

Classic Heritage Golden Retrievers

Reminders, Tips, Links, and More

Next to Christmas and birthdays, the day that you pick your puppy up from the breeder is, hands down, the BEST. DAY. EVER!

For your puppy, It's an exciting, but difficult day. For the past several weeks they have been living comfortably nestled next to mom and numerous siblings, and now he/she is on to a new adventure. Sure, your puppy is getting ready to go to a nice new home, but it's still a dramatic change from what your puppy is used to. Think of bringing home a puppy like bringing home a baby; They are going to need toys, food, a veterinarian, potty training, rules, and guidance from you and the whole family. We hope that you can find some helpful tips below to make bringing home your puppy the best experience possible.

- ❖ Bring your puppy home when you know you'll have time to focus on only your pup. This will give you both a chance to get properly acquainted with each other as well as help the puppy get used to a new home.
- ❖ On the way home, make sure that someone is either holding the puppy securely in their lap in the back seat or the puppy is in a crate. We recommend you bring a crate if you are more than a two-hour drive, just in case.
- ❖ Be sure to pack paper towels, plastic bags, and odor neutralizer, in case the puppy has an accident or vomits from the car ride. It won't be their first car ride, and most pups do great, but sometimes pups can get car sick. :(
- ❖ After picking up the puppy, go straight home. It may be tempting to share your new little bundle of joy with a few friends, but it's essential that you get your puppy home and settled as soon as possible. If your puppy is whining a lot he/she may need to go potty. Try to find a strip of grass or dirt at a fast food restaurant as they tend to be very clean. Be sure not to let your puppy put anything in their mouth at this time.
- ❖ Your puppy might not be fully vaccinated. Your puppy may only have one or two shots by the time they go home, depending on what age they go home. Keep in mind that they might not be fully protected and care must be taken as to what goes into your puppy's mouth. Your pup should be supervised at all times when outside until fully vaccinated around 16 weeks of age.
 - Be sure to have a vet appointment made as we request that each family has a vet appointment within 7-10 days of leaving us.
- ❖ Once you're home, take the puppy outside to potty. Calmly walk them around the designated bathroom area, and make sure your yard is puppy-proofed ahead of time. It is best to be outside

until they have gone potty. It may be helpful to them that you have a few pine pellets sprinkled outside, indicating to them that they should go potty there.

- ❖ Make sure that everyone is calm when the puppy arrives home. The best way to get your puppy to warm up to you is to be calm and relaxed. Too many loud noises or voices could mean it will take longer to adjust for your puppy.
- ❖ If there are other pets in the house, don't be in a rush to introduce the puppy to them. There will be time for him to get acquainted with the other pets later. Be sure to talk to us ahead of time about introducing other furry family members.
- ❖ Sit the puppy down inside and let him/her explore. It's been a long day, give him/her some time and make sure you have rules and a schedule in place for when they are settled. Remember that your new puppy is not potty trained TO THIS NEW AREA/HOME.

At first, your puppy should only have access to a small area that you can observe. Preferably this small area should include the door that you want to take the puppy out of. Please be sure to ask us for more details and how to make this as successful as possible.

Sleeping - We know how excited you are to have your puppy home and close to you but, your puppy should never sleep in the bed with you until they are big enough to jump off the bed and land on his/her feet. They can easily be rolled on or injure themselves by jumping off the bed at this point. The best place for your puppy, until he/she is fully potty trained, is in a crate at night to sleep. The crate should be medium or large in size with an available divider if need be. [Wire crates](#) are best. You should get the bigger size with a divider if you plan to use it when your puppy grows into an adult.

Food and Water - Puppies should be offered food two times a day. Times should be around 7-8am and 5-6 pm. It is usual for your puppy to only eat a little bit for the first couple of days in a new home, (remember, they could do the opposite as well and try to eat you out of house-and-home) Don't stress about this. It is also not abnormal that your puppy has diarrhea in the first few days, from adjusting to a new environment. A little bit of 100% pure pumpkin puree can help with this and can be added to the meal in the first few days. Let us know or your vet if it persists longer than the first couple of days. Water should be available at all times, puppies exert a lot of energy and are often thirsty. Limit treats to a couple of times a day and when training, puppies need praise more than anything else. Puppies should not eat at least three hours before bedtime and water should be very limited a few hours before bed, as well. Make sure the puppy has had ample playtime after eating and a chance to go potty before bedtime.

Though the puppies started on one of the best kibbles (Nature Logic, [Distinction](#)), we recommend a raw food diet (see feeding link) for puppies and dogs as it is the best for their health and well-being. We love and strongly encourage pet families to stick to our raw food diet. If you plan to transition your puppy, please plan to do so slowly over one month's time, to change their food. We will also be happy to answer any questions and discuss more details with you at pick-up.

Potty Training Tips - As you know, we wholeheartedly believe in potty training with [pine pellets](#). These should be purchased ahead of time and ready in an under-bed type storage box, big enough for the puppy to get in and out of on their own, [a box like this](#), (no lid) will work perfectly.

It really does work and believe me, we have tried it all. Our puppies have been using them since they were three weeks old and are very accustomed to using them. Most of our litters leave us well-adjusted to using pellets. Be sure to have a large under-bed storage box with the pellets inside and place it by the door where you want your puppy to go out.

When the puppy seeks out the pellets this is YOUR CUE to open the door and help them find the place you would like them to go to the bathroom. You may need the box for one day, two days, one week, or two weeks, every puppy is different. Be patient and consistent and your puppy will finish potty training very quickly.

- ❖ Puppies can usually hold their bladder muscle for up to six hours at this stage if their bladder is empty when put to bed. If your puppy whines for more than five to ten minutes in the middle of the night, take them outside, ONCE! Do not let them train you. It is better for them to have an accident or two in their crate than to give in to them every time they whine. Some puppies never make a peep, others will test you. Puppies will not usually use the bathroom where they sleep so their crate should only be big enough to stretch out or curl up for sleeping.

- ❖ It is very important to remember that puppies wake up needing to go potty. In the morning, after naps (which are still frequent at this age), after playtime, and after eating. You must do your duty to help them find their potty place, don't wait for them to tell you.

You are starting on a wonderful journey with your newest furry family member. We wish you luck and blessings and we are here to help if needed. Don't hesitate to ask for help. We want our families and our puppies to have a happy, healthy, and long life together!

Best wishes from all of us at CHGR