



www.redbarnlabradors.com

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## **Important information for you and your new puppy!**

*Congratulations on your new Red Barn labrador. We have done our best to raise a healthy well adjusted puppy for you and your family. Now it is your turn. Whether you have owned a purebred puppy before or this is your first, there are a few things you need to know about taking care of your puppy for the first few days and weeks.*

**FEEDING:** It is important that you not change your puppies food too quickly. Your puppy has been raised on Kirkland Brand Chicken and Rice premium dog food, sold at Costco. We believe it is an excellent food, and it is what we use for all of our pets. We feed our puppies adult food. Some research has shown that puppy food is made to promote fast growth. This in turn may cause abnormal and unhealthy skeletal and joint growth in your puppy. Adult food provides all of the nutrients that your puppy needs. It is also what their mother has eaten while pregnant, and nursing. Just add a little water to the food to soften it before feeding it to your puppy. We encourage you however to do your own research and come to your own decision about what you feed your puppy. Just remember to make a slow transition by mixing the new and the old food for awhile until you make a complete change. Of course, always make sure your puppy has plenty of fresh water.

**THE NEW HOME:** Puppies get stressed just like humans do in new surroundings. When you get home, have a get acquainted session with the whole family. Remember, the trip home is the first time your puppy has ridden in a car. He/she is being brought in to a completely new environment. Give them some time and space to adjust. Let him/her sniff and explore a little. ALWAYS supervise your puppy with young children for the sake of both of them. Labradors naturally love water, but keep in mind they are not born knowing how to swim. Take extra care if you have a pool or hot tub in your yard.

**HEALTH:** Like a baby, puppies eat, sleep, and poop a lot. Don't be alarmed when they do. It is not unusual for a puppy to have loose stool occasionally. Especially if you are changing their diet. Do not be alarmed if this happens. It may also just be stress from the new surroundings, or even too much attention. Easy does it should be the rule for the first few weeks and months. Your puppy is busy growing. Do not allow your puppy to over exert itself physically. In fact, he/she should not engage in strenuous activity until about the age of 2 years old. Labs are hearty dogs, but like any dog, they can succumb to extreme heat or cold. Provide adequate shelter for your puppy if it is not to live in the house. Of course if in doubt at any time, see your veterinarian.

**Your Red Barn Lab is a well bred eager family member and companion.  
Please provide him/her with the love, respect, and training they deserve.**