BABY-DOG NEEDS

- Plastic Play Yard
- Soft Bed
- Baby-dog Cuddle Blanket
- Food Dish and Water Dish
- Food (dry and soft)
- Nutri-Cal Supplement
- Pin Brush
- Flea Comb
- Nail Clippers
- Small Crate
- Pee-pee pads
- Nyla-bone Chew Toy
- Tug Toy
- Plush Snuggle Toy
- Sweater (optional)
A PLACE OF IT’S OWN

One of the most important things that your new puppy needs is a place to call it’s own, whether it be a metal or plastic pet play yard; or a small area partitioned in a laundry room or kitchen. It should be large enough to hold a little bed, a water and food dish, a litter pan, and enough room to get some exercise and move around. The area should be close enough to the family where your puppy won’t feel isolated and alone. Remember that they are pack animals, and want your company!

This is the place for your puppy to have time to it’s own to be able to eat, drink or sleep freely and without interference. This is especially important around the holidays when there is a lot of commotion and everyone wants to hold and play with the adorable Poodle. Remember, these are tiny babies and they are fun to play with and hold, but they also need their rest.

It is also good to know that if you must be gone for the day, that your Poodle is in a safe area with food and water. A place where they have freedom to play without the potential of getting hurt or in trouble while you are gone.

The added plus is that when you are busy and can’t have a puppy underfoot your pup has a safe place to be.

The most important thing is that you keep food down and allow your Poodle to graze. It’s tummy is very small and can’t hold enough calories to sustain itself all day. Small dogs use a lot of energy during playtime, and must have plenty of food to replenish the calories spent.
What is my puppy eating?

Your puppy must have access to its food all day long. Your puppy has been eating the food listed below. Please continue feeding your puppy the same food for at least two weeks while he/she is adjusting to the new environment. A change in diet can cause stress, diarrhea and dehydration.

• Kirkland Signature Puppy Food
Kirkland Signature Puppy Food is a quality food which contains all the necessary vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that your puppy needs. The bite-size donut-shaped kibble is the perfect size for a small Toy puppy. This puppy food is a Costco brand and is comparable to other high-quality puppy foods. Keep dry food and a bowl of water available 24 hours a day for the next two weeks. Follow the FEEDING instructions on the “Congratulations, a New Puppy” information page. Be sure that your Toy Poodle always has food to graze on during the day to reduce the risk of hypoglycemia.

• Pedigree - Puppy Wet Food
Add a little soft Pedigree Puppy canned food to the dry food. Mash it together to entice it to eat the dry food.

• Nutri-Cal
For the first two weeks of adjustment give your new puppy about an inch of Nutra-Cal each morning, at lunchtime and every night before bedtime. This fends off hypoglycemia by adding extra calories needed. You may even find Nutra-Cal handy when you are going to be gone for more than 8 hours. Your pup may become sad and not eat until you get home which will cause it to not have enough calories to burn during the day. Without the needed calories a drop in blood sugar causes hypoglycemia.

• Karo Syrup
Consulting veterinarians advise that puppies less than 3 lbs and 16 weeks of age cannot store glycogen in its liver, which means it may not be able to regulate its own sugar/glucose levels. Lowered glucose in these pups could result in hypoglycemic episodes including seizures, reduction of body temperature (hypothermia) and could severely compromise the health of the puppy. It is recommended that 1 cc of Karo Corn Syrup be given 3 times a day for prevention until your pup is at least 16 weeks old and weighs at least 3 pounds. FOR EMERGENCYS administer 1 cc every 15 minutes for shock. Call Veterinarian immediately.
Training Your Poodle Puppy to Be Handled

By teaching your Poodle to accept handling of his body while he is a puppy, then when special care is required, you will already have created that bond of trust with your Poodle. Your puppy will learn to relax and let you, the groomer or his vet, handle him for his care.

This exercise should be done by sitting on the floor with your puppy and inviting your Poodle to lie down on the floor between legs, on lap, or next to you. Give a tummy rub to relax your Poodle. When your puppy is relaxed gentle start massaging him. Begin at his muzzle, rubbing your fingers over the skin and at the same time checking his teeth. Then move your fingers up over the head, touching the skin around the eyes and inside the ears. Handle each ear flap, and look inside each ear. Massage around the base of the ears. As you are massaging examine your puppy for problems – look for excess wax, redness in the ears, check for bumps, dirt and discharges.

After massaging the face and head then gently continue down the body in the same slow gentle manner. Don’t let your puppy turn this into a wrestling game. Keep it relaxed and calm. If at any time your puppy struggles or resists go back to the tummy rub until he relaxes.

This exercise should be done daily. Incorporate your grooming procedure into the exercise. Daily combing and brushing will keep the coat tangle-free. As you massage & groom, a soft voice of praise is also relaxing to your Poodle.

There are other benefits to massaging your puppy. If your pup is over-stimulated in the evening when you want to “veg-out” in front of your the TV; then sit on the floor and massage your puppy to sleep while you watch your favorite show!
VERY IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ

Poodles-By-Design Recommends:

**DO NOT** give any shots when you first get your puppy. Wait at least one week until the puppy settles into its new home. Going to a new home is oftentimes stressful, and giving shots will only compound the stress. Be sure to complete the puppy series of vaccines to fully immunize your puppy. **Rabies shots** should never be given before six months of age. Be sure to read the article on my site about annual boosters to make informed choices.

**CAUTION:** Be extremely cautious that your puppy does not attempt climbing stairs, or steps. Never place a puppy on a bed or sofa, and be aware that while holding your puppy it must be held securely. They can and **will** jump, and it could be fatal.

**TOY PUPPIES:** During the period of adjustment your new puppy should be confined in a play yard or small area and only allowed to play freely for short intervals of time. Hypoglycemic shock will occur if overly exerted. **Consulting veterinarians advise that puppies less than 3 lbs and 16 weeks of age cannot store glycogen in its liver, which means it may not be able to regulate its own sugar/glucose levels.** Lowered glucose in these pups could result in hypoglycemic episodes including seizures, reduction of body temperature (hypothermia) and could severely compromise the health of the puppy. It is recommended that 1 cc of Karo Corn Syrup be given 3 times a day for prevention until your pup is at least 16 weeks old OR weighs at least 3 pounds. **FOR EMERGENCYS administer 1 cc every 15 minutes for shock.** Call Veterinarian immediately.
* COCCIDIOSIS - When your puppy first arrives at his new home he can easily become stressed. The trip to his new home, leaving all his friends, a new home and new owners are all stressors. Stress can activate Coccidia, which is a parasite that all pups are born with. If your new pup develops diarrhea soon after arriving you must seek vet intervention. Only medication will treat this parasite.

* HYPOGLYCEMIA - Toy puppies are prone to have a sugar low (hypoglycemia) if they do not eat enough or do not eat often enough. They should outgrow this problem by the time they are four to five months old. To prevent sugar lows we recommend you institute a couple of things. The first is to put Karo syrup in the pups drinking water (1 tsp. per cup of water). This makes the water sweetened water and even if your pup is not eating enough, as long as he is still drinking water, the sweetened water will help prevent a sugar low. We also recommend the new owner use Nutri-Cal. It is a high calorie nutritional supplement that the pups love. Give your puppy Nutri-Cal each morning and at bedtime for the first two weeks after you take it home. If you anticipate being gone for several hours at a time we also urge you give Nutri-Cal to your tiny pup before you leave. The use of Nutri-Cal, in addition to the Karo syrup, will decrease the possibility of your pup having a sugar low. Just 1/2 inch of Nutri-Cal each time is sufficient. Continue the use of both the Karo syrup and Nutrical until the pup is four to five months of age. Nutri-Cal can be purchased at most pet stores. If your pup should experience a sugar low he will act very tired and uninterested in playing. He will be unsteady on his feet when you stand him up. He will be sleepy. If you notice these symptoms and you suspect he has not eaten in several hours we urge you to give him one cc of Karo syrup slowly by mouth and wrap him in something to keep him warm. If the problem is a sugar low the pup should be back on his feet playing and running in thirty minutes. If the Karo syrup does not correct the problem within 30 minutes you will need to seek vet assistance. An untreated sugar low can worsen to seizures, coma and death for the pup.
* **ACCESS TO FOOD & WATER** - A puppy needs to have access to his food at all times or be fed at least 4 times each day. Toy puppies eat only a small amount of food at any one time. We often call it grazing. If you are concerned that your pup is not eating enough you can put warm water over some dry food to make it soggy. The pup will probably think it is a treat and gobble it up. This will work for a while but you will eventually need to get your pup to eat his food dry. Dry food is better for the teeth as it does not stick to them like soft food does. Also keep in mind that dehydration will occur without access to clean water daily.

* **HOME ALONE** - A Toy Poodle puppy should not be left alone for long periods of time. If left alone he probably will be unhappy, will not eat, and then will experience a sugar low. It is best if arrangements can be made to take him to work with you or to leave him with someone while you are at work. If those options are not possible perhaps someone can check on the pup at short intervals to let him know he has not been forgotten and to encourage him to eat. After the pup has adjusted to his new home and gotten a little older this might not be necessary.

* **ENERGY** - Playtime for a Toy Poodle puppy should be held to short intervals of no longer than 45 minutes to one hour. Since they are so small and eat only small amounts at a time they tend to run out of energy quickly. Extended play times can cause a sugar low. After each play time interval the pup should be given time to eat and nap. Also, a fingernail size of Nutri-Cal will help replenish calories lost. As they get older their play times can be extended.

* **DENTAL** - All pups need routine dental care but with Toy size puppies it is even more important. Because of their small size and small mouths a Toy size puppy has shorter dental roots thus they are at risk of creating dental cavities quicker which lead to earlier tooth extractions. Preventive dental care is very important.

* **DEATH** - Remember that all puppies are close to the floor, especially teacup pups. If you drop a pill, a staple, or anything else that could be harmful if swallowed you must find it and pick it up. A pup is inquisitive and he assumes anything found on the floor is his for the taking. A pill meant for a person can quickly kill a puppy.

* **HAVE FUN!** - With a little common sense and a lot of love, the puppy will quickly integrate with your family and merit a special place in your heart for years to come.
Choosing a Healthy Puppy

At 8 – 12 weeks of age a puppy will have received the first series of vaccines, should be weaned, eating solid food, and well socialized.

Most puppies appear healthy, but a close inspection may make some puppies more desirable. Literally go over the puppy from head to tail.

Begin by examining the head. The nose should be cool and moist. Nasal discharge or frequent sneezing is a sign of poor health. Check for a correct bite. The gums should be pink and healthy looking. Pale gums suggest anemia, possibly caused by intestinal parasites. Feel for a soft spot on the dome of the skull. If present, the fontanel is open, which is associated with hydrocephalus. The eyes should be clear and bright. The ears should be clean and sweet-smelling. A buildup of wax with odor may be caused by ear mites. Head-shaking and tenderness indicate an ear infection.

The pup should breathe in and out without effort.

The skin on the abdomen should be clean and healthy looking. A bulge at the navel is caused by umbilical hernias.

A healthy coat is bright and shiny.

The puppy’s gait should be free and smooth without limping or faltering.

Young puppies should be alert, playful and full of vitality.