

## Instruction Manual

**Food (Puppies)**- Your puppy has been eating Purina Pro Plan Puppy Food. They eat 1.25 (one and a quarter) measured cups in the morning, and 1.25 measured cups in the evening. I would encourage you to feed your puppy at least three times a day at first, if you are able to (.8 cup 3 times daily).

It is a huge transition for puppies to go to a new home. For the first two days, you should cut each feeding in half to avoid loose stool. Then, gradually increase back up to the 2.5 cups daily. Once the puppy is 12 weeks old, increase to 3 cups daily (1 cup 3 x / day).

Siberians can be very finicky eaters. If you plan to continue with this brand of Dog Food as opposed to switching to a different brand, it can be purchased at stores such as Petco, Tractor Supply, PetSmart, etc.

As you introduce any new food, you will want to do so  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup at a time. Subtract one quarter cup of the old food and add one quarter cup of the new food at each feeding. Then, monitor your puppy's stool. If they remain formed, feel free to increase it the next day, again by  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup. If the stool becomes too soft, you may need to go slower. Remember that the stress of a new home, the trip, and even new water, can sometimes upset a pup's delicate balance. Switching the food too quickly is just asking for trouble. So, there is no such thing as going too gradually.

When puppies are closer to 5-6 months old, we begin to use Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy Food.

**Food (Adult Dogs)**- Adults will be eating Pro Plan Performance 30/20 formulas in most cases. Amount is based on their individual weight. Food changes must occur gradually,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup at a time.

**Vitamins**- We take vitamins, our kids, take vitamins, and our dogs take vitamins. It helps ensure proper nutrition. We prefer NuVet brand, as the dogs seem to like them, they don't upset their stomachs, and they can be easily ordered.

**1-800- 474-7044    Order ID - 75858**

**Treats**- We buy "chew bones" or rawhides for the dogs, but always watch them when they are eating them to monitor for any possible choking hazards. Occasionally, we use small biscuits for training rewards – but they love cooked meat best. We also like the "Greenies", which help with bad breath.

You can also take Butcher Bones once the marrow is chewed out of them, and wash them in the upper rack of the dishwasher. Then, stuff them with 1 TBSP peanut butter and freeze them. Peanut Butter bones are another big favorite, and you can use them for times when we need to get the dogs into their crates or runs for a spell. We always make that crate or pen a happy place with yummy things!

**Wee Wee Pads-** your puppy has been using pine bedding in his/her puppy room. If you choose to continue using that with them, he/she should have a good idea of what to do with it. If you have enough space, you can set up a 'litter box' containing pine bedding initially – but this is **not** recommended, because you will later need to teach the puppy not to use this pine bedding pool. So, you would be setting up the need to train your puppy twice. If you simply start from the beginning with house-breaking your puppy without the pine bedding pools, you will be better off in the long run.

Or, you can also provide puppy pads (similar in theory to the newspaper). Housebreaking can be difficult. You must closely watch your puppy. We do recommend reminding the puppy to use the pee-pads, or a designated spot outside after every nap, playtime and meal. Set a timer to remind yourself to take him/her out. We prefer to have the pup inside an ex-pen so when we put him/her down in there we can watch him circle etc., until he/she finally goes. Then we allow him/her out for some playtime without worry! Please see the other attachments and our website for other tips on housebreaking!

**Crates-** If you decide to crate train your puppy, make sure to get the right crate. The crate is only big enough for him/her to stand up and turn around in. Too much extra space may become a bathroom area. Puppies will not want to defile their crate, but if it happens, it could become habit forming if not properly addressed. As soon as your puppy awakens he/she should be taken out or put on the paper to relieve him/her self. We encourage the use of the crate; it becomes your puppy's safe place. Make it fun to go into the crate. I give them a special treat to chew on each time they go into the crate while they are adjusting to it. As they get older they happily will "get into their beds" when I ask them to. **DO NOT** put beds or towels in the crate until after the puppy is crate trained. And never open the door when the puppy is screaming or batting at the crate door, or they will continue to do so every time. See the enclosed handout on crate training.

**Collars-** We use nylon choke collars to train. You will need to order this online – you will not find them in local stores. Sometimes, when walking, your puppy may stop short and drop his/her head, allowing the collar to slip off over the top of the head. We don't leave the collar on then after the walk. There are many different opinions on training collars. Another recommendation would be to use Premier's Breakaway Collars. These collars have a special clasp that will release under pressure (if the collar gets caught on something or if the dogs get rough with one another). You can use a leash with the collars, and if you do, the clasp will not break away once the leash is attached.

**Leashes-** If you plan on doing obedience classes with your puppy, many instructors will not take kindly to a Siberian's desire to walk out in front of you. We do not recommend the flexi leads until after your dog has learned obedience, because it will defeat the purpose of the heel command if they are allowed to wander around on a flexi lead. When we walk our puppies and adults, we prefer a nice leather 6 ft lead, instead. You may also want to have a 20-30 ft training lead around to use when training your dog

outside where he/she could possibly get distracted and run off. With it trailing your dog, and you watching, you can easily step on it should your dog decide to bolt after something. It is also a great sit-stay practice tool, as you can get further and further from your dog as you progress.

**Pick Up** – When you come to pick up your puppy, ideally someone else will travel with you in order to assist and either drive or hold the puppy. You can put the puppy in a crate, but he/she will not be crate trained at the time of pick up, which may make your trip home a bit unpleasant for both you and the puppy. Please bring a towel and/or blanket, small collar and leash, final payment, and two copies of the contract with the first and last pages completed:

(contract attached)

**Puppy Proofing:** Puppies like to chew... everything – bottom line. Electrical cords, house plants, garbage bags/pails, shoes, rugs/carpet, etc. are all 'fair game'. You'll want to keep your puppy under a close watch. This will help with housebreaking, as well.

If you have any questions on any of the items above, please feel free to ask me. I have tried to outline most of the items I use here for all of my dogs as well as your particular puppy!

If I missed anything that you may need information on, you can call me at 814-229-9123 or e-mail me at: [jalerran@verizon.net](mailto:jalerran@verizon.net) or [jalerran@gmail.com](mailto:jalerran@gmail.com) . If the matter is not pressing, email is the best bet.

Thank you for choosing one of our special fur-babies to be a part of your family!

Remember, we love pictures! Please send us as many as you like, and let us know if you are not Ok with one or more being posted on our website or forwarded to the owners of your pup's siblings! Please tag photos of our dogs/pups on Facebook. If you're on Facebook, and are willing, we gladly will make you a 'contributor' to the album of the puppies so that you can continue to add photos of them as they grow.

Thanks!