**Importin Great Tips Please Read**

**Introducing puppy to a new home**

* **Limit your puppy’s access**: Too many new places, smells, and people at once may confuse him/her. Instead, let him/her explore a designated area where you are, too. Then introduced him/her to the rest of the house, one room at a time.
* **Choose a potty spot:** Start by taking him to the outside area where you want him/her to eliminate. When he does relieve himself, use a command that you’ll stick to, like “go potty” and reward him with special treats and praise after.
* **Introducing him to His new Family:** If possible, do this one person at a time. Give him/her a chance to meet each of you quietly. Supervise young children. Discourage them from picking up the puppy. Let them hold him in their laps with your help first.
* **Minimize stressful environments:** Don’t invite friends and neighbors over to meet him/her yet. That will be important very soon, but should not start the first day.
* **Introducing other family pet:** Puppies are still developing their communication skills and don’t understand the rules set in place by adult dogs. As long as an adult dog’s behavior is appropriate when correcting a puppy, it’s OK if she growls a little. If the elderly dog becomes agitated, separate and redirect the puppy.
* **Don’t interact with dogs outside the home:** Because your puppy probably hasn’t gotten all of his/her shots. Puppies shouldn’t be interacting with strange dogs or even walk where other dogs do until all 4 vaccination shots have been completed.
* **Start enforcing rules:** The puppy needs to learn the House rules from the very beginning. Praise good behaviors. Set your rules ahead of time and stick to them for example: Where do you want puppies to sleep? Is puppies allowed on furniture? Can puppy have food scraps from the table?
* **Making a veterinary appointment:** Your vet should give your puppy a checkup in the next few days of bring him/her home.

**Starting a Routine and Stick to it**

* **Mealtime:** young puppies eat three times a day. Put your puppy on a regular feeding schedule. What goes in on a regular schedule will come out on a regular schedule. Optional: you can take water away an hour before bedtime and though the night until their bladder is a little larger.
* **Potty breaks:** Every time your puppy eats, drinks, wakes up, plays, sniffs around the room -- most young puppies have to eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake. Pick the puppy up and carry him/her to the designated potty area.
	+ Don’t let your puppy wander around your house, supervision during potty training is key. If you are unable to watch him/her set him/her in his crate.
	+ If needed keep him/her by you on a leash.
* **Playtime:** Your puppy needs exercise and interaction with you. A word of caution: sustained, strenuous exercise (long runs, jumping) is not good for puppies, but playing with toys and with you, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard are great. A tired puppy is a good puppy. If a puppy is being super naughty, they probably need more attention and to burn off more energy.
* **Dreamland:** Young puppies sleep a lot in fact some will sleep 16 to 18 hours a day. Plan on several nap times during the day. At night set a bedtime

**Surviving the first night**

* Some puppies sleep through the night right from the start. Others may cry for a few nights. And some may not be able to hold their pee and will need a middle of the night trip outside. but this usually ends by age 4 - 5 months.
* **For many puppies, evenings is the “witching hour”**, and if you anticipate it by interacting playing, he/she may use up some energy and settle down. An evening stroll gives him exercises and a chance to take a potty break.
* **Put the crate in your bedroom**. Your pup will feel more secure if he has you nearby. Bring home a blanket or a stuffed toy that smells like your puppy’s mother, and keep that in his crate.
* **A set bedtime makes his adjustment and home training easier for everyone.** It doesn’t matter if it’s 8 PM or midnight, as long as it becomes a routine. Take him to his crate and help him/her settle down for the night.
* **If your puppy is not able to make it through the night,** when he is whining, quietly carry him out for a quick, boring potty break. Then put him back in his crate do not engage in play.
* **If the puppy cries, do not put him in your bed unless that is where you want him to sleep.** you can put the crate right next to your bed and put your hand inside to reassure him that you’re there. A crate is like a den where a puppy won’t eliminate.