Twin Oaks Kennels of Fredonia

One-Year Puppy Contract

Date went home: _____ Price of puppy: _____

Breed of puppy: _____ KY sales tax (6%) _____

File #: _____ **TOTAL:** _____

Date of birth: _____ Deposit: _____

Male or Female: _____ _____ _____

Color: _____ Balance Due: _____

Buyer's Name: _____

Buyer's Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Buyer's Email: _____

Buyer's Phone #: **Home:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Buyer's D.O.B.: _____ Buyer's DL #: _____

Do you intend to gift this puppy to someone? ***NO*** ***YES*** *(if yes, we need the name & number for records)*

Name: _____ *Phone#:* _____

1. Twin Oaks Kennels, Sherry Goodwin, shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'Seller'. The original purchasing party, and solely the original purchasing party, shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'Buyer'.

2. ** _____ ** The Buyer must have the puppy examined by a licensed veterinarian within **TWO** (2) days of receipt of the puppy excluding Sunday and holidays.

******** *A copy of the invoice from your vet's office (please, NO credit card receipts) must be MAILED back to the Seller (envelope provided) within* ***FOUR*** *(4) days of examination of the puppy. Invoice needs to include your Vets name, address, phone number, and record/date of your wellness check/exam.* ***Failure to comply will render this guaranteed void. ******

3. The Buyer is responsible for the daily health care and maintenance of the pet, including all immunizations and examinations recommended after purchase, as well as providing necessary medication and follow-up treatments from veterinarian visits. In order for the guarantee to remain in effect you must keep receipts and records to verify that you have taken your pet to a duly licensed veterinarian for checkups and all required immunizations.

4. In the unlikely event of the death of the puppy within one year from its birth due to genetics, the Breeder shall replace the pet with another of equivalent value at no cost to the Buyer within 120 days. All conditions set forth in paragraph 15 apply.

5. If the Buyer declines the replacement puppy, then the Seller shall be under no further obligation, and it will be deemed that the Buyer has released the Seller from any and all further claims.

6. The value of the puppy for the purpose of this guarantee is solely the original purchase price of the puppy, and does not include shipping cost, health certificate, shipping crate or any additional prices declared by the Buyer.

7. This guarantee is non-transferable. In the event this guarantee is exercised, the registration must be returned to the Seller.

8. All puppies are sold as pets; no guarantee is made as to disposition, conformation, size, weight, color, markings, or breeding ability.

9. The Seller is responsible for supplying the registration, *papers if applicable*. Registration papers for all registered puppies will be sent by regular mail or will accompany shipped puppies but could take up to six months. Any costs to obtain new or renewal registration papers are the sole responsibility of the Buyer. If the papers are lost, the Seller will assist the Buyer in obtaining new papers at the Buyer's expense.

10. The seller makes every effort to provide accurate and up-to-date information on the website regarding the puppies they sell. This information includes, but is not limited to, breed, gender, color, date of birth, weight.

11. In the event of any litigation in connection with this contract, both the Seller and Buyer shall each be responsible for their own attorney's fees and costs. The venue and jurisdiction for litigation arising out of or related to this contract shall lie exclusively in Caldwell County, KY. In the event the Buyer prevails in litigation, the total awarded value shall not exceed the value of the original purchase price.

12. Transportation of the puppy is arranged by third-party carriers. Occasionally there may be delays for numerous reasons including, but not limited to, weather, temperature restrictions, logistics, mechanical failure, or other unforeseen events. The Seller shall not be liable directly or indirectly for any delays that may cause the Buyer inconvenience or financial loss, nor shall any delay be a valid cause for cancellation.

13. The Seller disclaims any and all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness.

14. The Seller will not accept any returns of said puppy for any monetary refund, including but not limited to allergy, Landlord/Tenant, marital, or adjustment problems, etc.

** _____ ** ***We do not sell puppies on a trial basis, so you must consider what you/your family will do if any allergy or temperament issues arise after the purchase of the puppy. We may take the puppy back pending available space, but no refund will be offered.***

Limitations of One Year guarantee

15. The Seller defines a one-year guarantee' period, herein referred to as from the puppy's date of birth. The dog must be in good physical condition. In the unlikely event said puppy is found to have a congenital or genetic defect that is life-threatening, a statement from 2 different licensed DVM's (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) of buyer's choosing confirming such an event and case is required before any action will be taken by the Seller. Seller reserves the right to a third opinion of Seller's choosing to determine the congenital defect. If this guarantee is exercised and a replacement puppy is given, then the original puppy may be kept or returned to the Seller at the Buyer's expense. All shipping costs are paid by the Buyer. No replacement will be given if the female/male has been bred. All laboratory verification must be done by a licensed DVM. No replacement will be given if breeds that are known to be prone to hip dysplasia are overweight or over exercised. No replacement will be given if the registration application form has expired. Failure of the Buyer to provide a puppy with timely inoculations or regular veterinary care will void this guarantee. This guarantee does not cover any Veterinarian costs. The Buyer is aware that owning a puppy means frequent visits to a Licensed Veterinarian and understands that he/she will be responsible for all payment. This guarantee does not cover any of the following

conditions: intestinal parasite (Coccidiosis, Giardia, Skin Mites, Mange (Sarcoptic, Demodectic or Cheyletiella), Cherry Eye, Allergies, Herniations (Inguinal, Perineal, or Diaphragmatic), Heart Murmur grades I, II or III, Patella Luxation grades I, II, or III., or Parvo. This guarantee does not cover any Veterinarian costs associated with spaying or neutering, including undescended testes. All dogs must not be over exercised during their growth period. Over exercising is as follows: running with the dog or jumping the dog before it's joints are mature enough to handle it. All the above-mentioned conditions must be met or guarantees above mentioned will be void. Temperament issues are not covered under this guarantee as they can be caused by a lack of training, discipline, or proper dog socialization. The owner is responsible for all transportation costs to and from the Seller. If within one year from the date of purchase from Seller, a dog is found and certified by two duly licensed Veterinarian doctors to have congenital or hereditary disorders which adversely affect the health of the animal, and if the Seller is notified with two business days of the veterinarians' determination, the Seller will provide a replacement puppy of equivalent value. The Seller is not responsible for any veterinarian fees, shipping costs or any other associated costs. Seller sells pets for companion purposes only. Seller does not guarantee against low-blood sugar (Hypoglycemia), or any other *non-life-threatening illnesses common to puppies*. This contract is not valid outside the United States.

16. Deposits are placed on a puppy as a hold until total and full payment is collected at time that said puppy goes home. In the event of the buyer canceling the contract the deposit is then forfeited to the seller.

17. This agreement represents the total agreement between the Seller and the Buyer, and no other terms or conditions shall be valid to this sale. The Buyer has read this agreement and agrees to the terms and conditions herein.

18. Any checks written to Shery Goodwin or Twin Oaks Kennels that are returned for "insufficient funds" (Bad Check) will be charged returned fees of $25.00 for each transaction. If this matter is not cleared up in five (5) business days the matter will then be handed over to a collection agency, and all costs will be charged to the check signer.

I, the Purchaser of a puppy from Twin Oaks Kennels, hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of this document. Further, I accept the terms and conditions of the guarantee for congenital or hereditary disorders printed in this document, and I waive and relinquish any other rights that I might otherwise have in the event of such occurrence. This agreement represents the total agreement between Twin Oaks Kennels, Sherry White, and the buyer and no other terms or conditions shall be valid in this sale.

Buyer's Signature: _____

Seller's Signature: _____

Rep. for Seller: _____

Date of Sale: _____

Please print this contract, fill it out, and mail it with the deposit to:

(check or money order accepted)

Twin Oaks Kennels of Fredonia
439 West White Sulpher Rd
Fredonia, Ky 42411

*** We reserve the right to cancel or refuse a sale ***

The Trip Home:

- It is NOT uncommon that puppies get car sick on the way home.
- They are with a new family, new smells, new sights – its all a little scary!!
- The most important thing when getting your new puppy is to help him/her get over the bad feeling in their tummies & the taste in their mouth.
- If your puppy has gotten sick on the ride home – it is a MUST they eat **ASAP**!
- If a puppy gets sick, they will drink water thinking it will help their tummy settle, but in fact, it makes them get sick again from too much acid in their tummy.
- You must get food into their tummy to stop the cycle of being car sick.
- Settle your new puppy into their cage/crate and add a soft, warmed blanket.
- Place a very small bowl of water in cage/crate.
- Place a bowl of food in cage/crate. If puppy does not want to eat the dry food, mix a small amount of wet food into the dry. This usually gets them to start eating.
- Once a puppy has ate, settled in, and is happy to play – you can take them out to visit the family and explore their new home.

I have read and understand the above: _____

Buyer's Signature & Date

HYPOGLYCEMIA

Hypoglycemia is a syndrome that occurs primarily in toy breeds such as the Chihuahua, Yorkshire, Maltese, Toy Poodle, and Pomeranians between 6 and 16 weeks of age. Toy breed puppies are less able to store and mobilize glucose. Also, toy breed puppies have more brain mass per body weight compared to other breeds and therefore need more glucose for brain function.

A hypoglycemia attack is often flowed by stress. Typical signs are listlessness, depression, staggering gait, muscular weakness, and tremors (especially of the face). Puppies with a severe drop in blood sugar develop seizures or become stuporous and go into a coma. Death can follow. This particular sequence of symptoms is not always seen. For example, some puppies exhibit only weakness or a wobbly gait. Occasionally, a puppy who seemed just fine is found in a coma.

Episodes of hypoglycemia often occur without warning. For example, when a puppy is stressed by shipping, a new environment, or a veterinarian visit. Other common causes of acute hypoglycemia are missing a meal, chilling, becoming exhausted from too much play, or having an upset stomach. These events place an added strain on the energy reserves of the liver.

TREATMENT:

The treatment of an acute attack is aimed at restoring the blood sugar. Begin immediately. If the puppy is awake and able to swallow, give corn syrup mixed with water or sugar water by syringe, or rub corn syrup, honey, or glucose paste on to the gums. You should see an improvement within 30 minutes, if not then call your veterinarian.

If the puppy is unconscious, do not give any oral solution because it will be inhaled. Rub corn syrup, honey, or glucose on to the gums and proceed at once to your veterinarian.

PREVENTION:

Susceptible puppies should be fed AT LEAST FOUR TIMES A DAY. It is important to feed a high carbohydrate, high protein, and a high fat puppy diet. It is essential that the diet be of high quality.

Food supplements (TREATS) and table scraps should not exceed 5-10% of the total daily ration.

Owners of TOY and SMALL breed puppies should take precautions to see that they don't become excessively tired or chilled. Many (but not all) puppies outgrow this problem.

A CHILLED PUPPY:

Puppies over the age of 5 weeks are better able to regulate their body temperature, but some may still need the warming from a heat source. If you see your puppy had gotten wet or was out in the colder weather, it is important to get the body temperature back up. The fastest and easiest way after drying the puppy with a towel is to place the puppy next to your skin to warm it up. You may also place the well wrapped heating pad in the cage but be sure to have space for the puppy to move away from the heat when they feel warm. Puppy cages/crates should be placed in an area away from chilly drafts.

I have read and understand the above: _____

Buyer Signature & Date

IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS…

YOU MUST MAKE SURE YOUR NEW PUPPY IS DOING THESE TOP 5 THINGS

DO NOT ASSUME THESE ARE HAPPENING – SEE THAT THEY ARE HAPPENING

TOP 5: EAT, DRINK, POOP, PEE, & REST

For the first 48 hours, keep **FOOD** and **WATER IN CAGE/CRATE** so when the puppy is ready, they can find food and water.

PUPPY MUST EAT!!

- If your puppy is NOT eating the hard food, then you can mix a little bit of canned (1/2 teaspoon) in with dry. This will help your puppy get to eat well, if needed.

- AM and PM – a wet mixed food is OK

- If your puppy is eating well then go to a feeding schedule of 3 meals a day of dry food.

FEEDING 3 TIMES A DAY

- AM (6 – 7), Noon, PM (5 -6:30)

- ¼ cup dry each time

PUPPY POOPS AND PEES AFTER EACH MEAL

I have read and understand the above: _____

Buyer Signature & Date

REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR WELLNESS CHECK/EXAM FROM YOUR VETERINARIAN BACK TO US!!

Twin Oaks Kennels of Fredonia
439 West White Sulpher Rd
Fredonia, Ky 42411

YOUR NEW PUPPY

Your new puppy is eating: _____puppy food.

Extra notes: _____

_____

- The first 48 hours, keep food in a small bowl for your puppy all day
  - Water should always be available
- Going to a new home is STRESSFULL and they need to eat whenever they are relaxed.
- If your puppy is not eating dry food well, mix little canned food until back to eating well.

IMPORTANT: If you choose to change foods, Please stay with the puppy food that you are given for a couple of weeks.

NOTE: Changing food too fast will cause tummy aches. Change by mixing a little of the new with the old, increase little by little while decreasing the old food over a weeks' time.

- Water can also cause tummy aches
- Remember that going to a new home is stressful so be welcoming and not overwhelming to the puppy. Let them settle in and relax, this is all new to them.
- You may start potty training as soon as possible. Remember, in the morning you will not have time to start the coffee! As soon as your new puppy hears you, they will be ready to be awake and ready to pee, so keep shoes and a sweater close to their cage/crate! Go to their potty area in the yard. Do not play with them until after they pee and poop. Then they get to play and snuggle. Also remember that the accidents that are going to happen are your fault and not theirs. Yes, yours!! Puppies are babies and need to be taken out often. DO NOT yell or hit your puppy, this will make them scared.
- If they cry at night, warm a towel in dryer and put it in the cage for them to snuggle. The more you answer them, the more they will cry.
- Take food away about an hour before bedtime, then its potty time and lights out.
- Your puppy will need the remainder of their shots for your guarantee to remain in effect.
  Pg 1~#3 *"In order for the guarantee to remain in effect you must keep receipts and records to verify that you have taken your pet to a duly licensed veterinarian for checkups and all required immunizations."*
- Go easy on treats. They can cause bad tummy aches and POOPS!! Try using a small piece of dry dog food as a treat.
- Be watchful of toys! If your puppy eats them, throw the toy away and get tougher toys. Avoid beef flavor added bones, they are too greasy and will cause the POOPS! Kongs are good toys.

PUPPY CHECKLIST

- Food
  - Hard food: _____
  - Canned food: _____
- Nutri-Cal (high calorie, energy, sugar boost gel supplement good for small, picky eaters. Apply small amount to your finger and put on roof of mouth. Inexpensive & can be found at Walmart, amazon, or pet supply stores)
- Bowls
- Cage/Crate
- Harness to begin with then collar, if you would like
- Brush (Not wire – ouch!)
- Training Treats (super small treats)
- Treats (your dog kibble is best but just watch those extra calories!)
- Chew toys
- Bed
- Gates
- Shampoo (puppy or oatmeal shampoo)
- Name tag
- Nail trimmer
- Carpet cleaners (Resolve Carpet Cleaner or Nature's Best)
- Puppy pads (make sure your puppy is NOT eating the pads!)
- Stool eating deterrent
- Dog/puppy care book ("How to speak Dog")

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PUPPY

- Please do not take your new puppy to any pet shops, parks, gas station grass, rest area grass, or the neighbor's back yard. These are places that have many other pets in them and your puppy has not completed their required shots. Your vet will tell you when it is ok to take your puppy out.
- While at your vet's office – NO grass area or floor area. ONLY vet or vet tech are ok to touch your new puppy.
- Play carefully, always keeping them safe.
- If a bath is needed, please be careful, as puppies can get away from you very quickly. Hold them tight. Do not pour water onto their face and head. Use a warm wash cloth to wipe their head, face, and neck clean. They will need to be dried using medium heat blow dryer. If your hand is hot, so is your puppy.

POTTY TRAINING TIPS:

At the time of taking your puppy out of the cage, ALWAYS take them outside to their potty area. Do not walk around, just stand and do not talk or make eye contact. This will only help them learn the faster they go, the faster they get a reward for going. Rewards can be either a piece of food or a small training treat.

PUPPY PROOFING YOUR HOME:

Puppies are like babies. They are lively, they are curious, and they teethe. This can lead to trouble unless you take preventative measures.

It is practically impossible to completely puppy-proof your home against accidents, but for your puppy's safety, here are some suggestions:

1. Confine your puppy to a safe area inside and keep doors and windows closed and/or screens secure.
2. Do not leave your new puppy unsupervised inside or outside.
3. Keep your puppy off balconies, upper porches, and decks.
4. Keep toilet lids closed. Puppies may play in or drink the water. They could be hurt by a falling toilet lid, or they may drown. Toilet bowl cleaners are harmful if swallowed.
5. Keep electrical cords out of your puppy's confinement area.
6. Conduct a "puppy check" before leaving the house to make sure they have not been locked in a room or unsafe area.
7. For safety's sake, keep plastic bags away from your puppy. This includes the beverage holders. Puppies can get tangled in them.
8. Make sure your puppy does not have access to cleaning products, paint, paint thinners, fertilizers, disinfectants, mothballs, insects and rodent poisons, antifreeze, medications of any kind, sewing/craft supplies (ribbons, pins, buttons, beads, etc.), hardware of any kind.
9. Remove all poisonous houseplants. Remember to pick up plants and leaves that drop onto the floor.

BABY TIP:

If you are introducing a new baby to your household, remember that to a puppy, an infant is a totally different creature than a child or adult. It does not look, smell, or act the same. Introduce them slowly to one another. Maybe consider bringing home a blanket from the hospital to let your puppy smell the new baby before you bring them home. Introduce them slowly and gradually. Never leave your puppy and baby together, unattended.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, LITTLE ONE

As you prepare to introduce your new puppy to the family, take a moment to think about it from your puppy's perspective. One minute they are surrounded by their mother and siblings and the next, they are in an unfamiliar environment surrounded by strangers. Needless to say, your puppy is relying on you for direction, comfort, and protection.

Most children love puppies and vice versa but it is important to teach children that your puppy is a sensitive, living creature. Introduce your puppy to your children gradually, during short periods of time. Children must learn not to pull tails or ears, not to squeeze the puppy, not make loud threatening noises, or rush toward the puppy too quickly.

Show all your family members the proper way to pick up and hold your new puppy, one hand under the hindquarters of the puppy and the other hand under the chest of the puppy. NEVER pick a puppy up with their legs, paws, or scruff of neck.

THERE IS A NEW FURBABY IN TOWN

INTRODUCING YOUR PUPPY TO YOUR OTHER PETS

Use care as these first moments are important and will set the tone for their relationships. Always start a meeting between your current dog(s) and your new puppy on leashes and allow them to gradually approach each other and sniff each other. Do not leave them alone with each other until you are completely confident that they are friends.

Whether your current pet at home is a cat or a dog, make it a point to show your current, older pets' love and affection so they will not be jealous of the puppy. Let them get acquainted on their own time, don't rush it. Remember, all good things take time.

CAGE/CRATE TRAINING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

CRATING YOUR NEW PUPPY

Dogs love crates! It is their “own private place”– a “security blanket.” The crate helps to satisfy the “den instinct” inherited from their ancestors. If the puppy had its own choice, I suspect they would take having his life controlled and structured by his owner, rather than being punished late for causing trouble. Failure to housebreak a puppy is a major reason many dogs eventually end up in the animal shelter!

The crate, when correctly and humanely used, has many advantages for both you and your pet. You can:

1. Enjoy complete peace of mind when leaving your dog at home alone, knowing that nothing can be soiled or destroyed and that the puppy is comfortable, protected, and not developing any bad habits.
2. Housebreak your puppy more quickly by using the close confinement to encourage control, establish a regular routine for outdoor elimination, and to prevent “accidents” at night or when left alone.
3. Effectively confine your puppy at times when he may be underfoot (meals, family activities, unwelcome guests, workmen, etc.), over-excited or bothered by too much confusion, too many children, or illness.
4. Travel with your puppy without risk of the driver being dangerously distracted or the puppy getting loose and hopelessly lost, and with the assurance that he can easily adapt to any strange surroundings as long as he has his familiar “security blanket” along.

It also has puppy advantages too:

1. Enjoy the privacy and security of a “den” of his own to which he can retreat when tired, stressed, or ill.
2. Avoid much of the fear/confusion/punishment caused by your reaction to problem behavior.
3. More easily learn to control his bowels and to associate elimination only with the outdoors or other designated location.
4. Be spared the loneliness and frustration of having to be isolated (basement, garage, outside) from comfortable indoor surroundings when being restricted or left alone.
5. Be conveniently included in family outings, visits, and trips instead of being left behind at home. You want to enjoy your pet and be pleased with his behavior. Your puppy wants little more from life than to please you. A puppy crate can help to make your relationship what each of you wants and needs it to be.

CRATE COSTS

Even the most expensive puppy crate is a “BARGAIN” when compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a sofa, chair, woodwork, wallpaper, or carpeting! If you plan on flying with your puppy, be sure to get a carrier that is “airline approved.”

CRATE SIZE

A crate should always be large enough to permit the puppy to stretch out flat on his side without being cramped and to sit up without hitting his head on top. It is always better to use a crate a little too large rather than one a little too small. Measure the puppy from the tip of the nose to the base (not tip) of the tail. Allow for growth by adding about 12 inches. A crate too large can be made smaller by adding a portion of wire, wood, or Masonite. Remember that a crate too large for a young puppy defeats its purpose of providing security and promoting bowel control.

SIZING GUIDE FOR CRATE

Measure your dog’s height to the shoulders and the length from the chest to rear of leg, then add 4” – 6” to each measurement. To clean, wipe down with wet cloth.

CRATE SIZE	DIMENSIONS	BREED
X-SMALL	18” L x 12” W x 15” H	Yorkies, Maltese, Toy Poodle
SMALL	24” L x 17” W x 20” H	Shih Tzu, Mini Poodle, Dachshund
MEDIUM	30” L x 19” W x 22” H	Cocker Spaniels, Aussiedoodle
LARGE	36” L x 22” W x 25” H	Poodles, Boxers, Bernese
X-LARGE	42” L x 28” W x 31” H	Labs, Golden Retriever
XX-LARGE	48” L x 30’ W x 33” H	Great Dane, Mastiff, St. Bernard

CRATE LOCATION

Since one of the main reasons for using a crate is to confine a puppy without making him feel isolated or banished, it should be placed in, or as close to, a “people” area–kitchen, family room, etc. To provide an even greater sense of security and privacy, it should be put back in a corner. Admittedly, a puppy create is not a “thing of beauty,” but it can be forgiven for not being a welcome addition to the household décor as it proves how much it can help the puppy to remain a welcome addition to the household.

CRATING A PUPPY

A young puppy (8-16 weeks) should normally have no problem accepting a crate as his “own place.” Any complaining he might make at first is not caused by the crate, but by his learning to accept the controls of his new environment. Actually, the crate will help him to adapt more easily and quickly to his new world.

Place the crate in a “people” area the kitchen, if possible, in a spot free from drafts and not too near a direct heat source. For bedding, use an old towel or piece of blanket that can be easily washed. Also, you might include some freshly worn unlaundered article of your clothing such as a tee shirt, old shirt,

etc. Avoid putting potty pads in or under the crate, since its odor may encourage elimination. A puppy may be fed in crate with locking bowls only.

Make it clear to all family members that the crate is not a playhouse. It is meant to be a “special room” for the puppy, whose rights should be recognized and respected. You should, however, accustom the puppy from the start to letting you reach into the crate at any time, lest he become overprotective of it.

Establish a “crate routine” immediately, closing the puppy in it at regular intervals during the day (his own chosen nap times can guide you) and whenever he must be left alone for up to 3-4 hours. Give him a NYLA-BONE chew toy for distraction and be sure to remove collar and tags which could get caught in an opening.

The puppy should be shown no attention while in the crate. Puppies tend to be much better psychologists than their owners–often training the owner, rather than the owner training the puppy. Any attention shown to the puppy will simply cause the puppy to believe that whining, crying, etc., is all that is needed for him to get more attention.

The puppy should be taken outside last thing every night before being put into the crate. Once he goes into the crate, he should stay there until first thing in the morning. IMMEDIATELY when the puppy is removed from the crate, he should be taken to the chosen area for his bowel elimination.

Always feed the puppy early enough to allow ample time for bowel elimination after eating before placing the puppy in the crate. This can be up to one hour, depending on the puppy. Simply clock the time after eating until the bowel movement occurs to determine this time interval for your particular puppy. Some pups go first thing in morning, others may wait until after meals.

After the puppy is fully housetrained (usually 8-12 weeks of cage use), you simply can leave the door open (or take it off) and allow the puppy to come and go as he chooses. If the puppy becomes destructive during his growing phases, it is a simple matter again of confining him in the crate when he is not under your supervision.

Even if things do not go too smoothly at first-DON’T WEAKEN and DON’T WORRY! Be consistent, firm, and be very aware that you are doing your pet a real favor by preventing him from getting into trouble.

I am your puppy:

To Whom it may concern:

I am your puppy, and I will love you until the end of the earth, but please know a few things about me. I am a puppy; this means that my intelligence and capacity for learning are the same as an 8-month-old child. I am a puppy; I will chew EVERYTHING I can get my teeth on. This is how I explore and learn about the world. Even HUMAN children put things in their mouths. It's up to you to guide me to what is mine to chew and what is not.

I am a puppy; I cannot hold my bladder for longer than 1-2 hours. I cannot "feel" that I need to poop until it is actually beginning to come out. I cannot vocalize nor tell you that I need to go, and I cannot have 'bladder" and bowel control until 6-9 months of age. Do not punish me if you have not let me out for 3 hours and I tinkle. It is your fault. As a puppy, it is wise to remember that I NEED to go potty after eating, sleeping, playing, drinking and around every 2-3 hours in addition. If you want me to sleep through the night, then do not give me water after 7or 8 pm. A crate will help me learn to housebreak easier, and will avoid you being mad at me. I am a puppy, accidents will happen, please be patient with me! In time I will learn.

I am a puppy I like to play. I will run around, and chase imaginary monsters, and chase your feet and your toes and 'attack' you, and chase fuzz balls, other pets, and small kids. It is play; it's what I do. Do not be mad at me or expect me to be sedate, mellow and sleep all day. If my high energy level is too much for you, maybe you should consider an older rescue from a shelter or Rescue group. My play is beneficial, use your wisdom to guide me in my play with appropriate toys, and activities, like chasing a rolling ball, or gentle tug games, or plenty of chew toys for me. If I nip you too hard, talk to me in "dog talk", by giving a loud YELP, I will usually get the message, as this is how dogs communicate with one another. If I get too rough, simply ignore me for a few moments, or put me in my crate with an appropriate chew toy. I am a puppy; hopefully you would not yell, hit or strike, kick, or beat a 6 month old human infant, so please do not do the same to me. I am delicate, and impressionable. If you treat me harshly now, I will grow up learning to fear being hit, spanked, kicked or beat. Instead, please guide me with encouragement and wisdom. For instance, If I am chewing something wrong, say "no chew!" and hand me a toy I can chew. Better yet, pick up ANYTHING that you don't want me to get into. I can't tell the difference between your old sock and your new sock, or an old sneaker and your 200.00 Nikes.

I am a puppy; and I am a creature with feelings and drives much like your own, but yet also very different. Although I am not human in a dog suit, neither am I an unfeeling robot who can instantly obey your every whim. I truly DO want to please you, and be a part of your family, and your life. You got me (I hope) because you want a loving partner and companion, so do not relegate me to the backyard when I get bigger, do not judge me harshly but instead mold me with gentleness and guidelines and training into the kind of family member you want me to be...

I am a puppy; and I am not perfect, and I know you are not perfect either. I love you anyway. So

please, learn all you can about training, and puppy behaviors and caring for me from your veterinarian, books on dog care and even researching on the computer! Learn about my particular breed and it's "characteristics". This will give you understanding and insight into WHY I do all the things I do. Please teach me with love, patience, the right way to behave and socialize me with training in a puppy class or obedience class, we will BOTH have a lot of fun together.

I am a puppy and I want more than anything to love you, to be with you, and to please you. Won't you please take time to understand how I work? We are the same you and I, in that we both feel hunger, pain, thirst, discomfort, fear, but yet we are also very different and must work to understand one another's language, body signals, wants and needs. Some day I will be a handsome dog, hopefully one you can be proud of and one that you will love as much as I love you.

Love,
your puppy

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