



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## Puppy's Arrival

**Puppies may be transported to their new homes by several means:**

- Flying - either in cargo or in cabin with a GDB representative.
- From campus by raisers or leaders.
- Transported by the puppy truck.

**Some considerations to keep in mind when picking up a puppy:**

- Be prepared to get the puppy home as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- Arrive early.
- Have I.D. in case needed.

**For puppies delivered via air cargo:**

- Make sure the person whose name is listed on the airline paperwork (consignee) is the person picking up the puppy. Bring proper identification.
- Bring clean-up materials for the crate, the puppy might have relieved during the trip.
- Bring a vehicle large enough to transport the crate.
- Only open the door when in a secure area.
- Have leader's phone number handy in case there are any unexpected circumstances.

**Preparing the Home**

- Never allow the puppy to chew on anything other than GDB-approved toys.
- Move all electrical cords out of the puppy's reach and place all medicines and cleaning supplies in a secured cabinet.
- Check the garage for items that the puppy could easily ingest, including screws, nails, antifreeze, rat poison, fertilizer, bags of cement mix etc. Antifreeze is one of the most dangerous of all poisons. Just 1/4 of a teaspoon will kill most mature animals
- Keep the puppy out of the kitchen when cooking to avoid burn injuries.
- Use baby gates/x-pen barriers to prevent the puppy from exploring other areas of the house where it can't be supervised.
- Show the puppy all the sliding glass doors so it won't attempt to walk through them.
- Set up a crate by the bed in the room where the puppy will sleep. Most puppies will wake up their raiser when they need to go out, this will help develop good relieving habits.

## **Supervising the puppy**

- If the raiser is unable to monitor the puppy sufficiently to prevent accidents or other indiscretions, the puppy should be in a crate, on tie-down, or on leash.
- Remain in the same room or at least within sight when the puppy is on a tie-down.
- The puppy should always be on leash in unfenced areas or when opening a door to an unfenced area.
- Puppies should always be supervised while playing with other dogs to prevent rough play. Many internal injuries and broken bones have been reported that could have been prevented with appropriate supervision.
- When opening an exterior door, put the puppy in a crate or put on a leash.
- While grooming, check the puppy's collar for fit and condition. If there is a problem with the collar, contact the leader immediately for a replacement. A temporary collar with the puppy's GDB ID can be used until a new collar from GDB is received.

## **On the Trip Home**

When the pup arrives by plane or via the puppy truck

- Put on the leash and relieve it as quickly as possible. Select an area that has not been used by other dogs but is appropriate for dogs to use.
- Offer some water.
- Return the puppy to its crate or place it on a passenger's lap for the ride home, unless there is an active passenger-side airbag. If that is the case, have it ride on the front floorboard.
- Ignore its cries. Praise when quiet.

## **At Home**

When the new puppy arrives at the raiser's home, it needs time to adjust to its new surroundings.

- Check the puppy's packet to determine if any medications came with the puppy that may need to be administered.
- Carry the puppy to the relieving spot upon arrival and follow the relieving procedure outlined in the "Relieving and Housebreaking" document.
- Offer the puppy a drink of water, it will likely drink as much as it is offered so offer a cup at a time to prevent overconsumption. Offering small amounts frequently will rehydrate the puppy effectively. If it is time for a feeding, give the puppy some food. If it eats, make sure to relieve it again.
- Introduce the puppy slowly to other human family members.
- Allow the puppy to meet other pets slowly and cautiously. Either the puppy or the pet dog can be in a crate during the initial introduction to keep greetings calm. The next step would be to have the dog and the puppy on a leash and slowly approach the other, preferably outside. Keep the leashes loose and praise for friendly behavior.
- Delay introducing the puppy to pet cats until the next day if possible. Many cats adjust better when allowed to acclimate to the scent and sounds of a new puppy. Never attempt to restrain a cat while introducing a puppy.

- Give the puppy plenty of quiet time. Too much attention and activity from people or other pets can overwhelm it.

### **Licensing**

In most areas, a county dog license is required. Some counties provide them free of charge or charge a reduced fee for GDB puppies. Please check with the leader and/or county animal control office to determine your county's procedure and fees.