
Janzen Family Bassets

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Care of your New Basset Puppy

It is very important that you feed the puppy food I have recommended for the first week after bringing your puppy home. If you decide to switch to another brand, do so after the first week. Over a few days, mix it with the brand of your choice a little more each day until completely changed over. Don't give the puppy any table food or treats, other than *Iams Puppy Biscuits*, for at least two weeks. It's upsetting to change homes, and things out of the ordinary will upset his/her stomach causing diarrhea. This is very dangerous for a young puppy. A teaspoon of *Kaopectate* will usually settle his/her stomach. You may give your puppy some dry food that has been softened with water once a day (only as much as it will eat in about 5-10 minutes, or 1 cup softened) in addition to his/her dry food. If your puppy is older than 8 weeks, dry food is all they need. I leave dry food down for them all the time, but if house training you will want to feed them 3 times a day and decrease it later as they grow (about 14-16 weeks) to 2 times. Puppy food should be fed until the age of 1 year. Try to never let your puppy chew or jump on you, even if it's cute now, you will soon tire of it as they grow. It must never be allowed to get out of hand. I recommend keeping toys handy to switch out with if he/she tries to chew you. Chewing is a natural part of puppyhood, but should always be done on appropriate toys. Never wrestle, play tug of war, or chase. This will teach them to bite. I find that puppy classes are very useful starting at about 16 weeks old. It is very important that you follow up with your vet at 9, 12, and 16 weeks for shots. Please don't take your puppy to public places until 16 weeks, as they are not protected from diseases such as parvo until all shots have been done.

Housetraining Tips

Our puppies are put outside at 4 weeks old so that they learn to go outside to grass potty. They are not used to cold weather because they are kept warm while here with heat pads and heating lamps. Little puppies can't withstand cold weather without heat, so if your puppy will be staying outdoors please have some heating source available for him/her. **It is very important that you are vigilant about potty training when you first take your puppy home.** If you don't start immediately, you have lost the battle before it begins. Get a large box or kennel and put bedding in it, keep the puppy in it whenever he/she is not attended. Take him/her out every hour during the day at first. Every puppy is different, and you will soon learn how often your puppy needs to go out. If your puppy goes potty let it down in the house to play for about 15-20 minutes. Your puppy will learn quickly that when it goes potty it will be allowed to play. After about 15-20 minutes either put it back in the box or hold it. Your puppy won't wet in his/her box unless it's desperate to go. At night if you go to bed at 10:00 PM take food and water up at 8:00 PM and don't give anymore until morning (early). If you work, try and have a area without carpet blocked off so the puppy can have some food (not a lot, but a puppy this young can't go all day without food) and water during the day. Put down a "piddle pad" *and* some toys or he/she will play with the pad. Always take the puppy out after he/she drinks or eats. Try and take the puppy out the same door each time and to the same area of the yard.