

**Congratulations
on purchasing your
Valley Gem Dobermann puppy**

Here are some handy hints for taking
care of the new addition to the family
I hope you will be as happy
as I am with this
intelligent, versatile breed
Never hesitate to call me for
any advice or help with your puppy

Kind Regards,
Cheryl Spring

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VALLEYGEM DOBERMANNS
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Taking care of your Puppy



**VALLEY GEM .COM.AU
DOBERMANNS**

DIET

Your puppy needs 3 meals per day made up from a variety of foods. Some examples of meals are:

Puppies from 2 months

Three meals a day

Preservative free meat variety fresh beef or chicken mince.

We use chicken mince made from the frames which gives excellent calcium content

Meat/minces

Lactose free milk, natural yogurts.

Fresh fruit and vegetable

Vets All Natural Complete Mix

Raw meaty bones, beef, roo,

Chicken carcasses/necks/thighs

Quality dried food

(For puppies we use advance 'Optimum Large Breed Puppy' supplementing high calcium/minerals needs)

You can use any quality large breed puppy dried food, Advance, Optimum or Leap and Bound.

Puppies from 4-5 months

Two meals a day

When your puppy is 4-5 months of age you can decrease the meals from three to two per day.

Have plenty of fresh, clean water for your dog and make it accessible at all times.

Do not leave uneaten food lying around attracting flies and breeding bacteria.

It is good practice to dispose of old bones; they breed bacteria which could have an adverse effect on the health of your puppy.

Never feed one large meal when adult. Best to give two to prevent gastric taution.

Never exercise a dog after eating.

More info on this link:

BARF Biologically Appropriate Raw Feeding

Books can be purchased through the
Royal N.S.W. Canine Council
PH: 02 98343022

We also add to the diet:
Quality prescription dry dog food
tailored to your puppy needs
and Divetalact low lactose supplement powder

A healthy variety of foods

Dogs generally have good appetites and just like us they like variety in their diet

Good

Minces, beef, chicken
raw chicken necks, thighs and carcasses
raw large meaty lean bones
roo, lamb, sardines
offal, kidney, liver, heart (cooked)
sardines with no added salt
Vegetables and fruit
Cooked rice, barley, oatmeal etc
Vets All Natural Complete Mixes
quality prescription dried dog food

Bad

Cow's milk
cooked bones, canned food
processed can foods
chocolate
onions

The puppies have been on optimum puppy dry food as a supplement for vitamins and minerals, take note that dried food is never a substitute for a proper natural varied diet.

They enjoyed quality mince of chicken, vegetables, red meats, barf or beef. Also chicken necks which we crush first with a mallet. Whole chicken necks are too big for pups to eat and could lead to complications.

The puppies also have had cooked rolled or quick oats and lactose free milk, fresh large beef bones and roo tail bones.

They have been on 5 meals a day but 3 meals will be enough after pickup with freely available snacks such as dry food and bone etc. Then as puppy grows 2 meals a day and snack food will be enough till adult when 2 meals will be fine.



Children and Puppies

Do not let children play with puppies unless supervised by an adult

Do not let children pick the puppies up except when seated

95% of bone fractures in puppies are caused by children dropping them

Do not let puppies play rough with bigger dogs
Puppies' bones are fragile and easily damaged
Dogs are not aware of their size. You are

Do not wash your dog more than once every two weeks

Always dry a dog well after a bath especially your puppy
Puppies are prone to intestinal blockages

Be Cautious

do not leave anything unsafe around with puppies/dogs

More info on this website:

<http://alexadry.hubpages.com/hub/Symptoms-of-intestinal-blockage-in-dogs>

CARE

Coat

Dobermanns have a short coat. Care is minimal.

Grooming is bliss. When bathing use natural, gentle shampoos, such as 'Alooveen Oatmeal Shampoo and Conditioner'.

Harsh shampoos are not good for a Dobermann's naturally-dry coat. There are lots of great natural products on the market.

Nails

Trim your puppy's nails regularly,

this way you only need to take a fraction off each time.

It's great training for the dog as well.

Ears

Check your dog's ears to make sure they are free of dirt, grime and wax. The ear should look clean, and be free of mites. Use cotton wool and ear cleaners such as Epioptic or Leo ear cleaner.

Eyes

Use cotton wool dipped in cold tea water (teabag dunked in water) to clear the sleep or dust from the eyes. Don't double dip; use a separate cotton bud and tea water per eye.

If there is excessive or irregular discharge from the eyes seek veterinary advice.



Worming
Your puppie's
next worming is due on:

Worming Schedule

Puppies younger 3 months
need regular worming every 2 weeks
with Drontal Allwormer

Puppies between 3 and 6 months
need regular worming every month
and after six months every 3 months.

Heartworm prevention can be administered
from 3 months onwards

We recommend Revolution
which does fleas, heartworm and mites

Vaccinations

See enclosed Vaccinations Certificate

We only use C3 and C4 vaccinations as there health
risks associated with the C5 vaccine. To upgrade
your C3/C4 vaccination to C5 you can use
Bordetella Nasal Spray Vaccine usually required by
kennel facilities.

The puppy booster is due at 12 weeks.

After that once a year

Do not allow puppy to be exposed
to places where lots of dogs have been until
10 days after the vaccination

**Keep your puppy off the floor
when visiting a vet**

Only consider when you are in a high Parvo risk an
extra puppy vaccination C3, then once a year.

Consult your local vet

HEALTH

Hygiene

Always keep your puppies yard clean of droppings
to prevent disease and internal parasites

Fleas

I recommend Frontline Spray or for puppies under 8 weeks.
Then spot on products such as Advantage. Frontline Plus or
Revolution are some of the brands available. We do not
recommend flea+ tick collars under 6 months due to the risk
of chewing.

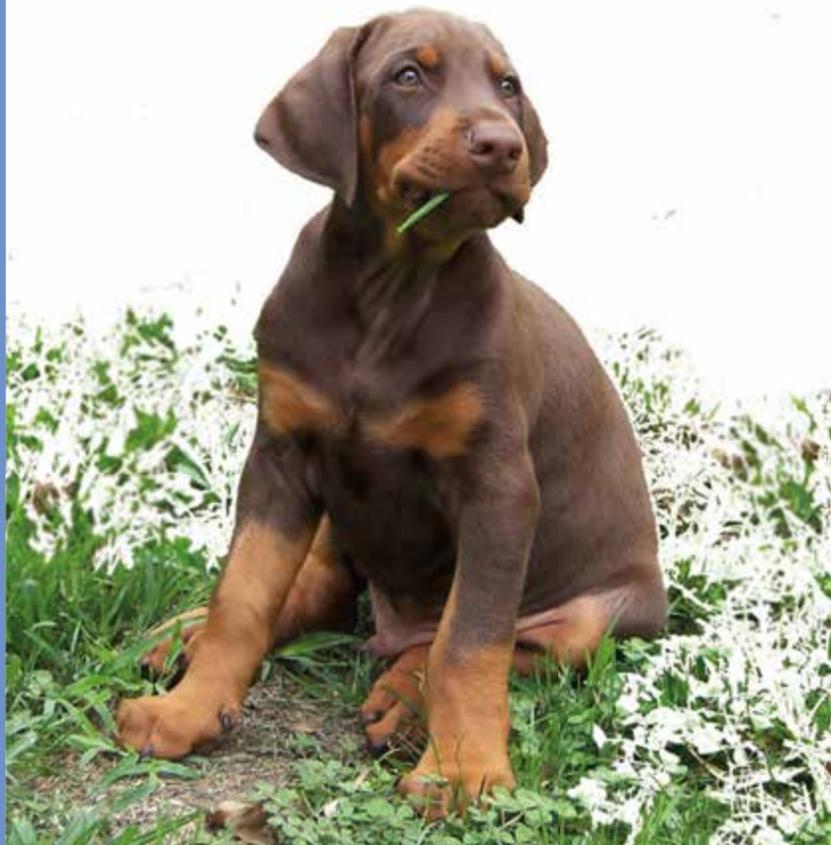
Ticks

I use Frontline Spray until the puppies are 8 weeks old, after
that I use Frontline Plus every two weeks. There are a few
new products on the market e.g. Nextgard or Bravecto
which are pills taken periodically. There was negative
feedback about these products. Best to do your own
research on the net.

De-Sexing

Between 12 and 18 months

Hormones are important for bone growth and development
of your dog. It is important to be responsible pet owner but
desexing your pet early doesn't solve behavioural problems
and can cause health issues. Large breed dogs are best
being desexed after maturity as to not cause urinary
incontinence or orthopaedic issues.



Something about negatives and positives

Give clear consistent messages

Don't ignore bad behaviour and have clarity in your training.

If the puppy is doing something negative don't reward or ignore

or the puppy will never realise it is doing something negative. Remember to target and only shape desirable, calm wanted behaviour.

Hitting a dog is no discipline

To deliver a physical negative:

make a quick grab-and-release around the top of puppy's neck and at the same time give a verbal negative

Always remember to give praise for the right decision

Give payment where it's due

Teach your puppy what a negative is

Use your 'negative cues' cautiously; don't progress through the levels too rapidly as puppies are easy to offend

Use a harsh dominant tone of voice saying 'ahh' or 'no' When puppy ceases the undesired behaviour verbally praise him in a bright and happy tone of voice

Let your puppy know he's made the right decision

If your verbal negative doesn't work then go to the next level which is a physical negative, but always try a verbal first

Remember if puppy continues its negative

behaviour your level isn't high enough Proceed to a higher level until the puppy makes the right decision Then reward accordingly

Be firm and fair and you'll have a calm

easy-to- live- with compliant companion that knows where he or she stands

TRAINING

Toilet Training

Puppies need, and become house trained quickly from regular toileting.

Take the puppy to a grassy area:

Every time your puppy awakens, after meals and approximately two hours.

It is best to have your puppy in a safe, fenced, grassed area during the day.

Toilet regularly. Especially at night when puppy is indoors, and you will soon have a house trained puppy.

Be diligent in the early stages with your puppy, and the message will be well imprinted.

Valley Gem puppies have been toileted regular from 5 weeks of age. It is very important to continue this training.

Crate Training

Crate training is not punishment but a personal space, safe for a puppy to have 'quiet time' and a rest.

I highly recommend crate training, penning. It enables a puppy or dog to have a safe quiet space of their own and to have independence, which stops separation anxiety and domineering problems. Crate training can be any contained area; normally a large cage within the home near a living area or a room portioned by a gate.

The Easy Click Dog Pen can be purchases on this link: www.vebopet.com.au.

Place water, their bedding, toys, bones and food inside the cage. It is great for toilet training throughout the night.

Obedience

Valley Gem Dobermanns are highly intelligent dogs, willing to please their master. Be a firm and fair leader. Do not promote dysfunctional behaviour in your dog. Promote desired behaviour with praise. Remember Dobermanns are naturally dominant Dogs.

Be a good leader!

Use structure and boundaries. If you don't know how to solve a problem do not hesitate to call me for advice. Training is important with all dogs, especially large breeds such as Dobermanns.



PLAY

Transporting your Puppy

if travelling by car to pick up your puppy don't forget to have a container with of fresh water with you and a bowl for the puppy to drink from and make the puppy comfortable with a few towels.

Use a harness instead of a collar and be safe with putting your puppy on the leash at the toilet stops. Avoid any high density doggy areas or dog parks as your puppy has not had its 12 week parvo vac as yet.

Bring an esky, we supply some puppy food and snacks to make it easy when you arrive home and his meals are the same on the first day in the new home.

If travelling by plane bring some fresh sheets for bedding, we'll take care of the water and blanket for the trip to the airport.

Toys

Indestructible play toys can be purchased online.

Avoid toys like squeekers, rope toys or which contain foam. The large breed puppies are very robust an can tear a toy or foam matrass to pieces which could be swallowed and trigger complications like bowel obstructions.

Why a harness?

You will need a harness size medium which will fit puppy until big. We train puppies to start to walk in harness to avoid toughen and desensitizing their necks.

A young puppy doesn't understand training nor corrections properly and we do not want to shape behaviour like pulling on the leash.

Correction starts around 14-16 weeks. Before that we only want the puppy to move forward. What we do is develop them by different associations and make progress gradually. Its called placement training and is the key to easy trainability.

The puppy associates training with good fun instead of causing problems with moving too fast and expecting too much.

Pen

Have a safe pen indoors made for your puppy. It avoids the puppy to shadow you 24/7 and it will strips its independence. An outdoor pen is also handy for toilet training if your yard is too big and unsafe for small puppies. The photo shows a metal tube heavy duty exercise playpen made snake proof.

Training pens are available from <http://www.vebopet.com.au>



Harness

Get yourself a long puppy leash of about two metres with small clips which is more then sufficient for the small pup. the length of the leash is important for training. Don't use chains, a light leather or webbing leash will do. K9PRO have a good selection of leashes online. <http://www.k9pro.com.au> A soft webbing puppy harness from the Kramer brand is perfect and is easy to take on and off. A medium size will suit your puppy for some time.

We don't approve of using collars on puppies in training until they are approx. 14-16 weeks depending on the puppy. This will be explained in the pickup training session of your puppy.

Training Collar

When mature a martingale training collar will be used or either a nice soft flat collar with a buckle, we suggest to avoid plastic clips because they break easily. Any form of collar or harness is only used when handling the dog and never left on the dog to avoid accidental hanging or injury.

