

RidgeView
Puppy Information
Packet

RidgeView Labrador Information

SPAY / NEUTER

Unless you are intending on becoming a professional breeder and/or showing your dog, you should be a responsible pet owner and alter your dog: there are too many unwanted and poorly bred dogs in this world. DO NOT spay or neuter your dog before 12 months of age. **Health contract will be non-invoid if you spay or neuter before 12 months.** We recommend:

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Female | 12 months |
| Male | 16 months |

DIET

We have started the puppies on (circle):

Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy

Nutrisource Large Breed Puppy

food. Both feeds can be found on chewy.com. Your puppy has been getting about a ½ cups of food, 2 times a day. The addition of water to the food is optional at this point depending on your puppy's liking. If you chose to add water the puppies are used to filling until even with the food. Adding water help slow down fast eaters and makes it easier to digest. Feeding **Grain Free** dog food is healthier for your dog and is more nutritious. We recommend these feeding schedules:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 – 10 weeks old | 1 – 2 cups of food 2 times a day |
| 3 – 5 months old | 2 – 2 ½ cups of food 2 times a day |

Switching to Adult Food: We recommend switching the puppy to adult food at about 12 months of age. As an adult, your Labrador will eat about 3 cups of food a day. Whether you choose to split this into two meals a day or just feed once a day will depend on your schedule and the schedule you have your dog on. However, it is healthier for your dog to eat 2 meals. You should not just change from one food to the other drastically. Mix your puppy with adult food half in half until it is switched completely.

CRATE TRAINING

Crates are not to be used as insolation units, but as training aids. The crate should be a positive piece of equipment. **Important: do not let children in the puppy's crate.** The crate should be a safe place where the puppy feels secure and can escape for quiet time. Leaving the door open and giving your puppy the chance to hang out in their crate when they are not in it will make them more secure and they will often put themselves in their crate, much like their own room.

(See separate sheet with additional information provided)

TOYS

Puppies have a natural need to chew and play. Insuring that your puppy does not chew or play with undesirable things in your home nor in an undesirable way, you should provide your puppy with suitable toys.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Rope Toys | Never give to a dog! Strings can get tangled in their intestines, potentially causing death. |
| Latex Squeaky Toys | Fine. Do not use if your puppy tears or attempts to remove the squeaker. |
| Rawhide Chews | Fine if from USA. Foreign made are preserved with <i>arsenic</i> and can cause serious health problems |
| Stuffed Animals | Gives your puppy the wrong training about the allowable dog toys. Do not recommend. |
| Kong Toys | Excellent long lasting chew toys. Would recommend putting treats in middle for bored dogs. |
| Nyla Bone | Excellent long lasting chew toys. Come in regular, flavored, or the Plaque Attacker™. Would recommend any. |

Make sure all toys are large enough so that your puppy cannot swallow them or choke.
(See separate Chewing sheet with additional information)

VACCINATIONS/DEWORMING

From 4-6 weeks of age, the puppies will be wormed twice. **As you may be aware, all puppies have worms so we encourage the new owner to worm the puppies as soon as they get home.** On their 6-week birthday, we administer their first vaccination – Vanguard Plus 5®. On their 7-week birthday, we administer their second vaccination – Vanguard B®.
(See separate Puppy Vaccination Schedule sheet with additional information)

NAMEING

We ask that you leave the prefix “RidgeView” on the front of all registered dog’s names. We know you are proud of your new family member and we are as well.

DIARRHEA??

Stressful situations such as shipping or a new home can cause worms (all puppy have worms, its natural in building their immune system) that were once dormant to rise and cause an upset stomach. This is not uncommon and we ask that you call us before making any rash decisions including going to the Emergency Veterinarian. **RidgeView does not cover medical costs of any kind** and going to the vet over loose stool is the owner's responsibility.

RidgeView Crate Training

By nature, dogs are pack animals that live in dens. Having their own secure area comforts them. Providing a crate for your puppy meets the instinctive needs of your pet, assists in housebreaking, and keeps them out of mischief. In general, the relationship between you and your pet will be filled with fewer frustrations and problems.

The crate you purchase should be just large enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around and lay down. Giving your pet too much space destroys the den concept, allowing the option of soiling in half of its crate and still having an unsoiled area in which to rest. A crate big enough to accommodate an adult dog can be partitioned off, increasing available sleeping room as the puppy grows. You can purchase either a plastic airline crate or a wire crate.

Begin training as soon as possible. You will want to introduce your puppy slowly to the crate. For example, coax your puppy in the crate with a treat and close the door. Once the puppy is calm, praise him and let him out of the kennel. Repeat this process, increasing the amount of time spent in the kennel each time. Keep the crate in an area close to the family. Always give your puppy a little treat when he enters the crate and reward with verbal praise as well.

You may put a blanket down and a few safe toys (no bones or plastic vinyl toys) in the crate to make it more comfortable. **Never crate a dog with a collar on.** Do not place food or water in the crate. Never, never, never use the crate as a punishment for any reason...your pup will learn to dislike the crate if you do. Use the crate whenever the pup is not actively under your supervision; this includes bedtime, when you're not home, when household chores prevent you from keeping an eye with him, when you shower, and during mealtime.

Following these guidelines keeps the puppy safe and out of trouble and decreases the possibility of an accident occurring indoors. Many puppies can usually "hold it" through the night when they are 8-10 weeks old. However, you should not expect your pup to wait more than 3-5 hours (less for younger puppies) between outings. If your puppy whines when in the crate, do not reward that behavior by letting the pup out. Instead, try to ignore the behavior. You may place a towel over the crate door to try to quiet the pup.

When you take the puppy out of the crate, immediately take him outside to the potty area. If your pup is potty on the way to the door it is best to carry him from the crate to outside so that there is no chance of an accident occurring. Do this every time, even if the puppy was only in the crate for 15 minutes. Always praise your puppy for going to the bathroom outdoors (verbal praise and treats work well). Only discipline your pup if you catch him in the act of breaking his housebreaking indoors...yelling, hitting, or sticking your pup's nose in the mess after an accident is useless and may actually confuse or frighten your puppy. Remember that most puppies usually eliminate within a few minutes after eating or drinking and again approximately 20-30 minutes later.

Crate Training Continued

Although crate training requires a lot of time and energy, success of housebreaking depends on you. The fewer accidents your puppy has inside, the faster he learns what he is supposed to do (and what not to do) and where. The success of housebreaking is strongly influenced by a consistent approach. Try to be consistent about feeding times, elimination phrases (“go potty”, “go pee-pee”, etc.), elimination places, schedules for going outside, etc. Your kind and consistent training will help your canine friend become a devoted lifetime companion!



A well-trained dog who lives as a member of your family will bring many years of joy!

Frequently Asked Questions about Crate Training:

1. Best type of crate?
Most pet owners prefer the collapsible open wire crate, allows the dog to see everything and allows for good ventilation.
2. What size is best?
Most Labrador Retrievers grow to 45-85 lbs. That fits in the “large” range for most crates. Some males mature bigger and will need an “extra large” so they are comfortable.
3. Where to put the crate?
Put the crate near or as close to a “people” area, such as a kitchen or family room so that the dog feels part of the family.
4. How much kennel time is too much?
The dog crate was never intended for all-day everyday confinement. A dog should be exercised before and after crating and should be given plenty of quality family time. A radio or TV should be left on to provide companionship. A bored, lonely dog is not a happy dog.

Housebreaking 101

By Traci Shreyer, MA

The trick to houstraining is to supervise carefully so that there isn't the opportunity to eliminate in the house; by default, it all occurs outside where you can reward it. It is also important to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to ensure that your puppy doesn't have any underlying medical conditions, like a urinary tract infection.

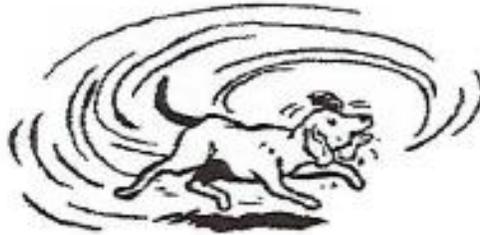
1. Fix feed – Offer your pup discrete meals and be sure to measure the amount, only allow your pup to eat 10 to 15 minutes before removing the food. Do not restrict their water.
2. Strict supervision – keep them with you or in their crates at all times so they don't have the opportunity to eliminate in the house. You can utilize a leash attached to your waist, or a baby gate to help keep your pup in the room with you.
3. Clean accidents with an enzyme odor eliminator – this is a class of products and you can get the best ones from your vet. Be sure you never use anything with ammonia in it (the scent is too close to urine and may encourage your pup to urinate over it).
4. Log accidents – this helps to track your progress and identify and patterns with your accidents so you can correct any “weak links in the chain”. **For example, accidents seem to occur more often in the morning/afternoon/evening or with a particular person or right away after play, etc. Once this pattern is recognized you can take your puppy out right before these accidents would occur.**
5. Your pup will need to eliminate: after eating or drinking, playing or chewing a bone, and sleeping. Be sure to let them out before you confine them for the day or put them to bed. **Puppies can only hold their bladder for the number of months old they are plus one.** For example, a 3 month old puppy will need to go out at least every 4 hours.
6. Create a potty routine – give him a cue like, “let's go out,” then go out the same door, to a specific area of the yard (generally a 10 x 10 area). This helps your puppy to understand that you aren't going out to play etc.
7. Go out with your pup – this is critical so that you know if and what he did so you don't let him back into the house unsupervised with a full bladder. This allows you to reward elimination behavior. Note: if you reward him once he is back inside, you are rewarding him for coming inside, not eliminating outside.
8. **TREATS!** – Offer him great treats that he isn't allowed to have at any other time just as soon as he has eliminated outside. Example: small pieces of cheese, chicken, liver, etc. about the size of a pea. He needs to know that you love it that he went potty outside.
9. **NO punishment** – If you didn't see it you can't scold him, it's too late. If you catch him in the act just quickly get him outside and reward him for finishing. Punishment for houstraining is often counterproductive: typically dogs learn, “don't urinate in front of that guy”, instead of, “don't urinate in the house.” This leads to animals that seem “sneaky” and hide to eliminate making supervision difficult. They may also not feel comfortable eliminating in front of you in the yard so rewarding them will also be difficult.
10. Potty command – you can create a command to stimulate elimination. You can pick any word. Start this by giving the command AFTER you pup begins to eliminate at first, then softly praise so as not to distract him, then the second he's done give the treat and big praise. If your pup hasn't gone after 5 minutes or so don't spend all day in the yard. Come back inside, strictly supervise (ex. Crate them, gate them in a room with you, tether him to you with a leash, or hold him if you have to) then, go back outside in 5 minutes. Set a timer so you won't forget. Keep repeating this process until you know you can bring him back inside “empty”.

Help! My Dog is Chewing Everything!

By Elizabeth S.M. Feltes, DVM

- Chewing is a natural instinct and preventing all of it is an unrealistic goal. Provide puppy with safe, durable toys for chewing, such as a nylon bones or rubber kongs stuffed with treats.
- Reward acceptable chewing on toys with praise or food treats (that are the size of a pea). If you pup nibbles on you hand when giving these, drop the treat on the floor instead of placing it in the mouth.
- Rotate toys to keep puppy interested in them. This can be done by keeping 80% of the toys in a box and rotating a few out each week. **A “new” toy is always more interesting than a toy that has been around for weeks.**
- Prevention is key! Utilizing constant direct supervision or confining your puppy to a safe area is important. If needed, puppy can be ‘umbilical tied’ to you by attaching a 6-foot leash to your body to help with supervision while out of the safe area.
- Avoid giving puppy old shoes, towels, or other items resembling objects that should not be chewed, as puppy may move from old to new objects that look similar.
- **If caught in the act, interrupt the behavior and give the puppy an appropriate chew toy. Praise the puppy for chewing on the correct object. Praising will increase the likelihood that the puppy will choose to chew this object in the future.**
- Remember prevention is key! However, if the pup takes an object dangerous to them, trade with a food treat by showing them the food, obtaining the object, asking them for a command they know (such as ‘sit’) and then tossing the treat away from you. Beware, trading too often will *increase* the amount that this occurs.
- Stay away from punishment as it may cause the puppy to avoid the person doing the punishing rather than stopping the unwanted chewing behavior. **The puppy could also learn to chew on objects only when you are not in the room.** Remember chewing is a natural behavior, especially for young puppies! It’s important to give them a variety of things that are safe for them to chew on.

FLEAS!!



Puppies may acquire fleas from their mother, other animals, or the environment. A puppy infested with fleas will scratch and bite himself frequently. He may develop hair loss or a secondary skin infection due to fleas. As few as 7 fleas on a young puppy can cause anemia and a very sick pup! Additionally, the ingestion of a flea (while biting the skin) can result in tapeworm infection. These parasites may be observed in your pet's haircoat or black specks (flea "dirt" or feces) may be noticed on the skin. While treating fleas is very easy, it is best for your pet to prevent fleas before it becomes a problem. Don't let fleas send your dog in circles!

What products are Available?

Frontline: A once a month topical product that kills fleas, but also has the added benefit of killing ticks (important parasites that can transmit disease to both you and your pet, ex: lymes disease). This product is safe for puppies as young as 10 weeks of age.

Revolution: A once a month topical product that kills fleas within 24 hours. This product is also a heartworm preventative and is effective against several other types of parasites. This product is safe for puppies as young as 6 weeks of age.

Sentinel: Combined heartworm preventative and flea "control". This product will prevent flea eggs from hatching, but does not keep fleas from biting. This product is ideal for pets who stay indoors most of the time or are in a controlled environment. This product is safe for puppies as young as four weeks of age and weighing at least 2 pounds.

RidgeView Puppy Vaccination Schedule

Vaccinations: (includes a full physical examination each visit)

* **DHLPP** protects against:

Distemper – a widespread, often fatal, viral neurologic disease.

Hepatitis – a serious viral infection of the liver and kidneys.

Leptospirosis – a bacterial infection of the kidneys and liver.

Parainfluenza – a highly infectious respiratory virus (“kennel cough”).

Parvovirus – a viral cause of severe vomiting and diarrhea, most serious in pups.

Your puppy will need the first vaccine at approximately 2 months of age and receive additional booster shots every 4 weeks. This vaccine is boosted each year.

1st: _____ (2 months) 2nd: _____ (3 months) 3rd: _____ (4 months)

* **Bordetella**: This disease is a type of bacteria that commonly contributes to bronchitis/trachetis (kennel cough). Your puppy will need two vaccines at approximately 2 and 3 months of age and is boosted each year after that.

1st: _____ (2 months) 2nd: _____ (3 months)

* **Rabies**: This is a fatal viral disease of the central nervous system. Since rabies poses a serious public health threat (transmissible to humans) it is essential that you dog is vaccinated. Your puppy will need one vaccine at 4 months of age and will be good for one year. This vaccine is boosted every 3 years in our state.

1st: _____ (4 months)