 10 .....	9
Week 11 .....	9
Week 12 .....	9
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	10
Week 13 .....	10
Week 14 .....	10
Week 15 .....	10
Week 16 .....	10
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	11
Level 2 .....	11
Week 17 .....	11
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	11
Week 18 .....	11
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	11
Week 19 .....	11
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	12



Week 20 .....	12
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	13
Week 21 .....	13
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 22 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 23 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 24 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 25 .....	14
- <b>2 Week Break</b> - .....	14
Level 3 .....	14
Week 26 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	14
Week 27 .....	14
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 28 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 29 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 30 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 31 .....	15
- <b>Week Off</b> - .....	15
Week 32 .....	15
Public Outings- What to Bring.....	16
Age-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings .....	16
<b>8-12 Weeks of Age</b> .....	16
<b>3-8 Months of Age</b> .....	16
<b>8-16 Months of Age</b> .....	17
Non-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings .....	17
Approval Needed by DBL Staff .....	17
Novel Objects, Under footings, and Other Various Stimuli .....	17
<b>Examples of Under Footings</b> .....	17
<b>Examples of Novel Objects</b> .....	17
<b>Examples of Other Various Stimuli</b> .....	17

## Puppy Class Structure

Our puppy classes will be broken down into three levels: Introduction to Cues, Canine Good Citizen's Test, and Polish. Level 1 will occur once a week, with a few breaks in between. While Levels 2 and 3 will occur bi-weekly. Class lengths will vary depending on the age of the program puppy. Raisers are expected to bring the program puppy, their gear (vest, gentle leader, bait bag with treats), and clean up kits to each class.

Raisers attending non-DBL classes will need to sign up for two sets of classes, Beginner and Intermediate. These classes will need to be taught by a trainer who uses positive reinforcement techniques (using food as a reward). Raisers will also be able to utilize this curriculum and training videos found in the Puppy and Breeding Portal to help supplement any cues required by DBL that are not taught in outside classes.

## Practice Sessions

As a puppy raiser, you are responsible for applying and maintaining what you learn in puppy class to your everyday life. This will help build a strong foundation for the program puppy to build upon once they return for formal training.

## Setting Sessions Up for Success

When getting ready to start a training session, check in with yourself! Are you relaxed, calm and focused? Great, then you are ready to start a practice session with the program puppy. Have you had a rough day, are in a bad mood, or are you distracted? Then maybe it would be best to set up a training session at another time when you don't have so much going on. Puppies will pick up on your mood and emotions and this may lead to an unsuccessful training session. Same goes for confidence, if you are confident that the program puppy will easily pick up a cue, then the puppy will pick up on your confidence and in return, feel confident. However, if you feel unsure about what you are teaching the program puppy, the puppy may feel unsure about what they are being asked and may choose to disengage with you or offer a different behavior. So, before you start any training session ask yourself; am I calm and relaxed, am I feeling confident in what I am teaching the program puppy, what is my body language saying?

Pick the right environment for the training session. Are you introducing a new cue/behavior to the program puppy? Don't pick a busy space where maybe the whole family is gathering, eating, watching an exciting TV show, or has music blasting. This type of environment could not only be distracting to the program puppy but to you as well. Instead, pick a quiet room away from any commotion. As the program puppy becomes more consistent and can continuously preform the cue, you can slowly increase the level of distraction in your training space.

Time sessions appropriately. An 8-week-old puppy does not have the same attention span as a 10-month-old puppy. In the beginning, sessions should be short, about 5 to 10 minutes. Watch the program puppy's body language throughout the session, are they staying engaged with you and maintaining eye contact? Or are they starting to lose interest, disengaging with you, finding other items in your environment more interesting than focusing on you? Utilize treats as positive reinforcement/reward to keep the program puppy's attention on you during sessions. If you feel the program puppy is becoming frustrated or losing interest, end the session. Try to end every session on a positive note!

Find opportunities to practice in everyday life! Do you have friends or family coming over while the program puppy is younger? Play the round robin name game which would be great for name recognition and introducing the program puppy to new people. Cooking dinner? That may be a great time to practice place and down stays. Sitting at a desk? Practice the under cue while you play/work.

## Strengthening Behaviors

As you continue to practice cues, you will need to gradually increase the level of difficulty to strengthen their behaviors. You will also need to help them generalize the cues in new environments. We can strengthen and generalize behaviors by practicing the 3 D's: duration, distance, and distraction.

**Duration** – the amount of time a behavior is performed.

Example: The program puppy remains in sitting position for three seconds

**Distance** – the distance a behavior is performed.

Example: The program puppy remains in a down stay while you walk 10 feet away.

**Distraction** – environmental stimuli that may cause the program puppy to become distracted when practicing a behavior.

Example: The program puppy remains in a heel while other dogs and people pass them.

To set the program puppy up for success, you only want to gradually increase the difficulty of one category at a time. Once the program puppy can consistently perform a behavior, then you can increase the expectation. For example, the program puppy can remain in a sitting position consistently in the home for three seconds, so we increase the duration further to seven seconds. However, if we are practicing the behavior in a new environment, we start from the beginning. For example, we choose to have the program puppy practice the sitting position in the backyard, so we would go back to a 3 second sit. Again, we are only choosing one category to increase the level of difficulty, in this example we chose to increase the distraction level by practicing in the backyard instead of inside the home. Even though the program puppy can consistently perform a 7 second sitting position in the home, it does not mean they will be able to hold that position for 7 seconds in the new and more distracting environment.

Examples of increased levels of difficulty:

### Duration

- Level 1: Releasing the program puppy immediately after performing the sit cue.
- Level 2: Releasing the program puppy after holding the sitting position for 3 seconds.
- Level 3: Releasing the program puppy after holding the sitting position for 10 seconds.
- Level 4: Varying the length of time you are asking the program puppy to hold a sitting position between 3, 7, and 10 seconds.

### Distance

- Level 1: Releasing the program puppy from a sitting position while you are next to them.
- Level 2: Releasing the program puppy from a sitting position after stepping in place for 5 steps.
- Level 3: Releasing the program puppy from a sitting position after turning your back and taking three steps away, then returning to the program puppy.
- Level 4: Varying the distances when practicing the stay cue.

### Distraction

- Level 1- Introducing sit- practice in a quiet room in the house that is familiar (not new) to the program puppy.
- Level 2- Once the program puppy is consistently performing the sit cue successfully, move to a busier/more exciting room. For example, a common room with the tv and/or radio going on in the background.
- Level 3- If the program puppy can successfully sit in a busy/exciting common room, practice in the backyard.
- Level 4- When the program puppy becomes more successful in the backyard, move to the front yard.
- Level 5- Start practicing sit in public areas like parks, malls, stores etc.

## Command List

- **Name Recognition**- handler calls name, program puppy stops what they are doing and makes eye contact.
- **Go Potty**- allows program puppy to relieve themselves.
- **Kennel**- program puppy enters their kennel.
- **Dress**- program puppy steps into their vest.
- **Off**- means all four paws are on the ground, used when program puppy is jumping up on an item or person.  
*Helpful hint: Keep your tone calm and relaxed as this is just a way to tell the puppy what behavior you want. There should be no negative connotation when using this cue.*
- **Sit**- program puppy's rear end touches ground.
- **Down**- program puppy's laying down.
- **Stay**- program puppy remains in their placed position until released.
- **Come**- program puppy seeks out/returns to handler.
- **Heel**- program puppy walks on left side and maintains pace with handler- head lined up with handler's thigh.
- **Car**- program puppy enters vehicle.
- **Leave-it**- program puppy disengages with object and gives eye contact to handler.
- **Drop**- program puppy drops object from mouth.
- **Place**- program puppy goes to blanket or bed and lays down then stays until released.
- **Under**- program puppy goes under an item (table, bench, etc) and lays down then stays until released.
- **Side**- program puppy moves to left side of handler and sits.
- **Yes**- marker word.
- **Nope**- disrupter word.
- **Free**- release program puppy from cue/position.

# Puppy Placement

Program puppies are placed at 8 weeks of age into their puppy raiser homes. Raisers will be expected to practice the following with the program puppies before their first class:

## Cues

- Introduce:
  - Go Potty
  - Kennel
  - Name recognition
  - Yes
  - Off

## Feeding

- Cover Feeding Schedule:
  - One meal in crate
  - One meal in gentle leader
  - One meal in vest

## Discussions

- House breaking- Creating a schedule and setting program puppy up for success. Utilizing the puppy manual, watching body language, and consistency.
- Training Methods- Positive Reinforcement- utilizing treats, verbal praise and touch to reinforce good manners and behaviors.

# Level 1

Introducing Cues & Outings- Weekly Classes

## Week 1

9 weeks old

30 minute class

Review:

- Potty Training- Go Potty
- Crate Training- Kennel
- Name Recognition
- Any issues in the raiser home

Introduce:

- Body Mechanics- holding leash, what side dog goes on, treating etc.
- Dog Body Language
- Eye Contact
- Free- explain using a release cue
- Zen Cookie
- Dress- lure
- Sit- lure
- Handling- after training or play sessions

## Week 2

10 weeks old

30 minute class

Review:

- Potty Training “Go Potty”
- Zen Cookie
- Dress
- Sit
- Handling

Introduce:

- Sit- add verbal cue & hand signal
- Down- lure
- Drop- toy/Nylabone

## Week 3

11 weeks old

30 minute class

Public outing-

All raisers- please review pages 20-24 of this curriculum for references on what to bring on an outing, age-appropriate locations, and what to look for when out in the public.

For raisers taking classes outside of DBL- public outings will need to be done outside of your beginner and intermediate classes.

After this first outing, raisers are expected to start taking the program puppies into a public setting 2-3 times a week.

## Week 4

12 weeks old (3 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Sit- with verbal cue & hand signal
- Down- lure
- Drop- toy/Nylabone

Introduce:

- Sit- fade lure completely, use only verbal cue and hand signal
- Down- add verbal and hand signal
- Loose leash walking- capturing a natural urge to follow at this age
- Polite Greetings- sitting for pets- calm stranger

## Week 5

13 weeks old (3 months)

30 minute class

Public Outing

## Week 6 - SAFETY WEEK!

14 weeks old (3 months)

45- 60 minute class

Safety week focuses on building behaviors geared towards keeping the program puppy safe. Having a strong recall with the cue “come” could help keep a puppy on the loose from running into a dangerous situation. “Stay” could prevent a program puppy from bolting out of a door or kennel. Puppies learn about the world around them by using their mouths, so having a strong “leave-it” cue will help prevent the puppy from picking up toxic substances such as antifreeze or medications. All these behaviors are designed to help teach the program puppy to refocus on their handler in any environment, or around distractions, to prevent potentially dangerous situations.

Review:

- Sit- verbal & hand signal
- Down- verbal & hand signal
- Loose leash walking
- Polite Greetings- sitting for pets- calm stranger

Introduce:

- Puppy Push-ups- Sit-Down-Sit
- Stay- verbal and hand signal- varying 3-5 second count
- Come- catches puppy’s attention, runs away excitedly, uses verbal cue “Name, Come!”
- Leave-it- closed fists using verbal cue “Leave it!”
- Polite Greetings- slightly excited stranger

- 2 Week Break -

## Week 7

17 weeks old (4 months)

45 minute class

Public outing

Drop to twice a day feedings

## Week 8

18 weeks old (4 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Puppy Push-ups
- Stay- Verbal cue and hand signal 3-5 second count
- Come- luring and verbal cue

- Leave-it's- closed fist
- Polite Greetings- slightly excited stranger

Introduce:

- Heel- verbal and hand signal
- Stay Pt.2- add motion- marching in place
- Come Pt. 2- drop excited run, walk away calmly- remain in sight
- Leave-its Pt. 2- open hand
- Polite Greetings- exuberant stranger

## Week 9

19 weeks old (4 months)

45 minute class

Public Outing

## Week 10

20 weeks old (5 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Heel- verbal & hand signal
- Stay Pt. 2- adding motion- marching in place
- Come Pt. 2- walk away calmly- remain in sight
- Leave-its Pt. 2- open hand
- Polite Greetings- exuberant stranger

Introduce:

- Stay Pt. 3- add distance, starting with 3-5 feet
- Come Pt. 3- no luring (walking or running away)- remain in sight
- Leave-its Pt.3- dropping item out of immediate reach
- Side- luring to handler's left side and sitting
- Polite Greetings- Rude stranger- doesn't ask for permission to pet

## Week 11

21 weeks old (5 months)

45-60 minute class

Public outing

## Week 12

22 weeks old (5 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay Pt. 3- adding distance- 3-5 feet
- Come Pt. 3- no luring- remain in sight



- Leave-its Pt. 3- dropping item out of immediate reach
- Side- luring to handler's left side and sitting

Introduce:

- Stay Pt. 4- increasing distance- out-of-sight
- Come Pt. 4- out-of-sight recalls
- Leave-its Pt. 4- dropping treats within reach
- Side- add verbal cue
- Car- riding in car freely

- 2 Week Break -

## Week 13

25 weeks old (6 months)

45 minute class

Public Outing

Discussion: hormones- heat cycles and behavior changes

## Week 14

26 weeks old (6 months)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay Pt. 4- increasing distance- out-of-sight
- Come Pt.4- out-of-sight recalls
- Leave-its Pt.4- Dropping treats within reach

Introduce:

- Stay- handler circles around puppy
- Come- add people distractions
- Leave-its- person offering treat
- Place- walk up to blanket/towel, luring into a down position once fully on the item
- Under- walks up to table, lures under the table and into a down position

## Week 15

27 weeks old (6 months)

45 minute class

Public outing

## Week 16

28 weeks old (7 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay- handler circles around puppy

- Come- people distractions
- Leave-its- person offering treat
- Place- luring
- Under- luring

Introduce:

- Stay- handler steps over puppy
- Come- add toy distractions
- Leave-its- person offering toy
- Place- add verbal cue and hand signal
- Under- add verbal cue and hand signal

- 2 Week Break -

## Level 2

CGC Prep & Test- Bi-weekly classes

### Week 17

31 weeks old (7 months old)

45 minute class

Public outing

- Week Off -

### Week 18

33 weeks old (8 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Stay- handler steps over puppy
- Place- verbal and hand signal
- Under- verbal and hand signal

Introduce:

- Place- drop lure, increase distance to 3'
- Under- drop lure, increase distance to 3'
- Explain CGC Test and what the next few weeks look like

- Week Off -

### Week 19

35 weeks old (8 months)

Public Outing

## Week 20

37 weeks old (9 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

- Place- 3' distance send to
- Under- 3' distance send to

Introduce:

Cover the following CGC items (parts 1-5 of the test)

- Accepting a friendly stranger (Polite Greetings)
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.
  - Evaluator approaches the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator and handler do a pretend handshake (hands not touching) and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness.
- Sitting politely for petting
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler.
  - Handler has the dog in a sit position by their side, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place as it is petted. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.
- Appearance and Grooming
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer, or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern, and sense of responsibility.
  - Evaluator examines the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e. proper weight, clean, healthy, and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it, and give encouragement throughout.
- Out for a walk
  - This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog when the dog is walking on leash.
  - The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.
- Walking through a crowd
  - This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control when on leash in public.
  - The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-

exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.

## - Week Off -

### Week 21

39 weeks old (9 months old)

45-60 minute class

Review:

Parts 1-5 of the CGC test

Introduce:

Parts 6-10 of the CGC test

- Sit and down on cue and stay in place
  - This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's cues to sit and down and will remain in place (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).
  - The dog must do sit AND down when cued by the handler, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20' long. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one cue to get the dog to sit and then down. The evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's cues. The handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns, and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.
- Coming when called
  - This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler.
  - With the dog still on the 20' line from test #6, the handler will walk 10' from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come. Handlers may choose to tell dogs to "stay" or "wait" or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog.
- Reaction to another dog
  - This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.
  - Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20', stop, pretend to shake hands (hands do not touch) and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10'. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.
- Reaction to distraction
  - This test demonstrates that the dog is always confident when faced with common distraction situations.
  - The evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.
- Supervised separation
  - This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners.
  - Evaluators are encouraged to say something like "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay

in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g., “there, there, it’s alright”)

- Week Off -

## Week 22

41 weeks old (10 months)

Public outing

- Week Off -

## Week 23

43 weeks old (10 months old)

Review

- All CGC items

- Week Off -

## Week 24

45 weeks old (11 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 25

47 weeks old (11 months old)

CGC Test

- 2 Week Break -

# Level 3

Proofing- Bi-weekly Classes

## Week 26

50 weeks old (12 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 27

52 weeks old (12 months old)

Review

- Place- verbal and hand signal, send to 3’
- Under- verbal and hand signal, send to 3’
- Side- verbal cue

- Leave-its- stranger offering
- Polite Greetings

Proof

- Place- increase distraction- toys on ground
- Under- increase duration
- Leave-its- increase distraction- overly excited stranger offering
- Polite greetings- increase distraction- overly excited stranger
- Puppy push-ups- sit-down-sit

- Week Off -

## Week 28

54 weeks old (13 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 29

56 weeks old (13 months old)

Rally course-

- Puppy push-ups- sit-down-sit-stand
- Stay- step overs
- Leave-its- toys or treats
- Under
- Place

- Week Off -

## Week 30

58 weeks old (14 months old)

Public Outing

- Week Off -

## Week 31

60 weeks old (14 months old)

Last Class- Fun training games

- Simon Says
- Musical Sits
- Red light/Green light

- Week Off -

## Week 32

Graduation!

## Public Outings- What to Bring

All puppy raisers should be prepared when taking the program puppy on a public outing. To set both the raiser and the program puppy up for success, make sure they bring the following items with them on every outing:

- Appropriate Gear:
  - Collar
  - Leash
  - Vest
  - Gentle Leader
- Clean up Kit in case of accidents:
  - Poop bags
  - Paper towels
  - Wet wipes
  - Hand sanitizer
- DBL Treat Pouch
- Training treats
- DBL T-shirt if applicable

## Age-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings

Public outings are an essential part of the program puppy's learning experience. As a future assistance dog, program puppies will need to learn how to be calm and focused on their handler in a multitude of different environments. This means practicing in as many places as possible when they are young to create a strong foundation. However, to do so successfully, we need to ensure that program puppies practicing in places that are age appropriate. You do not want to take an 8-week-old puppy to a boisterous sporting event as their first introduction to the public, this can be loud and overwhelming to the program puppy and may cause the puppy to react negatively or become fearful.

### 8-12 Weeks of Age

Ideal locations at this age will have:

- Tile/cement floorings (for easy clean up if there is an accident)
- Not heavily trafficked by other dogs
- Quieter settings

Examples:

- Mall- during slow/quiet hours
- Outdoor shopping centers

### 3-8 Months of Age

Ideal locations at this age will have:

- Light/moderate traffic- people, dogs, kids, cars
- Feed & Hardware stores
- Parks
- Outdoor stores

## 8-16 Months of Age

Ideal locations at this age will have:

- Heavily trafficked- people, dogs, kids, cars
- Pet Stores
- Grocery stores
- Busy shopping centers
- Restaurants
- Local sporting events

## Non-Appropriate Exposure/Public Outings

- |             |                     |                |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| • Dog parks | • Dog Daycare       | • Racetracks & |
| • Zoos      | • Escalators/moving | Speedways      |
| • Gun Range | walkways            | • Dog Show     |

## Approval Needed by DBL Staff

- Air Travel- We do not recommend air travel for program puppies prior to 10 months of age. All air travel will need to be approved by your designated area coordinator. Should you feel the program puppy is able to handle air travel at a younger age, please contact your designated area coordinator. Our goal is to ensure the program puppy has a positive experience flying. If a program puppy has a negative experience, it could negatively impact their ability to handle air travel in the future.

## Novel Objects, Under footings, and Other Various Stimuli

Program puppies will need to be exposed various stimuli both while in the home and while out on public outings. Similar to public outings, you will want to introduce new stimuli to program puppies slowly, to ensure you are building up their confidence successfully.

For example, you would like to expose the puppy to the vacuum. To start, you will want to bring the vacuum into a common room, do not plug the vacuum in or turn it on, just allow it to sit there. Then allow the program puppy to enter the room. Make sure the program puppy is off leash and has the freedom to explore the room and the vacuum if they so choose to. Do not make a big deal of the vacuum being in the room and calmly act as if the vacuum has always been there. If the program puppy chooses to investigate the vacuum on their own, mark with yes, and then reward. During the session, make sure the program puppy is rewarded every time they choose to investigate the vacuum, even if it is just looking in the direction of where the vacuum is placed. When you are done with the session, make sure to put the vacuum away. After the program puppy has become accustomed to the vacuum, then we can move to the next step of turning the vacuum on. Have someone start vacuuming a room out-of-sight from where you and the program puppy are. Mark and reward the program puppy every time they look or walk towards the sound of the vacuum. While the vacuum is going, make sure to not make a big deal of the situation, continue to sit calmly and act as if nothing is happening that is particularly interesting. Eventually the goal is for your helper to be able to vacuum within sight of the program puppy. If at any point the program puppy seems fearful or has a negative reaction, stop the session, and try again at another time.

You will also want to make sure the stimuli you are introducing to the program puppy are age appropriate. When first bringing a program puppy home, you will focus on introducing new stimuli that are commonly found in households like, vacuums, brooms, children, adults, elderly people, other pets, yoga mats, big hats, carpet,



tile, doorbells etc. Then as they grow, you can start exposing them to more stimuli. The goal is for the program puppy to grow into a well-adjusted service dog who is confident in any environment.

## Examples of Under Footings

- Dirt
- Gravel
- Cement
- Asphalt
- Grass
- Astroturf
- Sand
- Wooden decking
- Bridges
- Metal grates
- Metal plating
- Snow
- Wet surfaces
- Slippery surfaces
- Rubber mats
- Textured door mats
- Shaggy rugs
- Yoga mats
- Hay

## Examples of Novel Objects

- Statues\*
- Umbrellas\*
- Flags
- Windchimes
- Fire hydrants
- Hula hoops
- Gardening tools
- Luggage
- Wagons
- Bicycles
- Scooters
- Shopping Carts\*
- Skateboards
- Surf boards
- Kayaks
- Inflatable innertubes
- Mannequins
- Heavy Equipment
- Playground equipment
- Mirrors\*
- Rakes
- Vacuums\*
- Power Tools
- Wheelbarrows

## Examples of Other Various Stimuli

### People:

- Adults
- Seniors
- Babies
- Toddlers
- Children\*
- Male/Female/Non-binary
- Delivery People\*
- Firefighters\*
- Police Officers\*
- Postal workers\*
- Veterinary clinic staff
- Medical professionals

### People with:

- Backpacks
- Beards
- Canes\*
- Crutches
- Scooters
- Walkers\*
- Wheelchairs\*
- Costumes
- Face masks
- Winter jackets
- Hoodies
- Rain Jackets
- Sunglasses\*
- Varied hair styles
- Hats\*

**Animals:**

- Cats
- Friendly, healthy dogs
- Horses
- Cows
- Sheep
- Birds
- Squirrels
- Goats
- Pigs
- Llamas
- Fish
- Reptiles
- Small pets

**Noises:**

- Clapping
- Music
- Sirens
- Thunder & lightening
- Traffic
- Yelling
- Whistles
- Buzzers
- Timers
- Phones
- Doorbell
- Horns

**Different Environments:**

- Automatic doors
- Beauty salons
- Bus stops
- Car rides
- Church/temple
- Doctor's office
- Downtown
- Elevators
- Farms
- Grocery stores
- Libraries
- Pet supply stores
- Restaurants (indoor/outdoor)
- Shopping malls
- Banks
- Train stations\*\*
- Tunnels
- Walk after dark
- Airport\*\*
- Boat rides\*\*
- Car wash
- Drive thru
- Farmers market
- Groomers
- Golf course
- Gym
- Hiking trails
- Hotel
- Schools/Colleges
- Offices
- Parks
- Beaches

\*Expose program puppy to these items as often as possible.

\*\*These environments can be very overwhelming for program puppies. Program puppies should be at least 10 months of age, sessions should be kept short (around 20 minutes), and not during peak hours. If you have questions, please contact your area coordinator.

## **Body Language**

Like people, each puppy has their own personality and may react differently when faced with new stimuli; if attentive, you will be able to learn to “read” the puppy’s body language in those situations. To ensure a successful exposure to a new environment or stimulus, it is necessary that you watch the puppy and observe for beginning signs that they may be tired, overstimulated, fearful, or stressed.

During class, we will discuss body language and small signs that may present if the puppy is overstimulated or stressed. If the puppy starts to display any of the following signs, it is time to take a step back from the exposure and reevaluate the situation.

- Rapid head turning, panting, or repeated lip licking may indicate the puppy is over stimulated by the environment and may be experiencing a higher level of stress.
- The head and face tell a lot about the puppy’s state of mind. Wide eyes, ears back or pinned, and tight lips with the corners pulled back may equal stress.
- Walking or standing with the body low to the ground may indicate fearfulness.
- The tightness at which the puppy is holding their muscles. Muscles trembling would indicate extreme stress or fear.
- Be familiar with how the puppy normally carries their tail. A tail that is carried low, or tucked between the legs commonly indicates submissiveness, fear, or stress.
- Sudden disinterest in normal treats/toys/food may indicate stress.
- Exaggerated yawns may indicate overstimulation or stress.
- Sweating through pads—leaving sweaty paw prints on the floor—may indicate stress.

Ideally, the puppy should be loose, relaxed, and happy in all situations. Knowing the puppy’s natural state will allow you to observe changes in body language easily and quickly, and will help prevent an overly stressful/frightening experience from making a lasting impression.



## **Playful or Relaxed**

These body signals mean that the puppy is at ease in their surrounding environments. Your goal is to keep the puppy in this range at all times.



## **Shy or Nervous**

Watch for these signals at all times but especially when out in public. If your foster puppy is exhibiting these signs, contact your obedience trainer for assistance.



## **Fearful or Aggressive**

Your foster puppy should never be pushed to the point of exhibiting these signs. If you do see any of these signals, contact your obedience trainer immediately.

# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"

# **Common Puppy Behaviors**

Puppies each have different personalities and each will display their personality differently. This list is an example of some of the most common puppy behaviors and how they can be prevented. One of the key factors in preventing behavior problems in puppies is ensuring that the puppy is getting adequate exercise for their age and energy level. If the puppy displays any of these behaviors, or other inappropriate behaviors, please feel free to contact your Obedience Trainer for advice.

## **Chewing**

-

Dogs explore their surroundings and environment by putting things in their mouths and, because of teething, this is an expected behavior for puppies. Unfortunately, the puppy does not know what is appropriate or inappropriate to chew on and it is our job to help them learn to distinguish the difference. The easiest way to accomplish this is to puppy proof your home and keep items the puppy shouldn't chew on out of their reach and instead provide chew toys that are appropriate (see provided list). If at any point you do find the puppy chewing on something inappropriate, stop him/her by saying "No" and replace the item with a toy and praise the puppy once they settle down with the toy.

Taste deterrents (Bitter Apple or Yuck! Spray) can also be used to help prevent the puppy from chewing chairs, cabinets, and shelving.

## **Vocalization**

-

Because assistance dogs should be seen and not heard, barking is not permitted at any time. For instance, the puppy should not bark when someone walks up to your door, when the garbage truck picks up the garbage can, or when they want to play or eat. Barking and whining are attention seeking behaviors that are easy to accidentally reinforce. The puppy may not be able to distinguish the difference between negative attention (yelling at the puppy) and positive attention (throwing the ball to distract the puppy). A solution to this confusion is, if the puppy barks or whines, you should first ignore the behavior. If the puppy quiets down, then praise him/her. If the behavior continues, tell the puppy "quiet" and only praise the puppy once they have settled down and are no longer vocalizing.

## **Jumping**

-

It is very exciting to a puppy when they get to meet people and at times when they become overly excited they may jump up on the individual. While this behavior may seem like a minor issue when the puppy is 10lbs, this can quickly become a dangerous habit when the puppy reaches 60lbs.

When greeting a puppy, only pet him/her when the puppy is calm and has all four paws on the ground. We call this all four on the floor. If they try to jump on you, turn away and offer no attention. Once the puppy has all four paws on the ground, sits, or calms down in some other way, you can acknowledge them and offer a pet. Remember, puppies tend to feed off of our excitement, so always try to remain calm when greeting them. This is important to enforce always especially when guests come over or there are children playing around the puppy.

## **Mouthy**

-

Although it is very common for young puppies to be mouthy, any form of this (nipping, grabbing, and biting) towards humans is unacceptable. We always want to set our puppy up for success. That being said, when we or strangers pet the puppy it is a good idea to offer the puppy an approved chew toy. This not only teaches the puppy that being pet by individuals is a good thing, but also keeps their mouth busy while he/she is being pet. At times, we must also discourage unacceptable behaviors, such as nipping hands or biting sleeves. This can be done by feigning hurt (yelling “ouch” or “ow”) and then ignoring the puppy until they are calm again.

## **Scavenging**

-

As cute as it is to watch a puppy grab a sock from the laundry basket and proudly carry it in its mouth, it is also one of the most dangerous habits a puppy can pick up. Inappropriate items such as socks, coins, and plastic can easily cause a foreign body obstruction in the puppy’s digestive system. The best way to prevent this and work with the puppy is to puppy proof your home before the puppy comes to live with you (see “puppy proofing”). As the puppy gets older, and more trustworthy, you can start setting items back in their original locations and watch the puppy to ensure the items are left alone (we will discuss the “leave it” command in class). It is good practice to always leave appropriate toys available for the puppy to seek out and chew on instead.

Counter surfing is a self-rewarding behavior. This means that if the puppy succeeds, he/she gets a reward, which only encourages the behavior. This type of behavior is difficult to train against and easier to prevent from the beginning. Always make sure to keep your counters cleared and not to leave any tempting, food items in reach. If you must leave food out on the counter, make sure that you keep the puppy out of the kitchen using a baby gate, or put them in their crate.





# Handling of Program Puppies

*To help prepare the program puppy for any veterinary or grooming appointments, it is very important that the puppy is comfortable and calm while being handled and physically evaluated. It is also equally important that they are a willing participant while being handled. We never want to forcefully manipulate the program puppy as that can cause an adverse reaction and the puppy's natural reflex will be to pull away from the handler.*

## What is Handling?

Handling is the act of physically examining the program puppy from nose to tail. The person doing the evaluation should lift the program puppy's lips to examine the teeth and gums, then move to examine the eyes and ears. They will then slowly work their way down the body and examine each of the program puppy's legs and paws, eventually working their way to the tail.

After the body examination, the handler should hold the program puppy close to the handler's body and gently apply pressure while the program puppy remains in a standing position for a few seconds then calmly release the program puppy.

Lastly, the handler will sit on the floor with their legs straight out and gently coax the program puppy to lay on their back in between the handler's legs. While in this position the handler will touch puppy's legs, paws, and stomach, then calmly release them with "Free!".

The expectation is that the program puppy remains calm and be a willing participant while being examined. It is encouraged to use both soft verbal praise and treats throughout the examination/handling session. For a younger teething program puppy, you may want to utilize a teething toy to help prevent them from mouthing you while you examine and handle them.

## When Should Handling be Practiced?

Handling should be done daily at a time where the program puppy is most calm. After a play or training session, or right before the program puppy is ready for a nap is often a good time. The environment in which you are examining/handling the program puppy should be calm as well.

If you are practicing in a busy room with people constantly coming in and out, or there are also other dogs/animals in the room, it may be too distracting for a program puppy, and they may be more inclined to pull away from you to get whatever is most exciting to them.

Instead, the environment should be calm and free of distractions for a successful session. If the program puppy does try to pull or get away, gently hold them until they stop wiggling and/or pulling, mark with "Yes!", then reward and release them with "Free!". The idea is that they aren't being rewarded for pulling away by releasing them while they are pulling.



# Puppy Growth and Development

Program Puppies will go through many growth and developmental milestones throughout their time in the puppy raiser home. It is essential to understand each stage so that the puppy raiser may help the program puppies be as successful as possible.

## 8-12 Weeks of Age: Socialization Period

This is their sponge period, meaning that the program puppy is learning and soaking in how to interact with others. They accomplish this by closely observing how both humans and dogs interact with other humans, animals, objects, and other stimuli within their immediate environment. Program puppies are also learning through play during this time.

Program puppies are typically placed with their raisers at this stage. They then spend the first week bonding with the people and other animals in their new raiser home as well as start to adjust to their new routine. Through this, the program puppy will start to develop relationships with those in their immediate environment.

During this period, it is prime time to start implementing good manners and teaching appropriate behaviors both within the home and while out in public. Program puppies will be eager to both learn from and please their raisers. At 9 and 10 weeks it is ideal to start puppy classes to begin building their foundation.

Program puppies may also experience what is called a fear period between 9-10 weeks old. Raisers may notice the program puppy startle at random noises or seeing objects. For more information on fear periods, please see the section for fear periods below.

Training focus at this time should be about introducing potty training, crate training, name recognition, marker words ("Yes!" and "Free!"), walking nicely on leash, handling, new cues, new objects/stimuli, and environments. Training sessions should be about 10-15 minutes long and there should be around 3 practice sessions throughout the day. Public outings should take place 2-3 times a week, last for about 15-20 minutes, and consist of places with controlled environments with low human and dog foot traffic. Please see our curriculum in the training portion of the Puppy Portal for more training and public outing information.

Health focus during this time should include both the Bordetella and Da2pp vaccines done at 8 weeks of age. Then another Da2pp with Lepto, and Influenza vaccines at 12 weeks of age.

## 12-24 Weeks of Age: Pre-Adolescence

Pre-adolescence is a fun stage for program puppies! Puppies at this age are starting to become more independent and taking a more playful and curious approach to their environment. With their newfound independence and confidence, their personality traits really start to shine. This is also the period where their permanent adult teeth are coming through, which means the teething phase where every item in the household becomes a toy. Offering the program puppy frozen Kongs filled with kibble and low sodium chicken broth, or ice cubes with kibble and low sodium chicken broth can often help ease inflamed gums. Also freezing a few teething Nylabones can help assuage the gums as well.

At four months of age all program puppies will go down to two feedings per day, as well as be able to ride freely in the backseat of the car or on the back floorboards rather than in their crates.

Training focus during this time should be continued focus of exposure to novel stimuli, handling, good manners and building duration of previously learned cues. Program puppies will need to be introduced to the cues "Place" and "Under". Training sessions can now be bumped up to last 20-30 minutes, but still should be around 3 practice sessions a day. Practice sessions should also take place in different environments, and not solely within the home. Program puppies

will now be able to go on public outings that consist of medium human/dog foot traffic once they have had their Rabies vaccine.

Health focus during this time will consist of both the last Da2pp with Lepto booster, Influenza and the 1-year Rabies vaccines at 16 weeks of age.

## 6-12 Months of Age: Adolescence

The adolescence stage is most affectionately referred to as the teenager phase! Program puppy's hormones take center stage at this time and often program puppies will start to become more distracted, stubborn, sensitive, or forgetful. They will also start to test boundaries to see what they can and cannot get away with. Puppies at this age will also have a ton of energy to burn and can easily become bored. If program puppies are not receiving both mental and physical stimulation, they will often resort to unwanted and destructive behaviors for an outlet. Balance and consistency are absolutely essential during this age.

Training focus at this age should be about proofing all skills, cues, manners, continued exposure to novel stimuli, and handling. This means increasing what we call the "Three D's", duration, distance, distraction. For more information on the "Three D's" please refer to the curriculum in the Puppy Portal under the Training section. Training sessions should happen about 3-4 times a day, the time will entirely depend on the program puppy's attention span, but ideally would be around 30 minutes. If the program puppy is struggling or isn't focusing, you can reduce the amount of time as needed. Regardless of time, the practice sessions always need to end as successfully as possible. Puppies at this age can also handle public outings with heavier human and dog foot traffic.

Health focus at this age primarily revolves around the puppy's hormones as program puppies start to reach sexual maturity. During this time, you may notice some physical and behavioral changes due to hormonal surges. Although sexual maturity symptoms vary between male and female puppies, there are some similarities. These similarities include mood changes, shortened attention span, more interest in the opposite sex, and the urge to roam. However, there are also distinct differences depending on the sex of the puppy.

**Males:** Did you know that male puppies are capable of siring a litter of puppies as young as 5 months old? It has also been found that males can pick up the scent of a female in heat from over 5 miles away!

- **Hormones-** Males are typically most fertile between the ages of 12-15 months of age. During this time, you may notice other males becoming more aggressive towards the puppy.
- **Marking-** The urge to mark (lifting the leg to urinate on objects) may increase. If you notice the puppy has started marking, be sure to toilet them in areas where there are no standing objects like large rocks, poles, fences, trees etc. Instead, try to find a nice open flat open space like a grass field.
- **Mounting-** You may notice the puppy have the urge to start mounting and humping objects like blankets, toys, bedding, and sometimes even people. Try to discourage this as much as possible, if there is a certain item then remove it. If the behavior continues, contact your Dogs for Better Lives' representative.
- **Energy Levels-** The puppy may become more restless, easily distracted, or even hyper-active. It is very important to remember to exercise the puppy both physically and mentally during this time to prevent the puppy from becoming destructive. Play and training sessions are key.

**Females:** Female puppies typically go into heat anywhere from 6-15 months of age. Their heat cycle can last between 2-4 weeks. After their first heat, it is common that the female will have 1-2 heat cycles a year, usually every 6 months. Weight and activity levels can have an effect on heat cycles in puppies. Once a puppy goes into their heat cycle it is important to keep them at home during this time to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. Never leave them in the yard unattended, and no public outings or walks while they are in their heat cycle.

- **Hormones**- There may be noticeable behavioral changes and females may become more aggressive towards other females.
- **Urination**- You may notice a female puppy start to urinate more frequently in various amounts during a heat cycle. The urine will contain pheromones and hormones signaling the stage of her heat cycle and attract other dogs, especially males.
- **Bleeding**- Depending on the stage of the heat cycle (see phases of heat cycles below) will determine how much bleeding you may notice. Some females may keep themselves cleaner during their cycles and some may be less tidy. If you are raising a puppy who is going through a heat cycle, you may choose to purchase dog diapers to help keep the female from bleeding everywhere. Only use diapers when you can supervise the puppy, so they don't ingest or destroy the diaper. You may also choose to section off parts of the home that contain carpet or roll up rugs/other items that may not be easy to keep clean.
- **Phases of the Heat Cycle:**
  - **Proestrus**- 7-12 days before female is ready to be bred but has already started to bleed (spotting) and spread pheromones. During this time eggs start to mature, the vulva becomes enlarged and you will start to notice discharge as well as the female licking her vulva often. Females will not accept males at this time and you may start to see behavioral changes like lifting lips/snarling, growling, tucking their tail, or immediately sitting when another dog approaches to sniff the female.
  - **Estrus**- also known as a standing heat, happens 7-10 days after bleeding, lasts 9 days and is when the female is ready to be bred. Eggs are released from ovaries. Female may become restless and will now accept males by flagging (moving tale to the side).
  - **Metestrus**- happens only if she becomes pregnant. This stage involves fertilization, pregnancy, and milk production
  - **Anestrus**- last phase, begins with birth and ends with beginning a new heat cycle. This is the break in between cycles.
- **Irregular Heat Cycles:** Reasons for abnormal or irregular heat cycles can vary. However, if you suspect the puppy you are raising is experiencing any of these, please contact your Dogs for Better Lives Representatives.
  - **Absent Heat**- where a puppy misses a heat cycle. Most common in younger females.
  - **Split Heat**- where puppies start their heat cycle then stop before the second stage of the heat. The heat cycle resumes around 3-4 weeks after. Most common in younger females, usually their first heat and then can resolve on its own. However, some females can have continuous split heats.
  - **Silent Heat**- Where the female is in heat but shows no signs such as swollen vulva, discharge, or interest in males. Males can still detect a female in a silent heat and she is still able to become pregnant. If you suspect a silent heat, notify your Dogs for Better Lives representative.
  - **False Pregnancy**- Hormone surges can cause a false pregnancy where the mammary glands produce milk

## Spaying & Neutering

- Unless a puppy is being considered for our breeding program, we will typically have the puppy spayed or neutered at around a year of age.
- When a puppy is altered before reaching full maturity, you can run the risk of potential orthopedic problems. Hormones instruct the growth of the plates when to close and altering before puberty causes the growth plates, which are still open, to remain open longer. This can cause the puppy to become orthopedically out of balance.
- Early alterations can also impact the incident of different types of cancer, hip dysplasia and development of canine cruciate ligament ruptures.

## Things to remember:

- When puppies are going through hormonal changes it may seem like they have forgotten all of their training that you have taught them up to this point and can become more easily distracted. Remember to breathe, keep calm, and continue to be consistent with their training.

02/1/2024

## 12-16 Months of Age: Adulthood

Congratulations, you have made it through to adulthood and the program puppy is now a program dog! Depending on both the needs of the program dog and Dogs for Better Lives, program dogs can graduate and turn in for formal training anywhere from 14-16 months of age.

Training will remain consistent as far as proofing manners and behaviors while continuing to increase the “Three D’s”, expose them to novel stimuli, and continue handling. Training sessions should still happen throughout the day and last about 30-45 minutes. Public outings should still be happening about 2-3 times a week with a variety of human/dog foot traffic.

As far as health goes, dogs at this age have reached full maturity. Program dogs have all their permanent adult teeth, their growth plates are closed, and will be spayed/neutered unless they are being assessed for our breeding program. Their focus will slowly recover and return from their hormonal phase; however their energy levels and their now full adult strength may remain the same.

## Fear Periods

All program puppies will go through at least two fear periods during their development stages; it is during this time that they learn about their environment and what should be identified as harmless or hazardous. During these periods, program puppies may show fear or avoidance of items, situations, or people with which they formerly felt safe. They may start barking at people entering a house or startle at common items like trash cans, signs or even flags.

The first fear period occurs predictably at around 8-11 weeks of age. The program puppy is very young at this point and raisers should be managing the environment carefully and maintaining controlled and pleasant exposure to novel stimuli. Often this first fear period passes without any obvious signs or behavior changes. Raisers may not even notice that it has taken place.

The second fear period is less predictable, but for most dogs it occurs as a 2–3-week period in late adolescence, somewhere between 6 and 14 months of age. This one is much more variable and can at times seem extreme. It is recommended to keep exposures to a minimum during this period. Outings should be calm with low distractions. One bad experience as a puppy can turn into a reoccurring fear later once the puppy matures. If at any time during a public outing, if the program puppy appears frightened follow these guidelines:

- Relax your body and act as if the object is no big deal. Reward for any eye contact you receive. If the program puppy sees that it isn’t a big deal to you, they will realize that they have nothing to fear.
- If a situation is too overwhelming to the program puppy, back away until the program puppy is relaxed again.
- Start from this point to build up the program puppy’s confidence. Give treats and praise the program puppy while it is relaxed and looking at the object.
- Gradually get closer to the site or item, but only as close as the program puppy can while remaining calm. Don’t force interactions and allow them to investigate on their own terms. Reward for any steps or eye contact made towards the site or item.
- ALWAYS end each exposure on a positive note, even if that means ending the trip early.

# **Report Cards**

-

## **What We Look For**

During the time that you are raising the puppy we will need to track the puppy's progress. We will be looking at the puppy's health, potty and crate training, manners, and understanding of commands in both your home and in public. Also, there will be discussions about how your public outings are going and if you have any questions or comments.

## **Monthly Report Cards**

Once a month you will fill out and turn in the Monthly Progress Report. The report card will cover how the puppy is doing overall health, behaviors, training, and any comments and concerns you might have. You will also be able to track where you have taken the puppy and what you have been able to expose them to. This monthly report card will help us to track what the puppy is doing well and what they may need help with. This report card is located on the home page of the Puppy Portal.

## **End of Year**

At the end of your year of raising you will get one final report card. This report card will be a summary of the entire year that you raised the puppy. There will also be a page at the end where you will be asked to write a summary of your time raising the puppy. You will also receive a survey on your experience as a raiser. Feedback is very important and helps us to ensure raisers are well supported and set up for success.



# Puppy Raiser Emergency Procedures & Contacts

## Emergency Protocols

In the event of an emergency, you will need to be as best prepared as possible.

- Have the phone numbers of your regular and emergency veterinarians easily accessible. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the route to both veterinarians.
- Call the veterinarian prior to arriving so they can adequately prepare for the puppy.
- When contacting the veterinarian, have the following information available:
  - Program puppy's Name
  - Age
  - Breed
  - Sex
  - Weight
  - Symptoms
  - Number & type of animals involved, if known
  - Toxin/Agent exposed to, if known
- Bring the items involved with the emergency if possible. This includes chewed materials, vomit, fecal matter, prescriptions if they had swallowed a pill, etc.

## What Constitutes as an Emergency

To determine what constitutes an emergency? Think of it in terms of will this threaten the program puppy's life? There is a difference between a program puppy suffering from an upset stomach resulting in a little bit of diarrhea, or eating a foreign object causing an obstruction in the digestive track resulting in bloat which can potentially be fatal. Here are some things to look at when evaluating the level of urgency, if a program puppy exhibits any of the following, take them to the vet immediately:

- **Severe Allergic Reaction-** Swollen body parts (face, ears, lips, eyelids or earflaps), itchiness, hives, difficulty breathing, red/inflamed skin, diarrhea, vomiting, and sneezing.
  - What can cause a severe allergic reaction- vaccines, medications, bee stings, food, etc.
- **Fever-** a fever in a dog is considered when body temperatures rise above 103 degrees F and can be lethal when temperatures reach 106 degrees F. Signs of fever include; red or glassy eyes, panting, shivering, runny nose, lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, coughing, warm ears and/or nose.
  - What can cause a fever- bacterial/fungal/viral infections, infected wound, tooth infection or abscess, urinary tract infections, ear infections, ingested toxins.
- **Open Wounds-** an open wound would be considered an emergency if it requires stitches, bleeds continuously, or was caused by another animal.

- **Motor Vehicle Accident-** If the program puppy was hit by a motor vehicle, or anything similar, take them to the veterinarian immediately, even if you don't see a physical injury, something could have been damaged internally.
- **Seizures-** signs of seizures include suddenly inability to balance or walk, air snapping, stiffen or fallen to the side, foaming at the mouth or excessive drool, confused, loss of consciousness, loss of bodily functions, urinating or defecating, shaking/twitching, laying on side and continuously kicking.
  - What can cause a seizure- epilepsy, trauma to the brain, tumors, exposure to toxins, and infectious diseases such as rabies.
- **Ingestion-** ingestion could range from the program puppy ingesting a small rock or piece of toy, to ingesting an entire toy or something toxic. If you know for sure that they only ingested a small piece of toy or wrapper and you know that it isn't toxic, there may be no need to panic as it should pass naturally. However, if you are unsure of the item ingested, or the actual amount, it will be best to consult with a veterinarian. Ingesting a large amount of anything can cause a blockage in the program puppy's digestive system, or if the item is toxic can cause a range of issues from upset stomach to potential death if not treated.

## Emergency Contacts

**DBL Staff Representative:** you will receive a business card with your region's DBL representative's business number.

- Please call your DBL Staff Representative during business hours (Mon-Fri 8- 4:30 pm).

**DBL After-hours Emergency Line: (541)423-8382**

- Please call this number after normal business hours.

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 1(888)426-4435**

- In case of poisoning or suspected poisoning, please contact this number. There is a charge, but in many cases the ER veterinarian will need to call anyways and will charge you for the call and their time.





# Puppy Raiser Medical Field Guide

## *Common Medical Issues in Puppies*

**In case of emergency, please review the Puppy Raiser Emergency Contact Procedure.**

### Contents

Diarrhea .....	4
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	4
<b>Type of Stool</b> .....	4
<b>Frequency</b> .....	5
<b>Additional Factors</b> .....	5
<b>Treatments</b> .....	5
<b>Preventions</b> .....	5
Constipation .....	6
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	6
<b>Type of Stool</b> .....	6
<b>Additional Factors</b> .....	6
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	6
<b>Treatment</b> .....	6
<b>Prevention</b> .....	6
Vomiting .....	6
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	7
<b>Additional Factors</b> .....	7
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	7
<b>Treatment</b> .....	7
<b>Prevention</b> .....	7
Choking .....	8
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	8
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	8
<b>Treatment</b> .....	8
<b>Prevention</b> .....	8
Coughing .....	8

<b>Common Causes</b> .....	8
<b>Types of Coughs</b> .....	9
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	9
<b>Treatment</b> .....	9
<b>Prevention</b> .....	9
Bee Sting .....	9
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	9
<b>Common Symptoms of a Bee Sting</b> .....	9
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	10
<b>Treatment</b> .....	10
<b>Prevention</b> .....	10
Allergies.....	10
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	10
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	10
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	10
<b>Treatment</b> .....	11
<b>Prevention</b> .....	11
Puppy Acne .....	11
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	11
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	11
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	11
<b>Treatment</b> .....	11
<b>Prevention</b> .....	11
Ear Infection .....	11
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	11
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	12
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	12
<b>Treatment</b> .....	12
<b>Prevention</b> .....	12
Warts.....	12
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	12
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	12
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	12
<b>Treatment</b> .....	13
<b>Prevention</b> .....	13
Fever .....	13

Common Causes .....	13
Common Symptoms .....	13
When to See a Veterinarian .....	13
Treatment .....	13
Prevention .....	14
Conjunctivitis.....	14
Common Causes .....	14
Common Symptoms .....	14
When to See a Veterinarian .....	14
Treatment .....	14
Prevention .....	15
Urinary Tract Infection .....	15
Common Causes .....	15
Common Symptoms .....	15
When to See a Veterinarian .....	15
Treatment .....	15
Prevention .....	15
Worms.....	16
Common Types of Worms.....	16
Common Causes .....	16
Common Symptoms .....	16
When to See a Veterinarian .....	16
Treatment .....	16
Prevention .....	16
Giardia .....	17
Common Causes .....	17
Common Symptoms .....	17
When to See a Veterinarian .....	17
Treatment .....	17
Prevention .....	17
Coccidia .....	17
Common Causes .....	17
Common Symptoms .....	18
When to See a Veterinarian .....	18
Treatment .....	18
Prevention .....	18

Ringworm .....	18
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	18
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	18
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	18
<b>Treatment</b> .....	19
<b>Prevention</b> .....	19
Canine Influenza .....	19
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	19
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	19
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	19
<b>Treatment</b> .....	19
<b>Prevention</b> .....	19
Wounds .....	20
<b>Common Causes</b> .....	20
<b>Common Symptoms</b> .....	20
<b>When to See a Veterinarian</b> .....	20
<b>Treatment</b> .....	20
<b>Prevention</b> .....	20

## Diarrhea

Not only is diarrhea very common in puppies, but there are also multiple factors that can cause diarrhea. Severity can range from minor causes like indigestion to severe like ingesting something toxic. To determine how to treat the program puppy, and whether they will need to be seen by a veterinarian, you will need to identify the cause, type of stool, frequency, and additional factors.

### Common Causes

- Stress
- Dietary changes
- Ingestion of items ranging from mild irritants to something toxic
- Parasites
- Viral infections
- Bacterial Infections

### Type of Stool

- Grade the stool using the Fecal Scoring Chart located in the Puppy Portal
- Items in the stool
  - Grass
  - Chunks of chewed up toys or other items
  - Blood- old (dull) or fresh (bright)
  - Clear globules

## Frequency

- All day for several days
- After meals
- After a stressful event

## Additional Factors

- Lethargy
- Fever
- Refusing to eat or drink
- Pale gums
- Discomfort or pain
- Vomiting

## When to See a Veterinarian

- If diarrhea persists for more than a few days
- If there is blood present
- If the program puppy swallowed something toxic
- If the program puppy presents with
  - A fever
  - Lethargy
  - Refusing to eat or drink
  - Vomiting
  - Is in pain or discomfort
  - Pale gums

## Treatments

- If diarrhea is caused by stress, your DBL staff representative may recommend a probiotic such as Forti flora or add some fiber to the program puppy's diet such as psyllium husk powder, or plain pumpkin puree with no other additives to help firm up stool.
- If diarrhea is caused by dietary changes, your DBL staff representative may recommend slowing the transition process down, switching to a bland diet, adding pumpkin and/or Forti Flora.
- For all other issues, your DBL staff representative may request you take the program puppy to your veterinarian. Be sure to bring a fresh stool sample (within 24 hours) with you to be tested, along with the item they ingested (if any), date symptoms started, what symptoms the program puppy is presenting, and frequency.

## Preventions

The best way to avoid diarrhea is to be proactive! Here is how you can do so:

- If you are transitioning the program puppy's food (with your DBL representative's approval only), do so slowly and under the guidance of your DBL representative.
- Keep program puppy up to date on vaccines as well as heartworm, flea, and tick prevention.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy.
- Wash toys and bowls regularly.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.

## Constipation

Constipation is the inability to have normal bowel movements often resulting in rock hard stools or complete lack of stool. You may notice the program puppy struggling or straining to have a productive bowel movement.

### Common Causes

- Dehydration/not drinking enough water.
- Diet
- Stress
- Activity level
- Ingestion of any item that could result in a blockage.
- Medications such as diuretics, opiates, antihistamines, and antacids
- Disease or injury

### Type of Stool

- Lack of stool
- Hard stool- see fecal scoring chart in puppy portal.

### Additional Factors

- Bloating
- Pain or discomfort

### When to See a Veterinarian

- The program puppy's abdomen is bloated.
- Constipation persists for more than two days.
- Program puppy is in pain when examining the abdomen.

### Treatment

- Keeping the program puppy hydrated. You may add low sodium chicken broth to water to entice the program puppy to drink or even add water to food for additional hydration.
- Add canned pumpkin to the program puppy's food or let them lick it off of the spoon. Make sure the pumpkin is pure pumpkin puree without added sugar or other ingredients. The fiber from the pumpkin will help to regulate their digestive track. Puppies may receive 1-2 tablespoons a day to start. Your DBL staff representative may want to increase it to 3-4 depending on results.
- Psyllium husk powder is also a great option to help aid constipation.
- Increasing exercise may help get things moving enough for the program puppy to have a productive bowel movement.
- If none of these treatments work, you will need to see your veterinarian who may be able to manually remove the impacted feces or prescribe a medication to help.

### Prevention

- Ensure the program puppy is properly hydrated and has access to fresh water daily.
- Regular exercise.
- Keep inappropriate items out of reach of program puppies to avoid ingestion.

## Vomiting

Vomiting is when puppies are forcefully ejecting the contents of their stomach. Vomit can often contain food, fluid, and debris. You may notice the program puppy start to drool excessively, cough or retch, and see their abdomen contract right before they vomit.

## Common Causes

- Upset stomach
- Diet change
- Eating too quickly
- Ingestion of items or toxins
- Viral infection
- Bacterial infection
- Intestinal parasites
- Internal blockages/bloat
- Reaction to a medication or vaccine

## Additional Factors

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite and dehydration
- Abdominal pain
- Bloating
- Lethargy
- Weight Loss

## When to See a Veterinarian

- If the vomiting persists longer than a day
- Ingestion of a toxic substance
- Blood is present in the vomit
- Fever
- Bloating and/or abdominal pain
- Weight loss

## Treatment

- If the program puppy vomits once than seems back to normal, then there is no need to move forward with treatment.
- If the program puppy vomits a few times during the day, withholding food for 24 hours should help to settle the stomach. Make sure the program puppy still has access to plenty of water and stays hydrated.
- All other treatments will need to be prescribed by a veterinarian.

## Prevention

- If the program puppy likes to eat quickly, feed them in a slow feeder bowl or treat dispensing toy.
- Quickly remove and dispose of any damaged toys.
- Do not allow program puppy to chew on sticks or other inappropriate objects.
- Do not leave program puppy unsupervised with toys.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.

## Choking

Choking can be both external and internal in puppies. An example of external choking could be when a puppy gets their collar stuck on an object restricting their airways. Internal could happen when they get an object lodged into their airways. In most cases, external choking can be solved easily. In the example used above, you would simply cut the collar away. However, depending on the amount of pressure applied to the windpipe, you may need to bring the program puppy to the vet immediately. The rest of this section will be covering internal choking.

### Common Causes

- Foreign object in airway

### When to See a Veterinarian

- If the program puppy is unable cough up the object on their own and you are unable to dislodge it manually.
- If the program puppy becomes unconscious.
- If you had to perform the Heimlich Maneuver for the vet to assess any possible damages to the chest and/or throat.

### Treatment

- Gently hold the program puppy, carefully pry open their mouth, and look inside the mouth both towards the back of the mouth and throat or the roof of their mouths (you may want a flashlight on hand for this). If you can see the object, you can then:
  - **Smaller Objects**- sweep the mouth with your finger in the shape of a hook. If unable to dislodge the item with your finger, you may use a large pair of tweezers, small tongs, or small needle nose pliers. DO NOT push the object as this will just cause the item to lodge deeper into their throat.
  - **Larger Objects**- like a Nylabone or ball, press your thumbs on both sides of the puppy's jaw at the base of the neck, apply pressure and move your hands up.
- Heimlich Maneuver
  - **Puppy Standing**- hold the program puppy on their back legs, their back against your front. Place your fist on the soft spot directly under the ribs, then thrust your fist inwards and up. Then place program puppy on their side and do a mouth sweep to remove the object.
  - **Puppy on Side**- lay the program puppy on their side, their back against your front. Place your fist on the soft spot directly under their ribs, then thrust your fist inwards and up. Then do a mouth sweep to remove the object.

### Prevention

- If the program puppy likes to eat quickly, feed them in a slow feeder bowl or treat dispensing toy.
- Quickly remove and dispose of any damaged toys.
- Do not allow program puppy to chew on sticks or other inappropriate objects.
- Do not leave program puppy unsupervised with toys.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy.

## Coughing

There may be several reasons the program puppy may be coughing ranging from inhaling dust to potential heart disease. There are also several forms of coughing to look for.

### Common Causes

- Inhaling an irritant
- Eating food too quickly
- Vomiting



- Obstructed airways
- Irritated/scratched throat
- Kennel Cough
- Pneumonia
- Bronchitis
- Exposure to toxins
- Heart Disease

### Types of Coughs

- Dry & Hacking
- Wet/Phlegmy
- Gagging
- Deep & Honking

### When to See a Veterinarian

- If the coughing is persistent

### Treatment

- As coughing is just a symptom of an underlying issue, the veterinarian will need to diagnose the program puppy before determining the treatment.

### Prevention

- Keep program puppy current and up to date on all vaccines.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Do not leave program puppies unsupervised with toys.
- Quickly remove and dispose of damaged toys.
- Do not allow program puppies to chew on sticks or other inappropriate objects.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy,

### Bee Sting

Puppies typically explore the world by smelling and with their mouths. So most likely if the program puppy does get stung by a bee, it will be in areas near the muzzle and/or face. Reactions to a bee sting could range from mild to severe anaphylactic.

### Common Causes

- Sniffing around flowers or bushes containing bees or wasps.
- Disturbing a hive.
- Stepping on a bee or wasp.

### Common Symptoms of a Bee Sting

- Whining
- Swelling
- Heat or redness near the area of the sting.
- Pawing, licking, or biting at the area that was stung.
- Drooling
- Limping

## When to See a Veterinarian

- Multiple stings
- Severe or instant swelling
- Difficulty breathing
- Pale gums
- Fever
- Restlessness
- Increased heart rate
- Lethargy or weakness
- Collapse

## Treatment

- Quickly and carefully remove the stinger.
- Create a paste containing baking soda and water to the site of the sting.
- Use a cool washcloth or ice pack to relieve the swelling.
- Give program puppy Benadryl, typical dosage is 1mg per pound.
- Continue to monitor the program puppy and ensure they have access to fresh water and stay hydrated.

## Prevention

- Be aware of surroundings, if you notice a wasp nest, beehive, swarm, or bees/wasps on the ground avoid the area.
- Do not allow the program puppy to venture into flowers or bushes.
- Do not leave program puppy in any outdoor area without supervision.

## Allergies

Program puppies can suffer from a variety of allergies and can at times suffer from multiple types of allergies.

## Common Causes

- Food.
- Fleas.
- Environmental allergens such as pollen, grass, dust, and mold.

## Common Symptoms

- Itchiness
- Swelling
- Hives
- Rashes
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chronic ear infections
- Runny eyes
- Green discharge in eyes

## When to See a Veterinarian

- When the program puppy is exhibiting severe allergic reactions.
- Continuous scratching begins creating a wound or is persistent.
- Symptoms last for more than a few days.

## Treatment

- The program puppy will need to be seen by a veterinarian before determining the cause and treatment.

## Prevention

- Ensure program puppy is current and stays up to date with their flea and tick prevention.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Bathe the program puppy regularly to remove allergens from their coat.

## Puppy Acne

Puppy acne will present red bumps or pimples around the muzzle, chin, and lip area.

### Common Causes

- Inflammation
- Damage and/or trauma to the skin
- Allergies
- Bacterial infection

### Common Symptoms

- Red bumps
- Pustules or pimples
- Swelling
- Cracked/bleeding wounds.
- Scabs

### When to See a Veterinarian

- To diagnose and treat puppy acne, you will need to have the program puppy seen by a veterinarian.

## Treatment

- Benzoyl peroxide wipes such as Douxo.
- Oral steroids to treat inflammation.
- Antibiotics to treat bacteria.

## Prevention

- Clean bowls and toys regularly.
- Remove and dispose of damaged toys or bowls with rough edges quickly.

## Ear Infection

Ear infections can be pretty common in puppies, especially if the program puppy enjoys being in the water as much as possible.

### Common Causes

- Allergies
- Bacterial infections
- Yeast infections and moisture
- Excess wax buildup
- Ear mites

- Fleas

## Common Symptoms

- Head shaking
- Scratching at ears/itching
- Red & inflamed ears
- Sensitive ears
- Bad odor
- Discharge
- Crusty or scabbing ears

## When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy has an ear infection, you will want to have them seen by a veterinarian. The veterinarian will then determine what is causing the ear infection and where the infection is located (outer ear, inner ear, and middle ear). They will perform a physical evaluation, look inside the ear, assess the pain level, and may decide to culture some samples from the ear. In extreme cases, they may want to take x-rays or biopsy of the ear(s).

## Treatment

- Veterinarians will either apply an ointment that only needs to be applied once, or they will prescribe an ointment to be used at home. In most cases they will also prescribe an ear cleaner.
- In extreme/chronic cases, the veterinarian may choose to surgically remove the ear canal.

## Prevention

- Keep ears dry after swimming and bathing.
- Clean ears regularly with a dog ear cleaning solution. Massage the cleaning solution into the ear, you can then use a cotton ball to wipe the inside of the ear flap. Do not push the cotton ball down into the ear, you could push debris down further into the ear.

## Warts

Not only can warts be unsightly, but they are also highly contagious and can be spread from dog to dog very easily. It is important to correctly identify them quickly to help prevent them from spreading to other dogs in your home or in your neighborhood.

## Common Causes

- Papillomavirus- different variants will affect different parts of the body.

## Common Symptoms

- Warts in or around the mouth
- Warts in or between toes
- Warts can look like the head of a cauliflower, be inverted with a caved in center, or can look irregular and scaly. Sizes of the warts can also vary.

## When to See a Veterinarian

- When there are large amounts of warts or are big enough in size to cause complications eating, drinking, or walking.
- If warts become open and bleed.
- If warts do not clear up on their own within 2 months.
- If program puppy has other underlying medical conditions that may suppress their immune system.

## Treatment

- In most cases, warts should clear up on their own within 1-2 months.
- If they do not clear up on their own, your veterinarian may recommend antibiotics, antiviral medications, or medications to help boost the immune system.

## Prevention

- Warts are highly contagious and pass easily between dogs. Not only are they highly contagious, but they can also live on surfaces or in environments for weeks. So, it is very important to not allow the program puppy to play with other dogs who have warts. Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- If puppies do develop warts, keep them from interacting with other dogs until the warts have cleared.

## Fever

Puppies and dogs have a normal temperature range from 99.5-102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. To take a program puppy's temperature use a dog specific rectal thermometer, lubricate the thermometer with petroleum gel, gently and calmly thread your left arm under the puppy's stomach near its rear legs then reach back over the body to hold the tail erect. Once puppy is calmly and gently restrained, insert the rectal thermometer about one inch into the rectum and hold for about 60 seconds or until the thermometer indicates the temperature.

## Common Causes

- Bacterial infection
- Viral infection
- Fungal infection
- Infected wound
- Ear infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Abscessed or infected tooth
- Reaction to a vaccine
- Ingesting toxins

## Common Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Shivering
- Vomiting
- Nasal discharge
- Red eyes
- Warm ears
- Warm/dry nose
- Coughing
- Loss of appetite

## When to See a Veterinarian

- If the program puppy's temperature reaches 103 degrees Fahrenheit, then call the vet. If the temperature reaches 106 degrees, that is a medical emergency, and the puppy must be taken to the vet immediately.

## Treatment

- Try to entice the program puppy to drink water and stay hydrated, do not force them to drink.

- You may attempt to lower the program puppy's temperature by applying cool water to their paws and around their ears. You may also wipe down their coat with a cool damp towel.
- Continue to monitor their temperature regularly and if symptoms continue or worsen, have them seen by a veterinarian.
- **NEVER** give them human medications without consulting a veterinarian first as most fever reducing human medications are highly toxic to dogs.

## Prevention

- Keep program puppies healthy by ensuring their vaccinations and medications are up to date.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.

## Conjunctivitis

Also known as pink eye, conjunctivitis can be very contagious depending on the type the program puppy has. Bacterial conjunctivitis can also be zoonotic, meaning contagious to other species from animals to humans.

## Common Causes

- Allergies
- Viral infection
- Bacterial infection
- Scratch or trauma to the eyes
- Blocked tear ducts
- Tumors
- Entropion (rolling inwards) or ectropion (rolling outwards) eyelids

## Common Symptoms

- Redness and swelling of the eye
- Itching
- Pain or discomfort
- Squinting
- Excessive blinking
- Discharge
  - Yellow/Green- indicates infection
  - White/Clear- indicates allergies
- Hair loss around the eyes
- Nasal discharge
- Lethargy

## When to See a Veterinarian

- For any eye infection or trauma it is important to have the program puppy to the vet to determine the cause and treatment. If infections or trauma to the eye go left untreated, they may cause permanent damage.

## Treatment

- For conjunctivitis caused by allergies, your veterinarian may recommend a sterile saline solution to flush the eyes, eye drops, or ointments.
- For bacterial conjunctivitis, the veterinarian may opt for topical antibiotics and/or anti-inflammatory medications.

- For entropion, ectropion, or other eyelid/eyelash abnormalities, the veterinarian may recommend corrective surgery.

## Prevention

- Keep program puppies healthy by ensuring their vaccinations and medications are up to date.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- If your program puppy has conjunctivitis, ensure they do not interact with other dogs to keep it from spreading.

## Urinary Tract Infection

While UTI's may be common in puppies, they can also be very dangerous. It is important to be able to spot the symptoms early and call the veterinarian as soon as you are able.

### Common Causes

- Inverted vulvas
- Bacterial infections
- Fungal infections
- Kidney disease

### Common Symptoms

- Frequent urination
- Urinating in small amounts
- Pain or discomfort while urinating
- Straining to urinate
- Bloody or cloudy urine
- Potty accidents in home
- Fever
- Continuous licking of the vulva or penis

### When to See a Veterinarian

- Difficulty or inability to urinate and when there is blood present in the urine are considered medical emergencies and the program puppy will need to be seen by a veterinarian immediately.
- For all other symptoms, call your veterinarian and schedule an appointment for the program puppy to be seen. The veterinarian will most likely need to collect a urine sample to culture to determine treatment.

### Treatment

- The veterinarian will most likely prescribe an antibiotic that targets the specific bacteria found in the culture.
- The veterinarian may recommend a dietary change.
- If UTI's are being caused by an inverted vulva, and depending on the severity of the inversion, the veterinarian may recommend waiting for the female to go into heat which could naturally correct the vulva. If the vulva does not correct naturally after a heat cycle, or the vulva is severely inverted, corrective surgery may be required.

### Prevention

- Encouraging the program puppy to drink more water.
- Cleaning water dishes regularly.
- Inverted vulvas may need to be wiped after urination depending on the severity of the inversion.
- Cranberry supplements may be recommended if UTI's are a common occurrence in the program puppy.

## Worms

There are multiple types of parasitic worms all of which are highly contagious and easily transferrable to other dogs, animals, and humans.

### Common Types of Worms

- Roundworms
- Hookworms
- Whipworms
- Tapeworms
- Heartworms

### Common Causes

- Drinking contaminated milk from the mother while nursing.
- Ingesting contaminated soil.
- Ingesting infected prey.
- Ingesting infected fecal matter.
- Ingesting or getting bitten by an infected mosquito, flea, or tick.

### Common Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Blood in stool
- Intestinal blockages
- Pneumonia
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss
- Anemia
- Coughing
- Inability to exercise for long periods of time.
- Nutrient deficiency
- Seeing what looks like small grains of white rice in stool or near the anus.

### When to See a Veterinarian

- When dealing with worms it would be best to take a stool sample to your veterinarian so they can determine what parasite they are dealing with and how to treat that specific parasite.
- When dealing with heartworms a blood test, ultrasound, or x-ray may be needed for confirmation.

### Treatment

- Most likely, your veterinarian will prescribe an oral worming medication that targets the specific worms that are causing the infection.
- In cases where heartworm is present, the veterinarian may prescribe oral medications and antibiotics. Dietary changes may be made and in extreme cases diuretics or heart medication may be prescribed.

### Prevention

- Keep the program puppy healthy and up to date with their vaccines, heartworm, and flea and tick preventatives.



- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Clean up feces promptly.
- Do not allow the program puppy to ingest small animals.

## Giardia

Is a common parasitic infection that can affect both pets and people. Most commonly found in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, public water supplies, wells, swimming pools, water parks and spas.

### Common Causes

- Drinking stagnant/contaminated water.
- Eating contaminated feces.
- Eating items in contact with contaminated feces like grass or sticks.

### Common Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Weight loss
- Change in coat's appearance.

### When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy may have Giardia, you will need to call your veterinarian for an official diagnosis. They will most likely request you bring in a fresh fecal sample to be tested.

### Treatment

- In most cases, your veterinarian may prescribe a wormer such as fenbendazole or metronidazole to administer for 3-10 days.

### Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Do not allow the program puppy to eat feces.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, small streams, or other bodies of water.
- Promptly clean up and dispose of feces to prevent spreading it.

## Coccidia

Coccidia is also another common parasite mostly found in animal feces or on surfaces in contact with contaminated feces.

### Common Causes

- Ingestion of infected feces.
- Ingestion of something in contact with infected feces such as soil, grass, sticks, etc.
- Ingesting rodents or other small animals that are infected.

## Common Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Abdominal pain or discomfort.

## When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy may have Coccidia, you will need to call your veterinarian for an official diagnosis. They will most likely request you bring in a fresh fecal sample to be tested.

## Treatment

- Most likely your veterinarian will prescribe an antibiotic such as Albon, or in tougher cases, ponazuril or toltrazuril.

## Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Do not allow the program puppy to eat feces.
- Do not allow the program puppy to ingest rodents or other small animals.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, small streams, or other bodies of water.
- Promptly clean up and dispose of feces to prevent spreading it.

## Ringworm

Despite the name, ringworm is not actually a parasite, but rather a fungal infection. Ringworm is zoonotic, highly contagious, and the spores can remain active for up to 18 months.

## Common Causes

- Coming into contact with an infected animal, or item touched by an infected animal such as furniture, food and water bowls, bedding, carpeting, etc.

## Common Symptoms

- Hair loss in circular patterns.
- Dry & brittle coat.
- Red raised rashes, scales, or lesions.
- Oozing lesions.
- Scales or dandruff in the coat.
- Itchiness.
- Rough and/or brittle nails.
- Darkened skin near the infection.

## When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy has ringworm, you will need to contact your veterinarian for a diagnosis. They will most likely take a sample of the skin and coat to culture.

## Treatment

- The veterinarian may prescribe:
  - A topical cream or ointment
  - Medicated shampoo
  - Anti-fungal oral medications
- They will also recommend that you decontaminate your home and test any other animals living in the home.

## Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs, puppies, and other animals. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Keep the home environment, toys, bowls, bedding, collar, leashes, vests, and other items cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## Canine Influenza

Canine influenza is a contagious upper respiratory infection also known as the dog flu.

### Common Causes

- Coming into contact with another infected dog or item such as food bowls, collars, toys, surfaces, etc.

### Common Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Runny/watery eyes
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever

### When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy has canine influenza, you will need to call your veterinarian. In some states, veterinarians will be required to report the case.

## Treatment

- Currently there are no cures for canine influenza. However, if the program puppy has a fever, the vet may recommend an anti-inflammatory medication to help reduce the fever.
- Keep the program puppy hydrated, and isolated from any other dogs in the home until they are fully recovered.

## Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs, puppies, and other animals. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Keep the home environment, toys, bowls, bedding, collar, leashes, vests, and other items cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## Wounds

There are many different ways the program puppy could receive a wound as they are often curious about their environments and other animals. It is very important to never leave the program puppy loose and unsupervised in any space. If you cannot keep an eye on the program puppy, it is best to secure them in their crate.

### Common Causes

- Trauma to the skin

### Common Symptoms

- Bruising
- Hair loss
- Infection, redness or swelling.
- Pain or discomfort
- Bleeding

### When to See a Veterinarian

- If the injury fully penetrated or punctured the skin.
- If the injury becomes inflamed, infected, or abscesses.
- If the injury covers a large portion of the program puppy's body.

### Treatment

- For minor wounds you will want to:
  - Stop the bleeding (if any) by taking a clean towel or cloth to the wound and applying light pressure.
  - After the bleeding has stopped, clean the wound with warm water and pat dry.
  - Remove any debris with sterilized tweezers.
  - Then apply a non-stinging antiseptic solution such as chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine.
  - Apply a triple antibacterial ointment containing bacitracin, neomycin, and polymyxin B. Do not use any products containing corticosteroid like hydrocortisone.
  - Wrap the wound and/or put an e collar on the program puppy and keep them from licking or fussing over the area.
- For deeper wounds or punctures, take the program puppy to the vet for treatment.

### Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs, puppies, and other animals. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Keep the program puppies leashed at all times in unsecured areas.
- Do not leave the program puppy unsupervised outside, even if in a fenced area.
- Do not allow program puppies to be left alone unsupervised with children.
- Do not allow the program puppy to interact with new dogs before introducing them properly in an unfamiliar space. When program puppies are playing with other dogs, make sure there are at least two toys per dog and one person per dog. Pick up any toys or items that puppies start arguing over.

# Toxic Substances for Dogs & Puppies

## Human Medications & Vitamins

NEVER to be administered to a pet for any reason:

- **Acetaminophen**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Pain
    - Dark Urine
- **Tricyclic Antidepressants**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Behavior changes
    - Disorientation
- **Imodium A. S., Ex Lax**
  - Symptoms
    - Depression
    - Heart rate/respiratory depression
- **Ibuprofen/Naproxen Sodium**
  - Symptoms
    - Diarrhea (may be bloody)
    - Staggering
    - Listless
    - Seizures
- **Tobacco**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Tremors
    - Staggering
    - Seizures
    - Dilated pupils
    - Drooling
    - Hyperactive

Used under veterinarian direction only:

- **Antihistamine/decongestants**
  - Signs of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Hyperactive
    - Seizures
- **Aspirin**
  - Symptoms of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Stomach pain
    - Depression
    - Increased respiration
    - Coma
- **Pepto Bismol**
  - Symptoms of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Pain
    - Depression
    - Increased Respiration
    - Coma
- **Iron**
  - Symptoms of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea (possibly bloody)
    - Dark urine

- **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs)**
  - Symptoms of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Pain
    - Staggering
    - Shock
- **Fleet Enema**
  - Symptoms of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Staggering
    - Seizures
- **Vitamin D**
  - Symptoms of Overdose
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Increased thirst
    - Increased Urination

*Please Note: Any medications/vitamins should be safely stored somewhere the program puppy can't get to them.*

## Human Foods

NEVER feed for any reason

- **Alcoholic beverage**
  - Symptoms
    - Drunk behavior
    - Coma
- **Avocado (fruit, pit, and plant)**
  - Symptoms
    - Difficulty breathing
- **Chocolate**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Excitability
    - Increased heart rate
    - Staggering
    - Seizures
    - Muscle tremors
- **Coffee/cafeinated beverages**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Increased heart rate
    - Difficulty breathing
    - Muscle tremors
    - Seizures
- **Macadamia Nuts**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Lethargy
    - Pale gums
    - Staggering
    - Tremors
    - Paralysis
- **Moldy/spoiled food (esp. dairy)**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea (pus/bloody)
    - Fever
    - Shock
    - Seizures

- **Onion (plant or powder)**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
- **Grapes & Raisins**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
- **Yeast Dough**
  - Symptoms
    - Gas
- **Xylitol (sweetener)**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Weakness Staggering
- **Raw Fish**
  - Symptoms
    - Reduced appetite
- **Salmon (Raw)**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea

- Bloody urine
- Weakness
- Stomach pain
- Lethargy
- Pain
- Seizures
- Seizures
- Fever
- Weakness

Large amounts need to be ingested for toxic effects.

- **Garlic (plant & powder)**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
- **Salt**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
- **Pepper**
  - Symptoms
    - GI upset
- **Nutmeg/mace**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Stomach pain
- **Spices**
  - Symptoms
    - Skin irritation
- **Broccoli**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Stomach upset/pain

- Bloody urine
- Weakness
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Excitability
- GI irritation
- Staggering
- Seizures

- **Pits from apples, cherries, peaches, plums, almonds, and apricots.**
  - Symptoms
    - Abnormal behavior
    - Excitement
    - Seizures
    - Bright red mucus membranes

*Please Note: Never allow the program puppy to eat scraps from the table and always watch the puppy while small children are eating. Do not leave food out where the program puppy can easily access it.*

## Common Household Items

- **Ethylene Glycol**
  - Found in- Antifreeze.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Staggering
    - Drooling
    - Seizures
    - Hyperactivity
- **Propylene Glycol**
  - Found in- Antifreeze.
  - Symptoms
    - Incoordination
    - Seizures
- **Methanol**
  - Found in- Antifreeze.
  - Symptoms
    - GI upset
    - Seizures
- **Borate, Boric Acid & Boron**
  - Found in- Bait, cleaning compounds, lens & denture cleansers.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Coma
    - Bloody urine
    - Seizures
- **Bleach**
  - Found in- Cleaning compounds.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Coughing
    - Burns to skin.
    - Mucus membranes
- **Batteries**
  - Found in- Electronics.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Drooling
    - Burns
    - Pain
- **Acids**
  - Symptoms
    - Burns to affected areas.
- **Citrus oil extract**
  - Found in- Dip, sprays, shampoos, essential oils.
  - Symptoms
    - Drooling
    - Drop in body temperature
    - Staggering
    - Falling



- **Detergent**
  - Found in- laundry soap, dish soap, and shampoo.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - GI upset
    - Irritation of the eyes by mucus membranes
- **Fabric Softener, sanitizer, and disinfectants.**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Collapse
    - Burn
- **Isopropyl Alcohol**
  - Found in- Lotions, perfumes, solvents, window cleaner.
  - Symptoms
    - Drunk appearance/behavior
    - Vomiting
    - Coma
- **Kerosene/Gasoline**
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Coma
    - Drooling
    - Staggering
    - Difficulty breathing
- **Metaldehyde**
  - Found in- Slug & snail bait, rodenticides, eating a poisoned animal.
  - Symptoms
    - Staggering
    - Over-reaction to stimulus
    - Tremors
    - Seizures
    - Drooling
- **Naphthalene**
  - Found in- Mothballs.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - Weakness
    - Lethargy
    - Seizures
    - Stomach pain
- **Organophosphates**
  - Found in- Rose food, older flea products (over the counter).
  - Symptoms
    - Diarrhea
    - Drooling
    - Pinpoint pupils
    - Slow heart rate
- **Warfarin**
  - Found in- Rodenticide.
  - Symptoms
    - Bleeding from eyes, ears, mucus membranes, rectum
- **Cholecalciferol**
  - Found in- Rodenticide.
  - Symptoms
    - Increased water consumption
    - Increased urine output
    - Depression

- **Strychnine**
  - Found in- Rodenticide.
  - Symptoms
    - Convulsions
    - Seizures
    - Paralysis
    - Oversensitive to stimulus
- **Arsenic**
  - Found in- Insecticides, herbicides, insulation.
  - Symptoms
    - Vomiting
    - Restlessness
    - Drooling
    - Staggering
    - Pain

## Plants

Most people have many of these plants in their home and/or yard and never have any problems. However, if the program puppy enjoys chewing/digging, you may need to take more precautions.

Plants that cause mainly vomiting, irritation, burning of the mouth, tongue, and lips, drooling and difficulty swallowing:

- |                            |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Caladium                 | • Gold Dieffenbachia       | • Philodendron Pertusum    |
| • Calla Lilly              | • Golden Pathos            | • Poinsettia               |
| • Ceriman                  | • Green Gold Nephthytis    | • Pot Mum                  |
| • Charming Dieffenbachia   | • Heart Leave Philodendron | • Read Princess            |
| • Chinese Evergreen        | • Horse Leaf Philodendron  | • Saddle Leaf Philodendron |
| • Chrysanthemum            | • Hurricane Plant          | • Satin Pathos             |
| • Creeping Fig             | • Lacy Tree                | • Schefflera               |
| • Cordatum                 | • Marble Queen             | • Spider Mum               |
| • Devils Ivy               | • Mexican Bred Fruit       | • Swiss Cheese Plant       |
| • Dumbcane                 | • Mother-in-law            | • Taro Vine                |
| • Elephant Ears            | • Nephthytis               | • Variable Dieffenbachia   |
| • Fiddle Leaf Philodendron | • Panda                    | • Variegated               |
| • Flamingo Plant           | • Peace Lily               |                            |
| • Fruit Salad Plant        | • Philodendron             |                            |

Plants that cause various symptoms including more serious ones like CNS depression, seizures, coma, cardiovascular collapse, hallucinations, convulsions, hypersensitivity to stimulus, delirium/behavior changes, respiratory congestion or failure, shock, and death:

- |                    |                      |                             |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Loco Weed        | • Glacier Ivy        | • Heavenly Bamboo           |
| • Yew              | • Periwinkle         | • Coriaria                  |
| • Jerusalem Cherry | • Peyote             | • Lily of the Valley        |
| • Nux Vomica       | • Moon weed.         | • Hemlock                   |
| • Morning Glory    | • Mistletoe          | • Narcissus                 |
| • Autumn Crocus    | • Andromeda Japonica | • Azalea                    |
| • Precatory Bean   | • Leander            | • Rhododendron              |
| • Castor Bean      | • Buckeye            | • Chinaberry Tree (berries) |
| • Christmas Rose   | • Sage Palm Yucca    | • Yesterday/Today/Tomorrow  |
| • Cycads           | • Daffodil           | • Foxglove                  |

Plants causing a variety of symptoms including but not limited to vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, muscle spasms, salivation, lethargy, anorexia, stomach and body pain, drooling, weakness, incoordination, dermatitis, increased heart rate, hyperthermia, stiffness, and dilated pupils.

- Angels Trumpet
- Cyclamen
- Jasmine
- Glory Lily
- Holly
- Hyacinth
- Mescal Bean
- Kalanchoe
- Aloe
- Tulip
- All types of Ivy
- Buddhist Pine
- Amaryllis
- Cornstalk Plant
- Dologeton
- Gladiolas
- Lupine
- Matrimony Vine
- May Apple
- Iris
- Pig weed
- Dracaena (most types)
- Bird of Paradise
- Bittersweet
- Clematis
- Buttercup
- Florida Beauty
- Jimson Weed
- Gold Dust Dracaena
- Dutchman's Breeches
- Hydrangea
- Mushrooms
- Madagascar Dragon Tree
- Asparagus Fern
- Plumosa Fern
- Emerald Feather/Fern
- Austrian Nut