



ON THE ROCKS RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS
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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 Ridgeback. 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 “**Taste of the Wild Ancient Stream.**” You can find this online as well as in specialty pet stores.
- A litter memento – It’s a surprise to see what your puppy is sent home with!!!!
- A roll of paper towels
- A roll of poop scoop bags
- A small bag of treats
- A signed copy of the sales contract
- Puppy Aptitude Test results
- AKC registration paperwork – Remember this has to be completed by the time the puppy is 6 months old as per our agreement.
- Microchip enrollment form
- A updated/current health record
- A small blanket with the scent of myself and your puppy’s siblings.
- A collar that fits your puppy at 8 weeks, so you don’t have to guess what will fit and what won’t.

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 come 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 or Elderdog** and **Multi-Vitamin** formulas have proven to give me the best results.

You can get this at any PetSmart® and is also available online.

Now, I'm not going to talk about food right now as that is something that you will receive before your puppy comes from us. But 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*	\$11.99
3/4" or 1" 4 or 6 foot long Lupine Leash*	\$14.99
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	\$25.00 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 with 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 ceramic bowl as I tend to like to pick up metal bowls and drop them.



3/4" or 1" Lupine Collar 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 sooth 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 then 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,

