

Lykos Puppy Educational Pack



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Introducing the Lykos

The aim and purpose of the *Australian Lykos Development Project* is to re-create a companion dog which physically resembles a wolf, using dogs that are strictly DNA and health tested and specifically selected for sound temperament.



- in the wild.

These dogs have no wolf content whatsoever. In fact, the Australian Government does not allow wolves or wolf hybrids in to Australia, and rightly so. Even though all dogs descended from the wolf 10,000 years ago, the temperament of wolves or wolf hybrids is not something that is desirable in a pet dog. They can have questionable temperaments that require a huge amount of training and socialisation, differing significantly to the domestic dog. However beautiful wild wolves may be, that is where they deserve to stay

Only domestic breeds with no wolf dog content whatsoever, with good temperaments are able to contribute to the Lykos breeding program.

Many countries have developed wolf look-a-like dogs using 1) wolf hybrids or 2) breeds of mixed and even unknown or unregistered ancestry. Some of these breeds have been accepted by kennel clubs.

It has concerned Australian buyers that some of these wolf look-a-like breeds abroad are marketed as having "no wolf content" in them at all, but were unable to be imported to Australia as they were in fact found to have wolf content within a handful of generations.

The Australian Lykos Development Project has some great foundations to develop and create magnificent wolf look-a-like dogs selected specifically for health, trainability, and temperament, with of course only domesticated breeds. We are in this for the long haul and we are very passionate about creating magnificent looking dogs of wonderful health and temperament.

Over thousands of years, man has created hundreds of dog breeds for many different purposes. New breeds are still in development even today. All breeds that exist are a direct result of man-made endeavours to create something different.



Lykosia Caesar

It is a common belief in the purebred dog community that breeders who mix breeds or develop new breeds are unethical and doing so purely for money. Our breeders have many years' experience in breeding and behaviour of working breeds and thus a wide and varied knowledge and focus. Put simply, our Code of Ethics is strict and ethical. Our project does not advocate breeding for money, and has the strictest Code of Ethics of any breeding program around, with DNA/health testing, temperament assessments and strict puppy screening interviews to ensure pups are placed in the most suitable forever homes. Should an owner no longer be able to care for their dog, our

breeders take them back and screen for another suitable home for the dog. Our breeders take their responsibility to the dogs they bring into this world very seriously.

Due to the project being in such early stages, traits, colours and general temperament may vary until the lines are further developed. And of course, each puppy has its very own individual personality, regardless of breed. Over time and with careful selection, undesirable traits be weeded out and the breed will start to take form.

Whilst we have strict temperament guidelines on accepted breeding dogs, potential owners should be well-educated in breeds such as German/Swiss Shepherd, Siberian Husky and Alaskan Malamute breed traits. Dog owners should be committed to the wellbeing of their pet by providing them with correct training and required exercise on a regular basis. An understanding of dog behaviour is a must for any owners considering these breeds.

Registered Breeders of the Australian Lykos Development Project also take the highest measures to ensure no dog is irresponsibly bred and will never end up in a shelter, pound or any other undesirable situation. The Lykos breeding program is closely managed by dedicated, knowledgeable and ethical individuals experienced in canine behaviour health and genetics, who take treat project with utter seriousness.



Above: Lykosia Asena Dawn

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What kind of home is suitable for a Lykos?

People who have experience with working breeds and their behaviour traits should be capable of owning a Lykos. Owners should be well versed in responsible pet ownership, which means regular training, exercise and care.

Dogs should be kept in secure yards for their own safety. Do not get any breed of dog if your fence is run down or you have rural fencing that dogs can easily escape through. We would not recommend people - especially those

inexperienced with working breeds who own livestock to own one of these dogs unless they are willing to keep them in a secure yard and spend a great deal of time learning canine behaviour and training with them around livestock from a young age.



Children and dogs should always be supervised, regardless of breed. Children should be educated to respect the dog's personal space and vice-versa. It is not responsible to ever put your dog in a situation that is potentially dangerous to themselves and others.

Dogs are happiest when they are with their family indoors as well as outdoors. Consistent training should be undertaken at regular intervals to make the dog more reliable in everyday situations. The breed is being developed to have a reliable recall and not to have the desire to escape their backyards, but part of that must be in the hands of owners that are dedicated to the training and exercise needs of the dog.

Aren't these dogs just cross bred, "designer" dogs?

Every breed in existence started as a new breed at some point in history, whether that was 10 or 100 years ago. New breeds are still being created and officially accepted throughout the world. There are no rules to state that new breeds cannot and will not be created in the future, and that we only have to stick the officially recognised pure breeds available at this present time.

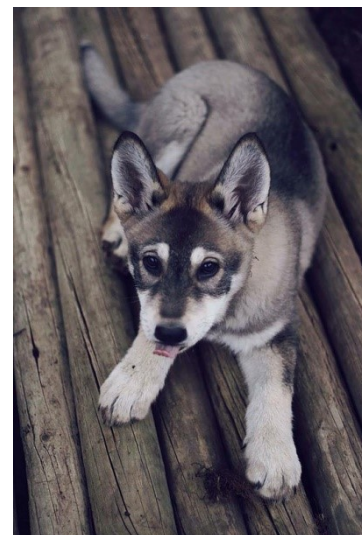
Dog breeds have been created by man alongside our own continuous evolution. If you look into the history of ALL purebred dog breeds, they were developed using other purebred dog breeds and even cross-breeds. Dogs have been developed for either their looks, temperament or working ability or human companionship.

To say that a new or rare breed shouldn't exist because there are other breeds that vaguely resemble them is like saying the Welsh Springer Spaniel shouldn't exist as we have the English, and the Cockers. Or why the Irish red and white setter, we have the Irish red, English and Gordon? Or why the Hollandse herdershond (Dutch Shepherd), White Swiss Shepherd Dog when we have the German Shepherd and Belgian Shepherds? Or why Canadian Eskimo Dogs and Greenland dogs, when we have the Alaskan Malamute and Siberian Huskies?

It is the general feeling in the purebred dog breeding community that breeders who breed cross-breeds are only doing so for "money" and with no purpose. It is unethical for ANY breeder to breed for money. There must be a strict purpose for dog breeding and that is to ETHICALLY improve and/or develop your chosen breed. This is something we strongly agree to and support the fact that no one should ever breed their dog for money. Let's face it, no one makes money breeding their dog if they consider all the expense and time that goes into breeding and raising a litter the right way.

The Project's management committee have considerable experience and significant qualifications in dog breeding, genetics and canine behaviour.

We oppose unethical breeding operations, and believe the welfare of the dogs MUST always be the priority to all breeders. We aim to develop these exclusive and unique blood lines with a very good knowledge in health, behaviour and coat colour genetics of the different breeds used to develop the Lykos. We plan to develop this breed and eventually fulfil the requirements of a new breed with the kennel club. We have a strict purpose and plan for this project and it is something we take very seriously. Given the project is being undertaken with the utmost importance to health and temperament, breed type and the unique "look" of the breed will be an ongoing task until the uniformity of the desired look is achieved.



What separates a backyard breeder (bad breeder) from a good breeder?

As long as the breeder is breeding for a purpose, i.e. to ethically develop the breed and puts the health and welfare as their first priority, follows the breed club rules and regulations and registers litters in accordance with it, there should be no reason to disgrace any breeder.

Coming from a purebred background, some of our breeders have attracted abuse and put downs for involvement in this "new" breed in development. If a breeder is not registered with their country's official kennel club, that does not make them a "bad breeder". There are plenty of registered breeders, (as well as unregistered breeders) who are puppy farms (i.e. mass breeding with little or no regard for the correct breeding, keeping and raising of animals), and are breeding solely just to make a financial income.

Behaviour and ethics are the only things that determine whether someone is a good breeder or a bad breeder.

Generally:

- **Backyard breeders do not spend thousands of dollars testing their stock before breeding**
- **Backyard breeders will not guarantee your dog's health or sell under written contracts**
- **Backyard breeders do not follow any organisation's Breeding Rules, Requirements or Code of Conduct**
- **Backyard breeders do not offer any help or assistance after the sale**
- **Backyard breeders do not generally do check-ups on the puppies they sell after they have gone to their new homes**

BREED STANDARD - LYKOS

General Appearance: Medium bone and athletic in appearance. Slightly longer than tall, with legs slightly longer than overall depth of body.

Elbows: Close fitting to the chest

Chest: Medium chest, not broad.

Body: Level topline with smoothly sloping croup

Head: Not too broad. Slightly domed skull. Medium stop. Strong muzzle that is long and gently tapering.

Lips: close fitting and always dark. Nose must be black.

Eyes: Almond shaped, forward facing and set at a slightly oblique angle. Brown, yellow, amber and blue accepted.

Bite: Scissor Bite

Ears: Set fairly high, not too large. Must be erect. Wide-set ears or ears too large are considered a fault.

Neck: Strong and muscular.

Shoulders: Moderately sloping, broad and fairly short but not steep. Long tail reaching the hock. Tail carried down when standing and may be lifted when excited. Medium-long hocks.

Feet: Oval. Rear dewclaws must be removed within 3 days of birth. Hare feet not desired. Toenails of black or white or mixture of both.

Fore feet: Pasterns strong

Coat: Dense double coat, soft in texture. Plush in appearance. Medium-long coats permitted. Well defined ruff and breaches. Bushy tail.

Gait: Smooth, far reaching ground covering gait.

Size at Withers: Dogs 60-70 cms, 35-45 kgs. Bitches 55-65cms, 30-40kgs. Balance is more important than size.

Colour: Any shade of red, grey, sable/agouti or black with white. Dark masks must cover most of the face, in particular down the middle of the face. White faces without mask are not desired unless the dog is mostly white.

Temperament: Never unnecessarily reactive or or timid. Friendly and laid back.

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

YOUR NEW PUPPY

Congratulations on the arrival of your new family member! The following information is provided to help you with all necessary health care your puppy will require, and tips to help your puppy settle in to its new home.

Vet Check

Within 48 hours of taking your puppy home, it is recommended that you have your puppy checked over by your vet. Your vet should check your puppy's heart, tummy, teeth, eyes and coat. They should also scan your pup's microchip, to ensure it hasn't moved and is registering (they were scanned and checked after implantation, but it is a good idea to check as microchips can sometimes travel to other parts of the body) OR fall out if not implanted correctly by the vet.

Your vet should **not** pull your pup's front or hind legs to the point they feel pain. At your vet check, it is a good time to discuss your future vaccination, flea, worming and heart worm schedule.

If your puppy is not already de-sexed and its contractual status is "breeding" or "to be determined at a later stage", explain to your vet that your puppy cannot be de-sexed before they are assessed by the breeder. Most vets will routinely push de-sexing as part of their job. They will understand if you explain the situation to them.

Vaccination Schedule (please refer to vaccination card)

On _____, your puppy was vaccinated with the ____ vaccine. **The next vaccinations are due on _____ (C5) and then _____ (C5).** Please take your pup's vaccination card with you when you go for the next lot of vaccinations. They will require a yearly booster each year.

Microchip (see photocopy of Microchip Subscription Form)

On _____, your puppy was micro-chipped with _____. Please ensure that you transfer the micro-chip ownership details into your name, so if your puppy gets out and gets found, you will be contacted directly.

Feeding – Supercoat Puppy

Your puppy has been raised on Supercoat Puppy (black and pink bag with a Samoyed puppy on it). It is a scientifically balanced food that ensures your puppy gets all the vitamins and minerals it requires. You can get Supercoat from most supermarkets, which is why we start them off on it, so it's easy to access and transition your dog to a premium grade dry food, if you so choose. **You will need to feed your puppy 2-3 times per day, approx. 1-2 cups per feeding session** (increase this as the puppy grows).

Feel free to substitute or add meat, egg, sardines, mince or vegetables with your pup's food. There is lots of information available on the internet on the benefits of raw feeding and natural diets. Even though they take more preparation, a well-balanced raw diet is excellent for your dog.



Your puppy is used to being fed early in the morning at around _____am. They have a good body clock and will most likely wake up at the same time each day, making noise and wanting food.

They get their second meal at about _____pm and a third meal at around _____pm before bedtime. Just make sure fresh water is always available and remember to take your puppy out for toilet breaks after each meal, to help with toilet training and to avoid accidents inside the house. If you are going to change your pup's dry food to a higher grade dry food, please do so gradually, over a 3 or 4 day span, substituting slowly. Sudden changes in diet can cause tummy upsets.

Note: Always feed your puppy to condition, and don't just follow what the packaging says. Pet owners nearly always over-feed their dogs. Over-feeding your dog is cruel and it will live a shorter life and be very uncomfortable, in pain and suffering for the last third of this shortened life as a result of overfeeding.

Remember your dog loves you and trusts you to know what's best for it. Care for it. Earn and deserve this trust by feeding correctly and making sure it is healthy and the correct (lean) weight all the time.

Twice a week. They love to chew bones and this will not harm their little teeth and will help strengthen them. Chewing bones will also clean them from plaque and tartar build up and stop the development of gum disease. Bones can keep them busy and can also help with teething. Chicken necks, drumsticks, wings or chicken frames are good for young pups.

Raw bones from the butcher are fine, but **never give a dog cooked bones**. Cooked bones can break and splinter and cause massive internal injuries or even be fatal.

Once a week Give your puppy a little tin of plain sardines or a little canned Tuna or canned Salmon. Alternate with some beef every other week. The omega 3 fatty acids in the fish is good for your dog. You can get the sardines, tuna, and salmon at the supermarket.

The quantities of food you should give will vary according to the age of the puppy and its eating habits. Beware some puppies, which will eat until sick. Increase the quantity carefully according to the pups body weight, and avoid over-feeding your puppy. This may lead to growth abnormalities due to extra stress on growing joints.

Intestinal Worming

Your puppy has been regularly wormed against intestinal worms. **Next round of worming should be done at 8, 10 and 12 weeks, then every month until they are 6 months of age and then every 3 months.** You can get intestinal worming treatment from most supermarkets, but you can also discuss with your vet.

Heart Worm

There are different options available for the prevention of heart worm. Most veterinarians recommend treatment start at week 12. However you should consult your veterinarian at this stage when you are getting the 12 week vaccination. Personally, I prefer the annual injection so I don't have to do it monthly. It works out to be about the same price as doing it monthly. Please discuss with your vet.

Flea Control

If you live in a flea prone area or have other animals in your house who are prone to fleas, it's important that you use a monthly topical solution or tablet as a preventative. Make sure any product you use on a puppy less than 12 weeks of age is safe - most flea washes and rinses are toxic to young animals. Fleas need to be controlled on the dog as well as in the dog's bed/sleeping area, in the home, and in the yard. Treatment should be done at least every 14 days until the problem is under control. Fleas can transmit tapeworm and cause anaemia, but most significantly they cause dermatitis (skin allergies) a very frustrating problem. Collars, sprays, rinses, powders and flea bombs are available, consult your vet for recommended treatments.

Certificate of Registration

These are your pup's pedigree papers, which state your puppy's registered name, registration breed number and family tree. Your puppy is registered with the *Australian Lykos Development Project*.

Puppy Schools & Further Training

Some puppy schools are a great way to learn how to train your dog and start socialisation. If you are going to puppy school (or puppy kindergarten), please ensure that they don't just allow the pups to run riot and wrestle with each other. Your puppy should sit with you, and the trainer should go over things that are covered in this information booklet. The pups should learn the right way how to interact with other puppies and people within a controlled environment. We have a list of local training schools that we highly recommend and start puppies off as early as 8 weeks. Please contact us if you want us to refer you.

Puppy-proofing Your Home

In the last few days before you first bring your puppy home, give your house a good cleaning and remove breakable items from areas where your puppy will be.

Also, spend some time preparing yourself or your family. Small children in particular need to know how to act around puppies.

Follow this checklist to give yourself peace of mind that your dog is safe when left home alone. Look at your house from your puppy's point of view: get down on all fours and look around. Move or remove dangling electric cords, loose nails, plastic bags or other tempting objects that are in reach. Pick up buttons, string, sewing needles, pins and other sharp objects, and anything small enough to swallow. If your puppy swallows any of these objects, they may cause damage to the mouth and internal organs. String and other entangling objects like curtain pulls may cause abrasions or strangulation.

Keep them safe

Puppies are naturally inquisitive – it's one of their most endearing characteristics, but it's also a potentially harmful one. Before you bring your new dog home, you'll want to make sure your house is safe. Follow this checklist to keep your dog out of danger.

Store all poisonous items out of reach

Put household cleaners, laundry detergents, bleach, disinfectants, insecticides, cleaning fluid, fertilisers, mothballs, antifreeze, insect poisons, rat poisons and other items in cabinets or on high shelves.

Check your plants

Many plants in and around your house can be harmful to your puppy. For example, the seeds of apricots and peaches, as well as spinach and tomato vines, can make your puppy sick, and can even be fatal in large dosages. For a more complete list of dangerous plants, consult your veterinarian.

Keep the toilet seat down

Puppies are often tempted to play in or drink the toilet bowl water. This habit can be very hard to break. It's unsanitary and toilet cleaner may be harmful if swallowed.

Unplug, remove or cover any electrical cords in your puppy's confinement area

Chewing on these cords can cause severe mouth burns, electrocution and fires.

Close off balconies and high decks

Puppies – and small mature dogs – can slip through openings and fall.



Settling Your Puppy in and What You Will Need

Shopping list:

- Bag of Supercoat Puppy
- Collar
- Leash
- 2 x stainless steel Bowls (plastic can react with noses). One for food and one for water.
- Puppy Bed
- Kennel for outdoors
- Crate or Puppy Enclosure (optional) or a children's gate to section them off from carpeted areas when unsupervised
- Toys to play with (interact and make play time fun for them)



After picking him up, best to go straight home. He will need to be let out in the backyard as soon as you get home to go to the toilet and explore his new environment.

Keep away from parks and cafes for a week or so – bond with your puppy first and work on toilet training and leash training at home... Pups have a small attention span and don't like to be the one spot for long. Also there aren't always friendly dogs at dog parks and he won't be fully vaccinated, so best to socialise him in other positive ways. We arrange puppy play dates for local owners, so come along to that too!

When he is a bit older and more laid back you can take him for a walk up the street and hope he relaxes whilst you sit out the front of a cafe etc. For the time being though, he can be socialised at puppy school/kinder and dog training clubs.

You should take him out on short drives with you if you need to something like get dinner or go to the shops etc... You should take him out front on lead for a walk up the street (only for about 5-10 mins letting him have a sniff around and slowly get used to the lead).

If you have any friends who you like to visit, take him along to their place if they are happy to have him there with you. As long as they don't have any dogs/cats who could hurt him!

Toilet Training

Don't punish your pup for "accidents" if you're not paying attention. By following some simple guidelines, toilet training your puppy can take a short time:

Take him out:

- **after each meal**
- **after a nap**
- **after a period of activity and when you see him sniffing around.**

Restrict the puppy's access by a combination of any of the following means:

- * confine to a crate or a small fenced off area;
- * have the puppy accepting of being placed in a small room such as the laundry or bathroom (where accidents will be easily cleaned up);
- * conditioning the puppy to be on lead, or
- * give the puppy your full and undivided attention.
- * we don't really recommend the toilet pads that some places sell. It takes longer to toilet train them and the pups get used to only going on the pads and not outside.

You will need to take the puppy outside, on lead, to the grassy area where you would like him/her to toilet, every 30 minutes to begin with – if he/she obliges, reward with titbits of a favourite food treat, reserved for this occasion and/or a game. Our aim is to minimise the number of inappropriate soilings and be able to reward toileting in the appropriate location.

If the instructions in the above paragraph are followed precisely, the puppy will not have the opportunity to make mistakes and we will be constantly rewarded for the correct behaviour. However, if the puppy does manage to toilet in the wrong location, do **not** reprimand or show your disapproval in any way. You will not teach the puppy not to toilet in the house, you will simply be teaching him/her not to toilet in your presence – then when you go to the grassy toilet spot, puppy will not want to toilet because it will make you cross! Furthermore, when you return indoors, the puppy will take the first opportunity to find an appropriate spot (your bedroom or the living room – anywhere away from his/her own sleeping and eating areas) to eliminate, when you're not watching!

Watch for the obvious times that your puppy will need to toilet, such as immediately after a meal or a big drink; upon waking up; after a play session; and any other time in between! Ensure that the puppy is in the correct toilet location at these times. If your puppy is fed on a regular schedule, you will find that toilet habits will also be performed on a consistent schedule – this will help you in anticipating just when to get the pup to that grassy toilet spot in time!

If, while watching your puppy in your house, you observe the pre-toileting behaviours such as sniffing, circling, etc (it will vary from one puppy to the next), rush the puppy to the backdoor, keeping him/her close to floor level so that they can see where they are being taken and how to get to their correct toilet spot. Thoroughly clean the areas where the puppy has had accidents. The scent of previous droppings will stimulate a puppy to stop and toilet then and there. Use this fact to your advantage by collecting up a few droppings and placing them in the grassy area where you would like the puppy to toilet – he/she will believe that this area is his/her chosen toilet.

Feeding your puppy indoors and locating water bowls indoors will hasten the understanding that these areas are not suitable for toileting. Take the blame for any mistakes yourself – you were not paying sufficient attention. Remember, your puppy's Mum cleaned up without scolding – attempting to reprimand the puppy for a bodily function will only create anxiety.

PS: the puppy is not suffering from guilt when you walk into the room where the pup has had an accident – he/she simply knows that the presence of a puddle or pile and you in the same room is bad news!

Most puppies will be showing a vast improvement by 12 weeks of age, though still having occasional accidents.

Toilet training is a natural process and will happen unaided in most instances. However, there will be a wide range of ease or difficulty from one pup to the next. Try to remain calm and accepting – your stress will be obvious to your puppy and may undermine his/her confidence and trust in you as a consistent, reliable good-natured leader, capable of taking care of their needs and providing protection.

Introducing other pets

If you have any reason to believe that your dog may be aggressive to the new family member, it may be best to conduct the initial introduction on neutral territory. This way, aspects of dominance and territoriality will be minimized or may even be negated. Also, introductions should probably be on leash just in case a fracas should develop.

Introduce your new puppy to other members of the pet population *s-l-o-w-l-y*. If there is more than one other animal in your menagerie, introduce the newcomer to one pet at a time, so you don't overwhelm him. Let your new charge and the incumbent(s) sniff and inspect each other. They may growl and bark at first, but this may simply be a sign of insecurity.

Let them sniff around and check each other out while you talk to them softly. Watch for body language that could signal aggression, which includes:

Staring

Stiff-legged walking

Barred teeth or growling

Ears laid back or raised hair on the neck or back

One dog trying to mount the other

If you notice any aggressive behaviour, distract the dogs and lead them away from each other. Let them cool off and introduce them again a little later. If the meeting goes well, take them both for a walk.

Make sure you don't neglect them as you try to make the new pet welcome. Don't use physical force to put the older animals in their place; this may make them wary of the new arrival. Never leave your new puppy unsupervised with any of your older pets until you're sure they all get along well. To cut down on sibling rivalry, let your older pets know they're still an important part of the family and that the new puppy isn't a replacement for them. Spend 10 to 15 minutes alone with each of pet, so that each one gets your undivided attention for a while, at least. The key to introducing a puppy to your dog is to be alert and in control at all times.

Introducing your puppy to a cat

Introducing a new puppy to your cat is fairly simple; you should allow the cat to determine the tenor of the meeting. You should designate areas that are off-limits to your puppy. This will give your cat "safe zones" and keep her from feeling evicted by your puppy. Don't leave them unsupervised until you're very sure they can get along. Watch for any aggressive behaviour by either animal.

If your puppy starts to chase the cat, don't allow the behaviour to continue but don't punish your puppy either. Simply get his attention with a treat or toy. He's likely reacting to his natural prey drive and you don't want to instil fear over an ingrained behavioural pattern. If your cat roughs up the puppy, don't punish the cat. Your puppy has to learn where the boundaries are in their relationship.

Stay alert and let the introductions progress slowly. Don't force the meeting or expect your new puppy and cat to be the best of friends overnight.

Which Collar?

We highly recommend you start off your puppy on a lightweight flat nylon or leather collar specially designed just for puppies. Always make sure it is not too tight and not too loose. You should be able to fit two fingers snugly in between the pup's neck and the collar (2cms – 2.5 cms).

Most well-trained dogs do not need anything other than a flat nylon or leather collar or a harness.

If you are having difficulty walking your dog on the leash, please attend a dog training school or even ask us for a one-on-one lesson.

Car Travel

Car harnesses can be purchased from vets, pet stores or online. They come in many different sizes and colours. Too many pets fly through the windshield or are injured due to sudden braking and accidents. The car seat belt is plugged in and the harness woven through the connected seat belt.

Car sickness

The first thing to realize when dealing with car sickness is that in 95% of cases it is stress related and not motion related. Your pet may relate a car trip with being taken away from its first home, or trips to the Vet or even worse, the kennel. So, its not surprising that subsequent rides in a car should evoke very strong mental and subsequent physical trauma. **Re-program your pet's attitude towards travel in a car.** Find a park about 5-10 minutes from home, ideally have someone else in the car too, to soothe the dog and distract him from the ride. Keep him happy all the way to the park. When at the park do all the enjoyable things that the dog loves, fetch the ball, and chase the Frisbee. The stay at the park doesn't need to be that long.... just as enjoyable as possible. Then drive the dog home soothing him all the way again and when home make just as much fuss of the dog as you did at the park. Finish the session with his meal or a treat if time and conditions permit.

Now your pet will now associate car travel with fun times. **Travel on empty.** It's a good idea not to feed your pet six to eight hours before embarking on a road trip. Having an empty stomach will make him less likely to throw up, and if he does get sick, there's no food in the vomit, so at least it's easier to clean up. Giving your pet water, however, won't upset his stomach and may make him more comfortable. **Or put in a quarter-tank.** While some pets travel best on an empty stomach, others will feel more comfortable after eating a small meal. Some pets just need a little food in their stomach to help keep them from getting sick. **Take frequent rest breaks.** While some pets can travel for hours without having problems, others start getting queasy after a few miles. Get to know your pet's pattern and stop at least every hour or two to take a quick walk to help your pet get his land-legs back. It's also a good idea to pour him a little water, since he may not feel like drinking when he's in the car. **Be up-front with him.** There's not as much movement in the front of the car as in the back, so it might help your pet if you let him ride in the front seat, but make sure they are in a doggy seatbelt or a small kennel that buckles into the seat.

Expand his horizons. Pets, like people, are less likely to get carsick when they can watch the passing scenery. **Crank down the windows.** Fresh air is good for anyone who's feeling a little carsick, including your dog or cat, but don't open the window enough so he can escape or get his head way out.

Chewing

The sole focus of your dog's chewing should be directed toward items you select. There are a wide range of items to choose from, including *Gumabone* and *Nylabone*-type products. There are also many safe, long-lasting chew toys that are made especially for teething puppies that will keep them occupied and content for hours.

Examples would be knotted rawhide and durable rubber teething products, like Kong toys, that satisfy your puppy's need for chewing and gum stimulation. The items should not be similar to articles you do not want your puppy to chew. Your puppy can not tell the difference between your new dress shoes and an old tattered pair. If you catch your pup in the act of chewing anything but his chew toy, remove the object and replace it with an acceptable chew toy. If your pup then chews on the toy, praise him. You always want to reinforce desired behaviour with praise. If possible, treat the 'inappropriate object' with a product designed to deter chewing, such as Bitter Apple or citronella that will give it a bad taste. If he chews on forbidden objects after you leave the room, your quick return will catch him in the act - the only time when corrective action should be taken. Again, give him the toy, and praise if it is accepted. If he is chewing forbidden objects but you cannot catch him, he should be crated when unsupervised until he learns what is and is not acceptable to chew on.

Digging

Digging is a natural instinct for dogs, but digging holes in dirt is also considered a fun game for them. Naturally dogs may dig for different reasons: to retrieve a prey out of its hiding place, to dig out roots to chew on, to make holes to be able to sleep in or just a shelter from the wind. But many dogs just dig for entertainment when they are bored. There are many different ways to deter digging. There are commercial products such as *Keep Off*, *No-Dig*, or *Get Off My Garden*. These products work by creating a scent in the area which is repugnant to animals, or which interferes with the animal's sense of smell. Some products can be used directly on plants and grass, some cannot. This is probably the easiest of the solutions. This will also work at repelling nuisance animals other than your own. If you leave your dog out alone in the yard for any length of time, he may dig just for something to do. Play with him out there, or provide him with chew toys or interactive toys like a Kong or Pet Planet rubber toy with treats stuffed inside. **Never** reprimand your puppy if you don't catch them in the act of digging.

Discipline

Never let your puppy get away with anything that you don't want him to do when he is older and larger. Behaviours that are cute at 6kgs are often NOT cute at 30-40kgs. Try to always ask yourself "would I want him doing this as a full grown dog? If the answer is no, then do not allow the behaviour.

Your puppy is learning every day, whether you are training him or not. He has begun learning every day since he was born, and his active learning began at about three weeks of age. He can be learning the things you want him to, or if left to his own devices, learning things he picks up on his own that you may not appreciate.

If every day is a day of learning for you and your puppy, and you start off on the right path, you may be able to avoid many of the common pitfalls and behaviour problems often encountered.

Do not play rough with your puppy. Do not allow the puppy to develop bad habits such as jumping up on you or the children, biting at clothing, etc. A young puppy jumping can knock someone to the floor, and biting at clothing and hands will only result in shredded clothing and injuries.

Within the first four months the most common complaint we hear is that the puppy is nipping at the owners in play. To correct the behaviour, you hold the muzzle of the puppy in a firm hold while saying "NO". The very second he stops the protest by squirming, screaming, crying (and acting as if he were being tortured), you let go of his muzzle and say "good boy...no bite"

Every time he does it again, you must follow through in the above manner. He'll learn eventually. Be ready for him to have a tantrum and start nipping at you as soon as you let go of his muzzle. Be consistent, and punish the behaviour EACH TIME he does it.

For discipline we recommend the word "NO" used in a loud/growly/stern voice. A good verbal reprimand will usually be enough. If it isn't enough. If the sin is repeated immediately, you must respond just a bit tougher. A little shake by the scruff of the neck (not collar) with a deep, loud growl, or restraining the puppy firmly on his back may be used to let him know that you're not happy. You must remember, however, that just as soon as your pup has stopped doing something he wasn't supposed to do, he should be petted and praised. Tell him what a good dog he is. **NEVER CALL HIM TO YOU AND REPRIMAND HIM!** If you call the puppy to you and reprimand him, he will associate the word "come" with a reprimand. This is the best way to teach your dog never to come. The command "come" is a lifesaving command. Your puppy must learn to come EVERY TIME you say that word. Never give up and allow the dog to win. Use treats or a long lead if necessary. **REMEMBER THE PRAISE!**

KEY POINTS FOR RAISING A WELL-ADJUSTED PUPPY

© Brooke Taylor

OUR VIEWS ON TAKING YOUR PUPPY OUT BEFORE FULLY VACCINATED

Many vets will tell you not to take your puppy out in public until it is 16-18 weeks old. This is way too old to start socialising and habituating your puppy. Vets are not Canine Behaviourists and most are not knowledgeable about breed-specific behaviours, unless they have formal behaviourist qualifications as such.

A puppy that is not taken out or exposed to certain things until after 16 weeks, is likely to be reactive, aggressive, fearful, and is much more difficult to correct this behaviour, since the “critical window” has passed. More about Critical Stages of Canine Development can be found in the next article (enclosed).

Good, safe places to take your puppy are

Short walks up and down your street

Visiting friends/family/neighbours who have vaccinated & friendly dogs

Having your friends visit you and your puppy at home

The puppy has some antibodies from its mother, as well as its original 6 week old vaccination. The benefits of socialising your dog during the critical period of 7 – 16 weeks, far outweigh the small risk of it catching a disease. Many more dogs are put to sleep for bad temperaments than they are for contracting a disease. It's a good idea to talk to your vets and ask if there have been any recent outbreaks of parvovirus in your area.

Socialisation: *learning how to recognise and interact with other animals and humans. By learning how to interact, the socialised dog develops communication skills which enable it to recognise whether or not it is being threatened and how to recognise and respond to the intentions of others.*

Habituation: *becoming accustomed to non-threatening environmental stimuli and learns to ignore them.*

Socialisation, habituation and training is critical for a well-balanced temperament.

Avoid dog parks and dogs you don't know. Avoid coming into contact with people's houses who have had dogs with parvo, or people who have recently been around dogs who have been sick. Avoid areas where parvo virus has been reported to be caught in. There have been cases though, where older dogs, who have been vaccinated against parvo, have still contracted it. The disease occurs more in lower socio-economic areas where fewer dogs are vaccinated. There have not been any reported cases of parvo on a beach. Just make sure if you go to a beach, dogs are allowed.

A puppy learns from its experiences, so you want to provide only positive ones during this critical period. Negative experiences your puppy has with an aggressive dog (even just being rushed at or lunged at by another dog), can severely alter their temperament. This can have a permanent effect

on them, and be very difficult to fix. Avoid places where there may be other dogs that could be aggressive with your puppy.

If your puppy has had a negative experience such as a fright from something or another dog being aggressive, it's crucial you remain as calm as possible. Your reaction can make it worse (say if you scream or console your dog). Your reactions will reinforce their behaviour and reactions. It's important that if your puppy is affected by this experience, to see a good trainer and behaviourist.

If you heed the advice about how to handle your dog in particular situations below, there should be no reason that your dog should be problematic in those situations. Remember, it is your responsibility to avoid situations where you put your puppy at risk of a bad experience and if your puppy shows a negative reaction, the appropriate steps should quickly be taken in order to correct the behaviour.

As part of your regular routine, checking ears, eyes, teeth and paws (in between toes), bathing, grooming, should be done as often as possible. It is always important to be consistent with how you train and socialise your puppy and follow it up by joining a good training club.

Remember, each time you take your dog/puppy out in public, your dog is a representation of its breed. A well-balanced dog is the result of hard work and dedication by the owner. There is no such thing as "problem dogs". Negative behaviours are always the result of poor leadership, socialisation, habituation and training.



A FEW HINTS ON SOCIALISING & HABITUATING YOUR PUPPY

Get your puppy focussed on YOU when working and socialising. YOU must be the most important person in their life – not anyone or anything else. DO not allow your puppy to run riot and ignore you. Interrupt times where your puppy is distracted, by a fun game and getting their focus on YOU.

Never console the puppy or pat him if he acts nervous or snappy out of fear. By consoling or patting him you are telling him that that kind of behaviour was acceptable. **NEVER 'BABY' YOUR DOG!** If he acts nervous – ignore it and let him work out that there is no reason to be scared. Do not allow people or other dogs to force themselves upon your puppy. You would not like it if someone came up in your face and jumped on you or grabbed you!

Correct any bad behaviour, such as nipping or biting out of fear. In serious cases, see a canine behaviourist. We have some great ones we refer people to here in Victoria. There are many very bad trainers and behaviourists, so make sure they teach the correct methods that suit your dog.

If your puppy is a little wary of people, do not console him or encourage him to interact when he doesn't want to. Always allow the puppy to approach people on their own terms and when they are comfortable. Never force the pup!

A stranger looking down straight at the puppy making direct eye-contact is a very threatening thing in the dog world. Have the stranger not look directly at the puppy. Tell them to totally ignore the puppy. Once he learns that strangers are OK and there is nothing to be afraid of, it should start to relax.

If around other dogs/pups, **always** check with the other owner that their dogs are friendly and will not attack your puppy. Learn dog behaviour and body language so you can learn to pick a problem dog from afar. A bad experience can have long-lasting effects on the puppy and will more than likely make him nervous of meeting other dogs for a long time to come. Dogs must **always** be under full voice control if off lead and must come when called. Learn how to interpret dog behaviour to avoid problems when socialising off leash. Personally I am not a fan of off-leash parks. Too many people do not have their dog under effective control and some dogs do not behave appropriately. Always be able to call your puppy back at intervals and get their focus on you, not the other dog. Treats may help. You want to be your pup's pack leader and therefore must be the most important person or thing to them.

Do not let your puppy be aggressive with another dog or puppy. There is a difference between playing and getting too rough. No owner likes their puppy being beaten up by another pup or dog. Learn the difference between rough-housing play and aggression.

DAILY TIPS

Exercise and Getting Out and About

A build-up of energy and lack of exercise can cause behavioural problems such as aggression, frustration, fearfulness and destructiveness, so make sure the dog/pup is well-exercised and stimulated. GSDs are a working breed and were bred to have brains – and to USE THEM!

Take your puppy on short daily walks and enclosed areas where they can run safely off lead (and not get hit by a car). Make sure that you don't over-exercise your puppy though. No forced running i.e. jogging with you on lead or jumping until they are at least 12 months old, because their joints are still growing and over-doing it can cause permanent joint problems.

If there are other dogs around or loose, ensure the other dogs are stable and will not hurt the pup. Most people these days are courteous and will put their dogs on lead. Better to be safe than sorry

in these situations! If there is ever a fight or attack, the person who has their dog off lead, are the ones liable, even if their dog didn't start it!

You and your family are the dog's PACK, not every dog down the street or in the park. YOU are the Pack Leader. During the walk or run, they must still be focussed on you when you request their attention. It's fair enough to allow them to just 'be a puppy', sniff things etc, but ensure that when you ask for your pups' attention that they give it to you immediately. Give verbal encouragement and make things fun for them – if they are food focussed, use treats or if they are toy focussed, incite a game with a toy.

Puppies must learn how to act appropriately in different surroundings, so take them to these places.

Always end training sessions on a positive note!

Praise

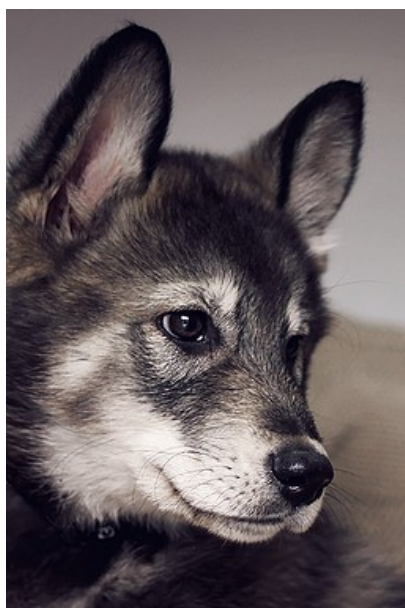
When you get your dog's attention and they do what you say, reward it with food, verbal praise and a ball/toy game. Be careful not to over-excite the puppy to the point where it loses focus on you altogether. Different puppies and dogs respond different levels of praise, so depending on what yours is like, use whatever works for you and your dog.

Avoiding Separation Anxiety

When you come home or leave to go out without them, **don't touch, make eye contact, or talk to them**. Don't make time apart such a big deal. If you do, it can develop behavioural problems such as separation anxiety. Give calm and gentle attention once they settle down – this may take 5 minutes or even up to one hour! Your dog must learn to spend time alone where they are not centre of attention. Ignore bad behaviour. Reward the good behaviour!

If you have more than one dog, alternate the dogs inside and outside. They should not learn to be dependent on each other. It's very important that when raising a puppy with your other dog around, that they are taken separately on walks so the puppy can learn how socialise by themselves and not rely on the other dog for confidence.

It's also a good idea if you are not at home, to leave a bone or a toy like a kong with food stuffed in it. They'll be occupied and busy for a while!



HOW TO BECOME A PACK LEADER

No pulling on lead! Don't allow the puppy to pull on the lead. The Pack Leader walks in front. Walk with confident posture and a calm, assertive attitude. Train your dog the basic commands i.e. sit, heel, drop, come. You don't want to be dragged down the street! Join a local dog training club to learn how to make your dog do these things.

No jumping! Your dog should always be prepared to accept a reasonable measure of control and when young children or elderly people are around it. A boisterous young dog can easily knock down the very young or elderly. Children may become frightened of dogs for life and the elderly are very prone to injury.

Getting up on couches or beds! What's cute as a puppy is not cute at 30kgs! Don't encourage behaviours that you don't want the dog to do when it is older.

Feed your dog after you and your family! Pack Leaders eat first. If it's not dinner time for you and the family, even eat a biscuit or something small yourself then prepare the dogs' meal.

Never give up if you give your dog a command and he/she ignores it! Every time you give a command, you must always carry it through to completion. If you give in, the dog learns they can get away with ignoring your commands and will not take you seriously and they think they are the Pack Leader. If commands keep getting ignored, you can use different methods or a combination of methods to communicate with the dog and make him do what you want. Don't give up and let the dog get away with ignoring an instruction! Make the dog do it! Reward the dog and praise him when he complies.

Never give your dog anything if they are whinging or carrying on! Whinging and barking at you is DEMANDING behaviour. Don't give in to this behaviour as it will reinforce it and they will keep trying it! If you must, put them outside and ignore them.

Do not give the dog attention/affection unless it is deserved. Reward the dog if it has done something very good. Make them work to gain food or praise. Making them sit, drop, stay or heel. Attention is not a given right – it's something they must earn. In a pack environment, food and respect doesn't come for free!

If the dog is in your way and not moving – walk right through it! As pack leader, you have "right of way". By walking around your dog, this is you submitting to your dog. When pushing through with your legs – don't fall over!

WELL-TRAINED DOGS CAN ONLY COME FROM RESPONSIBLE OWNERS WHO ARE WILLING TO INVEST TIME & EFFORT INTO THE DOGS TRAINING PROGRAM! TRAINING NEVER STOPS. IT'S AN ONGOING JOB. ROUTINE AND CONSISTENCY ARE THE KEYS!

These hints and tips are a general guide only and should not substitute for a training or canine behavioural session.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

We actively promote the concept of responsible dog ownership amongst puppy buyers to ensure that all puppy buyers and their dogs play an active and meaningful role in the wider community. Obedience training is, in fact, critical when it comes to nurturing a healthy human-animal relationship and creating a socially compatible pet. The basic elements — sit, down, stay, come, and heel — help produce a good canine citizen. In a practical sense, obedience-trained dogs have an easier lives, and are easier to live with, than their untrained peers.

If dogs desist from jumping up on strangers, sit or lie quietly when asked, and walk politely on lead, they're bound to spend more time with their owners going to picnics, parks, and other public places, and will spend less time alone at home. Dogs taught to lie down on the arrival of visitors - after barking a greeting or alarm - are more likely to be included in the dinner party and less likely to wind up isolated outside when guests visit.

Obedience training is an education in good manners that, almost literally, open many doors for otherwise confined dogs. Rather than thinking of obedience training as a series of pointless rituals, think of it as a tool to help dogs cope in the real world. **Training Can Be Positive and Fun!**

When training is positive and fun, both you and your dog can enjoy the process as well as the results. To teach your dog anything new, the task must hold some kind of reward when successfully completed. It's unrealistic to imagine that your dog will perform a task simply because it pleases you — though some do seem particularly eager to please. For less owner-oriented dogs, even petting may not be a potent enough reward, especially when the dog is excited and would rather cavort than be petted by you, his momentary obstacle. In order to convince your dog that training exercises are fun, consider what he'll work hardest for. For most dogs, the most compelling reward is a small but delicious piece of food, such as breakfast cereal or freeze-dried liver.

Obedience Classes

If you're inexperienced in dog training, consider enrolling your dog in a formal class (puppies can join "kindergartens" or pre-novice classes). An interesting evolution in thinking often occurs when people join training classes. Though folk may sign up for just one class — typically eight weeks of classes — they enjoy the experience so much that they often re-enroll for the next level of training, and then the next. In fact, it's not uncommon for puppy owners to continue their joint learning experiences for years — even entering local matches or competitions — because training classes are such fun for both the owner and the dog. Most basic obedience classes — typically at the "novice" or "pre-novice" level — include the basic exercises: "sit," "down," "stay," "come" (or "recall") and "heel." Each command plays an important role in day-to-day communication between people and their dogs. An experienced instructor can help guide you with issues such as timing of rewards when your dog "listens" and the best way to respond when he doesn't listen. Even your facial expression and body posture can affect your dog's performance—subtle influences that you may not be able to detect without the help of a trainer. In some classes, time is also devoted to dealing with behaviours unrelated to obedience competition, such as jumping up, dropping objects on command, and controlled walking (without a formal "heel"). There may also be aspects involving proper socialisation, and short lectures on other relevant topics, in addition to basic training. Obedience classes often have their own culture that is shared between the attendants, all other people who love their dogs as much as you do.

Applying What You've Both Learned Remember to use and practice exercises after you've earned them. Your dog may be "staying" beautifully while in class, but he may 'act deaf' in other environments. So, help him practice — in your home, back yard, near playgrounds, and in crowded shopping plazas. Apply the skills you and he have worked so hard to master, so that he can join you everywhere and be the companion you always knew he could be.

Exercise

A mistaken belief of many owners of our breed, is that a young puppy (up to 12 months of age) should have "plenty" of exercise. As the breed is such a fast growing breed (compared to some other working breeds) the opposite is actually more correct. The strain of over exercise on the skeletal make up of a youngster is often irreversible. The stretching of ligament at too early an age, the strain on young growing joints, the carrying of too much weight on the overall framework, can and will do harm to the young puppy, and lead to problems in adulthood. Consider a young dog in comparison to a 3 - 4 year old human child - certainly not ready to run a marathon (even though the spirit may be willing!) but with growth and maturity, that time could come.

As a general rule of thumb and guideline for novice owners, "on lead" exercise should be very limited until final growth and height is achieved at approximately twelve months of age (when both hips and elbows can be x-rayed). At that time, the young dog is then ready to commence more prolonged exercise. Should there be any chance that there is already some problem with wear on the joints of the hips and elbows, further advice would be sought as to appropriate exercise. Then, and only then, should you build the dog up to the desired level of fitness you require for whichever field you have chosen - be it show dog, trialing, agility or family companion, with the adult animal - complete in growth. Until then, it should be "careful and slow". Up to twelve months of age, natural free running is the best form of exercise for a youngster, for a young pup, upon tiring, can easily stop when they wish, and not keep on performing because they wish to please and keep up with you!

Of course you will wish to lead train and socialise your puppy, but exercise on lead should be no more than that. Maximum time walking (the dog at a fast trot) of a puppy up to six months of age should be barely five minutes at one instance (equivalent to a short stroll around your local block or park) and then rest. Puppies need plenty of rest and sleep, just like a young toddler.

Certainly they can play and romp in your back yard or in their kennel run, but they will stop when they feel tired, rest and then play again. Over six months - training on lead could extend to ten minutes if you wish, but again, moderation is the best guide, and if a puppy shows an inclination to tire, then stop! Moderation and common sense are the guidelines. Allow your puppy to grow steadily and slowly, and the fun of having a companion with which you can run your kilometres (upon adulthood of the dog) will not be impaired by the damage you may do, by doing too much, too soon.

Enjoy your puppy's first twelve months as a friend, and savour a lifetime with a fit and healthy adult.



Grooming

COAT

The Lykos is a "double-coated" breed. It has a "down" type undercoat next to the skin, with longer, coarse hair as an outer shell. Under normal conditions, the shepherd will only require regular brushing, and an occasional bath. Diet plays a significant part in coat condition, so feeding quality foods will help prevent any skin problems.



Regular brushing and combing twice a week is essential in order to managed the double coat of German Shepherds. Remove the wooly hair shed from the dense undercoat, and not only the outer coarse guard coat which protects the undercoat. The density of the hair coat can be misleading to novice groomers or owners of this breed; it is somewhat dense. This breed sheds year round. Use a stiff bristled brush and a steel comb with rounded (not flat) teeth (you don't want to scratch or injure your dog!). Groom daily, or as frequent as is possible. It is good to have a dog that doesn't mind being handled/inspected/groomed.

At first it will take a little while to do it thoroughly, but as both you and your dog get use to it, you will be surprised how little time is actually needed if you groom regularly. Your dog will be clean, without smells, and looking smart - you will be both pleased and proud to introduce your dog to people. With the brush gently brush the back, down the back and sides, lift the tail and brush down the hind legs, and then lift up the chin and brush down the neck and chest. To do underneath, make your dog lie on its back. Even old dogs will learn to do this after a short struggle - be firm or get another member of the family to help hold them. (This is where training comes in useful i.e. the "stay" command)

First, brush the chest, then under the armpits and the inside of the hindlegs; afterwards, do the whole thing again with the rounded toothed steel comb.

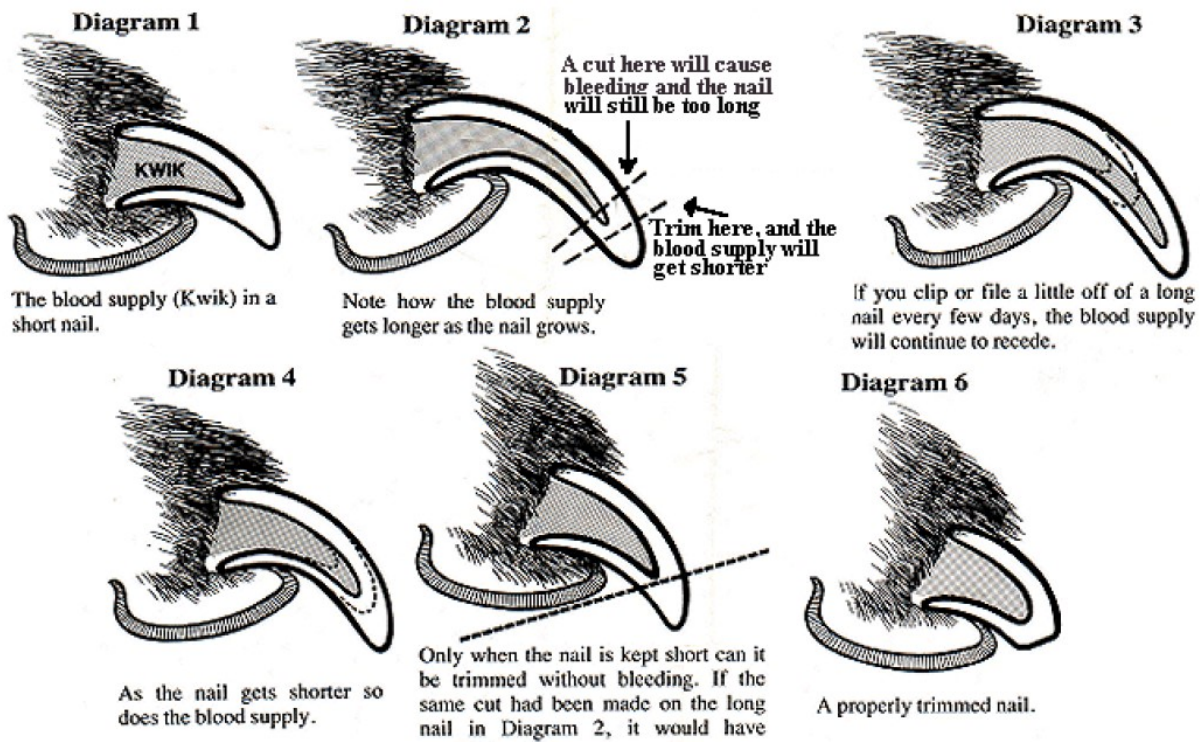
NAILS

Your dog will also need to have his toenails, ears, and teeth attended to. If your dog runs on pavement daily, you probably won't have a problem with nails. However you should check the nails on a weekly basis (while you are brushing) to avoid future headaches caused by split or broken nails left growing too long. Commercial nail trimmers for dogs are available at any pet supply store. Nails are hard in density, and dark nails will hide the "quick" (small vein that feeds the nail).



It is better to trim off small amounts of nail a little at a time. If you cut the nail too short it is painful for your dog and he will bleed.

If you do cut the quick of your dog, use styptic powder, scrape the nail against a bar of soap, or press cornstarch firmly into the quick to stop the bleeding. Have one of these items on hand, and within easy reach when trimming. Don't let nails get too long as the quick gets longer and it will be hard to trim the nail back to a proper length.



EARS

Ears should be checked and cleaned at least weekly. Your vet has products that will dissolve excess wax when used regularly. To clean excess wax and dirt simply deposit a few drops of the ear solution into each ear, massage the base of the ear for a few seconds, and then wipe out any debris with soft tissues or a cotton pad. The remaining solution will be shaken out by the dog or will evaporate quickly. The ear solution is inexpensive and should be purchased from your vet.

Try to avoid getting water in your shepherd's ears as it will sit at the bottom of the ear canal and can create infection. The ear solution helps keep ears dry. Prevention is the key to maintaining healthy ears.



CRITICAL PERIODS OF CANINE DEVELOPMENT

By Joachim Volhard and Gail Tamases Fischer

HUMAN SOCIALIZATION PERIOD

(7 - 12 weeks)

The best time to bring a puppy into its new home is during the Human Socialization Period, from 50 to 84 days, or seven to twelve weeks. It is also the best time to introduce him to those things that will play a role in his future life. For example, if he has not already been exposed to farm animals and it is necessary for him to interact peacefully with them, it is at this age that he should meet them in a positive, non-threatening manner. If the breeder has not already introduced him to the sounds of the vacuum cleaner, car engines and city traffic, he needs to be exposed to these now. Children, men with beards, women in floppy hats, and senior citizens while all people to us, appear different to the dog. His education and socialization should include exposure to many types of people of all ages.

At seven weeks of age, a puppy's EEG shows the brain waves are the same as those of an adult dog. His capacity for concentration is not yet adult and his attention span is short. However, he can learn. Not only can a young puppy learn, he will learn whether we teach him or not. This is the age when the most rapid learning occurs. Everything he experiences makes a greater impression on him now than it ever will again. Learning at this age is permanent.

Because of the relative ease of teaching at this age, because the puppy has not yet learned any bad habits that will later have to be cured, and because the puppy is just a fraction of his adult size and weight, this is the ideal time to begin obedience training in a positive, non-punitive manner, taking into account his physical limitations and short attention span.

FEAR IMPACT PERIOD

(8-11 Weeks)

During the Fear Impact Period, from eight to eleven weeks, any traumatic, painful, or frightening experience will have a more lasting impact on the puppy than if it had occurred at any other time. It is the puppy's perception of the experience that is important, not that of the owner.

For example, a trip to the animal hospital during this period, if unpleasant, could forever make a dog apprehensive about going to the veterinarian. By taking along a toy and some treats and making the experience pleasant and fun, the potentially negative impact is alleviated.

SENIORITY CLASSIFICATION PERIOD

(13 - 16 Weeks)

This critical period, from thirteen to sixteen weeks, is also known as the "Age of Cutting" - cutting teeth and cutting the apron strings. During the Seniority Classification Period, the dog attempts to clarify and resolve the question of leadership.

FLIGHT INSTINCT PERIOD

(4 - 8 Months)

The Flight Instinct Period occurs sometime between four and eight months of age. This is the time when a puppy will test his wings. He will venture off on his own and may turn a deaf ear when called.

The Flight Instinct Period lasts from a few days to several weeks. How the dog is handled during this stage will mean the difference between a dog that doesn't come when called and one who responds readily. Because most dog owners are not aware of this naturally occurring developmental stage, they react incorrectly, thereby creating a problem for themselves.

This emergence of the Flight Instinct is another reason for starting puppies in obedience class before this age.

There is a physiological change that corresponds with the Flight Instinct Period - teething. While the adult teeth come through the gums prior to six months of age, they don't set in the jaw until between six and ten months. There is a physiological need for him to exercise his mouth at this time.

SECOND FEAR IMPACT PERIOD

(6 - 14 Months)

This Fear Impact Period, also called the Fear of New Situations Period, is not as well defined as the first. The Second Fear Impact Period corresponds with growth spurts. Hence, it may occur more than once as the dog matures.

What marks the Second Fear Impact Period is a change in the behavior of the now adolescent dog. He may suddenly be reluctant to approach something new, or be frightened of something or someone familiar. When a dog is exhibiting fear or reluctance, he should not be forced into a confrontation, bullied into being brave, or reinforced in his fear through soothing tones and petting. Force can frighten the dog further, and soothing tones only serve to encourage his fear.

His fear should be handled with patience and kindness. The dog is permitted to work it out for himself without being forced to deal with something he perceives as dangerous. Training during this period puts the dog in a position of success, so his self-confidence will be built up.

MATURITY

(1 - 4 Years)

Many breeds, particularly the giant breeds, continue growing and physically changing beyond four years of age, so maturity refers to sexual maturity rather than full growth. For the average dog, maturity occurs sometime between one and a half and three years of age, with small dogs maturing earlier and giant dogs maturing later. This critical period is often marked by an increase in aggression and by a renewed testing for leadership.

Hip & Elbow X-rays

We guarantee the health of our dogs, especially in regard to hip and elbow dysplasia. The only way to properly diagnose the status of the dog's hips and elbows is by having them radiographed. By determining the status of a dog's hips/elbows by radiographs, owners can be made aware of any potential problems their dog may have.

If you have purchased a puppy from us, our Puppy Sale Agreement outlines that the dog must be hip and elbow x-rayed between 12 and 18 months old. We want to give owners peace of mind that they have purchased a healthy, quality dog from us.

We do the very best to provide our puppy owners with healthy dogs with good genetics, so in return we would like them to do their best for the health of their dog.

As with people, dogs have differing pain thresholds, so dogs with hip/elbow dysplasia may not always show signs of it. Obesity, significant over-exercise, stress on growing joints, excessive jumping and a poor diet can create or exacerbate joint problems such as hip and elbow dysplasia. All our puppy buyers are made aware of this before they buy a puppy from us, as factors such as this will void our genetic guarantee.

The only way to accurately assess or to predict the genetics of a breeding program is to x-ray ALL puppies produced – not just the ones used for breeding. Genetics play a significant role in a breeding program, so obtaining accurate knowledge on the puppies a breeder produces is very important. Breeders cannot claim that they have had no issues with hips or elbow dysplasia in their bloodlines, unless all their puppies have been x-rayed after they are fully grown.

Procedure

To get the x-rays done, you will need to go to a vet who is experienced in hip/elbow x-raying. Many breeds have hip/elbow x-raying and scoring as part of a breeding prerequisite, so a good vet will have the ability, knowledge and equipment to do them properly. If your vet is not experienced, best go to one who is. Poor positioning of the dog whilst being x-rayed will not give accurate results. You don't want to be putting your dog under anaesthetic again if the vet doesn't do the x-rays correctly the first time! The cost for getting the x-rays done by a vet should not exceed \$400.

For Victorian owners, we highly recommend going to Monash Veterinary Clinic in Clayton, as they are very experienced in x-raying dogs and can diagnose any issues on the spot. They have been a leader in the field of hip dysplasia for 35 years. They give you a good indication of the anatomy of your dog's hips/elbows, without waiting weeks for results.

Your dog will be anaesthetised and put in the correct position in order to take clear and correctly positioned radiographs. When you go in for the appointment, you will need to take your dog's papers (Certificate of Registration), which includes ownership details, the dog's microchip number (positive ID), its date of birth, registration number and pedigree. When the vet x-rays the dog, the chip number is compared to the papers to ensure correct identification.

When displaying our dog's hip scores we use numbers, for example, 1:2 (left hip 1, right hip 2 = total hip score of 3). The best score you can get is 0:0 (perfect hips, no hip dysplasia), and the worst score you can get is 53:53 (severe hip dysplasia). Severe hip dysplasia is very painful and is also very expensive to treat – hence why it is so important to breed with animals with good hip/elbow stability, whilst also considering the scores of ancestors.

Hip replacements can cost up to \$4000.00 per hip, and require long periods of rehabilitation where dogs must remain confined and carefully partake in hydrotherapy.

Highly respected radiologists have recommended that dogs with high hip scores should not be bred with. It is unethical to breed with a dog who has not been x-rayed or has a high hip or elbow score.

Hereditary Diseases

Here is a list of some of the more common diseases found in the breed. We extensively research the genetics of the bloodlines we use and when it comes to the health and genetics of the dogs and lines we use, we are highly involved, dedicated and do lots of research. We work very hard to lower the incidence of hereditary disease.

Degenerative Myelopathy This condition is relatively common among GSDs. It can appear in a young dog, but generally appears from middle age. The degeneration occurs over time, beginning with hind limb weakness. Eventually other weakness can occur, including the lower portion of the esophageagus, which makes complete swallowing difficult and can lead to recurrent pneumonia. Although initial signs resemble hip dysplasia, in actuality, it is the degeneration of the spinal cord rather than hip joints. Our lines are free of this via DNA testing and we do not use genetic carriers or affected dogs, so you will not have to worry

Elbow Dysplasia Elbow dysplasia is characterized by an onset of severe lameness at between 4 and 6 months of age. It almost always affects only one of the elbows but occasionally will affect both. There are three different types of elbow dysplasia: UAP (united anconeal process), FCP (fractured coronoid process), and OCD (osteochondrosis). OCD more resembles arthritis in the elbow that may or may not be brought on by trauma or looseness of ligamentation at the elbow. Final diagnosis can only be made by radiograph. We do not breed with dogs whose results are greater a 1 on each elbow. Sometimes pups or young dogs get lame as they grow too fast, this is nothing to panic about, but can be fixed by rest and anti inflammatories from your vet. Always let us know if you have any concerns about your dog and we are happy to refer you to accredited vets experienced with these issues.

Epilepsy This may possibly be genetically transmitted. At the least, the tendency exists in a few lines. The disorder may not express itself until the dog is about three to four years old. There is no way of testing for the disease until the dog has a seizure. We have not had any issues with epilepsy in our lines at this point in time.

Hip Dysplasia (ED) The hip joint is not constructed properly, usually with a shallow acetabulum. Dysplastic dogs can vary from minor problems to severe dislocation of the hips. This condition is generally considered to be inherited. Breeding stock should be x-rayed and scored. Although HD is thought to have a genetic base, pedigree, diet, exercise and so forth can play a role in the extent that the dog exhibits a existing predisposition to HD. Even dogs from long lines of certified parents can still produce HD puppies. The inheritance factor of HD is not fully known and is thought to be polygenetic (many different genes to produce it). This is why it has so far been impossible to eradicate the condition and why even pups from long lines of certified parents can still have HD. However, pups from generations of certified dogs are less likely to have HD.

Note: We provide a written guarantee with our pups, against any genetic disease. Please read up more on this in our puppy sale agreement.

CODE OF ETHICS – AUSTRALIAN LYKOS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

1. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS and MEMBERS RELATIONS

(a) Members are encouraged to participate in the Project for the promotion, enhancement and enjoyment of the breed through education and sharing of information and participation in Project activities. The Project therefore advocates a code of conduct for its members that is befitting and based on principles of honesty, integrity and pride and encourages relations between members and any interested parties accordingly.

(b) Members should always conduct themselves in an honourable and professional manner at organised shows and club events or promotions and should exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

(c) Members shall not denigrate any other member or member's kennel/and or their dogs.

(d) To assist in a positive reflection on our breed, members are encouraged in a constructive and positive manner, to

(1) share expertise

(2) encourage and support newcomers to the breed

(3) seek out and strive to keep abreast of the latest information in relation to health and care aspects of the breed.

2. HEALTH AND WELL BEING AND CARE OF DOGS

(a) Encourage training activities puppy socialisation classes, obedience training, show training or or any other suitable work appropriate for the development and mindset and wellbeing, of the breed.

(b) Members should commit to providing good and proper nutrition, regular and preventative health care and to supplying adequate housing indoors and outdoors and maintain a positive, caring environment on a daily and ongoing basis.

(c) Members should be restricted to having no more dogs than their local Council allows and that may be properly cared for in terms of nutrition, health care, socialization and facilities.

(d) Members should at all times have control of their dog(s). No member should place any other person or animal at risk or place their dog(s) in potentially dangerous situations, which might result in serious trauma.

(e) Members, having due regard for their dog(s) and for the general public, shall make every effort to prevent dogs from roaming unsupervised, causing a nuisance or to be picked up and placed in an animal shelter situation.

3. BREEDING AND RELATED MATTERS

Breeders shall breed for the specific purpose of developing and improving the breed whilst maintaining their type, health and temperament. They are to do this in accordance with the Lykos Breed Advisors set forth by the Project.

(a) Ensure that appropriate health checks/measures have been taken prior to mating.

- (b) Ensure that all breeding stock be x-rayed for evidence of hip and elbow dysplasia (min 12 months of age) and that the x-rays plates be submitted for scoring under an approved Australian Canine Hip & Elbow Dysplasia scoring scheme.
- (c) Give priority to those animals assessed for breeding that have obtained scores that do not exceed the maximum of 5 on any one hip. Understand that a lowest grade possible is preferred.
- (d) Give priority to those animals assessed for breeding that have obtained a maximum elbow grade of 1:1. Understand that a grade of 1:1 represents a greater risk of elbow dysplasia, with 0:0 grade elbows preferred.
- (e) DNA test dogs for their Breed Profile listing, such as MDR1 and DM with an all clear result (no carriers).
- (f) Breeders shall identify as temperamentally sound by way of the Project's Temperament Test Scheme and assessed by NDTF qualified behaviourist.
- (g) Will refuse to breed from dogs or bitches that are (a) of an unauthorised breed, (b) known to have obvious hereditary/genetic defects.
- (h) Breeding shall be carefully planned and must be carried out selectively in an attempt to reduce as much as possible hereditary disease and develop the desired type of the Lykos breed.
- (i) Breeders shall understand the strengths and weaknesses of their stock and be responsible in regards to improving such as well as breeding for health.
- (j) Breeders should co-operate with the collection of data on hip and elbow status and health status of breeding stock to assist in the establishment of a national pedigree/health database and be proactive in introducing accredited recommended measures to assist in breeding programs ie: DNA testing and data collection etc.
- (k) Breeders should not mate a bitch prior to 18 months of age and ensure that the last litter shall be whelped before the bitches 7th birthday, except under exceptional circumstances with veterinary approval. Ensure that no bitch shall be bred from in any way that is deleterious to the bitch or the breed.
- (l) It is not recommended to breed from the same bitch in consecutive seasons. Should a mating of this nature take place it should be only in the most exceptional of circumstances and be accompanied by a letter of approval from a vet and be submitted to the Project before mating is carried out.

4. SALES

- (a) A breeder should sell dogs with true representation of information and must not engage in misleading or untruthful statements in selling or advertising. Dogs on the foundation register must be advertised as such and not as purebred Lykos.
- (b) No breeder should sell puppies or adult dogs to any known retail or wholesale outlet.
- (c) Breeders must be discriminating in the sale of puppies or dogs and be concerned with the type of home/environment in which the animal is to be placed.
- (d) No puppy should go to its new home before 8 weeks of age, and must be micro-chipped and vaccinated at 6 weeks of age.

- (e) A buyer should be supplied with a Certificate of Registration, microchip information and transfer and the diet sheet of the puppy as well as its vaccination record. This should also include information on any other veterinary care that the dog may have received and instructions on the care feeding, exercise and training requirements of the dog.
- (f) No member shall knowingly export or assist in the export of a dog or dogs to any country that does not have legislation for the protection of animals.
- (g) Breeders should try to keep in contact with the progress of the dog(s) of his or her breeding.
- (h) Breeders should be prepared to take back any dog(s) of his or her breeding or be instrumental in the re-homing of the dog at any time throughout the dog(s) life.
- (i) A breeder will guarantee the health of his stock - at the very least - being subject to a vet examination within 48 hours of the sale.
- (j) Members of the Project will ensure that neither directly nor indirectly shall any dog to be given as a prize or donation in any contest of any kind.
- (k) Breeders should provide the purchaser of a puppy with a "Contract of Sale" which clearly defines the differences between the Full and Foundation Register of dogs and in accordance the Project's regulations. The contract will also state on which register the puppy has been placed and any other obligation that the purchaser is required to fulfil regarding ownership of the puppy.
- (l) Breeders who engage a purchaser in a contractual agreement over the sale of an animal are required to honour the contracts they engage themselves in, being sure that both parties understand all requirements and all clauses prior to signing.
- (m) Breeders should keep accurate records of breeding and or stud service and should register all puppies with the Project.
- (o) Puppies must be raised in a clean, warm environment, well socialised from birth and free of any parasites.