**Congratulations on your new puppy!**

**How to make your puppy’s environment safe?**

Make certain your house has been puppy-proofed. Puppies chew. It is a natural and necessary part of puppyhood. Prevention is the best way to protect both your puppy and your possessions.

**What should your puppy eat?**

We will send you home with the puppy food your puppy has been eating so as to ease any transition for the dog. Have a supply of good quality puppy food on hand, as well as the name and phone number of a local vet and emergency clinic. Be sure that your puppy has clean, fresh water at all times during the day. Be sure to feed your puppy a premium food without artificial preservatives and colorings. Follow the directions on the bag for the age and weight of your puppy. Do not put the food in a bowl and assume your puppy is eating. Pay careful attention to how much he is actually eating each day because this is critical to their health.

Your puppy is currently on **PURINA PRO PLAN PUPPY**

If you choose to switch to a different brand of dog food, the change must be a gradual one. Change the food over a 4-day time period, following this regimen:

*1. 100% of the original food the first day*

*2. 75% original food and 25% new food the second day*

*3. 50% of each the third day*

*4. 25% of the original and 75% new the fourth day*

This gradual change will reduce the amount of stress to the puppy.

**How to help your puppy sleep and nap**

Remember a new puppy needs to have regular nap times throughout the day to rest in between play sessions. It is also important that he have a warm place to sleep. Your puppy may whine or cry at night at first. He has been separated from his mother, and littermates, and will be lonely. Unless the cries are sharp indicating pain or illness, do not pick up the puppy. If you do, he will continue to cry every night. Place the puppy in his crate, and then go and reassure him periodically. He will soon learn that nighttime is for sleeping, not crying. I also suggest giving your puppy a toy right away. It will comfort your puppy when you are away.

**When will your puppy get shots?**

Maternal antibodies may interfere with early vaccinations, so TN Miniature Dachshunds adheres to the recommended schedule for puppy vaccinations. Young puppies receive their puppy vaccinations at 6 – 7 weeks and then every three weeks after until 16 weeks of age. Common dog illnesses are generally easy to prevent, but very hard to cure. Your puppy will be vet checked, dewormed and receive their first set of vaccinations prior to leaving our home.

**How to minimize puppy illnesses?**

It is best to keep a new puppy away from areas where non-resident pets are (public parks, rest stops), until the puppy has finished all of his/her puppy immunization shots (16 weeks). A puppy is not fully immune to these devastating and deadly viruses until all booster shots have been given. The puppy shots are usually finished around 4-5 months of age. Do not let your puppy play on the ground until he has all his shots. He could pick up an illness that could cost him his life! (i.e., Parvo virus, distemper) The treatment for Parvo can cost anywhere from $200 to over $1000. **Remember…they are not safe until 2 weeks after they have had all three shots.** So, keep them off the dirt. Clean your shoes when you come in. Having a new puppy can be very exciting for all your friends and family, remember that a puppy is a baby and needs time to rest. When they are sleeping, they are growing. If your friends or family have their own new puppy, to eliminate the risk of spreading disease, it is best to wait until your puppy has finished their shots to introduce them. We also recommend that you avoid places that have new puppies in them (pet stores, other rescues and shelters). Puppy illnesses are so easy to spread with the touch of a hand from a well-meaning stranger just saying hello in the pet store checkout.

Discuss with your vet on the appropriate age to spay/neuter your puppy.

**Exercise, play and your puppy**

Be careful that playtimes are kept short, whether the play is with people or other pets. Puppies can play themselves into exhaustion or not take the time to eat or drink. Remember, heat can kill since it is harder for a puppy to regulate their body temperature as compared to an adult dog.

Jumping and jarring the joints of a puppy can have a long-term effect on their growth and development. Do not let your puppy jump off couches, chairs or any other high place. Puppies need that interaction, but remember puppy teeth can be very sharp, so be careful and use your playtime with your puppy to work on any biting issues you may encounter. We can offer you various techniques for biting such as placing a toy in their mouth, ending the play session for a minute then resuming when the biting does not occur. The puppies only have the knowledge of playing with their littermates, so biting is something they have learned.

All contact between a new puppy and existing pet(s) should be 100 percent supervised for at least the first two weeks. Be especially careful if your other pets are much larger than your new puppy. One way to separate your pets is to use child safety gates or pet exercise pens.

**Potty Training Your Puppy**

A young puppy needs special care, much as a new baby would. Treat the puppy as you would your own infant: with patience, constant supervision and a gentle touch. Moving to a new home is a big change for a puppy. Expect the puppy to take a few days to acclimate to its new surroundings. The way you interact with your puppy at this age is crucial to his socialization. Acclimate your puppy to your normal daily routine. Be alert for signs (sniffing and circling) that he has to go to the bathroom, and then take him outside immediately. If he goes, praise him. Never punish an accident. He will not understand and may learn to go to the bathroom when you are out of sight. We recommend housebreaking your puppy by using a crate. Dogs avoid going to the bathroom near their eating and sleeping areas, so they will by instinct try to keep their den (crate) clean. Keep your puppy in the crate whenever you are not directly supervising them. Take the puppy outside every 45 minutes to one hour (once during the night). Take him out the same door and to the same spot every time. Be patient and consistent. Until he is reliably house trained, never allow your puppy to wander the house. If you must leave your puppy unattended, use a crate or play pen when you cannot personally supervise your dog. Immediately take him for potty when you let him out of his crate. No, this is not cruel unless overused or the puppy does not have a crate large enough or with enough time out of the crate. Your puppy will come to think of his crate as his den and will appreciate having a place of his own.

1. Schedule feedings 3 times per day. Remove any leftovers after 30 minutes. Adults are often free-fed.

2. Take your puppy outside for potty breaks often - especially first thing in the morning, after meals, and after naps.

3. Decide on a verbal cue such as "potty" to use each time you take your dog outside. Say his name first and then "POTTY." Reward him with lavish praise, a small treat, petting, etc. as soon as he "goes."

4. If your dog has an accident inside, tell him firmly "NO" and then take him outside. Yelling at or hitting your dog is counterproductive and not advised! Clean the accident area with an enzyme cleanser so he will not be attracted to it again.

5. If you cannot take your dog outside, you can train to puppy pads or newspaper. If you train to newspaper, do not leave your "good" newspaper lying around! Our puppies have also been training to use puppy pads. We buy our puppy pads at Sam’s or Tractor Supply.

**When should you start training your new puppy?**

Training your new pet is one of the most important parts of raising a puppy, and can be extremely rewarding. What he/she learns from you will help them to be a good companion for years to come. Be patient. Positive reinforcement using praise and treats is the easiest way to work with your new puppy. Short sessions work the best as puppies have very short attention spans. There are many good training books on the market

**HEALTH GAURANTEE**

Our health guarantee assures that the puppy you are purchasing is in good health upon time of the sale. The puppy is guaranteed to be free of any genetic and/or disease that could be life threatening. The breeder/seller does NOT cover the guarantee from umbilical hernias, internal or external parasites or viruses.

If, in the event the puppy has compromised health issues, a written letter with signature from the vet with full description of the illness will be required. We will replace the puppy of equal value of same gender, color, and pattern if/when one is available. In the event that the death of the puppy arises, a necropsy is required. This will show the cause of death. TN Miniature Dachshunds will not be responsible for the fee associated with the necropsy. We DO NOT guarantee the size, weight, or temperament of the puppy at the time of purchase. Puppies can change drastically as they mature.

Please note we do not offer cash refunds. As stated above, we will offer a replacement puppy.

We guarantee our puppies will be free of adenovirus2, bordetella, distemper, para influenza, and parvovirus for the period of (3) calendar days after he/she leaves our home. We will provide the new owner with vaccination records of the purchased puppy. If the puppy is due vaccinations and the new owner fails to provide vaccinations within two(2) weeks of suggested time frame listed in vet record booklet from seller’s vet, this guarantee is null and void if the puppy contracts diseases that would otherwise be prevented by required vaccinations.

**Supplements & Vitamins—EXTENDED HEALTH GAURANTEE!**

We recommend NuVet vitamins and joint supplements, ordered online at www.nuvet.com. TN Miniature Dachshunds special-order code is **313518.**  **If you continuously keep your puppy on NuVet supplements, we will increase the health guarantee from 1 year to 2 years.** Your order history will be visible in NuVet under TN Miniature Dachshunds/breeder name in their system.

New Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Breeder Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We hope you enjoy your new puppy. You are more than welcome to reach out to us at any time. We look forward to seeing photos of your puppy as he/she grows up.

Welcome to the TN Miniature Dachshund Family.

Raymond and Joni Woodard