

Puppy Prepping

Books that we recommend:

- 1 "The Bernese Mountain Dog, A Dog of Destiny" by Bernd Guenter.....absolutely beautiful pictures...coffee table kind
- 2 "The New Bernese Mountain Dog" by Sharon Chesnutt Smith
- 3 "The Beautiful Bernese Mountain Dogs" by Russ and Rogers.....a complete handbook
- 4 "Book of the Breed, The Complete Bernese Mountain Dog" by Jude Simonds...Very helpful!

You will be provided with a complete puppy packet when you pick up your puppy. This will include vaccine and deworming schedules, a starter packet of food, five generation pedigree, your puppy registration, a familiar toy, AKC pamphlets, mics. other items, and a Swiss Silhouette tote bag to carry it all home in. The following are items we recommend you get together about 2 weeks before puppy comes home:

1. Collapsible dog crate (wonderful if you can find one with dividers that will grow with your puppy.) Otherwise, make sure it is big enough for your pup to stretch out comfortably, but not big enough for it to "potty" and get away from it. This is a KEY to potty training. They hate to mess their beds, so you want their crate to be home. By the time you get your puppy, it will already know to go outside the crate to go potty, so you may want a "play pen" for it to relieve itself (I attach these to the crate so they can go to bed and potty as needed.) when you cannot attend it. Otherwise, ideally, you should take it outside for every potty break. When your pup is actually relieving himself, use a happy voice and say what every word you want the puppy to recognize for this meaning. Don't say the word until the puppy is in the act, so that they associate the word with the act instead of sniffing for the correct spot! REALLY it won't be long before you say "go potty", "hurry up", or whatever you choose and he gets the idea.
2. Stainless steel dog dishes.
3. Adjustable collar (I like rolled leather, but the quick release nylon works well while growing)
4. Comfortable lead (I personally hate nylon, I like leather because it doesn't hurt my hands)
5. AAFCO approved holistic large breed puppy food. I personally use Innova, Solid Gold, Taste of the Wild and Eagle Pack because of their excellent ingredients, but also because the food is packaged in a foil lined bag or a food grade plastic. Plastic toxins are under a lot of scrutiny right now in relation with cancer. I am not attempting to have all the scientific data, but I personally, am avoiding as much plastic as possible.
6. Ester C vitamins, 500mg
7. Grizzly Salmon Oil (I recommend this, and will give you a catalogue where it can be ordered when you pick up your puppy), another source is SEA PET.
8. Glucosamine/Chondroitin supplement
9. A "puppy safe" place for the puppy to play and an area that will provide shade. The puppies should be brought indoors to air-conditioning if you notice excessive panting. They will also look for a place to dig if they are too hot.
10. Lots of teething toys. Plush, soft (safe) rubber (NOTHING MADE IN CHINA!), hard rubber, twisted rope, balls. Toys to watch out for are ones with "squeaky" buttons that can be pulled out by the puppy.
11. This is not a must, but it is helpful: A dog heating pad. The puppies will miss their mommy and littermates and do very well if they have something to "snuggle" that is warm. . A ticking clock is also a good trick. I have recently discovered their love of fleece! They really like to cuddle down into that (imitation or real) lambs wool.
12. Lots of time, patience, love, and cuddles