



ALLEY ROCK LABRADORS

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Congratulations on your new family member! I hope you get as much joy from your new puppy as we have from watching this litter grow and thrive. This details many important dog-owner issues, as the expectations you can have of me as a breeder, and those I have of you as an owner of one of my puppies.

Your puppy go home folder will include general information sheets, de-worming dates, microchip information, health certificate and vaccine record. These puppies have been lovingly raised in my home, played with and handled multiple times each day. These puppies love attention and people and will likely demand allot from you. Transitioning a new puppy into your home is not an easy task, and is stressful on both you and your puppy. Remember that your puppy has only known life with his or her littermates, mom, and our family. He or she is only familiar with our home, and our yard, ect. It is normal and natural for your puppy to be a little nervous and scared upon leaving everything familiar. Please help your puppy make this transition a bit easier by following these guidelines:

1. Do not change your puppy's food from what it has been eating while with us for at least 5-7 days. While I strongly recommend continuing with PROPLAN large breed PUPPY CHICKEN AND RICE after this period, if you choose to change your puppies diet it MUST be done gradually and slowly. This means that you must add small amounts of the new food at each meal (i.e., 1/4 new to 3/4 old) and do this for two days, then add a bit more new and a bit less old for two days.... Do this until your puppy is only eating the new food. The calcium and protein levels must be the same as the PROPLAN. Too much calcium or protein fed to large breeds (which labs classify as because of their bone structure) will cause health issues. If I feel that the puppy you choose is growing very quickly I will recommend to you to feed ½ puppy food and ½ adult food.

2. Resist the urge to take your puppy lots of places and to do lots of new things. The most important thing during these first two weeks will be getting your puppy use to its new surroundings. This means establishing a strict routine with regard to feeding, potty, playing, and crating. Your puppy will need to be fed three times daily for the next 6 months. Then twice a day until a year. They are use to eating at 8 am 2 pm and 8pm. If you would like to feed earlier that would be better for house breaking but try to keep the times fairly even apart.

3. Use soft, consistent communication with your puppy. You can begin to set boundaries and expectations for behavior immediately. For example, you may want to hold your puppies muzzle and say, "No Bite" firmly when it bites you or something it is not allowed to (e.g., a shoe). It is extremely important to be consistent with your puppy so he or she knows what is expected. It is really confusing for your puppy if you let him/her bite your fingers sometime but say "No" at other times. Same with jumping. If you pet your puppy when he/she jumps up on you and then as he/she gets older you decide that is not cute anymore and yell at him/her. That is very confusing as the puppy was trained by you to jump and was rewarded with a pat and now does not understand why all of a sudden that behavior is not OK.

4. Crate Training is not too difficult, but it helps to have a few hints. The crate is a prime tool in house training your pup because feral instincts teach a dog that soiling the crate is dangerous, as it would give predators the location of the den. So, as soon as they have the musculature, pups will do their best to avoid soiling their den.

You should do your best to keep the crate clean, with a product like Nature's Miracle or other enzymatic cleaner, as it removes any hint that the crate has been used as a toilet. Don't put newspaper in the crate for several reasons. The newsprint will come off on the dog's pads and coat, and then get tracked through the house. It is also slippery and can make "swimmers." You also do not want to teach your dog that the daily paper, which invariably ends up on the floor, is a toilet.

Crate training is **STRONGLY** recommended, and keeping your puppy crated at night time and when you are not home is advised. This will keep your puppy safe from his curious self, and your home free from puppy chewing. It is also the best way to expedite the house breaking process, and provide your puppy with a space of its own, and a place to calm down. **NEVER** use the crate for punishment, or your puppy will not take to it. Instead, make going inside the crate a positive experience, by offering treats when he or she goes in or fun toys and chewies as well. Store your dog's favorite toys in the crate with the door wide open. Whenever you give a treat, toss it into the back of the crate so they get used to going in and out of it. Feed inside there, for a while, and after they get used to going in and out, start closing the door of the crate while they feed.

The first couple of times, as soon as your dog is done with their treat, open the door and get the dog out before it has time to yell. Just remember to gradually extend the time your dog is enclosed in there. Don't take the dog out until they settle down because you don't want to encourage the behavior that "If I scream, they will come and get me". Keep the crate in a very populated area so that the pup will not feel excluded. The location should preferably be within sight of the television.

Gradually extend the amount of time the pup spends in the crate and you will find that soon your dog will go in there readily. Many dogs just **BOOK** for the crate when told to go into their house for a treat! Give it a whirl.

The crate should be like your dog's own room. Don't get paranoid about enclosing the dog in the crate. It is a secure and comfortable feeling for them, if you do it right, and will encourage housebreaking as well as keep the dog out of trouble and out of harm's way! Then the dog will not acquire the habit of eating wires, shoes, it will not even have the chance to learn counter surfing. **AND**, since it will not have the chance to learn bad habits, you will, hopefully, never have to use the rolled up newspaper. If you feel you must, though:

1. Roll the newspaper up tightly.
2. Hold it securely in one hand.
3. Hit yourself repeatedly in the head while repeating:

"I forgot to watch my dog. I forgot to watch my dog"

5. Labradors are the number one registered breed in the US. They are known for their pleasant personalities, desire to please, and relatively simple maintenance needs. I can promise you that you will not be able to ask for a better dog than a well trained, healthy, Labrador. I can promise you that an untrained, bored, and lonely Labrador will be a miserable dog to live with.

A. It is extremely important that you begin obedience training with your puppy shortly. While it is best to wait at least another 4-6 weeks to take your puppy to class, you can begin teaching sit, come, and leash breaking immediately. Before you know it your

puppy is going to be really big! Please ask me for training tips, suggestions, and techniques - I want to help you have the best dog possible.

One of the most important things for you to do is to teach the puppy about life. The first 4 months of a puppy's life are critical. By the time it is 16 weeks and preferably by the time it's 13 weeks, your puppy needs to be exposed to all things that will constitute its life. If it will be expected to travel, take it in the car. If you will be getting another dog or your dog will be around other dogs, take him around strange dogs. (In doing so be careful, because puppies can easily pick up diseases. Restricting puppy's company to healthy, vaccinated, well-cared-for dogs will allow socialization with dogs while protecting the puppy's health). What the puppy experiences now will define life to him. Those kept in isolation or just in the yard or house will not be well-adjusted to the other aspects of life. Take puppy to people and bring people to puppy particularly children and the elderly. Many veterinarian practices and dog training facilities offer puppy socialization classes. These are an excellent idea.

Place a well-fitted collar (tight enough not to slip over ears; loose enough a couple of fingers will fit under the collar) on puppy. Puppy may object but pay no attention. Puppy will soon adjust to wearing the collar. Once puppy is comfortable with the collar, put a leash on the collar. Let puppy drag the leash around for a day or so. Then pick up the leash and walk with puppy. Do not try to guide puppy just let it get used to the "feel" of the leash for 3 to 4 days. Then start applying pressure to the leash and encourage puppy to follow your lead. Reward for compliance; ignore fighting. Continue until puppy accepts leash

B. Labradors require at least 1 hour of exercise every single day. They do not care if it is pouring outside or if you are too tired. Bored Labradors, without an outlet for their energy, become destructive and extremely difficult to live with. Please consider how this will impact your daily life. If you are not prepared to provide your dog with a large amount of exercise a Labrador may not be the best breed for you. However your labs exercise demands make you get outside daily and help you be more active.

C. Labradors love mental stimulation and crave excitement. Take your dog for rides in the car just to run errands, provide plenty of interesting toys, and yummy treats. Try to let your lab do as many things with you as possible.

6. Please remember that your puppy has a very fragile immune system right now. Until he or she has completed the entire series of puppy vaccines, it is likely that your pup has not developed immunity to many common dog illnesses. Your puppy should not be vaccinated by a vet before 11 weeks of age. Over vaccinating is extremely harmful to your pet. Your puppy will be vaccinated at 8 weeks old. Your puppy vaccines should be spread AT LEAST 3 weeks apart. I vaccinate mine every 4 weeks. If your vet insists on revaccinating your pet that is a sign your vet cares about increasing his/her bank

account and has zero concern for the health of your pet I would suggest researching for another vet. Parvo virus is a serious threat to a young puppy, and can be fatal in the matter of two days. During this early period, please do not take your puppy to any dog parks, boarding kennels, pet stores, or other places where lots of other dogs go. When going to the vet hold your puppy, do not place it on floors, or let anyone other than your vets staff handle your puppy. To do so is to put your puppy at risk of illness or possible death. Obviously your puppy will enjoy playtime with other pets owned by family friends or neighbors whom you are sure are up to date on vaccinations.

**Vitamins** during a puppy's development are very important, just as they are for babies and children. Immunity boosting is essential for all dogs especially during the early months. There is very little nutritional value in most dog foods on the market as most of them are cooked and heat treated. Most of the micronutrients are destroyed in the process. Your puppy will need proper vitamins and nutrients. For the longest, healthiest life, I strongly recommend **NuVet Plus** K9 wafers.

**NuVet Plus** is a high-quality supplement that incorporates a precise formula of antioxidants, amino acids, vitamins, minerals, enzymes, herbs and more. It bolsters their immune system and overall health. NuVet Plus is human grade vitamins and Labrador Retrievers are exceptional puppies that deserve and need the best!

In addition to bolstering the immune system, NuVet Plus helps promote healthy skin and shiny coat, prevents scratching and itching, and is great for eyes, ears, and digestion. Most importantly it provides nutrients for proper growth and development and helps fortify the bone structure while puppy's growth plate is still open. I highly recommend having NuVet Plus on hand before you bring your puppy to your home. One bottle is a 90 count and usually last 3-6 months for the puppies while they are growing. Call in for a 15% discount on preferred shipping. Order here at <https://www.nuvet.com/438773> or call 1-800-865-2600 and use code **438773**.

Watch the video at this link to learn more on how #NuVetPlus can help your pup. <https://www.nuvet.com/index.html>

7. Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet: Spay (females) should not be done before their first heat cycle is complete. Neuter (male) should not be done before 18 months old.

A. Spaying and neutering helps dogs live longer, healthier lives. Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat. Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle. Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

## B. Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You.

Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions. Neutering dogs makes them less likely to mark territory. Spaying a dog eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 12 days, often twice a year, in dogs. Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered. Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

## C. Spaying and Neutering Are Good for the Community.

Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals. Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks. Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals. Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs. Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife.

D. Spaying/Neutering early at 6 months old is very harmful for your pet.

## **Baxter and Bella online puppy school:**

You will hear us talk about Baxter and Bella online puppy school. We HIGHLY recommend this program to all of our families. Baxter and Bella starts even before your puppy comes home to help you fully prepare. Here are a few highlights about the program:

- Online puppy school
- Very easy to follow step by step curriculum
- Live courses and classes on a wide variety of subjects which are held multiple times weekly. They are also recorded so you can watch them later.
- You can schedule phone calls and/or zoom calls if you need help with a certain aspect of training with your dog/puppy. There is 6 days a week live help available.
- When you sign up for Baxter and Bella you are a member for life for as many dogs you own.
- The regular lifetime fee is \$238.00 but if you use code ALLEYROCK you save 25% (\$59.50) which drops the cost to \$178.50 for a lifetime membership.
- We will talk more about Baxter and Bella and they will send out 3 (only 3) emails and you can read them without having to join. See attachment.

## 8. CHECKLIST

~ Food bowl: stainless steel/ceramic for yellow pups plastic will remove pigment from their noses. If you have young children I suggest stainless steel.

~ Water bowl: I use a product called a Water boy its a no spill bowl [Jefferspet.com](http://Jefferspet.com) has them for \$15. It is plastic so I don't use it for our yellow pups sadly.

~ collar and leash: I can send them home with a collar your welcome to bring your own if you prefer size is 10" to 16" or even 12" to 18"

~ bed: easily washable incase of accidents. Please keep in mind that some dogs will destroy plush beds. We use and love Kuranda beds. We do have an account with Kuranda and can purchase beds at a discounted price, however our last order took a while to ship. For crate pads we love Primo Pads.

~toys: variety of sturdy toys: kongs (black kongs are stronger than red), elk antlers, marrow bones, nylabones, avoid anything that comes apart to be swallowed. Gonoughts toys are costly but last forever.

~crate: large enough for puppy to stand up and turn around or adjustable to last lifetime

~treats: very small treats (I use pieces of their food for training so they don't get several extra snacks daily from training) or a tiny bit of cheese

~baby gates or ex pen to keep in certain areas of home

~Cleaning product non chemical: I use a product called ACCELL clean I actually clean my whole house with it.

~Oatmeal shampoo: occasional bath not more than once a month

~ Radio

~ Dog food: PROPLAN

~ A Snuggle puppy can be a helpful transition tool. I will be placing an order for Snuggle Puppies, if you would like to purchase one let me know (They are \$40). I have your puppy's mom sleep with the snuggle puppies for a few nights before your puppy goes home so that it smells like mom. The snuggle puppy will then smell like mom, be warm and have a heartbeat.

~Flea and tick/heartworm prevention treatment: you can talk with your vet. We use an oral flea and tick prevention because we have young children and multiple dogs vs topical. For heartworm prevention we use Heartguard plus. The nice thing about

heartguard plus is it prevents internal parasites as well so we use it year round. We live in the country and have lots of wildlife around us.

~Schedule vet wellness exam within 72 hours of pick up they will not need a vaccine at this time

~ **NO PEE PADS** LARGE DOGS SHOULD NEVER AT ANY AGE BE ALLOWED TO POTTY IN HOUSE

New Microchip information: we recently covering the cost of microchip registration. Usually, the breeder pays for the microchip and the family pays the cost to register the dog. We have found that its easy to forget to register the puppy, if the puppy isn't registered the microchip isn't effective if the dog gets lost. We will register the microchip to you, your address and your phone number. We will remain an alternative contact in the case that you are not able to be reached in case of an emergency. We feel that we made the choose to bring these puppies into the world and it is our responsibility to keep them safe to the best of our ability and it saves the family that additional cost.

We will be sending your puppy home with a free 30 day coverage of pet insurance. We will require you to activate your coverage before taking your puppy home. You may cancel your coverage after the 30 days is complete although we highly recommend having pet insurance for your new puppy (it can be with any company you wish). We will talk more about this closer to pickup.

\*\*\*\*\* **Most importantly** I want you to be aware the lines of communication are always open to our puppy families day, night, and while I'm away. I am always available for questions and/or concerns. The best way to reach me immediately is by text message. I'm also available by email, by phone call, through Good dog messenger or by facebook messenger it just may take me a little longer to reply. I encourage you, I beg you, to keep in touch. We love seeing updated photos. I love to watch our puppies grow, I love to see them loved, and I love to know they are safe and in good health.\*\*\*\*\*

Please reach out with any questions

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