



Silver Platter
— CHOCOLATE LABS —

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Congratulations!

We are so excited that you've made the decision to add a Labrador puppy to your family and have chosen us as your breeders! We are doing everything possible to prepare your puppy for your family by providing quality nutrition, care, socialization, and love.

We understand that your upcoming little addition is not only exciting, but a lot to prepare for! We are available to answer any questions and hope this small packet will be helpful to you!

The Edibles

Dog Food: There is much to learn about dog food but let's keep it simple for now. Our packet, that you will receive when you take your puppy home, will have an in-depth look at dog foods and how to select the best choice for your new family member. Until then we ask that you keep your puppy on the same food we have them on to help them transition smoothly, keep your health guarantee valid, and give you time to read through the more thorough information we will send you with. If you cannot find this food in your area by searching on their website for "places to buy" you have two options. You can pick it up at a farm store near us. Or we can purchase a bag for you and you can reimburse us.

Current Diet: Evangers Pheasant and Brown Rice Kibble (All Life Stages) You can also add in Honest Kitchen-Thrive or Embark for added nutrition and ease of transitioning

Treats: Please do not offer your puppy treats that are not wholesome. We go into detail on this in our packet. At this time we suggest you buy: **Zukes-Mini Naturals & Dogswell-Chicken Jerky.**

Toys: Chewing is a crucial part of your puppy's development Period. Without proper items to chew on they will get into Mischief finding their own way to ease their discomfort. We recommend you purchase several toys of different textures. Some of my personal favorite trusted brands include: **AKC, FluffandTuff, Kong, Indestructible Dog, Westpaw Design, DogTuff and GoughNuts.** We do not recommend Nylabone, Iams, Purina, or human grade stuffed animals that have beads, hard eyes or noses, or long "hair".





Crate & Bed

We strongly encourage crate training. We will send home information with step by step instructions on how to crate train your puppy. Your dog's crate should be a positive sanctuary. We recommend that you purchase a wire crate, with a divider, that is for a 60-80lb dog.

Rather than purchasing several crates as your dog grows, you can purchase one large crate that will fit him or her in adulthood and use the divider pushing it back further and further as needed. There are many good brands of crates and I have found Amazon to be quite cost effective.

You will want bedding for your dog's comfort in the crate. However we recommend just using a folded up blanket for Puppyhood, as puppies get quite creative while self soothing in their crate at night. It is no fun to wake up to your puppy's crate looking like Christmas morning, with foam snow everywhere!

Chewies

Please be cautious about the products that you give your dog to chew up that they will Digest. There are many harmful chemicals and low quality ingredients used in the majority of chewable treats for dogs these days. Use nothing bleached (white) or made outside of the USA. **Our favorites are: Frozen raw beef marrow bones. Our favorite brand is Primal and can be purchased at most natural pet stores or you can get in touch with your local butcher.** One bone lasts a very long time. You keep them frozen until you give it to your dog. The first time you give your puppy a frozen bone you will want to do it outside or in their crate over a towel. There will be a slight mess. Take it out of the freezer and it will have a little bit of meat and some pink on it. Give it to your puppy when they are not tired. The first time that they chew it they generally get off all of the meat and all of the pink. After that, you do not need to keep it in the freezer and it is a very clean chewable item for them that they can have most anywhere. If they do not get off all of the pink or the meat their first time then pop it back in the freezer until the next time. It generally does not take more than twice before it is a nice, clean bone that they can continue to enjoy. If they tire of their bone after a while then you can put a small bit of dog friendly peanut butter (no xylitol) in the marrow hole to entice them. One bone generally lasts my adult dogs one month before there is not much left of it and I throw it out. Yes, there is a slight concern for dogs while chewing bones that they may crack or chip a tooth.

We leave it up to your discretion as to whether or not this is something you want to risk with your own dog. In all of my years I have never found it to be a true problem or something that caused any pain to my dog. My dogs have regular dental appointments every two years and nothing severe has ever been reported. Other chewable and digestible options include: RedBarn--Bully Sticks, Pig Ears, and Hooves.



Basic Shopping List

- Collar**
(cheap, as he/she will outgrow a few before adulthood) I like Martingale collars
- ID tag**
(Red Dingo is my favorite brand as they last forever and are easy on the eyes)
- Leash**
- Crate**
- Food**
- Toys**
- Treats**
- Chewies**
- Bedding**
- X pen** (comes in handy constantly)
- EarthBath puppy shampoo**
- Nail clippers**
- Stainless steel food/water dishes** (plastic holds bacteria)