



COEDWIG CARDIGANS

HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

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FEEDING: We advise using premium quality dry kibble as your base food. The Whole Dog Journal is a very good resource with very strict criteria that includes using companies that disclose origin of manufacture, use high quality animal based proteins, and have an active QA processes. The protein content of your kibble should be no less than 28%. A good rule of thumb is to use kibble in which the first two or three ingredients are meat, and meat-meal.

To the kibble, we add cooked meat: ground chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, or any other meat your dog enjoys. Meat to kibble ratio is about 50/50. We then add a tablespoon of yogurt or cottage cheese, a teaspoon of flax oil, and puppy vitamins (Missing Link or Vetline or any general multi-vitamin for puppies).

When you first get your puppy, he/she has been eating 3 meals a day. Start by giving the puppy more than you think he can consume. Let your puppy eat in a quiet area for 15-20 minutes, then take up the leftover food and refrigerate the leftovers until the next meal. You can do this for 3 feedings, then discard the remaining uneaten food. Once the puppy is ~4 months old, go to two feedings per day. An excellent book on feeding dogs: **Give Your Dog a Bone**. You can buy designer meats for dogs, but we have found these to be as expensive as steak for the most part... Hamburger works fine, and so does ground chicken and turkey at your grocery store.

GOOD KIBBLE: Blue Wilderness from PetSmart, Nature's Domain from Costco, Taste of the Wild, Orijen, Karma, California Natural, NutriSource, Natural Balance Ultra, Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul, Canidae All Life Stage Formula. There are more, just be sure you get what you pay for! Watch out for fillers such as corn, corn meal, beet pulp, etc. Costco's main Kirkland brand dog food ingredient list reads well, but we have noticed that the bulk of the stools produced on this food almost doubled, which makes us wonder about fillers or grains as opposed to their Nature's Domain variety which is grain free.

SOCIALIZATION: While your puppy lived with us, we spent a great deal of time socializing him/her. On average we have about 50 people, including children come to visit and handle the puppies. Since they were 2 weeks old, we have played CD's for puppy habituation. We even play dog show tapes for those puppies destined to be on stage. These recordings have various sounds like firecrackers, explosions, children screaming, airplanes, blow dryers, objects falling, etc. We take each puppy on at least one car ride in a crate before they go to their new homes. They have each had their nails trimmed several times, including a Dremmel nail grinder and have had at least one bath. You can bathe your dog as often as you like, and you can use your own shampoo and conditioner. You do not need to buy designer dog soaps.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS: Continue to expand your new puppy's horizons! *The critical period for socializing a puppy is between 8-16 weeks, and we do mean critical!* Time invested in socializing your puppy during this period will pay off for the rest of the puppy's life. These are the critical formative weeks. Take your puppy to as many places as possible -- the bank, the mall, the park, your friends, the lake, the ball game, etc. Be sure to make these experiences positive and give lots of treats! Just be sure to allow quiet uninterrupted sleep times so that your puppy gets enough rest. Meeting new dogs should be safe, be sure the other dog is known to be very friendly with other dogs before allowing your puppy too close. They need to meet other dogs -- *very important* -- just keep it safe.

TRAINING: In addition to reading "The Art of Raising a Puppy," take your puppy to classes! Even PetSmart offers puppy classes, and anything that gets you and the puppy into a training/socializing environment is a good idea. Kindergarten Puppy Training is the best kind of class for a young puppy. If you live in the Portland or Vancouver area, you are in luck! Call Julie at 360-901-1053 for KPT classes, and check out the training center at www.dogdayssnw.com.

EAR TAPING: This is a highly individual situation in this breed. Some puppies have their ears up as early as 8 weeks old. Other puppies may not have their ears up until 5 months old! If the puppy is 10-12 weeks old and the ears are not up, we then recommend taping them. Please call us for further instructions if needed.

CRATES AND CRATE TRAINING: The proper size crate for a Cardigan is a #300. The approximate measurements are" L32", W22", H23". Bigger is better when it comes to crates. Wire crates allow for better air circulation. If you fly with your dog, you will need a solid plastic crate. We have both and only use the solid crates when we are flying with our dogs. Your Coedwig puppy was raised with access to an open crate at all times, and this is her start with crate training. Refer to the "Art of Raising a Puppy" for crate training information.