

PUPPY CARE INSTRUCTIONS

I'm Home. Now what?

The first few days at a new home are stressful for a new puppy. I know you are proud of her and want to show her off to everyone but wait a few days for her to get use to you before you go adding to her circle of friends. I ask that you keep her away from dogs that aren't yours until she is seen by your vet. When you take her into the vet try to avoid putting her on the floor or ground .She's had her first shots but her immune system probably isn't ready for the challenge of the germs you find there yet. Please have the vet microchip your puppy on the first visit. We require that you list us as an alternate contact on the registration form in case something happens down the line. A friend of mine got a call from an Atlanta shelter saying it had one of her dogs that she sold six years before. She drove up there and brought him back home. We don't stop loving them once they go to their new homes. They are a lifetime commitment for us. Don't forget to send in the microchip registration. It's not much use unless you send it in!

IMPORTANT! READ AND UNDERSTAND

THERE ARE ONLY TWO BRANDS OF HEARTWORM PREVENTITIVE THAT SOULD BE GIVEN TO AUSSIES.INTERCEPTOR IS THE REFERED ONE BUT THEY ARE HAVING PRODUCTION PROBLEMS, AND TRIFEXIS.TRIFEXIS ALSO CONTAINS A FLEA KILLER. IF YOU USE IT DON'T USE FRONTLINE OR ANY OTHER FLEA KILLER. ASK THE VET IF YOU CAN SPLIT IT IN HALF AND GIVE ONE HALF ONE DAY AND THE OTHER THE NEXT.THE FLEA KILLING PART IS SOMETIMES UPSETTING TO THE STOMACH AND DIVIDING IT CAUSES LESS UPSET.WRAP IT IN CHEESE AND BE SURE TO GIVE IT WITH A FULL MEAL. I PREFER TO GIVE THE INTERCEPTOR FIRST AND COMFORTIS, WHICH IS THE SAME FLEA KILLING INGREDIENT IN TRIFEXIS, TWO WEEKS LATER BUT AS LONG AS INTERCEPTOR ISN'T AVAILABLE BY ITSELF THE TRIFEXIS IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.DO NOT LET THE VET TALK YOU INTO HEARTGUARD OR ANY OTHER HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE THAT CONTAINS IVERMECTIN. ABOUT HALF OF ALL AUSSIES HAVE A GENE MUTATION,THE MDR1 GENE,THAT DOESN'T LET THEM METABOLIZE IVERMECTIN CORRECTLY. USE OF IT CAN CAUSE SIEZURES AND EVEN DEATH. THE GENE ALSO CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH SOME MEDICINES AND ANESTHETICS. ATTACHED IS A COPY OF IINFORMATION ON THE GENE AND A LIST OF MEDICINES TO AVOID.KEEP A COPY FOR YOURSELF AND HAVE THE VET PUT A COPY IN THE FRONT OF YOUR PUPPY'S FOLDER.

Don't take the puppy to the pet store with you until it's had all it's shots. The chance of catching something there is probably greater than the vet. Even if you don't put it on the ground people are going to want to pet it. I've found my dogs really don't care to go there. The flooring is kind of slick and they can't get their footing.

If you have other dogs introduce them slowly. The puppy is going to want to play with the other dogs and you are never sure how the other dog is going to take to this. First introductions should be done with some sort of barrier between them. An exercise pen, crate door or baby gate between them are all

good choices, something where they can see and sniff them but not touch. If after an hour or so that goes ok you can take the pup out, but hold them, sit in a chair or on the floor and let the other dog get a closer look. Make sure you pay attention to both dogs. Your dog needs to know this intruder isn't a threat and mom still loves him too. If you have a lead, I recommend a six foot nylon web lead, and collar put one on before you put her down. Let her drag the leash behind her. Note: when you aren't around to supervise the puppy take the collar off. It's too easy for them to get a jaw or foot caught in the collar if they try to take it off. When you put the puppy down have a good heavy towel around just in case. You should be able to judge how things are going on how to proceed from here. They may be ok or you might have to go back to the barricade between them for a while longer. The older dog will probably growl or even snap at the pup. As long as it isn't vicious and more a warning it's ok. The older dog is just trying to tell the puppy who's boss. Don't yell at the adult dog for doing this. The puppy is going to have to learn her place in the pack and the less interference you can get by with the smoother it will go. I'd say for the first few weeks, at least, never leave the puppy out unsupervised with the older dog.

The Crate and Housebreaking

A plastic crate is one of the most important purchases you can make for your puppy. Do not get a wire crate. The doors are flimsy and it is too easy for them to get a leg or jaw or other body part stuck between the bars with tragic consequences. Be sure and get one large enough for a full grown dog. Your puppy will be using it throughout their lifetime. The Petmate Pet Porter 2 Intermediate or larger size is a good choice. If you introduce them to it correctly it will become a place of refuge for them and not a place of punishment. They will want to go in there if they feel you are upset with them. You should always feed your puppy in her crate. This is especially true if you have other dogs. At least until she is housebroken, you should leave her in the crate when you are not around. You can put a heavy layer of newspaper down and a small towel for to lie down. You can get a water cup which attaches to the door. The metal coop cups which attach with a metal wing nut through the door are the best. They also have plastic cups which attach to the door but I've found that the dogs tend to destroy them. You should make sure there is water in there at all times.

Having a crate makes housebreaking much easier. A puppy, by nature, doesn't like to go where she sleeps. You should take the puppy out first thing in the morning, after each meal and every couple of hours through the day to begin with. If you can take them out at least once in the night at least to begin with, that would be good. If you can, pick the pup up out of the cage and bring them outside before they set foot on the floor. Put them where you want them to go. When they do praise, praise, praise. Sometimes give them a bit of a treat. I use Alpo Variety Snaps broken into small pieces. Praise always but treat only sometimes. Praise before you treat. The praise should be the most important thing. Remembering this will serve you well with any other training you might want to do later. After they go you can bring them in for some floor play time. Be sure and keep an eye out for telltale sniffing. If you can't be around put them back in their crate.

Feeding

The puppy is on Purina Pro Plan Puppy Food Lamb and Rice Formula. She is being fed three times a

day right now .At about three months you can increase the serving size and go to twice a day, morning and evening. You can try free feeding, or leaving food down all day, but I've found Aussies don't have much self-control in the feeding department and will eat it all at once and wonder where dinner is later on in the day. Check on the bag and see how much to feed her for her weight. You don't want her putting weight on too quickly. It is bad for the joints and can cause problems later on.

Toys treats and bones

Aussies are brutal on squeak toys. The best kind to get for them is berber. That is the material that looks like lamb's wool. Sometimes heavy canvas ones will last a little while. Get the simplest one you can find and cut off all tags, loops and anything else that sticks out. The first thing they will do if you don't is try to chew them off. Don't waste a lot of money on expensive cute toys because they will destroy anything not heavy duty. If it gets a rip either sew it up or throw it out. If not they will remove all the stuffing to get at that elusive squeaker. If they get too nasty the toys can be washed and dried in the washer and dryer with a load of clothes. Hard rubber balls and toys are good just make sure they are too big to choke them. Vinyl squeak toys never last and latex ones usually don't last much longer. If you do give them these toys be careful because the first thing they are going to do is try to get that squeaker out and eat it. Once it is out just throw the toy away because the next step is total destruction of the toy.

Bones are very good for puppies to chew on with supervision. The best kind to get, if you can find them, is buffalo shank bones. They are very strong and don't splinter very easy. If you can't find those the beef shank bones either smoked or the white ones sometimes stuffed with fillings are also good. You can find these at Wal-Mart or any of the pet stores. The smoked knuckle bones are ok but tend to break easier. I don't recommend rawhide bones or strips or pig ears or really any other body parts you can find at the pet stores. My sister-in law had her pug choke to death on a Dingo rawhide bone in the fifteen minutes she was in the shower. One of the knots came off and lodged in his throat. Pieces come off easily and are a choking hazard. They also don't digest real well.

You can give your puppy treats but don't give so many where it's an extra meal. Save them for when they are doing something that pleases you. Bribery will get you everywhere with an Aussie. I get the Alpo Variety Snaps at Wal-Mart and Petsmart and break them into four or five pieces. Dogs can't tell if you are giving them a whole cookie or a little piece. As long as you give them something they are happy. You can try different treats if you like. Just make sure they are small tidbits. Too many treats will soon add up to unwanted pounds.

Chewing

If you or your kids haven't been tidy people before now is a good time to start. Aussies love clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, pantyhose, anything they can get their mouths on. I suggest you invest in a good, sturdy clothes hamper, something with a very secure lid. It will save you money in vet bills in the long run. You have to take all the same precautions and more as if you had a toddler. A toddler may put something in their mouth but a puppy will chew it to pieces. If your kids love their toys they had better pick them up.

Puppies love to chew on furniture. They will chew legs. They will chew cushions. They will chew any part they can reach. If you can find it, the best thing you can use on the wooden parts is Arrid XX Extra Dry Unscented Solid Deodorant Stick. For some reason it works. You may have to search for it a little bit but I've seen it at Wal-Mart. Just rub it on the wood. If you can't find that you can use one of the bitter tasting repellants such as Bitter Apple. You also have to correct them by telling them "no!" and redirecting them to something more appropriate. Praise them when they are chewing on what you want them to. Watch them around electric cords and give them a good spraying of repellent. As they get bigger Aussies love to counter and table surf. If they can reach it they will grab it. You would like to think that if you give them enough good stuff to chew they will leave your stuff alone but they won't. They feel if it's good enough for you it has to be good enough for them.

Grooming

Aussies are very easy to keep groomed. A good brushing once a week and a bath once a month are usually enough to keep them looking nice. The basics that you will need are a double comb with different sized teeth on each half, a slicker brush, a good, metal pinned, pin brush, a rake which looks like a comb with very widely spaced teeth with a handle on the back, dog nail trimmer and file or a little cordless Dremel tool. The Dermal takes some training for you and the dog to get use to it but it does a better job. Don't waste your money on the ones you see on TV they simply don't have enough power. Trim the nails once a week to keep them from getting over grown. Also get a pair of rounded tip scissors to trim the hair on the bottom of the feet and between the toes.

You should bathe them with some sort of whitening shampoo of your choice, to help keep them sparkling. You can dry them with a regular human hair dryer or you can invest in a forced air dryer such as the different Metro models which blows the water off of them. The forced air dryers do a quicker job but you can get by with a regular one. Aussies have the type of coat that even if it gets a little muddy when it dries the mud just kind of falls off with a good brushing.

Aussies shed twice a year and when they shed they shed a lot. It is best when you first notice them shedding to get out your rake or Furminator and a garbage bag and start combing. The more you can comb out of them the less that will be floating around your house. Do this every few days while you are watching TV and you will really cut down on the mess. It's going to come out so it might as well be on your terms. I also suggest if you bathe them, if you can, take them outside to dry them otherwise there will be hair everywhere.

Training

Aussies are smart but they need some manners type of training to become a welcome member of your household. There are a number of good books and videos on the subject or you can take them to training classes. The local obedience clubs or shelters usually have some sort of puppy classes. In the New Orleans area there is Deep South Dog Obedience Training Club. You can also look into private trainers. I don't recommend the training classes at any of the Big Box pet stores. Their methods don't seem to give the puppies any kind of firm guidance. Basically they ask a dog to do something and if he doesn't do it they ask again and again until he gets bored and does it. These soft methods just confuse

the puppy. They need a firm but gentle hand or they will walk all over you.

Aussies excel in all types of sports. There is herding, obedience, rally, agility, the list is endless. They like to have fun. If they can have fun with their owners they love it even more.

Aussies love people and are devoted to their owners. Treat them with love and kindness and they will do anything within their power to make you happy. We hope you have many happy years with your puppy and if you have any questions or problems we are only a phone call or email away.

Who Dat Aussies

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