



# YOUR NEW PUPPY



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You are now the proud owner of a very special breed “Dobermann”.

Your life will never be the same again like having a new baby in the house.

So your lifestyle is not too upset there is some work to be done. Puppies grow quickly so there is not much time to get the rules in place. You are the adult the puppy is the child therefore **YOU ARE THE BOSS**. Helping the puppy settle in to its new home will take patience and commitment. How successful he is at adapting will depend on you.

### **THINGS YOU WILL NEED:**

1. A bed and place set up to sleep
2. Food dish and water dish
3. Food, preferable same as breeder has been feeding so as not to upset puppy
4. Pick an area you prefer him to go to toilet and pick a word to say when they go to toilet so you can teach him to go on command
5. A name for your pup
6. Some toys, no need for expensive ones, old soft drink bottles filled with kibble or rice etc
7. Puppy proof the home and yard, puppies love to explore and chew. Check electrical cords, batteries, pesticides and cleaning product out of reach

### **TAKING YOUR PUPPY HOME:**

Your puppy is being separated not only from the environment it has grown to know, but also from its litter mates and mother: therefore, it may take a little time to settle into a new home. I find a warm bed, perhaps with a hot water bottle, soft toy, ticking clock or radio softly in background may help and a few cuddles never go astray.

Young pups, like babies need their rest so don't allow children to play too long or too hard. Introduce gradually to any other animals. Don't allow free run of the house and keep an eye on him as a quiet puppy means trouble.

1. Try to pick up as early as possible.
2. Talk to breeder regarding food and times to feed.
3. You should get an immunization card and notes on care
4. Ask if pup has been fed, if not give a little time in new home before offering food
5. Always remember to leave your details with breeder so they can keep in touch.  
Remember to ring breeder with any problems or questions no matter how trivial.

### **WHEN YOU GET HOME:**

1. Let pup explore new yard under your watchful eye. If he goes to toilet in the proper place praise him.
2. Introduce him slowly to other pets. They may need to be separated from each other the first week or so until they accept the new family member
3. Have rules set out and be sure the whole family knows them and agrees to use them eg. Is the dog allowed inside? Where will he eat and sleep.

4. Supervise your children with the puppy always, this way there can be no accidents

When you first come home , you should think about investing in a crate, the pup will feel secure and the crate can be moved around the house during the day when you are home and can give pup time out from children etc.

**OTHER THINGS TO ORGANISE:**

1. Make an appointment with the vet for next needle and check up
2. Worm pup according to breeders instructions, and ask vet about future treatment
3. Heartworm treatment can be given daily or monthly , be guided by breeder then check with vet as to which suits you
4. Puppy school is a great way to socialize your puppy, between 8 – 16 week and it is a very important way your puppy learns to interact with other dogs, cats and people , again check with vet
5. Desexing is a must
6. Flea control, your breeder and vet will recommend



**A GOOD RULE OF THUMB TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR PUPPY IS: “IF THE PUPPY HAS A GOOD APPETITE, GOOD HEALTHY STOOLS, IS PERKY IN HIS ATTITUDE, IS DRINKING A NORMAL AMOUNT OF WATER, HE IS PROBABLY QUITE HEALTHY. YOU SHOULD ALERT YOUR VET UPON ANY SIGNS OF: EXTREME LOSS OF APPETITE, A STOOL CONTAINING BLOOD/MUCOUS: OR IS VERY RUNNY, IF HE IS LISTLESS AND DOESN’T SEEM TO BE DRINKING ANY WATER: THIS IS NOT HEALTHY.**

**SOCIALIZING:**

To be a good canine citizen and ideal pet, your puppy needs to meet new people, dogs and other animals to give him confidence. Puppy kindergarten is great and you can start this after his final vaccination about 16 weeks. As well as being stimulating for the pup this can be educational for you.

**TEETHING:**

At about 18-22 weeks of age your puppy will begin to shed baby or milk teeth and will go through the horrors of teething. When teething begins, the best thing you can do is give plenty of things to chew. I usually use rawhide chews or large **RAW** bones(disposed of in a day or two). Remember never give the puppy an item like shoes etc, as he will prefer your new ones. Teething is a time when lots of bad habits can be learned. For puppies teething can be very painful and they may develop sore ears and runny eyes until this period is over, please be patient they are only babies. Keep vigilant that they loose all baby teeth as it is fairly common for schnauzer to retain a lot of their baby teeth and it may be necessary to seek Veterinary attention to remove these teeth to prevent an incorrect bit or even worse infections such as gingivitis later in life.Check mouth regularly while teething if you find the second teeth are nearly fully down and baby teeth are still their and not budging seek attention. Check teeth and mouth regularly for tartar build up and do not allow too much build up on teeth as this can cause heart and liver damage if unchecked. The Vet will be able to do if you cannot.

**BITING:**

Puppies use their mouths to explore the world. This can also mean biting/chewing on things such as rugs, furniture and hands. Puppies should NEVER, EVER be allowed to bite you, not even in play. Jump on the behaviour right away. At first it may not hurt and be cute but if you don't stop it first time you will have a problem later. When the pup bites, IMMEDIATELY grab his muzzle, flip him on his back holding him there while you **GROWL, "NO BITE"**.....mother dogs and littermates do the same to each other when one gets out of hand. DO NOT allow him back up on his feet till he stops struggling. If you let him up and he bites again, repeat action. Continue this often and EVERY time pup bites. Direct puppy to an acceptable chew such as a Kong or rope bone. Puppies need to chew but on acceptable objects. Do not play rough with pup and this will develop bad habits such as jumping on you. Do not let him get away with anything as a puppy that you won't let him do when he is older. I urge you to enroll in a basis obedience class. He will not only be better behaved but he will develop a special bond with you and his confidence will soar.

**GROOMING:**

A Dobermann need to be brushed very well at least once a week . Bathing needs to be done about fortnightly for maximum comfort and cleanliness ( more if required). I recommend either a baby shampoo or a good quality fleas shampoo if needed. After bathing blow dry furnishing upwards with the brush to fluff up. I am currently using FIDO's Fre-Itch Rinse Concentrate shampoo which is a pyrethrin based product and has a fast knock down action but only a 3 day residual effect. In summer you can make up a spray bottle and spray bedding, dog and carpet if required for fleas. Remember fleas are the key in your dog having tapeworm so keep fleas down to a minimum for health and comfort. Wash bedding regularly. BEWARE of Hydrobath services as some of these do not clean the bath between dogs and also use the same water for many dogs. In effect, you are exposing your dog to illness and disease. Should you need to use one of these services DEMAND the water is fresh and the bath disinfected before water is added. Check the water yourself to ensure that it is clean. If they refuse your request do the dog in your own tub yourself or you may be off the the Vet with skin problems. It is really important to keep eyes clean and free from hair, check eyes daily. Ears need regular attention, clean and dry often and they need to be plucked free of hair often as build up of hair and wax can cause ear mites. Nails will usually need to be clipped every couple of weeks.

**NAILS:** Nails need to be clipped or filed weekly. Be extremely careful not to cut quick of nail.

**EYES:** Eye "goobers"(mucus build up) is common in dokes and should be wiped out daily. The colour of the discharge should be gray. Yellow or green discharge signals an infection and you should see a vet.

**EARS:** Clean regularly - at least once week. Wipe ears out with a little baby oil and paper towel often.

**SOFT SPOTS:**

Your Dobe may develop callouses on the elbows and hocks - lanoline or Vitamin E cream should be used regularly at these points.

### LEARNING:

A puppy learns fast and most between 3-16 weeks. The pup will have been introduced to different things during the time at home with the breeder but be patient when introducing new things and experiences. Slow and gentle. The Dobermann tends to think in a much more human way than most dogs and his learning capacity is limited only by the patience of the teacher. Requirements are firmness, repetition, patience and most of all kindness.

### TOYS:

Nylabone, Gummabone or some fuzzy toys are fine, but don't allow soft rubber toys that can be torn and swallowed. Some Dobermanns will eat and swallow rawhides, which is dangerous at the worst and messy at least. If you give rawhide make them large. Also Kongs are excellent toys to give pups. But quiet often an empty soft drink bottle and simple things like that are enough to amuse. Be very careful with tennis balls as these can be chewed and swallowed or choke on them.




### FOOD AND CHILDREN:

Children should be taught never to go near the dog and annoy it when the dog is eating or drinking. Children should also be taught never to approach or touch a dog they do not know. They should always ask the owner if they can pat the dog. Teach them to approach the dog from the side speaking to the dog then stroking it under the chin not on top of the head, talking to the dog always.

You should be able to remove food from a dog's mouth while it is eating as this is an important exercise and should be practised so that the dog will not become aggressive or overprotective of food. The dog must trust you in case you need to remove something dangerous out of his reach in a hurry eg, poisonous plant or obstruction. To do this simply lift the dog's head and open its mouth and remove bone or whatever is obstructing wait a few seconds and give the food back and praise for being good. You should, every now and then take the puppy's dish from him while eating for only a few seconds and praise him when he allows this.

### HOUSETRAINING and TOILET TRAINING:

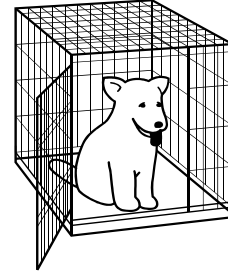
"A rolled up newspaper can be an effective training tool  when used properly. For instance, use the rolled up paper if your dog chew something or has an accident. Take the rolled up newspaper and **HIT YOURSELF OVER THE HEAD** as you repeat the phrase '**I FORGOT TO WATCH MY PUP, I FORGOT TO WATCH MY PUP**'. If your dog laughs at you when you do this, **PRAISE HIM.**

A medium size crate is a great investment for about \$40. Use it for house training, preventing chewing during teething, travelling and for bedtime if you want. Pups usually view the crate as a secure, quiet place. Let pup sleep in it at night and whenever you are gone. Give him a treat when you put him in. Watch the pup he will tell you when it is time.

The pup needs to go outside frequently, first thing in the morning and last thing at night and every time he wakes up, after eating and frequently while playing

At night do not give any water or anything after 8 pm, put the pup outside to go to the toilet, give him about 15 minutes, let him back in and praise him and then give the key phrase for bed eg "*crate, go to bed, kennel*" or anything else.

When you are at home try and take pup out every hour or so. Go outside with him but do not speak until he has gone to the toilet and when he does praise him, pet him and make a big deal out of it. The more times he goes outside, the fewer accidents you will have inside and the quicker he will be housebroken. Unless you catch him in the act, he does not understand punishment - rubbing his nose in it will achieve nothing. Scold him severely if you catch him in the act. Clean any mistakes with vinegar solution. A young pup can usually hold on about 4 hours at most. An accident usually means the pup had too much freedom before he was ready (remember the rolled newspaper - it is for you not the dog!!!!). See more details in **TRAINING THE PUP BEFORE IT TRAINS YOU**.



When a puppy goes to the door, whimper to go out, and you say “in a minute” and take him out 5 minutes later, you will have to clean your accident up off the floor. If the puppy has an accident roll up the newspaper and smack yourself on the head. Next time you may be more vigilant.

#### **CUDDLE NOT CODDLE:**

Reward your pups positive behaviour rather than reinforce bad behaviour by babying it eg, if you pup barks more than a couple of times, tell him sternly **“NO!NO! NO BARKING”** and if needed hold muzzle together for a couple of seconds. If puppy is chewing ( which they do everything when teething), tap on nose and say “NO”. If he acts afraid of a new situation ( no danger involved), gently insist that the pup tolerate or investigate it, reassure him and reward with attention while he is behaving appropriately. Either way, the worst thing to do is pick him up, pet him and try to sweet talk him in to or out of something. Pups interpret this reassurance as approval so you are reinforcing the behaviour you want to discourage. Be matter of fact, there are plenty of other times to play and cuddle. If real discipline is necessary, a really firm tone of voice is usually enough.

#### **WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH:**

Children can be unintentionally cruel to a new pup. Dogs of all varieties will take so much but a dog’s natural instinct if hurt is to growl or possibly bite. Teach children to respect the dog’s space and to understand that the dog feels pain in the same way they do. A dog will generally move away if annoyed and do so a couple of times before it will retaliate. Prevention is better the cure.

#### **EXPRESSING UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR:**

Nothing sounds more serious than a good bash on a wall or your open hand with a rolled up newspaper, these pups are used to that and shy away from it. We use this method to discourage undue noise, brutal play or unacceptable behaviour and should rarely need to make contact with them and then only on the **RUMP**, not the nose as this can actually damage the small bones in the nose. If the dog is barking unnecessarily a water pistol is also another good deterrent.

#### **PLAYING:**

Dobermanns are robust dogs with a great sense of fun and a willingness to play till they drop. Make sure that the play does not become an excuse to bite, all biting even in play should be discouraged.

**TUG GAMES AND CATCH BALLS:**

Be careful with young puppies as they can injure themselves once they are a little older they can cope with the stress on their growing joints, remember they are only babies and you would not allow a 12 month old toddler to be dragged around by the arms or legs.

**CLIMBING AND JUMPING:**

Make sure the puppy does not have the opportunity to jump off walls, stairs and furniture such as lounges as they have soft bones which can easily be bruised and cause serious injury.

**IN THE CAR:**

Most dogs love a drive in the car. PLEASE get a crate for travelling as this can be safely anchored down or a dog brace which can be attached to the seat belt otherwise if you stop suddenly your dog may end up hitting your windscreen or worse, leap in excitement causing an accident if the dog causes the accident you may find your insurance company may not want to know you.

**HOLIDAYS:**

If you are going away make sure your dog is booked into a good Boarding kennel then you know your dog is safe and cared for. Neighbours may mean well but they sometimes forget and there could be problems they do not notice.

Also call me first to see if I am available as I can usually cater for a few extra dogs. They are in the house like my own dogs and my rates are quite a bit lower than a boarding kennel.



**HOUSETRAINING:**

1. Teach "COME" and "SIT" or some command at least twice daily.
2. Feed at approx. the same time daily - no tidbits between meals.
3. Establish only one toilet area. Take the puppy there after eating, drinking water, awakening, excitement of chewing on its toys. Stand with it and praise it highly after urination or defecation.
4. Once the dog begins to seek its toilet place, be sure to distract it from toileting in the house until taken to the place.
5. When an accident is discovered, do not make a fuss, except if the dog notices it - Growl at it, then shoo the dog out to the proper place.

Avoid punishment or social isolation. Do not let the animal see you clean up the mess.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Pick up a puppy with one hand under his chest, the other under the rump, never by the scruff of the neck or squeezing in the middle.

Small children should ALWAYS sit on the floor to hold the pup and only under ADULT SUPERVISION. Pups will remember accidents hurt for a long time.

If you must leave a collar on the dog use a soft leather collar or cat collar, only slip collars for walking.

Puppy Kindy is a must. Ask breeders or Vet for referrals.

**NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** leave the pup or any animal in the car alone. Heat affects dogs much faster than people and heatstroke can occur very quickly. Also classy looking dogs like Dobermanns are tempting to steal from cars. Even be careful at home .

**DISCLAIMER:**

These notes are intended to assist and have not been compiled with Veterinary assistance but are based on years of breeding experience. No liability or responsibility is accepted for use or misuse of the information contained herein.

These notes are designed as a guide for you, based on my experience in breeding and exhibiting our beautiful breed

