

Whisterfield Whippets

Puppy Notes



Getting started

The move from his family to a new home can be a very bewildering and traumatic time for a puppy. Please be patient with him as he settles in and don't expect too much too soon. At the other end of the scale whippet puppies can have periods of hyper manic boisterous and uncontrolled activity followed by several hours of sleep. This is normal behaviour and to be expected.

Transfer of Ownership

Since compulsory microchipping was introduced in April 2016 a temporary system of Petlog transfers is in place until an online transfer service is introduced later this year. To qualify for free transfer of Petlog data the new owner should first complete the change of ownership online on the KC website as specified in the registration certificate, then phone Petlog on 01296 336579 with the Kennel Club registration number, microchip number, the Petlog Transfer code and payment reference.

Feeding

There are few hard and fast rules about feeding. The most important thing to remember is that it is virtually impossible to overfeed a puppy. He needs sufficient intake to support him during a period of rapid growth and should be fed as much as he will eat as often as he will eat it. If he isn't eating please contact me.

He currently has three meals a day plus Royal Canin Puppy Junior Medium complete food, supplemented with goats milk to drink.

BREAKFAST: raw shin beef, or lamb/lambs hearts, mixed with Laughing Dog Puppy Grade mixer obtainable from Amazon or Berriewood Pet Supplies.

ELEVENSES: chopped cheddar cheese.

LATE TEA: raw beef or lamb mince or beef tripe (see TPMS below) with Laughing Dog mixer. Raw or cooked chicken or rabbit with pasta. To this can be added raw or hard boiled egg, grated cheddar cheese and/or raw carrots/broccoli etc

Raw chicken wings fed in moderation are an excellent way of keeping teeth clean. Cooked chicken/rabbit/hare bones are brittle and should never be fed to dogs.

Sausages/sausage rolls fed as treats are excellent for building weight on young dogs.

Clean fresh water should always be available.

Raw beef tripe is an inexpensive and very delicious and nutritious food for dogs, however some people are unable to cope with its strong smell. Good quality tripe and other meat products can be obtained from TPMS 54 Padgett Lane, Moons Moat, Redditch Worcs, B98 0RD Tel 01527 510870 (www.tpms.co.uk). They supply a wide range of pet products, including Laughing Dog range of biscuits and biscuit meal, cages etc, and deliver to the Midlands, West Country and South Wales.

Adult whippets enjoy vegetables (carrots, cauliflour, broccoli, including stalks and outer leaves) and fruit (apples, pears, blackberries, strawberries).

The puppies love Fold Hill Selection biscuits, similar to Shapes, which are very useful for recall training.

WARNING:

- Neither grapes or chocolate should ever be fed to dogs.
- Do not let your dog eat snails (responsible for Heartworm) or cat faeces (responsible for toxoplasmosis), both very debilitating diseases.

Worming

The puppy was wormed with Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste at eight weeks. This is a very easy form of wormer to administer to puppies. He should be wormed again at 12 weeks and thereafter twice a year using a modern wormer such as Panacur or Drontal or Milbemax obtainable from your Vet or by mail order from Vetmedic 0800 387348 <http://www.vet-medic.com> and various internet sites. It is considered good practise to alternate wormers in order to catch a broad spectrum of infestation.

Vaccination

I do not recommend vaccination before at least 12 weeks. The puppy will by now have lost most of his natural immunity, and the move to new surroundings makes him vulnerable to infection. Do not let him outside the garden or allow other dogs to visit until he has been vaccinated against the major infectious diseases. Let him have a few days to get used to his new surroundings before taking him to the vet for vaccination as the move from his dam and litter siblings is a very stressful time for him.

The new lepto L4 (leptospirosis) vaccine has been the subject of numerous press reports of its adverse effect on puppies. I strongly recommend asking your vet for the older L2 vaccination.

Very important: If he ever has to undergo an anaesthetic make sure your vet uses one suitable for whippets with low fat to body weight ratio, such as Rapinovet.

House Training

Your puppy has been reared in the kitchen with access to a grassed garden area and he will have been used to going outside to relieve himself. Ideally he should have access to the garden at all times, but this may not always be possible. He should be taken outside (preferably on to a grassed area) as often as possible:

- first thing in the morning
- last thing at night
- when he wakes after a nap
- after feeding
- at least every hour during the day
- after a period of excitement or play.

Stand quietly and let him run around until he relieves himself. He will do this more readily when walked on grass. When he has finished praise him lavishly.

Young puppies do not have complete control over their bladders and need to urinate frequently. It is not his fault if he can't last. He is naturally clean and will prefer to relieve himself outside **provided he can easily get out**. If he encounters a closed door he will relieve himself there rather than waiting for somebody to open it. It is better to restrict him to the kitchen until he is old enough to find his way around. Consider fitting a pet door to allow him to go outside when he wants to go.

It is worth remembering that strenuous exercise stimulates the kidneys, which is why a dog may be incontinent after a day out walking, racing etc.

General Training

It is a good idea to enrol your puppy in puppy socialisation/training classes to get him used to other dogs.

Never chase a puppy. This teaches him bad habits and he will usually win. If he doesn't come when you call him entice him with a titbit, and if this doesn't work turn your back on him and walk away.

Roads

Whippets should always be exercised on a lead, except in an enclosed space such as a secure garden or a fenced field. Parks are not safe areas to let a whippet off the lead. If you exercise him in a park only let him off the lead if you are sure that he cannot run out of the park into the road. Whippets have absolutely no road sense and, sadly, more whippets are killed on the roads than any other breed.

You will save yourself much heartache - and expense - if your whippet **at all times** wears a collar with his ID.

Cages

Young puppies can be very destructive, especially when teething. Don't leave him unattended with anything you value. Shoes, spectacles, remote controls, mobile phones, shavers, any plastic are all irresistible to puppies. To avoid damage confine him in a cage approx 30" x 19" x 21" high if you have to leave him on his own.

Whippets like cages and leaving him in a cage while you are out will protect both him and your property. Cages simplify house training and he will be cleaner if he sleeps in his cage at night, but he must be taken for a walk before being put in his cage at night and **immediately** he wakes in the morning.

Bedding

Whippets like a soft bed. There are many cushion type beds on the market. Ideally it should be genuinely washable and tough enough to withstand puppy teeth. The white polyester fur bedding makes an excellent cage liner.

His bed should be sited in a warm location away from draughts, otherwise he may not settle. I strongly recommend Tuffies beds <http://www.tuffies.co.uk/>, particularly the Tuffie nests with sturdy sides. Not cheap but virtually indestructible.

Travel

The puppy should never travel loose in a car. I know of at least one tragic accident where a whippet has been killed after jumping through an open car window.

Whippets are often car sick. I find the best remedy is Stugeron, obtainable from chemists, one tablet an hour before travelling. But don't tell the chemist it's for a dog or they won't sell it to you!

Coats

Your whippet will appreciate a coat to keep him warm and dry in bad weather. Good quality coats can be obtained from Terry and Sue Ward, Isle of the Hills, Jack's Bush, Lopcombe Corner, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 1DA, Telephone: 01264 781144. They will advise on a suitable size.

Insurance

Whippets are generally very healthy dogs but their love of running can bring problems such as sprains, broken nails etc. Their skin can be torn by encounters with barbed wire. If you are lucky your vet will staple small tears, otherwise an anaesthetic costing around £100 will be needed for stitches (and see comments above regarding anaesthetics suitable for whippets).

The puppy has four weeks free insurance with kcinsurance.co.uk from the date of collection, after which cover costs around £23 per month. Many other insurance companies offer insurance at cheaper rates but it is very important to check and compare the cover provided by different providers to suit individual needs.

Children

(Mostly don'ts I'm afraid)

Never leave a child under ten alone with a dog.

Don't let children chase the puppy, or pull him by the leg or tail.

Never let a child smack a dog or administer any form of physical punishment.

Children should not be allowed to pick up a puppy. Small puppies are as vulnerable as small babies and by the time they are big enough to withstand a clumsy clutch they are too heavy for a child to carry safely. The correct way to hold a puppy is with one hand round the rump taking the weight with the other arm encircling the body.

High pitched screams frighten dogs. Do not let children play too noisily with the puppy.

Puppies, like small children, need plenty of sleep. The puppy must have a bed somewhere he can sleep undisturbed by children.

Once the puppy has started to grow and gain strength his boisterous and exuberant play can easily overwhelm a child. Be very careful to supervise their play together and do not let children overexcite him.

Nails

His nails should be trimmed to about 1mm of the quick every two to three weeks. As a puppy this can be done with a special pair of scissors designed for the task obtainable from Diamond Edge (www.diamondedgetd.com).

Don't get into a battle with him over his nails – most whippets dislike the pinching action of nail clippers. As his nails harden you will probably find it easier to use a small grinder such as the Dremel 7,2V, or sanding discs, which can be obtained from DIY stores. These are less likely to injure him than clippers.

Teeth

Once his second teeth are through at about six or seven months they should be cleaned once a week with a brush and paste kit available from vets or good pet stores or from Dorwest <http://www.dorwest.com/>. I use a combination of PlaqueOff (a seaweed derived product) and a teaspoon-full of coconut oil at each meal to keep plaque under control. Raw chicken wings fed in moderation are also helpful here.

Exercise

Take it slowly! Although puppies have lots of energy it is important not to overdo the exercise. Puppies do not finish growing until 24 months and too much exercise will encourage muscle on an immature frame and can lead to problems such as arthritis.

Breed Clubs

The oldest whippet breed club is The Whippet Club, founded in 1899. The secretary is Mrs Mary Anderson Howberry Lane Cottage, Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 5SU Tel: 01491-641140. The website address is <http://www.thewhippetclub.com/> The club publishes a magazine twice yearly.



Have Fun!

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Please contact me at any time if you have any queries or concerns about your puppy