

PUPPY FAQ

1. Is it normal for my puppy to be a bit “down” and depressed looking when I bring him/her home?
Yes. It’s a dramatic change for baby, and it will take a few days for him/her to adjust.
2. What do I feed, and how much do I feed to keep my puppy healthy?
We are feeding Royal Canin Medium Puppy. Your puppy is currently eating roughly 1 cup of food, covered with water 3 times a day. 7:00am---1:00---7:00pm. You will want to add water to the top of the food and feed puppy like this.
NOW...as puppy grows, you want to increase his/her food intake accordingly. English Labs are meant to be stocky and robust. You don’t want your puppy getting lean or thin. You want to keep puppy with a nice round, healthy tummy, so he/she has fat to draw from as they grow. Usually, by 16 weeks, you’ll find you’re increasing the daily food intake to 8 or 10 cups a day. Don’t worry!! As puppy levels off, you can decrease the food intake a bit, so they don’t get fat, and increase it again as they have more growth spurts.
A good way to see if puppy is too thin, or too fat, is to feel the ribcage. If you can feel it without pushing in at all, or you can see the ribs....puppy is too thin. If you feel for the ribs, and have to push in more than just a bit....they’re probably too heavy. You can test this simply by feeling the back of your hand...if you can feel the bones easily while hardly pushing...too thin. (for puppy!). If you push in just a bit and can feel the bones then...you should be about right. Compare this to puppy’s ribs.
At 5 months of age, you’ll want to start switching your puppy over to adult food, like Royal Canin Maxi Adult. Take your time doing this, so baby’s tummy doesn’t get upset. We generally take the entire 5th month to change over, and they are completely on adult food at 6 months of age. We change from puppy to adult food at this age to prevent a rapid rate of growth, that can cause pain and potentially affect their joints as an adult.
3. Immunity:
Puppy’s immunity is very poor at this early age. They’ve had their first set of shots, and that’s just not enough to protect them from the viruses and horrors of the world. Parvo is a virus that is transferred in the dog’s stool. It can be left on grass, or dirt and will live there for years. If puppy steps on this area, goes home and licks his foot...PARVO. This virus attacks the GI system, and can kill puppies in 2-3 days time. Our “Rule of Thumb” is that puppy stays on our property until they are 14 weeks, and have had at least 3 sets of shots. We don’t take them for walks, we don’t take them to parks, we don’t take them to 4-H, we don’t let people bring their dogs over, unless we are certain they are well vaccinated and healthy. Puppy will have a series of shots at 8-11-14-17 weeks, and will be ready to hit the world at that point. When we take them to the vet, we never let them on the floor, nor do we let anyone pet them while we’re there. People come to the vet with their sick animals, pet your puppy and away you goⓈ. PLEASE be careful with your little one and protect them.
4. Spay/Neuter:
English Labradors are meant to be stocky, robust dogs. We feel strongly that hormones play a large part in the development of the adult dog.
Therefore, if you spay your bitch prior to her first heat, she’s likely to not develop that robust, square Labrador look that we strive for.
If you neuter your dog prior to 18 months, you don’t allow him to get his testosterone surge, which comes around 12 months of age. It’s this hormone surge that makes the head and body broaden and gives him that stout look the breed calls for.
That’s why it’s our policy to hold off on spaying bitches until after their first heat cycle, and NOT neutering male puppies until they’re 18 months old.
5. Well Puppy Check:

Please schedule an appointment with your vet within 72 hours of bringing him/her home, for a well puppy check. Please give the vet the "Veterinary Note" included in your puppy packet. Your puppy will not need any shots at this appointment. The purpose of this visit, is simply to have your own vet go over baby, to confirm their health status.

6. Please remember that we are here for the life of your puppy! Please Stay in touch and call us/email us should you have any questions. We love pictures and fun family stories!! We also board our puppies when you go on vacation! We would prefer that you bring your dog to us for boarding, rather than putting them in a kennel. We charge \$20/day and they thoroughly enjoy what we call "Camp Harlequin!!" Just be prepared to bring home a dog that is happy and dirty!!