



PUPPY PACKET



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Everyday Care

The routine care you give your puppy/dog is the number one way to ensure he/she remains healthy throughout his/her entire life.

Added bonus: They will help prevent unnecessary vet bills.

Nails

Though Ridgebacks are fairly low maintenance dogs, one thing that you must maintain regularly is their NAILS. They need weekly to bi-weekly clippings. For puppies it is important to keep on a regular schedule; their nails are small and soft, so it's often advised to use nail clippers. Be careful not to clip into the quick (if you do, it will bleed, use corn starch or Kwik Stop, which you can buy in pet supply places/catalogs) and dab it on with a Q-tip). For older puppies and adult dogs, we recommend a Dremel as it grinds the nails. It's much faster than clippers and it's easier to avoid hitting the quick. If you are familiar with dremeling nails it is okay to use the grinder on your eight-week-old puppy. These puppies have had their nails dremeled since they were two weeks old, and are used to the vibrations, so I HIGHLY recommend investing in one.

Ears

Check the pup's ears frequently, especially those that spend a lot of time playing outside. Because our breed's ears fold over the ear canal, moisture and debris can be trapped within the ear. Moist ears often attract yeast. Cleaning the ears every few weeks or after swimming is a good idea. Virbac makes a nonirritating cleanser that covers all ear care needs (Epi-Otic Advanced). Please only use cotton balls as Q-tips can cause serious damage to your dog's ears.

Teeth

80% of dogs have some degree of periodontal disease by age 3. Routine dental care and check-ups can greatly reduce this risk. Teeth brushing is a must, as research indicates that oral problems eventually lead to problems in other organs of the dog. Start with your finger and massage the puppy's gums while they are teething and to get them use to regular dental care. Eventually you will need to switch to a dog toothbrush and use ONLY pet toothpaste! Most dogs like the poultry flavored kind, and these items can be purchased anywhere from your local pet store to your vet to online. Brush at least a couple times a week.

Skin

Bathing will depend on your dog's activities but can vary from once to twice a month. The more often you bathe, the more you strip the natural oils from the dog's coat, so do not overdo it. A dog that is not dirty can easily go a month or two without bathing.



Use Non-drying formula shampoos. Stay away from tear-free formulas since they have higher PH-balances. The Higher PH-balance is what makes them tear-free; it's also what makes the skin dry and itchy. Remember to rinse all the way. Shampoo left on the coat will also lead to a dry coat.

Supplements

I am a strong advocate of supplements. I have seen the difference the make in dogs and people. In your contract you will notice with my 2 year guarantee you are required to have your dog on a hip and joint supplement regularly for the first year of his/her life. The amount needs to be AT LEAST 1000mg. You puppy will come with a few different types of supplements that I routinely feed to my own dogs. Joint & Heart, Skin & Allergy, Multi-Vitamin. My two favorites are LICKS pill-free solution and Honest Kitchen, you can buy at ANY PetSmart and even online through their websites. I do not require any specific brand so long as the one you choose meets the required levels of ingredients.

Exercise

Young puppies need plenty of gentle exercise. Allowing your puppy to run freely, as it plays on its own, is the best, as are short walks. DO NOT subject your puppy to strenuous activities (lure coursing, agility, extremely long walks, running next to your bike) and do not jog with your puppy until it is closer to two years old. Their joints and bones are not adequately developed until at least 18-24 months of age.

*For runners, make sure to condition the dog as you would yourself once you begin a jogging routine together. *

Not adhering to this regimen can greatly increase your dog's chances for hip/elbow dysplasia and arthritis later in life.

Do not exercise your puppy heavily BEFORE or AFTER mealtimes, because of the dangers of bloat.



Immunizations & Preventions

Though socialization/training is paramount and should start immediately, be careful where you expose your puppy until he or she has had its first full vaccination series (last rabies is at 4-5 months of age). Places where a lot of wildlife run or dog parks are not a good idea right now, nor is daycare. Puppies' immune systems take time to develop. When taking your young puppy outside please stay close enough to them to make sure they don't get into anything harmful that may be lurking in your yard, even certain mushrooms can be fatal in small quantity. Puppies also LOVE to eat dirt and almost anything off the ground, good time to start training the "leave it" command. Using basic training along with distraction your puppy will catch on very quickly.

Vaccines

Vaccinations are a critical component to preventive care for your puppy. Vaccines protect our pets from numerous disease threats including rabies, distemper, hepatitis, and several others. Some of these diseases can be passed from dogs to people — so they are important in protecting human health as well.

We recommend only giving DHPP, bordetella and rabies vaccines according to Dr. Jene Dodd's recommendations. We do not believe in over vaccination.

Recently, studies have shown that vaccines protect our dogs for longer than previously believed. There have also been improvements in the type of vaccines produced. In addition, there is increased awareness and concern that vaccination is not as harmless a procedure as once thought. These factors have led to a growing number of veterinarians who recommend reduced frequency of vaccinations while at the same time tailoring vaccine recommendations to specific risk situations.

That said, please use caution when choosing to give vaccines such as Leptospirosis. Many dogs have adverse reactions to this vaccine. Dalmatian's should never receive this vaccine as it is known to give them seizures.

Though giving this vaccine may be more necessary in some parts of the country please discuss the risks and possibilities of a reaction with your vet. Also, please be clear about the signs of an allergic reaction. While only about 1% of dogs have a reaction to this vaccine, the reaction itself can range from minor to severe symptoms. If given we recommend waiting to give it until your puppies last Distemper vaccine or later, as reactions are more common in younger puppies.

We also do NOT recommend giving Corona virus vaccine. Corona virus typically only affects puppies younger than 6 weeks old and is extremely rare. Research has shown that the efficacy of the vaccine is questionable and that the risks of this vaccine far outweigh the usefulness.

DHPP: Distemper-Hepatitis-Parvovirus-Parainfluenza at 7 weeks, repeated at 11 weeks, and 14 weeks. This vaccine is repeated 12 months later from the date of the last vaccine in the series. After this booster you should only need to booster every 3 yrs thereafter.



Canine Distemper

- This is a widespread viral disease which carries a high death or mortality rate. The virus is spread through droplet infection from the eyes and nose and from fecal and urine spread. Signs include high fever, nasal and ocular discharge, coughing, pneumonia, diarrhea, vomiting, and neurological symptoms. The disease is easily spread, and exposure is considered inevitable during the dog's lifetime.

Canine Parvovirus

- This is a widespread virus that is spread through the feces in the environment. Puppies with this infection have gastrointestinal symptoms including vomiting, dehydration, loss of appetite, and severe diarrhea with or without blood. Most puppies are hospitalized for treatment and the disease carries a moderate mortality rate. This virus can infect the heart muscle.

Canine Hepatitis

- A viral infection caused by an adenovirus present worldwide. This disease infects the liver, eye, nervous tissue, lungs, and kidney. It is commonly spread through the urine and saliva of dogs. Signs include increased thirst, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, corneal opacity (blue eye), and bleeding tendencies. Most symptoms are those associated with hepatitis. This disease carries a moderate mortality risk.

Canine Parainfluenza

- A highly contagious respiratory virus and is one of the most common pathogens of infectious tracheobronchitis, also known as canine cough. Although the respiratory signs may resemble those of canine influenza, they are unrelated viruses and require different vaccines for protection.

Bordetella should be given at either the 8 week or 11 week visit. It should be boosted every 6 to 12 months depending on how frequent your dog has contact with other dogs.

Canine Bordetella bronchiseptica or Canine Cough

- This respiratory disease is really a combination of Bordetella (a bacteria) and Parainfluenza (a virus) which are usually combined in a vaccine. This is a very common infection that causes mild to severe respiratory symptoms in the puppy. These different organisms work together in the respiratory tract to cause sneezing, gagging, and coughing. The cough can be moderate to severe and is described as a dry "honking" cough, especially if the throat area is touched. The disease can progress into bronchopneumonia. It is very commonly spread through contaminated droplets from the mouth or lungs or by direct contact. The disease is very easily spread in grooming shops, kennels, parks, dog shows, or any place where puppies or dogs are grouped together. The vaccine can be given by injection and/or nasal drops.



Rabies should be done at 16 weeks, separate from other shots. It should be repeated 12 months from the initial shot. Follow your states requirement for rabies. In Florida they get their first shot at 4 months old, a year after that and then it's only required every 3 years.

Rabies

- A fatal viral disease that infects all warm-blooded animals. The virus is spread through saliva from an infected animal which is usually spread through a bite wound or scratch. The nervous system is infected producing behavioral changes, changes in co-ordination, viciousness in dogs, paralysis of the muscles of the jaw, and seizures. Rabies is fatal in all animals and humans. Rabies vaccine is mandated by law and the duration of vaccine is regulated by each state.

Other vaccines to discuss with your veterinarian.

Canine Coronavirus

- A virus causing mild gastroenteritis with symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting. The puppy may also be lethargic and depressed. The spread is through contaminated feces. This disease is much less severe than Parvovirus and is not found in all areas of the country.

Lyme Disease

- This vaccine is very controversial and has to be discussed with your veterinarian. It is beyond the scope of this information sheet to discuss the pros and cons of this vaccination.

Canine Influenza Virus

- Canine influenza is a relatively new disease caused by a "flu" virus. The first virus (H3N8) was thought to be of equine origin when found in Florida. It is highly infectious and spreads rapidly. With initial signs being coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge and fever. Although it has low mortality rates, the morbidity rates are high.

Canine Leptospirosis

- A bacterial infection which is spread through the urine of rodents and other infected wildlife, urine of infected dogs, or contaminated water. It is commonly found in rat urine. The disease infects the liver, kidneys, and intestinal tract causing high fever, kidney damage, jaundice, hemorrhage, pain, and bloody diarrhea. This disease can be transmitted from dog to human. There are multiple strains or serovars of Leptospirosis and not all strains are in certain vaccines. Only your veterinarian can determine if your puppy needs to be vaccinated and which strain of vaccine should be used.

Intestinal parasite exam (fecal) should be done every 6 months to a year. Though giving your monthly preventative, your puppy may very well need to be dewormed at these visits. It is very common for puppies to pick up intestinal parasites.



Heartworm

- Heartworm disease is a severe and even fatal condition caused by a worm that is transmitted by mosquitos. If Heartworms are contracted, your dog must undergo a dangerous and expensive series of injections of a highly toxic chemical to kill the worms.

Otherwise, left untreated, your dog will become very ill and will die. This can easily be prevented by giving your pet a monthly heartworm preventative. For heartworm preventative we recommend that you use Interceptor or Sentinel. Please stay away from Heartgard or Heartgard generics. There are many people that call heartworm preventative "heartgard" for the same reason as we call facial tissues "Kleenex", do not get the two confused. Interceptor is one of the best HWP on the market covering a wider range of intestinal parasites than its slightly less expensive rivals. Novartis, the manufacturer of both Interceptor and Sentinel, guarantee their products only when they are sold by a licensed veterinarian. If your pet becomes infected with heartworms while currently on monthly Novartis branded preventatives they will reimburse you for the cost of treatment. This guarantee does not apply to any products purchased through online pharmacies.

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Puppy Exercise Guide

Out of all the research I have done, vet's I've talked to and just experience, this is the one chart I find the most accurate as a guide to follow. Unlike a lot of breeds, Ridgebacks develop at a very slow pace. It's very uncommon for them to reach maturity until they are at least a year old and even after that many Ridgeback's are not 100% grown, with the proper muscle mass to support their structures until they are around 2 years old. For your puppy's wellbeing, please don't put your dog on a strenuous exercise program or turn them into a running partner until closer to 18 months of age.

This is not my own chart and the credit belongs to Puppy Culture, www.puppyculture.com

	8-12 Weeks	12-16 Weeks	4-6 Months	6-12 Months	12-18 Months	18 Months to 2 years
Sustained and Continuous Walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-200 feet at a time • Break up with sniffing and noodling around • Formal heeling/leash walking training limited to 2 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually increase duration and length of walks - Probably going to be between 100-200 feet by the time the puppy is 16 weeks old. • Let the puppy volunteer to keep going and stop if he shows reluctance to go further. • Keep formal training under 2 minutes per session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually increase duration and length of walks - Probably going to be between 200-400 feet at a time by the time the puppy is 6 months old. • Let the puppy volunteer to keep going and stop if he shows reluctance to go further. • Keep formal training under 2 minutes per session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks on pavement should be kept short, but duration of walks on dirt or turf can be increased and more "hiking" type activities can be introduced. • Again, best to keep do these walks as "sniff and strolls" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft, surface by the time the puppy is a year old IF the puppy volunteers to go that far. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks on pavement should be kept short, but duration of walks on dirt or turf can be increased and more "hiking" type activities can be introduced. • Again, best to keep do these walks as "sniff and strolls" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft, surface by the time the puppy is a year old IF the puppy volunteers to go that far. 	<p>Hikes and walks can be gradually increased to as long and as rigorous as you and your dog both like, but remember that a dog's soft tissue is still maturing through about three years old. Increases should be gradual and you should back off if your dog appears tired or reluctant.</p>
Sniff N Stroll	Informal "sniff and stroll" sessions can be up to about 10-15 minutes.	Can be increased to 15-20 minutes	Can be increased to as much as 45 minutes by the time the puppy is 6 months old, provided you are moving at a very slow pace with lots of opportunity for the puppy to stop and noodle around.	Can be increased to as much as 60 minutes by the time the puppy is 12 months old, provided you are moving at a very slow pace with lots of opportunity for the puppy to stop and noodle around.	OK to do 60 minutes provided you are moving at a very slow pace with lots of opportunity for the puppy to stop and noodle around.	Sniff and strolls can be gradually replaced with more sustained "walks" but remember that sniffing is the primary way dogs relate to the world, so be a sport and continue to give your dog to stop an sniff from time to time.
Noodling and Kibble Trails	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Your dog can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.
Running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No directed running except for very short spurts in play • Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No directed running except for very short spurts in play • Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No directed running except for very short spurts in play • Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No directed running except for very short spurts in play • Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No directed running except for very short spurts in play • Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own 	Running and endurance training can gradually be introduced at this time



Jumping and Impact activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bars on the ground to wrist height No more than one or two obstacles in a row Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but very low Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs Consider carrying puppy if your he needs to do more than one or two stair steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bars on the ground to wrist height No more than one or two obstacles in a row Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but very low Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs Consider carrying puppy if your he needs to do more than one or two stair steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bars on the ground to wrist height No more than one or two obstacles in a row Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but very low Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs Consider carrying puppy if your he needs to do more than one or two stair steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumps can be gradually raised half way to elbow height between 6 and 12 months old, with correspondingly more challenging ramps, wobble boards, and teeters Platform work for rear end awareness can be introduced at this time very carefully and slowly This is also the time when we see the most spiral fractures happen because the puppies have the wherewithal to get up on high couches and beds - be extra vigilant about not letting puppies up on high furniture without very close supervision! Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors Although the puppy may start doing stairs with good traction at this time, you should still supervise and don't let him run down the stairs with other dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumps can be gradually raised half way to elbow height between 6 and 12 months old, with correspondingly more challenging ramps, wobble boards, and teeters Platform work for rear end awareness can be introduced at this time very carefully and slowly This is also the time when we see the most spiral fractures happen because the puppies have the wherewithal to get up on high couches and beds - be extra vigilant about not letting puppies up on high furniture without very close supervision! Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors Although the puppy may start doing stairs with good traction at this time, you should still supervise and don't let him run down the stairs with other dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gradually raise jumps and contact obstacles to full competition height between 18-24 months old Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket Wading and playing on the shoreline Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water Normal puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket Wading and playing on the shoreline Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water Normal puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket Wading and playing on the shoreline Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water Normal puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket Wading and playing on the shoreline Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water Normal puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so. Limit swimming to a few minutes at a time. Very short swim out to retrieves in the water. Keep the toy close to shore. High toy-drive dogs will swim further after a thrown toy than they can or should. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket Wading and playing on the shoreline Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water Normal puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so. Limit swimming to a few minutes at a time. Very short swim out to retrieves in the water. Keep the toy close to shore. High toy-drive dogs will swim further after a thrown toy than they can or should. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition swimming behaviors can be introduced and dog can swim for as long as he volunteers to Life jackets are always a must
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gauge your play style by your dog's common sense. If you throw a ball and your dog tumbles head over heels to get it, don't throw the ball, roll or lob it
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Tugging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you 	You can start to hold the tug toy higher but generally it's best to let the dog tug on the toy rather than you pulling on it
Fast Turns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fast turns or sudden stops No fast weaves or lure coursing We do begin slow shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fast turns or sudden stops No fast weaves or lure coursing We do begin slow shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fast turns or sudden stops No fast weaves or lure coursing We do begin slow shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fast turns or sudden stops No fast weaves or lure coursing We do begin slow shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fast turns or sudden stops No fast weaves or lure coursing We do begin slow shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles 	Full weave pole training and other activities that involve twisting and turning can be introduced.
Free Play With Other Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-15 minutes for formal "play dates," Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults.) Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-15 minutes for formal "play dates," Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults.) Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 20 minutes for formal "play dates," Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults.) Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your puppy's increased body mass can make him more liable to injury if he engages in body-slamming play or a lot of fast sprints and turns. Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play Up to 20 minutes for formal "play dates," Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults.) You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your puppy's increased body mass can make him more liable to injury if he engages in body-slamming play or a lot of fast sprints and turns. Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play Up to 20 minutes for formal "play dates," Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults.) You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps 	Always be vigilant when your dogs are playing and intervene by throwing handfuls of food down if there's a lot of body slamming or the play just gets to crazy.





Training

Teaching your puppy his name

Several times a day, take a few minutes to reinforce your puppy's name. Arm yourself with some treats or toys. A leash is helpful to give you some gentle control over the pup's movements - should he decide that something else is more interesting, you can stop him from wandering off without having to chase him. You are in charge. Use your treats and toys to attract the pup's attention, call its name, and reward it for looking at you.

Next, hold the treat up to your face so the pup has to look up at you when he responds to your calling his name. Repeat this several times and the pup will soon learn that when he looks up at you, he is rewarded.

At the same time as you reward the pup with a food treat, also use verbal praise, tell the pup he is good. As you progress, the sound of your voice will be the reward, the occasional treat merely a bonus.

Experiment with different toys, treats and tones of voice to learn what works best for your pup. Always reward your pup when he responds to his name and he will come to know that that specific sound really is his own name.

Getting the puppy's attention

The only way your puppy will ever learn to respond to your commands is if you can first attract its attention and encourage the pup to home in on YOU. A young pup will generally look at you and prick his ears up when you speak to him. It's vital that you're able to keep this attention in order to proceed with further training. Once your puppy really knows his name, attracting its attention is easy. It's amazing how many adult dogs don't know their names. Their owners wouldn't agree but ask them to call the dog when he is not already paying attention to them and see if he responds. How many times does the owner have to call the dog's name before they are acknowledged?

Puppies respond to almost anything said in a friendly tone, so it is easy to assume that they have recognized the name when it is jumbled up with a whole load of other words. Time spent now on teaching your puppy his name, and practicing attracting his attention is an ideal base for future training.

Crate Training

Dogs are den animals, so they really enjoy having their "own space". Your puppy was introduced to a crate with his littermates already. Because you will encounter the chew stage, do not waste money on expensive bedding at this point. A couple of old towels or blankets will do. I often use inexpensive bathmats. They are absorbent and not slip and have no filling or fluff to chew up and digest. This fluff can cause blockages and can result in possible surgery for your new puppy. If you use a wire crate, cover the top and sides with a large blanket for privacy and darkness. Start by coaxing the puppy into the crate with a treat, when he goes in, give it to him immediately and praise! Start with him inside for a few minutes and let him out, praise! Each time, make the length of time a bit longer, using the same procedure.

Do this a few times the first day. The pup should learn to take its naps here, thus building his security and learning that it's a quiet den just for him/her. If it cries, tap on the crate and tell it "quiet", when it's quiet, give a treat and praise! You can also give a chew bone and put him in his crate to chew; this will reinforce again that the crate is a positive thing for him.

Remember, ridgebacks will do anything for food! Soft music will also help the puppy sleep; we often leave the TV on when we leave the house to give our dogs the sense that someone is home...also keeps them from hearing everything outside and barking.



***Even though you may not need a crate for everyday use, it is important that he be comfortable with the concept. There may be a situation where this is best, such as instance of an injury where the pup must stay still for several days to heal. Long trips on the road are safer for the dog when in a crate. If he goes to the vet for the day, they will crate the pup until they can see him, such as in the case that you must drop off in an emergency and the vet fits your pup into his busy schedule. Crates also help build confidence, as the pup learns to be alone and OK with that. It is an excellent training tool for potty training as well, for times when you cannot watch your puppy for signs that he needs to go out. Dogs do not soil where they will sleep, so your pup will be forced to cry out when it needs to go potty. You take him out, he potties, and you praise like crazy.

Training your puppy to eliminate outside:

Potty training with ridgebacks is pretty simple, since they are highly intelligent and food attentive. Usually, per month of age is the same as the # of hours they can go in between potty runs. If you bring your baby home at 2 months old, then about every 2 hours he will need to go out. There are 3 instances where you should ALWAYS bring the pup out immediately: after he eats, plays hard, or has been sleeping. Have treats ready by the door so you can grab quickly on your way out with the puppy. Place the pup on the grass and when he goes potty, praise him like crazy and give her a treat. When the pup is small, I recommend carrying him outside and placing on the ground where you want him to go potty. After a few times, he will figure out quickly that he gets praised and fed when he goes outside, and nothing when he goes potty inside. Unless you catch the pup in the act inside, do not scold, it's too late. The key to this is watching your pup for signs (circling and sniffing the carpet/floor, or sitting by the door), and praising when he eliminates outside. Ridgebacks will generally do anything for food!!! Your pup should be potty trained in a couple weeks. I do not recommend leaving a young puppy in a crate for numerous hours, as the pup may learn to potty in his crate as a result (because he/she had no choice). Baby gates are often recommended to section off the house for the puppy as well, so you can watch closely and not find surprises around the corner!!

Bite inhibition

Puppies use their mouths quite a bit and must learn not to bite. Very simple, teach them just like their mother does. When the pup bites your fingers for example, let out a piercing shriek and pull your hands away quickly. Then offer your hands again, if he bites again, repeat the shriek and pull away. Offer your hands again, and when he is gently licking or mouthing, praise like crazy!! They learn very quickly.

If this behavior continues simply use your thumb as a tongue depressor and give a correction. This is not cruel but is somewhat unpleasant for the puppy and will get the idea across that the behavior is unacceptable.

Leash breaking

The first step is to get the pup used to wearing a soft/nylon collar. After a few days of this, you can attach a lead and the easiest way to leash break is by walking in a square with the pup, always turning to the right. Halti collars are recommended for this training. As the puppy walks out ahead and gets to the end of the lead, turn right quickly so he has to follow you.

Continue this pattern each time he pulls, walking in a square. The point is for him to learn his boundaries on leash and not pull. Dog Training for Dummies by Volhard discusses this in detail, and I recommend this book highly for all basic training. You want to work on this while your pup is young, because they get big fast!! And pulling will only get worse. Basic obedience classes also work on this, it is important that the puppy learns to walk on lead in public with other dogs around.

Teaching sit

A dog in a sitting position is more relaxed and attentive than one that's bouncing around. The dog can pay attention to you and take his cues as to what to do next from you when he is sitting quietly. You can slip a collar



and lead on, examine him, and groom him easily from a sitting position. The sitting position is ideal for the dog to greet people. A puppy leaping up on visitors is cute, but a 75 lb muddy monster may not be so welcome!

How? With the pup on his lead to stop him wandering off, attract his attention with a toy or treat and slowly raise the reward above his head. The pup's head should follow the treat and as the head comes up the bottom must go down, placing the puppy naturally into a sitting position. At the exact instant that the puppy's bottom touches the ground, give him the food treat and praise him, but DO NOT SAY SIT

Repeat the exercise a few times, until the pup understands what you expect from him. Some pups catch on very quickly, others will take a little longer. Once you're sure that the pup will sit as you raise the hand with the treat, start saying 'SIT' as you give him the treat at the exact moment he assumes the sit position so he can associate the action with the word.

Do not be tempted to use the command before you are confident that the pup understands what you want from him. Remember, at this stage, the pup does not yet know what 'sit' means - it is just a noise.

If you use the word repeatedly while he is jumping around, he will learn to associate the word with what he was doing when you said it. 'Sit' could come to mean leap around and play, not park your bottom on the ground! Dogs understand body language far more readily than they understand our verbal form of communication. In time, you will be able to phase out the hand signal and use the word 'sit' alone, but do not be in too much of a rush to do so.

Get into the habit of giving only one command. If you must keep repeating yourself, you are either not keeping the puppy's attention or he doesn't understand what you want. Go back to the beginning, show him again, and reward him every time he gets it right.

Teaching come when called

Why?

Very young puppies tend to follow their people around, and it is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security that will continue forever! Sooner or later you'll take your puppy for walks somewhere with many interesting distractions and for the safety and sanity of all concerned it helps if you are confident the puppy will come back. Many dogs are never allowed to run free as their owners are afraid, they will not come back when called.

Method Your puppy will be eager to return to you if you make sure that you are the most exciting thing around! This is very easy in the house with no major distractions but can be a little more difficult in the park where there are other dogs to play with, or even at puppy playgroup! Enhancing your puppy appeal may involve treats, toys and your voice.

Remember that your puppy's line of focus is very low to the ground, so don't be afraid to get down to his level - bend or kneel and tap the floor, shake a toy or clap your hands. As with any training exercise, always gain the puppy's attention before issuing any commands. Have his interest focused on you and, once you are sure he is coming towards you call his name and the word 'come'. Lots of praise is needed every time the puppy comes to you, even when you have not called him. If the puppy becomes distracted before he reaches you, back away from him, making lots of exciting noises to attract his attention.

Do not be tempted to go after him - this will turn into a terrific (for the puppy) chasing game and he will probably win!

Always praise the puppy when he comes to you, no matter how long it takes. Have the pup come close enough to you that you can touch his collar (this will be helpful in the future when you need him to come back and have his lead put on), and offer the food reward as you do so.



Especially while your puppy is young, he will probably stay close to you on walks and will return to you regularly for reassurance. Take advantage of this and encourage him to turn this into a habit for life. Whenever you see your pup coming towards you of his own free will, call his name and 'come' and reward him with praise, and a game or food treat when he reaches you. Let him go away again, saying 'good boy, go play' or similar, to continue the game - it's no fun coming back if you just get put straight on the lead every time

Key points for successful training

- Training should be fun for both of you -incorporate training exercises into games the pup enjoys
- Keep the play/training sessions short but frequent and varied
- Before a meal is better than after, no-one works well on a full stomach, puppies included
- Remember to allow for treats used in training when planning your puppy's diet. They are not extras but part of his daily ration (pieces of dry complete puppy food make ideal training treats)
- Be consistent, make a list of words you wish to use and make sure everyone dealing with the pup knows them.
- Make sure everyone understands the method of training and follows it.
- Make a list below of the words and hand signals you will use when training your pup
- Action
- Command
- Hand signal

For example:

Watch! -use puppy's name holding hand with treat up to face

Sit - use name plus sit with hand in front of nose, raise hand vertically

REMEMBER MOST OF ALL END ON A GOOD NOTE AND HAVE FUN!

Training - collars/leads:

Use caution when placing a collar on your pet as collars can easily become choking hazards. When in the crate, he could get hung up as well, or if he gets it off of himself, decide to chew it. It is always a good idea to have a collar on your pet whenever you go anywhere with him. We use name/tag collars when we travel only in case something was to happen our dogs could be easily identified. Other than that, they have a training collar on for walking and training purposes. I recommend a training/no slip collar, to teach the dog to walk without pulling. While chokers can be used effectively, be aware that chain collars can damage the throat when used harshly/incorrectly. Once the puppy is trained to heel and not pull, you should be able to change to a nylon collar with ease. However, you should use whatever collar makes you feel like you have the most control. Picking out what works best for you and your dog is key! It is helpful to get into a class early on while the dog is small and teaching your dog to heel and listen to you effectively, no matter what collar you choose. Your best control of the collar is pulled directly under the jawbone, up behind the ears (the head is the steering wheel of the dog).

Smaller grade chains are best for this, as thicker chains do not fit into this pressure area. I do not recommend a harness as RR's seem to learn really quick how to pull on these. And please NO flexi leads, unless you are using it for potty purposes only. They are terrible for leash training.

Your pup's #1 enemy: the automobile:

Please be aware that this is a sighthound with a strong prey drive. Ridgebacks were used to hunt originally because of their agility/intelligence/efficient movement and speed, and this is also why they are excellent lure coursers. Though they are highly trainable and obedient, when the "chase" begins, you will probably lose control to some degree. We recommend ridgebacks played in a safe, confined area (fenced for example), or are on leash when taken out to parks, trails, etc. Many ball parks are securely fenced as well. The #1 killer of our breed is not disease or cancer, it is the car. So please be very careful!



Dog Food 101

Feeding a Ridgeback Puppy

In all good puppy foods, the first ingredient should be a specific meat (chicken, salmon, beef, etc), not the word meat. Some choices will include chicken, beef or lamb. Try to stay away from dog foods that contain corn or soybeans. Rice and barley are normally more digestible. Next look at the protein % and the fat %. In a large breed puppy food, you should look for a product in the mid to high 20's for protein, and the mid to high teens for fat. Your puppy should be eating twice a day already. If you notice your puppy is a little too skinny or is dry heaving/ throwing up bile, then please add a small midday meal if possible. Ridgebacks will do this if their stomach is empty. For the average puppy is it NOT recommended to only feed wet food unless there is a specific reason for it (i.e., the vet said so).

Also, make sure your puppy is chewing his food. It not only will clean his teeth but also, eating slower won't allow for him to swallow as much air. He will have less gas this way and will have to strain some to poo and will therefore expel his anal glands on his own. I add water to my dog's food to help slow them down and ensure they are drinking enough.

Be sure to feed your puppy somewhere quiet and out of the way where he can eat slowly and without being disturbed. NEVER feed your puppy from the table or counter as this develops bad habits. Also, most human food is bad for dogs. If your puppy doesn't eat all his food in 15 minutes, pick up what is left, feed this to him at the next meal. Lower the amount you are feeding per meal. Allowing your puppy to eat and drink all day will just encourage him/her to have to potty all day long too. I recommend not feeding your puppy after 7:00 pm so hopefully he/she will sleep all the night. As your puppy ages, you will need to increase the amount of food you give at each feeding.

Adult Dog Food

I recommend that you switch your puppy from Puppy to Dog food at about 5-6 months of age. Adult dog food has a lower fat %. This will help your dog grow slowly and correctly. Always mix the old and new foods for a few days when you switch to help keep the digestive tract from becoming alarmed.

Choose an ADULT dog food using the same basic criteria as the puppy chow:

1. First ingredient should be a specific meat (chicken, salmon, beef, etc), not the word meat. Some choices will include chicken, beef. My lines generally do not handle lamb very well. It is very rich for them.
2. Protein % should be in the mid to high 20's (same as puppy)
3. Fat % should be in the mid to low 10's (much lower than puppy)

Do NOT allow your dog to get fat!! It is hard on your dog's bones and joints.



AGAIN, I recommend a GOOD quality dog food!!! The price may be a little higher per bag, but you will feed much less, and your dog will be much healthier. Remember to look for the above criteria on the back of the bag as almost all pet foods have different levels of quality!!!! Remember to buy Quality not a NAME!

Contact me anytime with questions or concerns!!!! Always consult your veterinarian.

Your puppy is currently on Royal Canine Large Breed Puppy. You will be given a small bag just in case you can't find/ don't want to feed this product. It is enough so you can slowly change them over as they will be making big changes in their life adjusting to your family already. The key to feeding is, if you find something and your dog is doing well with it and you are satisfied with the results then feed it. My adult dogs are fed either Wholesome Sportsmix Fish and Rick or Royal Canin Large Breed Adult food alternating throughout the year.

Recommended Chews

Ridgebacks develop strong jaws and love to chew. They have the ability to destroy/break down certain chews very quickly.

Research indicates that bulk rawhide, the soft knots for example, are not digestible and must often be removed SURGICALLY from a dog's stomach. Beef soup bones, available at your grocer in the frozen section, are a cheap, and is a good choice as natural bone is digestible and adds calcium to their diet. Whatever you choose, read labels carefully and check to see if they are digestible, and monitor your dog to some extent so he/she does not get into trouble. Providing ample chew toys and such will save your furniture and shoes! In any event, you should always be with your dog while he chews, in case he starts to choke. Rule of thumb, once a bone is small enough to fit into his mouth, it's time to throw away and get a new one. Kong toys are also good alternatives to natural chews.

Please be cautious even when using these or any bones as it is possible for your dog to break a tooth when chewing them. If you suspect your dog has broken a tooth, please contact your veterinarian immediately and make an appointment.



Early Spaying & Neutering

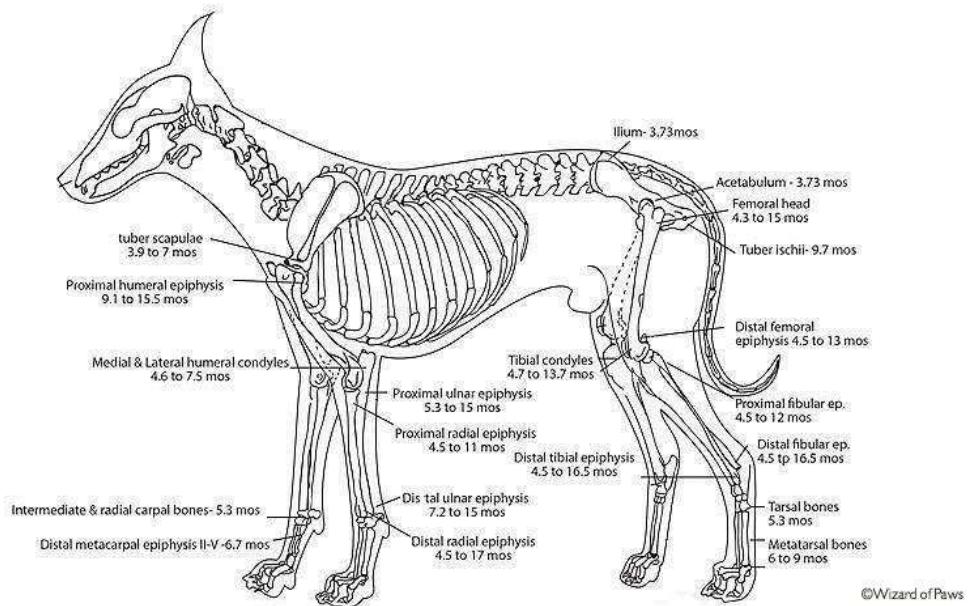
There has been a big debate over the past 20 years on spaying and neutering. Depending on the paper you read or who you talk to you will get a million different reasons on why you should or shouldn't "fix" your dog. My stance isn't to pursue you one way or the other. It's to protect my dogs and lines. Because of there in every pet home contract, there is a section on spaying & neutering. After research and discussions with many vets, along with knowing what most pet owners do and don't want to deal with, we have come up with timeline when you are required to spay/neuter your puppy from us. This is between 12-18 months of age. If an owner wishes to wait longer I will almost always agree to a point, however on the opposite side I will almost never agree to alter my contract's health guarantee because someone wants to spay/neuter earlier than agreed on in the sales contract. Here are my reasons why.

Do Your Own Research

There are hundreds of journals and studies on this topic. This letter below is from a well-known and respected veterinarian regarding altering your animals.

In order to be considered a "responsible" breeder I am required to ensure the people buying puppies aren't allowing for mistakes to happen by having unaltered pets. Because of this, my contract is the happy medium I have found in ensuring my puppies stay healthy their whole life without inconveniencing the people bringing them into their homes. The hope is they have grown and developed enough to be well rounded and mature dogs before removing all of their hormones or giving them an opportunity to breed with the neighbor's dog. Rhodesian Ridgebacks do not go into heat the first time until they are 13 to 20 months old. Males do not even come close to filling out until they are at least 24 months old.

CANINE GROWTH PLATE CLOSURE - AVERAGE TIME

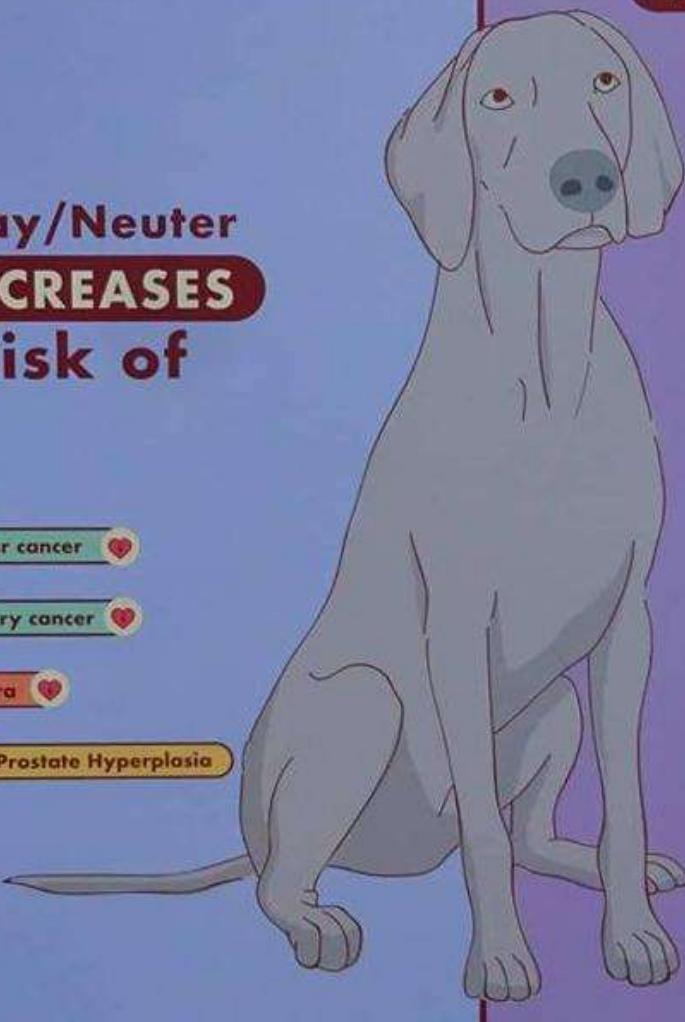




WHAT SPAYING / NEUTERING Does to Your Dog's Health

**Spay/Neuter
DECREASES
Risk of**

- Testicular cancer
- Mammary cancer
- Pyometra
- Benign Prostate Hyperplasia



**Spay/Neuter
INCREASES
Risk of**

- Mast cell tumors
- Cancerous heart tumors
- Cancerous spleen tumors
- Prostate cancer
- Bone cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Lymphoma
- Hip dysplasia
- Cruciate ligament tear
- Hormonally mediated bladder infection
- "Spay" incontinence
- Immature vulva chronic bladder infection
- Hypothyroidism
- Diabetes
- Adverse reactions to vaccines
- Obesity
- Unmanageable coat

Legend

- cancers
- orthopedic issues
- female urinary & reproductive issues
- endocrine and immune disorders

Life threatening



New Research That Raises Questions About Current Neutering Recommendations

Nancy Kay, DVM

Results from a hot-off-the-press study published by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, raise questions about traditional neutering recommendations within the United States where most veterinarians advise that dogs be neutered at a young age in order to induce sterility and eliminate behavioral issues before they have a chance to begin. This new information along with data from other recent studies are a prompt for all of us to reconsider current neutering dogma.

The title of the newest study is, “Evaluation of the risk and age of onset of cancer and behavioral disorders in gonadectomized Vizslas.” The word “gonadectomized” is medical jargon for “neutered”. The research included 2,505 dogs and was supported by the Vizsla Club of America Welfare Foundation.

Effect of neutering on the incidence of cancer

Here is what the researchers learned about the prevalence of cancer as it relates to neutering:

Mast cell cancer: 3.5 times higher incidence in neutered male and female dogs, independent of age at the time of neutering.

Hemangiosarcoma: 9.0 times higher incidence in neutered females compared to nonneutered females, independent of age at the time spaying was performed. No difference in incidence of this disease was found for neutered versus nonneutered males.

Lymphoma (lymphosarcoma): 4.3 times higher incidence in neutered male and female dogs, independent of age at the time of neutering.

Other types of cancer: 5.0 times higher incidence in neutered male and female dogs. The younger a dog was at the time of neutering the younger the age of the dog at the time the cancer was diagnosed.

All cancers combined: 6.5 times higher incidence of cancer in neutered females compared to nonneutered females; 3.6 times higher incidence of cancer in neutered males compared to nonneutered males.

Effect of neutering on the incidence of behavioral issues

The research documented that dogs neutered at or before 6 months of age were at greater risk for developing a variety of behavioral issues including: separation anxiety, fear of noises, fear of gunfire, timidity, excitability, submissive urination, aggression, hyperactivity, and fear biting. Neutering after 6 months of age did not create increased risk. Fear of storms was the behavioral exception. Regardless of age at the time of neutering, neutered Vizslas were at greater risk for developing fear of storms than their nonneutered cohorts.

What does all this mean?



Interesting stuff, eh? From my perspective, I think this is a good wakeup call for anyone still clinging to the notion that all dogs not used for breeding purposes should be neutered at a young age. The recent studies that challenge traditional neutering recommendations seemingly raise more questions than they answer. All have studied large breed dogs (Rottweilers, Golden Retrievers, and now Vizslas). Do these results translate to small and medium sized dog breeds as well? Would similar studies within every breed produce differing results? Should males and females be spayed at a different ages? Are the effects of neutering on behavior breed-specific?

Clearly, there is much more research to be done before determining exactly how current neutering recommendations should be altered (pun intended). For now, what makes the most sense is one-on-one discussion between family veterinarians and their clients to determine how factors such as current knowledge about the effects of neutering, intended use of the dog, breed, temperament, and the way in which the dog will be housed and cared for influence the decision of whether or not to neuter and, if so, at what age.

Would recent research results influence your decision of whether or not to neuter your dog?

Best wishes,

Nancy Kay, DVM

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

Author of Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life

Author of Your Dog's Best Health: A Dozen Reasonable Things to Expect From Your Vet

Recipient, Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award

Recipient, American Animal Hospital Association Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award

Recipient, Dog Writers Association of America Award for Best Blog

Recipient, Eukanuba Canine Health Award

Recipient, AKC Club Publication Excellence Award



Litter Letter From Mom

Dear New On The Rocks Family Member,

Thank you for giving my puppy a chance to work their way into your heart. I know you are going to LOVE being owned by a Ridge-back. Part of my job as their mother is to make sure your experience is as wonderful and memorable as possible.

There are many things that you need to do to get ready for one of my puppies. Included with this letter you will find lots of "important paperwork." I know, not fun, but trust me the packages get better the closer the time comes to bring your new puppy home.

When you come to pick up your puppy, you will be given a bunch of items in the form of your puppy "survivor kit"

The items in this kit will include:

- A small bag of your puppies current food. Your puppy is currently on "**Royal Canin Large Breed Puppy**". You can find this food online as well as most pet stores.
- A roll of paper towels
- A roll of poop scoop bags
- A couple toys.
- A small bag of treats
- A signed copy of the sales contract
- Puppy Aptitude Test results
- AKC registration paperwork – I need to know who you wanted listed as the owner and what registered name you would like
- 30 days of complimentary health insurance through Trupanion
- Microchip information
- A updated/current health record
- A small blanket with the scent puppy's siblings.
- The collar and leash for your puppy to grow out of!

I hope you enjoy receiving your fun gifts. Your puppy means the world to me and I hope you love and cherish him/her as much as all of us at "On The Rocks" has. The next part of this letter is all about the items you'll need to get to prepare for the big day. It also gives you a rough idea how much this stuff will cost you and a good time to buy this to spread out the cost over the next few weeks.

There are so many things you are going to need; I hope you appreciate the help Jessica has given you so far. There are many different products out there when it comes to purchasing things like collars, leashes, crates, dog food, vitamins, etc. Thru trial and error, I've tried many of them (and destroyed some), and have came up with a list of what I feel are worthy enough for my puppies (not to mention cheaper on your pocketbook in the long run). The items with the asterisk are the must haves, while the others are simply things that will make yourself much happier and your puppy healthier.



Growing up my mom tried anything and everything with me, trying to find that one supplement that worked the best. We've found that using **LICKS® pill-free solutions® Joint & Heart** and **Multi-Vitamin** formulas have proven to give me the best results. You can get this through Amazon, the company directly or even some Costco stores.

Now, I'm not going to talk about food right now, however please read the enclosed information on choosing a quality food in case you want to switch your puppy, once he/she has adjusted to your house and routine.

Below is a list of items I've tried and found to be good products for Ridgebacks. You can buy these at any pet specialty store. Although Wal-Mart and Target have cheap toys, I do NOT recommend wasting your money on their products. They are NOT the best quality and fall apart very quickly.

The prices below are the average price you can expect to pay at a retail pet store. Many of these toys you will be able to find cheaper online.

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
Crate*	\$99.99-\$214.99 (depending on size/quality)
Ceramic or Stainless Steel Bowls*	\$9.99-\$17.99
3/4" or 1" Lupine collar*	\$9.99
3/4" or 1" 4 or 6 foot long Lupine Leash*	\$11.99
Large Size Kong	\$12.99
Kong Wild Knot	\$10.99-\$18.99
Nature's Miracle	\$9.99
Bitter Apple Spray	\$8.99
Frozen Soup Bones	\$5.99
Bully Sticks or Pizzle Sticks	\$9.99-\$32.99 (depending on quantity)
Barkbox	\$30.00 month

Information on each of these products is included below.

Crate ~ A crate is the SINGLE most important item you can buy for your puppy. It will become your puppy's bedroom, playpen and safe haven, all in one. Scared dogs like to go in enclosed dark places as it makes us feel secure. We also like to have our own space that kids (2 legged) are NOT allowed to go, where we can sleep and have our quiet time. Also, I have heard my mom tell many people that it's like a playpen (whatever that is) and when you can't keep 100% of your attention on your puppy, protects him/her from getting into trouble or IN trouble. I can tell you my best friend, won't sleep at night unless she is in her crate or in the bed and most nights we aren't allowed on the bed. But she loves that crate. Plus, she hides her toys in there and I have learned that I'm not allowed in her space, just as she's not allowed in mine. To save money, I recommend buying the size crate your puppy is going to need as an adult. Most of the time the 42" crate will work, but my mom uses the 48" crate. They should all come with a center divider you can move as your puppy gets older. Remember to make it so your puppy has just enough room to stand up, turn around and lay down in. If you forget, don't be surprised to find an accident in the crate. If you need help or more advice in crate training, please let my mom know so she can help you. She's a pro at this.



Ceramic or Stainless Steel Bowls ~ It is very important you do NOT buy plastic bowls. They are easily destroyed and trap lots of bacteria in the scratches. Also, I do not have plastic allergies, but I have seen dogs that do. It is fairly common. Using plastic bowls can cause doggie acne which would be equivalent to razor burn for a person. I recommend investing in 2 large stainless steel bowls (or if you like prefer something thicker and heavier, ceramic bowls). I personally get





fed out of a large stainless steel bowl by Caipirinha has a ceramic bowl that she eats out of..

3/4" or 1" Lupine Martingale and 4-6' leash ~ Try really hard to find the brand Lupine. My mom does sell this buy special order only.

This is THE best brand I've found. They come in many different colors and patterns and are always coming out with new designs. That is my mom's problem. She buys me way TOO many collars and leashes. It's a good thing I like walks. The best part about Lupine products is if your puppy decides to chew up, break or destroy the collar or leash you get to replace it for FREE. They have two types of collars; the buckle collar and my personal favorite the martingale collar. It's a great training collar. It reminds me to slow down and wait for my mom but doesn't choke or pinch me when I forget... Just gives me a gentle reminder. They have great matching leads, however I know Jessica uses a 12" training handle... It's okay though if you don't buy this right away as it's going to be a few months before this they will be big enough for this.



Large Kong ~ Once your puppy grows out of the Puppy Kong we've included, you should look into getting a larger one. Look at the different options, 'cause they have different strengths of Kong toys depending on how much your puppy likes to chew.



One great thing to do is fill the Kong with creamy peanut butter and freeze it... Then when you need to go somewhere give it to your puppy in the crate so they have something yummy to chew and lick while you are gone. Don't tell my mom, but I used to LOVE it when she'd leave. It meant I got that yummy snack.

Kong Wild Knots ~ This is my favorite thing to sleep with. Instead of being filled with a bunch of stuffing it has knotted ropes inside, which make it MUCH more durable. It's super soft and I love to cuddle with. Out of all my stuffed animals it's, probably a favorite!!! It's great for my puppies, too as it helps soothe their gums while teething!



Nature's Miracle ~ This is a MUST have to at least have on hand with a young puppy in the house! This product will eliminate residual urine smells on your floor if your puppy has an accident. Even if you clean the floor with Clorox, your puppy will still be able to smell the urine traces, which only encourages him/her to potty there again. I heard an expert tell me mom that this product breaks down the enzymes in the urine, destroying the smell and leaving your house smelling really nice!



Bitter Apple Spray ~ This is another must have for any puppy or dog that likes to chew. Spray this on anything the puppy is determined on destroying and after your puppy tastes this will make them get a funny look to their face. From first hand experience I can tell you it's disgusting. I never chewed that table ever again. YUCK!!! Just thinking of it brings back that taste. Make sure when you notice your puppy wants to chew on something you have something nearby that he/she IS allowed to chew on as your puppy will be teething.



Frozen Soup Bones ~ This is a great treat for dogs. Here are some things my mom always does to make sure I'm safe. First she makes sure there isn't a lot of that good looking fat and meat on it. Although it looks good, it can really upset a dog's stomach. She buys ours from Publix. Make sure you don't get bones too small, as you don't want my puppy to choke. My mom always makes me eat these in my crate or outside because of germs, whatever those are. Either way, I know I don't have to worry about little kids trying to take them as my mom has done a great job teaching them those places are OFF LIMITS.



Bully Sticks & Pizzle Sticks ~ These are my ALL TIME favorite treat. Too bad they don't last long. I have become a pro at chewing these up. It did take me a while though before that happened and they are GREAT and mess free for puppies.



Now, here are some things Jessica told me to pass on. I don't agree 'cause I feel tearing these apart are fun, but I have to do what she says. Don't buy those great big comfy wonderful to lay on beds and put it in the crate. Your puppy will most likely tear at least one apart. Well they will probably tear more than one apart if you give them the opportunity. She recommends using old blankets, towels, etc until your puppy stops teething and chewing. Another thing I find in my crate is comforters. She always comes



back with a giant bag of these things. This can last up until they are 2 years old, BUT after that, buy as many fluffy beds as you can find. I LOVE mine and can't imagine sleeping without one. I think I heard Jessica say that she gets them at Goodwill, whatever that is. She was telling a friend once they are cheaper and really easy to wash. Also, don't buy cheap toe nail clippers, they hurt. I recommend a Dremel or a nice quality pair of toe nail clippers. Again, Jessica can help you out there if you need it.

As time goes by, I get to experience new and fun things that my mom adds to the list. One of those is thing that the mailman brings me not nearly enough. I mean would you want a box full out treats and toys to only come once a month? I don't dare tell her that it's not enough otherwise I know she's stop getting them all together. It's called a Barkbox and is a monthly subscription. My mom can get you your first month for almost nothing. Every month is themed, like America, Wild West, 50's throwback, etc.

Also, if there is something you use that really works for you, PLEASE tell my mom, 'cause I know her and she'll try it. I love it when I get to try new things.

Again thank you for making your "On The Rocks" puppy apart of your life. I hope you and your new puppy will have many long years together. Also, please remember my mom, Jessica is wonderful at helping people and answering questions, so if you need any help at all, please feel free to call or email her.

With Love,



Zoloto Alekса Espresso Amarula
"Amarula"





Contract Sample

Purchase & Sales Agreement

The following agreement is between Jessica Bowers, hereafter referred to as "Breeder" and _____, hereafter referred to as "Buyer" for the sale and purchase of one purebred dog.

Name: _____ AKC # HP Microchip# _____

Color: Red Wheaten Liver Nose Sex: Male

whelped on August 4, 2019 by

Sire : _____ AKC# _____
Dam : _____ AKC# _____

Will become the sole property of the Buyer in flesh as well as title upon the fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Full Sales Price \$2000.00 paid in full

Remaining balance \$2000.00 paid on
Shipping Cost n/a

Total Paid In Full

Seller will accept cash (US dollars), Money Order or Certified Bank Check only! PayPal will be accepted however all fees will be paid by buyer AND all funds must be released before puppy leaves!

Transportation costs, if any, will be paid by the Buyer. Transportation costs must be prepaid before shipping. (Airline charges, kennel, etc) This puppy will be flown on Delta Airlines or United PetSafe via Cargo (in a pressurized cabin).

It is further agreed by both parties that:

A. Use of the Dog

It is agreed between Breeder and Buyer that this dog is being acquired as a family companion dog or for a working dog to be used for tasks appropriate to its breed such as therapy dog or for exhibition in AKC conformation, obedience, or agility competition. Buyer agrees that the dog is not purchased for resale nor will it be used or trained for activities which are illegal or for which it is not suited by reason of temperament or conformation. Specifically it will not be used as a guard or attack dog. The Buyer agrees that he/she will not sell, transfer ownership or possession of the puppy or any of his/her progeny to any person or organization whose intent it is to resell (pet store), trade, or give away the dog, or use it in any experiments, laboratory or otherwise or to use it as breeding stock for a puppy mill.

It shall be understood that although this puppy is has no faults which deems this puppy could be show quality however, she/he will be going into a pet/companion home therefore will come with AKC limited registration papers and will NOT be bred. If buyer later decides to pursue full registration of said dog, a minimum of hips, elbows, cardiac and thyroid must be completed before papers will be changed.

This Rhodesian Ridgeback MUST be altered (spayed/neutered).

I/We agree that this puppy will be spayed/neutered between 12 to18 months of age. (Please initial) _____

Proof of spay/neuter must be sent to breeder in the form of a copy of the spay/neuter certificate issued and signed by Buyer's Veterinarian upon request.



The health and welfare of our puppies and dogs and the continued good reputation of "On The Rocks RR" are of utmost importance. In the event of any breach of this contract, buyer agrees to pay the sum of \$10,000 as liquidated damages to "On The Rocks RR" for each breach of this contract, plus all reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by On The Rocks & Jessica Bowers to recover such damages.

C. Health:

The breeder warrants the dog has been examined by a veterinarian and to be in excellent health and free from parasites at the time of drop off/pick up. It is the Buyers responsibility to prevent illness and injury by providing necessary booster vaccinations, veterinary care, nutrition, fresh water, shelter and supervision.

It is recommended by the Breeder that the Buyer take the puppy to a Veterinarian of his/her choice and gives **3 days** in which to do so. If, within the first seven days, a veterinarian finds the puppy to be unsound, unhealthy, or possessing a serious genetic defect, a statement in writing must be provided by that veterinarian documenting said condition for the Breeders' veterinarian to review. Upon confirmation from Breeders' vet of said condition, Buyer may return the puppy to the Breeder and receive a full refund of the purchase price. All precautions have been made to ensure that this puppy is in excellent health at the time of purchase including a vaccination at 8 weeks of age (including deworming) A final health check has been made by Breeder's veterinarian and a health certificate is included in your new puppy packet. It is recommended that additional vaccinations be given at 11 and 14 weeks.

Additional Health Guarantee:

This puppy is guaranteed from the breeder until the age of 27 months old against any serious genetic health problem. If a puppy is thought to have a genetic defect regarding it's hips, hip X-rays must be taken per OFA recommendations and submitted to The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Copies of OFA findings must be submitted to the seller & breeder.

Defects must be proven to be genetic and not caused by environmental factors or mishandling by the buyer, including an overfeeding and overweight, strenuous exercise before 14 months old, etc.. Any other serious genetic problem needs to be diagnosed by the Buyers' veterinarian and reports sent to the Seller/Breeder. The Breeder will present the veterinarian reports to her veterinarian for review to confirm whether the defect is genetic in nature.

If puppy does not pass OFA for hip certification, or has a confirmed genetic defect, Buyer must show proof that puppy is spayed or neutered via a vet certificate (Buyer keeps his/her dog) and may either keep said dog or return dog back to seller. If the said dog is bred all health guarantees are void.

C. Registration:

The Breeder certifies that the dog is registered with the American Kennel Club and as a purebred Rhodesian Ridgeback. Registration of said dog will be AKC's "Limited Registration." This dog can compete in all breeder appropriate AKC events EXCEPT for conformation showing. Because the seller has not yet received the puppies individual registration application form from today's date it is agreed the seller/breeder will mail the registration paperwork within 60 days from today's date.

Buyer agrees they will use the kennel name "On The Rocks" or "OnTheRocks" somewhere in the registered name of the puppy when exhibiting AND registering the puppy. Buyer agrees that, this puppy will be registered (or recorded) with the American Kennel Club (AKC) by the time the puppy is six months old.

D. Ownership Responsibilities:

The Buyer agrees to maintain the dog in a humane environment and properly train and care for it. Specifically the dog will be properly licensed and inoculated against rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and other communicable diseases as recommended by a qualified veterinarian.

The dog will not be allowed to roam and will be socialized and obedience trained appropriately.

The Buyer further agrees that the puppy's weight will be under strict supervision. It is far better to have the dog slightly underweight than overweight, because excess weight contributes to structural breakdown of the dog. Buyer also



agrees nothing will be given to the dog that would encourage rapid growth; including steroids.

E. Right of Recovery/Placement

In the event that the Buyers are unable to keep the dog or provide an appropriate home in accordance with this agreement, the dog with its registration papers will not be transferred to any person or organization other than the Breeder, whether by sale, gift, loan, or otherwise unless agreed to by the breeder, in writing. Buyers agree to notify the Seller if any such contingency arises and will not abandon the dog to a shelter or sell or give the dog away. If the dog is found to have been sold or given away without the breeder's knowledge and said breeder discovers this, Breeder will take legal action and original Buyer of the dog will be responsible for all legal expenses incurred. The Breeder wishes to ensure that this dog is always in a place where he/she will be properly cared for.

Should the purchasers decide to not keep the puppy, for other than health reasons, they have a seven day grace period to return and still receive a partial refund. The refund is 25% of the cost of the puppy as long as the puppy healthy. The buyer will not receive reimbursement for transportation expenses and must pay all transportation costs acquired with the return to the breeder.

Buyer agrees that he/she has read and understands the terms and conditions of this contract fully. This contract is under the jurisdiction of the state of Florida, in the county of Manatee. It is agreed the place of venue shall be in Bradenton, FL. Any breach of this contract could be detrimental to the name and reputation of the breeder/seller and the breeder/seller will be entitled to 4 times the purchase price of the puppy including but not limited to attorney's fees, court cost, any and all expenses acquired and (or) the puppy back. All other states and counties are asked to please accept this contract as legally binding and enforceable.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

In no event will Seller be liable for any incidental or consequential damages including, without limitations, loss of profit and claims of third parties, however caused. All questions concerning the validity, operation, interpretation and construction of this Agreement shall be governed by and determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. In the event that any one or more provisions contained in this Agreement should, for any reason, be held to be unenforceable in any respect under the laws of any state or of the United States, unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement, but this Agreement shall be construed as if such unenforceable provisions had not been contained herein.

This contract is designed to protect the Rhodesian Ridgeback, its lineage, the Seller and the Buyer of said Ridgeback. By signing, all parties agree to all clauses of this contract.

SELLER: _____

Date: 09/29/2019

Jessica Bowers

11343 77th Street E, Parrish, FL 234219

517.769.5357 ontherocksrr@gmail.com

Website: www.ontherocksrr.com

BUYER: _____

Date: _____

Name (printed): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



Show Contract Sample

Purchase & Sales Agreement

The following agreement is between Jessica Bowers, hereafter referred to as "Breeder" and _____, hereafter referred to as "Buyer" for the sale and purchase of one purebred dog.

Name: _____ AKC # HP Microchip# _____

Color: Red Wheaten Liver Nose Sex: Male

whelped on August 4, 2019 by

Sire : _____ AKC#
Dam : _____ AKC#

Will become the sole property of the Buyer in flesh as well as title upon the fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Full Sales Price \$3500.00 paid in full

Remaining balance \$3500.00 paid on
Shipping Cost n/a

Total Paid In Full

Seller will accept cash (US dollars), Money Order or Certified Bank Check only! PayPal will be accepted however all fees will be paid by buyer AND all funds must be released before puppy leaves!

Transportation costs, if any, will be paid by the Buyer. Transportation costs must be prepaid before shipping. (Airline charges, kennel, etc) This puppy will be flown on Delta Airlines or United PetSafe via Cargo (in a pressurized cabin).

It is further agreed by both parties that:

A Use of the Dog

It is agreed between Breeder and Buyer that this dog is being acquired as a family companion dog or for a working dog to be used for tasks appropriate to its breed such as therapy dog or for exhibition in AKC conformation, obedience, or agility competition. Buyer agrees that the dog is not purchased for resale nor will it be used or trained for activities which are illegal or for which it is not suited by reason of temperament or conformation. Specifically it will not be used as a guard or attack dog. The Buyer agrees that he/she will not sell, transfer ownership or possession of the puppy or any of his/her progeny to any person or organization whose intent it is to resell (pet store), trade, or give away the dog, or use it in any experiments, laboratory or otherwise or to use it as breeding stock for a puppy mill.

It shall be understood that the breeder has deemed the dog/puppy is at this time, show quality, but makes no guarantee that the puppy will excel in the show ring. The reason this puppy cannot be guaranteed to excel in the ring not only because much of a dog's show success depends on the owner's efforts and proper care, but also because it is impossible to predict exactly how the dog will look as it ages. The breeder does however promise every effort was made to properly evaluate the puppy's conformation and personality.

I/We agree that, by deciding to own a show potential puppy, I will make an effort to achieve at least two kinds of AKC recognized titles before breeding this dog. (Please initial) _____

Proof of acquired titles must be sent to breeder in the form of a copy of the AKC issued certificate.



It is also understood, said dog will never be breed to/with and other dog who does not at a minimum have the genetic testing required by RRCUS: Hips, Elbows, CERF/CAER and Thyroid. And MUST have passing/normal/good or excellent results.

C. Health:

The breeder warrants the dog has been examined by a veterinarian and to be in excellent health and free from parasites at the time of drop off/pick up. It is the Buyers responsibility to prevent illness and injury by providing necessary booster vaccinations, veterinary care, nutrition, fresh water, shelter and supervision.

It is recommended by the Breeder that the Buyer take the puppy to a Veterinarian of his/her choice and gives **3 days** in which to do so. If, within the first seven days, a veterinarian finds the puppy to be unsound, unhealthy, or possessing a serious genetic defect, a statement in writing must be provided by that veterinarian documenting said condition for the Breeders' veterinarian to review. Upon confirmation from Breeders' vet of said condition, Buyer may return the puppy to the Breeder and receive a full refund of the purchase price. All precautions have been made to ensure that this puppy is in excellent health at the time of purchase including a vaccination at 8 weeks of age (including deworming) A final health check has been made by Breeder's veterinarian and a health certificate is included in your new puppy packet. It is recommended that additional vaccinations be given at 11 and 14 weeks.

Additional Health Guarantee:

This puppy is guaranteed from the breeder until the age of 27 months old against any serious genetic health problem. If a puppy is thought to have a genetic defect regarding it's hips, hip X-rays must be taken per OFA recommendations and submitted to The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Copies of OFA findings must be submitted to the seller &breeder.

Defects must be proven to be genetic and not caused by environmental factors or mishandling by the buyer, including an overfeeding and overweight, strenuous exercise before 14 months old, etc.. Any other serious genetic problem needs to be diagnosed by the Buyers' veterinarian and reports sent to the Seller/Breeder. The Breeder will present the veterinarian reports to her veterinarian for review to confirm whether the defect is genetic in nature.

If puppy does not pass OFA for hip certification, or has a confirmed genetic defect, Buyer must show proof that puppy is spayed or neutered via a vet certificate (Buyer keeps his/her dog) and may either keep said dog or return dog back to seller. When said dog is bred or has been bred to all health guarantees are void.

D. Registration:

The Breeder certifies that the dog is registered with the American Kennel Club and as a purebred Rhodesian Ridgeback. Registration of said dog will be AKC's "Limited Registration." This dog can compete in all breeder appropriate AKC events EXCEPT for conformation showing. Because the seller has not yet received the puppies individual registration application form from today's date it is agreed the seller/breeder will mail the registration paperwork within 60 days from today's date.

Buyer agrees they will use the kennel name "On The Rocks" or "OnTheRocks" somewhere in the registered name of the puppy when exhibiting AND registering the puppy. Buyer agrees that, this puppy will be registered (or recorded) with the American Kennel Club (AKC) by the time the puppy is six months old.

E. Ownership Responsibilities:

The Buyer agrees to maintain the dog in a humane environment and properly train and care for it. Specifically the dog will be properly licensed and inoculated against rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and other communicable diseases as recommended by a qualified veterinarian.

The dog will not be allowed to roam and will be socialized and obedience trained appropriately.

The Buyer further agrees that the puppy's weight will be under strict supervision. It is far better to have the dog slightly underweight than overweight, because excess weight contributes to structural breakdown of the dog. Buyer also



agrees nothing will be given to the dog that would encourage rapid growth; including steroids.

E. Right of Recovery/Placement

In the event that the Buyers are unable to keep the dog or provide an appropriate home in accordance with this agreement, the dog with its registration papers will not be transferred to any person or organization other than the Breeder, whether by sale, gift, loan, or otherwise unless agreed to by the breeder, in writing. Buyers agree to notify the Seller if any such contingency arises and will not abandon the dog to a shelter or sell or give the dog away. If the dog is found to have been sold or given away without the breeder's knowledge and said breeder discovers this, Breeder will take legal action and original Buyer of the dog will be responsible for all legal expenses incurred. The Breeder wishes to ensure that this dog is always in a place where he/she will be properly cared for.

Should the purchasers decide to not keep the puppy, for other than health reasons, they have a seven day grace period to return and still receive a partial refund. The refund is 25% of the cost of the puppy as long as the puppy healthy. The buyer will not receive reimbursement for transportation expenses and must pay all transportation costs acquired with the return to the breeder.

Buyer agrees that he/she has read and understands the terms and conditions of this contract fully. This contract is under the jurisdiction of the state of Florida, in the county of Manatee. It is agreed the place of venue shall be in Bradenton, FL. Any breech of this contract could be detrimental to the name and reputation of the breeder/seller and the breeder/seller will be entitled to 4 times the purchase price of the puppy including but not limited to attorney's fees, court cost, any and all expenses acquired and (or) the puppy back. All other states and counties are asked to please accept this contract as legally binding and enforceable.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.

In no event will Seller be liable for any incidental or consequential damages including, without limitations, loss of profit and claims of third parties, however caused. All questions concerning the validity, operation, interpretation and construction of this Agreement shall be governed by and determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. In the event that any one or more provisions contained in this Agreement should, for any reason, be held to be unenforceable in any respect under the laws of any state or of the United States, unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement, but this Agreement shall be construed as if such unenforceable provisions had not been contained herein.

This contract is designed to protect the Rhodesian Ridgeback, its lineage, the Seller and the Buyer of said Ridgeback. By signing, all parties agree to all clauses of this contract.

SELLER: _____

Date: 10/05/2019

Jessica Bowers
11343 77th Street E, Parrish, FL 234219
517.769.5357 ontherocksrr@gmail.com
Website: www.ontherocksrr.com

BUYER: _____

Date: _____

Name (printed): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



Puppy Aptitude Test

Volhard's Puppy Aptitude Test (PAT)

Example from 2019 Back 2 School Litter

© PAT - Volhard's Puppy Aptitude Test

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Average
Teacher	3	3	3	2	4	4	2	3	3	2	3
Bell	3	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	3	3
Highlight	2	4	4	3	4	2	2	4	3	2	2.4
Honors	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	4
Sharpie	3	3	5	3	4	2	4	3	1	2	3
Apple	3	4	4	3	4	2	2	4	2	2	2.4
Lunchbox	4	3	4	4	4	2	3	3	1	3	3.4
Recess	3	4	4	3	4	4	2	4	1	4	4
Ruler	4	4	4	3	4	5	1	4	3	4	4
Notebook	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	4	4



Joachim and Wendy Volhard (www.volhard.com) Revised January 2003 © Wendy Volhard

One of the tools that helps us to measure the potential of our pups is the Puppy Aptitude test below. Each puppy is tested at 49 days of age. Results of this test help us to determine which of our waiting homes each pup is best suited for. This test was developed by Joachim and Wendy Volhard and is © 1996 Wendy Volhard.

Puppy Aptitude Test

A - SOCIAL ATTRACTION

Place puppy in test area about four feet from the tester. Tester kneels, leans backwards and coaxes the pup to her/him by clapping hands gently.

Purpose: Degree of social attraction to people, confidence, or dependence. (Pack Drive)

Score:

1. Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands
2. Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands
3. Came readily, tail up
4. Came readily, tail down
5. Came hesitantly, tail down
6. Didn't come at all

B - FOLLOWING

The tester stands up and slowly walks away encouraging the puppy to follow. Make sure the pup sees you walk away. Coax puppy to follow by talking to it and attracting its attention.

Purpose: Willingness to follow a person. (Pack Drive)

Score:

1. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet
2. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot
3. Followed readily, tail up
4. Followed readily, tail down
5. Followed hesitantly, tail down
6. Did not follow or went away

C - RESTRAINT

The tester crouches down and gently rolls the pup on its back and holds it down with light pressure with one hand for 30 seconds.

Purpose: Degree of dominance or submissive tendency, and ease of handling in difficult situations.(Fight or Flight Drive)

Score:

1. Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit
2. Struggled fiercely, flailed
3. Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact
4. Struggled then settled
5. No struggle, no eye contact
6. No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact



D - SOCIAL DOMINANCE

Puppy sits or stands on crouching tester's left side and tester gently strokes it from the head to back. Continue stroking until a recognizable behavior is established.

Purpose: Degree of acceptance of social dominance by a person.(Pack Drive)

Score:

1. Jumped, pawed, bit, growled
2. Jumped, pawed
3. Cuddled up to tester and tried to lick face
4. Squirmed, licked at hands
5. Rolled over, licked at hands
6. Went away and stayed away

E - ELEVATION DOMINANCE

The tester cradles the pup under its chest, with both hands, fingers interlaced, palms up and gently lifts it two feet off the ground, and holds it there for 30 seconds.

Purpose: Degree of accepting dominance while in position of no control. (Fight or Flight Drive)

Score:

1. Struggled fiercely, tried to bite
2. Struggled fiercely
3. Struggled, settled, struggled, settled
4. No struggle, relaxed
5. No struggle, body stiff

Obedience Aptitude Test

F - RETRIEVING

The tester crouches beside the pup and attracts its attention with a crumpled up piece of paper. When the pup shows some interest, the tester tosses the paper no more than four feet in front of the pup, encouraging it to retrieve the paper.

Purpose: Degree of willingness to do something for you. Together with social attraction and following, a key indicator for ease or difficulty in training. (Prey Drive)

Score:

1. Chased object, picked it up and ran away.
2. Chased object, stood over it, did not return
3. Chased object, picked it up and returned with it to tester
4. Chased object and returned without it to tester
5. Started to chase object, lost interest
6. Did not chase object

G - TOUCH SENSITIVITY

The tester locates the webbing of one of the puppy's front paws and presses it lightly between his index finger and thumb. The tester gradually increases pressure while counting to 10 and stops the pressure when the puppy pulls away or shows discomfort.

* Do not use your fingernail when performing this test. Press between the finger and thumb lightly then more firmly until you get a response.

Purpose: Degree of sensitivity to touch and a key indicator to the type of training equipment required.

Score:

1. (8-10) counts before response
2. (6-7) counts before response
3. (5-6) counts before response
4. (2-4) counts before response
5. (2-3) counts before response



H - SOUND SENSITIVITY

The puppy is placed in the center of the testing area and an assistant stationed at the perimeter makes a sharp noise, such as banging a metal spoon on the bottom of a metal pan.

Purpose: Degree of sensitivity to sound. (Prey Drive)

Score:

1. Listened, located sound, walked toward it barking
2. Listened, located sound, barked
3. Listened, located sound, showed curiosity and walked toward sound
4. Listened, located the sound
5. Cringed, backed off, hid
6. Ignored sound, showed no curiosity

I - SIGHT SENSITIVITY

The puppy is placed in the center of the testing area. The tester ties a string around a bath towel and jerks it across the floor two feet away from puppy.

Purpose: Degree of response to a moving object, such as chasing bicycles, children or squirrels. (Prey Drive)

Score:

1. Looked, attacked and bit
2. Looked, barked and tail up
3. Looked curiously, attempted to investigate
4. Looked, barked, tail-tuck
5. Ran away, hid

J - STABILITY

An umbrella is opened about five feet from the puppy and gently placed on the ground.

Purpose: Degree of startle response to a strange object. (Fight and Flight Drive)

Score:

1. Looked and ran to the umbrella, mouthing or biting it
2. Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it cautiously
3. Looked and went to investigate
4. Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella
5. Ran away from the umbrella
6. Showed no interest

STRUCTURE

The puppy is gently set and held in a natural stance and evaluated for structure in the following categories: Straight front, Straight rear, Shoulder lay back, Front angulation, Croup angulation, Rear angulation (see diagram below)

Purpose: Degree of structural soundness. Good structure is necessary

Score:

- GOOD – The puppy is correct in structure
- FAIR – The puppy has a slight fault or deviation
- POOR – The puppy has an extreme fault or deviation



Straight front Straight rear Shoulder layback Front angulation Croup angulation Rear angulation

Interpreting the Scores

Mostly 1's A puppy that consistently scores a 1 in the temperament section of the test is an extremely dominant, aggressive puppy who can easily be provoked to bite. His dominant nature will attempt to resist human leadership, thus requiring only the most experienced of handlers. This puppy is a poor choice for most individuals and will do best in a working situation as a guard or police dog.

Mostly 2's This pup is dominant and self-assured. He can be provoked to bite; however he readily accepts human leadership that is firm, consistent and knowledgeable. This is not a dog for a tentative, indecisive individual. In the right hands, he has the potential to become a fine working or show dog and could fit into an adult household, provided the owners know what they are doing.

Mostly 3's This pup is outgoing and friendly and will adjust well in situations in which he receives regular training and exercise. He has a flexible temperament that adapts well to different types of environment, provided he is handled correctly. May be too much dog for a family with small children or an elderly couple who are sedentary.

Mostly 4's A pup that scores a majority of 4's is an easily controlled, adaptable puppy whose submissive nature will make him continually look to his master for leadership. This pup is easy to train, reliable with kids, and, though he lacks self-confidence, makes a high-quality family pet. He is usually less outgoing than a pup scoring in the 3's, but his demeanor is gentle and affectionate.

Mostly 5's This is a pup who is extremely submissive and lacking in self-confidence. He bonds very closely with his owner and requires regular companionship and encouragement to bring him out of himself. If handled incorrectly, this pup will grow up very shy and fearful. For this reason, he will do best in a predictable, structured lifestyle with owners who are patient and not overly demanding, such as an elderly couple.

Mostly 6's A puppy that scores 6 consistently is independent and uninterested in people. He will mature into a dog who is not demonstrably affectionate and who has a low need for human companionship. In general, it is rare to see properly socialized pups test this way; however there are several breeds that have been bred for specific tasks (such as basenjis, hounds, and some northern breeds) which can exhibit this level of independence. To perform as intended, these dogs require a singularity of purpose that is not compromised by strong attachments to their owner.

The remainder of the puppy test is an evaluation of obedience aptitude and working ability and provides a general picture of a pup's intelligence, spirit, and willingness to work with a human being. For most owners, a good companion dog will score in the 3 to 4 range in this section of the test. Puppies scoring a combination of 1's and 2's require experienced handlers who will be able to draw the best aspects of their potential from them. The results is called the Puppy Aptitude Test (PAT) since it indicates which pup has the most aptitude for the desired task or purpose. The test is administered in a standard fashion to minimise human error. Condition under which testing takes place are as follows:

Ideally, puppies are tested in the 7th week, preferably the 49th day. At 6 weeks or earlier the puppy's neurological connections are not fully developed. (If the test is conducted between 8 – 10 weeks, the puppy is in the fear imprint stage and special care must be taken not to frighten it).

Puppies are tested individually, away from dam and litter mates, in an area new to them and relatively free from distractions. It could be a porch, garage, living room, yard or whatever. Puppies should be tested before a meal they are awake and lively and not on a day when they have been wormed or given their puppy shots.

The sequence of the tests is the same for all pups and is designed to alternate a slightly stressful test with a neutral or pleasant one.

There is less chance for human error, or the puppies being influenced by a familiar person, if the tests are administered by someone other than the owner of the litter. A friend of the owner, or the prospective buyer can easily learn to give the test.



I found it helpful to arrange the tests in a concise chart form following the order in which they are given. In addition, since I found it difficult to use Campbell's scoring code, I simply gave each response a number. While testing numerous puppies, the Volhards found that a number of puppies showed responses not on Campbell's test. These observations are included in the test with an apostrophe in order to differentiate them from Campbell's original tests. The Pfaffenberger tests were also given a number so that all scores can be compared and a chart was devised for checking a puppy's total performance at a glance.

Also included in the Obedience Aptitude Tests is a section on structure. Over 60 breeds conform to what "conventional body type", that is 45 degree angulation front and rear. The greater the deviation from this norm, the less efficiently the dog will be able to perform obedience exercises. Other impediments to efficiency are HD, cowhocks, east-west feet, crossing in front or rear when gaiting.

A simple guide to follow for puppies at this age (7 – 8 weeks) is "what you see is what you get" notwithstanding the all too familiar assurance, "Don't worry, he'll grow out of it". Be particularly wary of the statement, "he's not much of a conformation dog but he'll do fine in obedience".

This could mean the dog is perhaps mismarked or has light eyes but is structurally sound. However, often it means the dog has a serious structural fault. This dog will be unable to take the strenuousness of training and competing in the obedience ring. If you feel that evaluating structure accurately is above your head, seek competent help.

Last but not least, the prospective puppy tester must have a chance to observe the parents of the litter, preferably both parents but at least the dam. If the sire and/or dam have characteristics which are not desirable there exists a good chance some, if not all, of the puppies will have inherited these undesirable traits.

The safest and easiest thing to do when faced with parent dogs of undesirable temperament is simply to look for another litter of pups whose sire and dam more closely conform to your ideals. If you must have a pup from this litter pay particular attention to the test scores of the litter and do not select a pup which shows any tendency towards undesirable traits.



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