General Info-

Your pup was born and has been raised in our home. Therefore, you can rest assured that you have a very socialized addition to your family.  While your pup will need to go outside and play, it is important, and we request, he/she is kept as an inside dog. Your pup will be Microchipped before leaving us, you are responsible for registering as soon as possible. Of note is the importance of I.D. tags as well as the Microchip. The ID tag actually helps people’s efforts to help your pup. It is imperative that your pup be returned to you in the event you are separated.  This pup relies on you to be safe and responsible in caring for him/her for their entire lifetime.

On that note I will reiterate our family contract requirement that the pup not be abandoned, given to a shelter or euthanized. We insist that families contact us in the event the pup must have a new family.

Feeding-

Your pup has been fed twice a day and gotten into a routine. We feed in the morning and at dinner time so your pup will do best if you feed in the morning early enough for him/her to go outside for a bit after eating. Eat, Drink, Potty will be your mantra while training.  Dinner should be at least 4 hours before bedtime. If you feed your pup his/her dinner too late, you will be getting up to go potty!

The puppies are weaned onto baby cereal, then canned food, and now eating dry kibble.  We strongly suggest a quality pet food along the lines of Nutro Ultra. The old saying you are what you eat applies here. Your pup will be healthier if you choose a healthy diet for them. Your pup will be on the puppy food for approx 1 year to 2 years because they do so much growing during this time. Make sure your pup has access to plenty of water that gets swapped out with fresh water often.

Again: Eat, Drink, Potty

Sleeping and Kennels-

We have had your pup sleeping and taking an afternoon nap in a kennel. You may wish to continue with this, if only at the start of your relationship. A large kennel, kept clean with a blanket in it, is what they’re used to. Place the kennel in a comfortable area in your home and never kennel a dog outside.

We cover our kennels at night with a sheet to help them settle down. Just like babies if they see you they want you. I prefer the large open wire kennels over the hard sided type - both for Pup’s comfort as well as the cleanliness of the kennel itself.

Grooming-

Bath time requires routine and your pup is already used to it because we have been bathing since 3 weeks of age. A gentle shampoo and good rinsing is all you need. You can do it; really you can.

Pup’s nails need to be kept trimmed so make arrangements to do it regularly. Brushing is a weekly necessity at the least. There will be serious matting if you do not get all the way down with a brush or pin comb. We recommend the FURminator brush. You will need to trim the hair around the eyes and mouth. Trimming will also include the bottom area and between paw pads which I can show you how to do when you pick up your pup. Regular grooming becomes a habit for both you and the pup. Tweezerman scissors are best.

The inside of any poodle’s or doodle’s ears must be kept free of fine hairs. Simply raise the ear and tug fine hairs out of the inside of the ear. Some people use a hemostat. Hemostats can be purchased online or at most pet stores. I prefer my fingers so I know how much tug I am giving.

Don’t forget: Eat, Drink, Potty

Medical/Health-

We have worked with our Vet, Dr. Marquardt of Rochelle Veterinary Hospital to develop a worming and vaccine protocol that works best for our puppies. The protocol also allows the pups to see Dr. Marquardt twice before they go home at 9 weeks of age. The following protocol is followed for all puppies Using Pyrantel we Worm for Pinworms, Large Roundworm. At 2, 4 , 6 and 8 weeks of age. Your pup then needs to be wormed again with Pyrantel at 10 and 12 weeks of age. We can help you decide whether to worm at home or the vet. If at home a quality product will be suggested. Using Panacur we worm for Round, Hook, Whip and Tape worms. The Panacur helps with possible giardia at the same time. This we do at 6 and 8 weeks. The pup will need to be wormed with panacur again at 10 and 12 weeks. As above we can help determine your at home follow up worming with your new baby.

Vaccinations: Puppies see Dr. Marquardt at age 5 weeks and 8 weeks. At that time pups receive vaccines of PPVD. Which is for Parvo influenza, Parvo virus, and distemper. They also receive a health checkup at both appt.s and a clear to go home at 9 weeks. At home with you, your pups will need 2 more sets of the PPVd shots at 12 and 15 weeks. This is a must for your puppies health. We do check to make sure your pup has had their follow up PPVD's. Your vet will schedule your Rabies and Lepto shots following their protocol.

Your puppies health starts before conception. Our parents are with us as puppies and are family pets. having them from puppy stage on, helps us ensure both their health and temperament long before old enough to breed. We feed Nutro Ultra large Breed, as this meets their needs best and I trust the maker. Supplementing with an Egg three times a week and occasional chicken tidbits. Adding a Brewers yeast tablet daily, At breeding we supplement with Vitamin E and C as well. As the pregnancy progresses I add colloidal silver daily and cottage cheese, to help Mom's body keep up. Mom is wormed 20 days before birth and then follows the same worming schedule as her puppies, which will follow. Birthing is in my bedroom with my help. A supported well-tended birth makes for a less anxious Mom and we all know how that helps with the babies! Pups stay in the new pup nursery, my bedroom until 4 weeks of age. At that point they transition to the Laundry room. Weaning and social time is a busy time.

We use an early stimulation program, that starts before the social process. We have tailored this after the U.S. Military's program called "Bio Sensor".  When puppy is 3 days old we start and continue until he/she is 17 days old. This is a period of time when neurological and development is rapid and very important to the pups future. In addition to the normal handling and loving of your puppy, we incorporate the following exercise once a day per puppy. Starting with the next pup. The handling of each pup once per day involves the following exercises: 1) Toe tickles with a Q-tip, between each toe. 2) Head up position, puppy is perpendicular. 3) Head down position, head reversed and pointing down. 4) Supine, back on palm of my hand, pup may be sleeping. 5) Thermal, a damp cold washcloth with pup placed on it feet down. All of the above are for ashort 5 second duration, but the possible impact is huge.  The neurological stimulation of these steps, do not come naturally this early in a puppies life. the following benefits are as follows: Improved heart rate, Stronger heart beats, Stronger adrenal glands, More tolerance to stress, Greater resistance to disease, and In tests of learning, stimulated pups are found to be more active and more exploratory , less disturbed by changing situations and in general calmer.

Dog Parks-

There is a high concentration of feces and urine in dog and puppy parks. Please use caution because not all dogs and pups that have been there before you are free of disease. Sanitizing Pup’s paws immediately after a visit can help keep them safe and healthy because they lick their paws which can transfer disease and critters into and onto them.

Now the fun part: Toys!

I find that the brand Kong is by far the best for my dogs and is well worth the investment.

Doodles also love stuffies. Go buy them lots and put your favorite ones up.

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Praise-

Praise is the most effective way to show your puppy that you are pleased with him. Praise for a job well done is much more important than discipline for an error. It is a crucial to praise when training your puppy and done frequently, all the way into adulthood. Every time your puppy does something right, flatter his ego. Let the puppy or dog know has pleased you tremendously. Remember, it’s not so much what praise word use, it’s your approval, you will be positively reinforcing the behavior you praise. Nothing makes your dog happier than being the center of attention and your words do just that!   When discipline is needed, and there will be times when it is needed – a puppy has a memory of no more than 2 minutes. So when disciplining your puppy for an elimination error you must, catch him in the act. This holds true for Praise and the treat that goes with training, must be immediate! As well as consistent.

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And lastly: Eat, Drink, Potty