



Welcome to the world of puppy raising! First and foremost, we would like to thank you for opening your hearts and homes to raise and care for an OccuPaws puppy.

The purpose of this manual is to give you a general idea of what raising a guide dog is all about. Throughout this manual, for simplicity, we will refer to all puppies as "he" to help simplify explanations. We do not want to refer to any puppies as "it" because they are not inanimate objects.

Because this manual is meant to be a very basic reference, you may find yourself with an unanswered question from time to time. At the required classes, held weekly, you will have an opportunity to ask as many questions as you like. Please remember that your Community Puppy Program Coordinator is always available to answer questions or otherwise help you in any way.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy your experience as a puppy raiser for the OccuPaws Guide Dog Association. We would not be able to do what we do without your kindness and generosity. Thank you!

The OccuPaws Board of Directors (officers)

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OccuPaws is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization located in Madison, WI. OccuPaws is an innovative and life-changing organization dedicated to empowering the visually impaired while raising awareness and education for both adults and children. Our mission is to place well trained guide dogs of excellent health and temperament with Wisconsin residents who have visual disabilities.

The OccuPaws Guide Dog Association was founded in 2005 with the goal of creating a unique mechanism for providing guide dogs to the visually impaired.

Guide dog schools have existed for many years, but receiving a dog usually required the client to attend a campus to learn to be a safe and effective guide dog team.

The mission of OccuPaws is similar to other organizations which raise, train and place guide dogs, but our training program takes place in the client's home area.

This creates the opportunity to obtain a guide dog with minimal disruption to family, friends, or job.

OccuPaws is an all volunteer organization and volunteer board of directors, dedicated to this mission.

The OccuPaws Guide Dog Association

P.O. Box 45857

Madison, WI 53744

Phone: (608) 772-3787




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At OccuPaws Guide Dog Association, our puppies have a very special destiny - to assist a person with a visual impairment in leading a more fulfilling and independent life. For these puppies to achieve their potential, they must grow up in a loving environment and be exposed to a variety of stimulating experiences.

The volunteer puppy raising program is of extreme importance to the OccuPaws program; it establishes the foundation of early experiences, which are critical in preparing the puppy for Formal Harness Training. Volunteer puppy raisers must have the ability to safely house and care for a puppy ranging in age from eight weeks to about 15 to 18 months when they may begin their formal harness training. Volunteer puppy raisers must be willing and able to devote time each day to oversee the complete care of the puppy: feeding, grooming, socialization, and exercise as recommended by the Community Puppy Program Coordinator.

This project involves four major areas of personal responsibility:

1) Providing for the care and well-being of an OccuPaws puppy:

-  A safe home environment
-  Feeding only OccuPaws supplied food and treats required for puppy raising
-  Healthcare . make certain to have your puppy vaccinated, give heartworm and flea/tick medications when directed, taken to a designated veterinarian for both preventative and emergency healthcare, spay/neuter at 12 months of age (or when requested by the puppy program), and any necessary incidental healthcare requirements. All costs for food, treats and veterinary medicines and procedures are covered by OccuPaws Guide Dog Association.

2) Enrollment and participation in an OccuPaws or OccuPaws-approved obedience class for the duration of the project. Classes will meet four times a month and raisers/sitter should attend a minimum of two times per month. Volunteer puppy raisers/sitters are also required to submit an online progress report each month along with one good photo of the puppy/dog as well as report behavioral or medical problems.

3) Socialization, which involves systematically exposing the puppy to a variety of environmental and situational experiences. Volunteer puppy raisers/sitters agree to follow

OccuPaws approved socialization guidelines and handling techniques when working with the OccuPaws puppy.

4) When possible, attend various events, talks, demonstrations, outings, etc. with your puppy.

Puppy raiser's age requirements shall be determined by an OccuPaws representative. Puppy raisers under the age of 18 need a parent or guardian to participate as co-puppy raisers.

PUPPY RAISING/SITTING GUIDELINES

- 🐾 In order to maximize the puppy training, the OccuPaws puppy should be the only young puppy (12 months and under) in the household, unless permission for more than one puppy is granted.
- 🐾 Keep the puppy warm and safe by having him/her live indoors and sleep in a crate. Outdoor kennels and crates are not permitted except as a training exercise.
- 🐾 For the safety of your pup, young puppies need to be supervised (or crated) throughout the day.
- 🐾 We want you and the puppy to be successful, so the puppy raiser is needs to attend approved weekly obedience classes at least two times per month.
- 🐾 To ensure proper growth and health the puppy needs to be fed according to OccuPaws specifications.
- 🐾 Puppy shall live with puppy raiser until approximately 15-18 months of age. The puppy will be rotated to a different raiser several times during the 15 -18 month period in order to expose the puppy to various living situations. This is not a reflection upon the raiser, but more a reflection on what the puppy requires for development.
- 🐾 For the safety of the puppy, when outdoors, the puppy needs to stay on a leash at all times unless in a securely fenced area.

- 🐾 Online monthly progress reports are completed by puppy raisers and sitters in order to gauge the progress of any one puppy. It is also very important to promptly report behavioral, medical or training issues to OccuPaws.
- 🐾 Visits to puppy raiser/sitter family's residence by an OccuPaws representative may occur periodically with reasonable prior notice given. This is especially the case if the raiser is experiencing some problem behavior in the home.
- 🐾 Puppy raiser/sitter agrees to return puppy to OccuPaws upon request.
- 🐾 Should boarding become necessary (ie: vacation, illness, family emergency), the OccuPaws puppy needs to be housed in an approved volunteer sitter home. All sitting arrangements must be made and approved by the puppy coordinator. Intact females will be kenneled at an OccuPaws approved facility for the duration of every heat cycle.
- 🐾 Puppy raiser should live within 90 minutes of Madison to be able to attend OccuPaws puppy raiser classes in Madison. Under certain circumstances, OccuPaws may allow a raiser to be a greater distance on a case by case basis.
- 🐾 When traveling in a car, keep the puppy and passengers safe by crating or have the puppy travel on the floor of the front seat by the passenger's feet. If there is no passenger, the puppy must be old enough to remain on the floor without interfering with the driver or else crated.

MISSION

The mission of a puppy raiser is to raise a well mannered puppy that is happy about training and confident in every setting.

HEALTH CARE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Volunteer puppy raisers/sitters must have the ability to safely house and care for a puppy (you may be able to select the age of your puppy - eight weeks of age to about 15-18 months of age.)

Puppy raisers should devote time each day to oversee the complete care of the puppy: feeding, grooming, socialization, and exercise as recommended by the Puppy Program Coordinator.

All veterinary costs for the care/maintenance including spay/neuter of males are the responsibility of OccuPaws. The timing of spaying and neutering is very important. OccuPaws usual neuters males around 1 year of age and spays females after their first heat. The puppy coordinator will contact you if you happen to have a pup which is due for a spay/neuter.

All veterinarians for OccuPaws puppies need to be approved by the Puppy Program Coordinator.

When registering, please let the vet know that this is an OccuPaws puppy, and all vet records for the puppy are to be kept under an OccuPaws account. This is because veterinarian records are extremely important and should be accessible to OccuPaws personnel.

In the event your puppy should become ill or injured, call 608-772-3787 immediately. If life threatening accident or illness, go directly to

Madison Veterinary Specialists ER 2704 Royal Ave Madison, WI and call 608-772-3787 on the way to the vet.

Puppy Program Coordinators

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NO- NO'S: Things We Never Do with A Future Guide Dog Puppy

To keep your puppy healthy, do not feed people food anywhere near a food prep area or dining area. Certain foods like bits of cheese, hot dogs, etc may be cut up and given but only from a treat bag. You do not want a puppy to associate a kitchen or dinner table with a source of yummy food!!! Guide dogs must go everywhere with their person . including grocery stores and restaurants . begging for or stealing food is not encouraged.

Puppies and dogs should sleep in the crate. Guide dogs sleep in their crates so their person can find them.

Use the rule of four feet on the floor . so that means that dogs are not allowed on furniture.

Guide dogs need to remain in the standing position when heeling / walking. A guide dog cannot sit when their person stops moving . they must remain standing, so please do not teach an automatic sit.

As guide dogs will spend most of its time in public places, Guide dogs must relieve themselves on command no matter where they are. In addition, male Guide Dogs should not lift their leg to pee. Also, the pup should potty only before or after a walk.

Playing fetch may develop a strong ball/prey drive or drive for whatever toy you are playing fetch with. Guide dogs must focus on their work not toys, so don't play fetch. There are other find it+games that are as much fun for the dog as playing fetch+with a ball.

Guide dogs never potty with their vest on. Please always remove the dog's vest before giving them the POTTY command. When the vest is on the dog is working.

When the vest is on the guide dog is working. When the guide dog is working, they must ignore other people and other dogs. If your pup is behaving well, as a reward you may allow a person to go up to your dog for petting, but the dog should not solicit attention from strangers by going to them.

Escalators are extremely dangerous to dogs (and are taught only to older dogs by our Guide Dog Mobility Instructors), so only use the elevator or stairs when going to upper or lower floors, NEVER an escalator.

TRAINING VOCABULARY

These are the commands you must teach the puppy. Please use only the terms on the list as this is the list that will be used in their formal guide dog training.

The classes you attend will teach you how to teach the puppy these commands. If you have questions, feel free to contact your Community Puppy Program Coordinator at any time.

This list of commands is not in any particular order.

When giving the puppy a command . always say their name first so that they know what is coming next is meant for them. Next, say the command **ONE TIME ONLY**. Dogs are very literal . if you say %do down, down, down+and then he lies down . he will think the command is to wait for you to say it three times. After they do the command **PRAISE THEM**. Praise is the aha moment for the puppy- it lets them know they got it right. After you praise them . release them with the release command which is %FREE+. This lets them know that the exercise is over and they may move. You will also learn the use of a clicker and a marker word such a %es+to mark a desired behavior in class.

REMEMBER:

- 1) Say their name
- 2) Say the command
- 3) Mark the behavior with a click or %es+
- 4) Give a treat and/or Praise them
- 5) Release them with the command %FREE+if appropriate

Command List

Command	Description
8 weeks to 16 weeks - just introduce the body movements, luring and targeting. Do not expect them to learn verbal commands at this age.	
Name	Dog should look at you; used to get the dog's attention. Name is spoken before giving a command.
Come	Dog should come to within reach of handler. They do not need to be in any specific position relative to the handler. Sample Uses: Dog is out of reach to put collar/leash/vest on Advanced Application (Begin at 6 months): Dog comes to within reach of handler and nose touches their knee without a separate touch cue.
Wait	Stop moving or hold position and wait for further instruction. Sample Uses: Pause at an exterior doorway, wait for food, wait before coming out of the crate, at the bottom/top of staircase, at a street crossing, at a gate
Crate	Sends dog inside a crate.
Sit	Dog puts rear end on ground. The dog should not roll onto a hip or lean into the handler.
Down	Dog should lie completely on the ground in sphinx position. If the dog is in heel position when commanded to down, it is permissible for their hip to be rolled in toward the handler. The dog's hip cannot be rolled out away from the handler.
Free	Command releases the dog from position but expects that the dog still pay attention to the handler and be ready to do something else. Sample Uses: Release from a crate but be ready to wait at a door, Release from a stay but be ready to start heeling
Potty	Dog should go to the bathroom (on leash/no vest) within 2 minutes of command. Command is used both for peeing and pooping.
16 weeks to 6 months-starting to do a few commands verbally but still relying on body language, hand signals, etc.	
Drop it	Dog should drop whatever is in their mouth and then leave the item alone.
Leave It	Dog should leave the item alone. Don't touch it. Advanced Application (Begin at 6 months): Dog automatically ignores distractions without being preemptively told to Leave It.
Off	Remove your feet from an object. Sample Uses: Stop jumping up on someone, off the edge of a counter, off the bed, out of the car, off the grooming table, out of the tub
Heel (Position)	Dog should go to the left side of the handler. The dog should be parallel to the handler facing straight ahead. Sample Uses: Get dog in position to begin loose leash walking, Dog is walking too wide
Heel (moving)	Dog should walk on the left side of the handler. Light leash tension is allowed. The dog should stop, turn, back up, parallel to the handler. Sample Uses: Walking the dog with a loose leash.
Get Dressed	Dog should put head through vest. Advanced Application (Begin at 10 months): Dog automatically offers to put vest on when it is presented
Place	Go to a designated spot (usually bed) and stay there until needed. Dog should down on the spot but is allowed some movement to get comfortable provided they don't leave the spot. Sample Uses: Where you want the dog to remain in one spot for more than 5 minutes
Stand	Dog moves to the standing position and stays still.

Touch	Tells dog to apply pressure to an object with his nose. Sample Uses: Nose touch a hand, Nose touch an object
Yes!	Used to indicate to the dog that he is doing the correct thing. Must always be followed with a reinforcer. (praise or treat)
6 months and older – very gradually start phasing out hand signals, lures if favor of verbal commands. Should be nearly all verbal by 12 months.	
Around	Tells the dog to go behind and switch sides in either direction. Sample Uses: Move the dog from heel (left side) to right side at a left hinged door. Your body should always be between the dog and the door hinge to avoid pinching tails.
Back	Tells dog to back up. Sample Uses: Dog backs out of their vest to undress, Move dog out of a small space/aisle where they can't turn around Advanced Application (Begin at 10 months): Dog automatically moves backward to follow handler without being told.
Easy	Slow down. Regain your composure. Sample Uses: Dog is walking too fast, Take a treat gentler, Greet children or elderly with caution
Enough	Tells dog to 'knock off_ what they are doing. This is the less severe version of 'No._ Sample uses: Stop rough-housing with another dog, Stop pestering handler to play/pet, Stop being goofy
Jump	Sends dog completely onto an object. Dog must wait for permission prior to putting their feet up on any surface. Samples Uses: Jump into a car, onto a grooming table, into a tub
Move	Dog should move out of the way. Advanced Application (Begin at 10 months): Dog sees handler coming and automatically moves out of their path without prompting.
Out	Dog should let go of whatever is in their mouth, releasing it onto the ground and leave it.
Quiet	Stop barking, growling or whining.
Relax	Dog should shift from a down to a relaxed position on their side with their head down. Reserved for conditions where you want the highest level of calm from the dog. Sample Uses: Meetings, Restaurants, Waiting rooms, Lay for brushing
Stay	Dog remains where it is until handler comes back to dog. Dog is not allowed any movement. Use sparingly and only for short durations. Sample Uses: Where you want the dog sitting less than 3 minutes or in a down less than 5 minutes
Tail	Tells dog to tuck their tail in. Sample Uses: Avoid tail being stepped on in a crowded place, avoid closing tail in a car door Advanced Application (Begin at 10 months): Dog automatically tucks their tail anytime they get into or go under an object. *It is always the handler's responsibility to double check that the dog's tail is safe._
Under	Move backwards to go underneath something (table, desk, chair, object) and lie down. Sample Uses: Back under a chair at a meeting, Back under a booth at a restaurant, Back under a bus seat/bench Advanced Application (Begin at 10 months): When given the cue, the dog first attempts to back underneath what the handler is sitting on. If the object prevents the dog from doing so, they should lay under they handler's legs perpendicular to the handler.
Find “_____”	Tells dog to go to a certain person, location, etc. and indicate the object through targeting. Must be under stimulus control so the dog is not randomly targeting objects they see and recognize. Regardless of what object the dog is targeting, all four feet must remain on the floor. Sample Uses: Chair (Chin target), Stairs (Paw target), Curb (Paw target), Elevator (Nose target), Counter (Nose target), Door (Nose target), Light Switch (Nose target), Button (Nose target)

FEEDING

Keep the puppy on the food that he is currently eating. This is important for the health of the puppy.

Small puppies are generally fed about 1/2 cup three times per day when you bring them home at eight weeks of age.

The puppies are eating at about 7am, 1pm and 7pm. You can gradually change this schedule to fit your schedule.

As the puppy grows, you will need to adjust the amount you are feeding. Check with your vet or Community Puppy Program Coordinator if you want help determining how much to feed.

Once the puppy reaches 16 weeks of age you can feed them two times per day . morning (breakfast) and night (supper). Always feed the puppy at least two times per day.

%free feed+which is leaving the food out all the time leads to overweight dogs and many other health problems. Guide dogs will not have the luxury to %free feed+so they must learn to eat when given their food.

EQUIPMENT

OccuPaws will provide you with all the equipment needed to raise a puppy (ie:crate, bed, collars, leash, bowls, bones, toys, vest, OccuPaws ID tag for their collar, etc. All puppies have been micro chipped.

COLLARS

As the puppy outgrows their collar, you will need to request a new one. Flat collars and martingale collars, Perfect Pace and Infin8 head collars are acceptable. Any other collar should be discussed with the puppy coordinator.

LEASHES

Use a 6 foot leash with the puppy. This is the standard leash length for a guide dog. If you choose to purchase a leash, leather is a very good choice. Leather leashes will last forever and are very easy on your hand. Nylon leashes will easily give you rope burn if your puppy moves quickly on you.

FOOD AND WATER BOWLS

For food and water bowls, we provide stainless steel. They cannot be chewed up and are easy to disinfect. A water bowl that has a no tip/no slip bottom is an added benefit. Since puppies tend to play in the water and be sloppy drinkers, a shallow boot tray under the water bowl can be useful.

When they place that first wiggly OccuPaws puppy in your arms, it is love at first lick! You just can't wait to show off the pup and take it everywhere. Then reality sets in as you realize that this cuddly, cute pup leaks on one end, nips at the other and picks up more litter than a vacuum cleaner☺ OccuPaws puppies are bred to be the best working dogs anywhere. However, they are still puppies that need lots of training, supervision, patience and time to grow before they will have the right stuff to become a guide dog. So, let's talk about the basics.

CRATE TRAINING

Crates provided are generally an appropriate sized wire crates. If you use your own, you will want to use a molded plastic or wire crate for the puppy. Puppies will chew on the soft sided and fabric crates.

OccuPaws currently has a crate exchange program+available to help minimize costs. The initial crate should be a smaller crate with room to move around, stretch out, but not room to potty in the crate. This means you should increase the crate size as the puppy grows. You can request a free loaner crate to start your puppy and then return/exchange it to obtain a larger one or use your own larger crate if you wish.

In general, the crate dimensions for housing the puppy as an adult should be about 28" wide and 42" deep for an adult male and 24" wide by 36" deep for an adult female. The puppy coordinator will help select the correct size.

Many young puppies behave as if they are dying when you put them in a crate. They may cry, whine, scratch, bite at the door or the air holes, or turn around endlessly before they lie down. Don't let the pup buffalo you! Being comfortable in a crate is an essential skill for a guide dog. It is much easier to crate train them as a young pup than it is when they are older. Here are a few tips to help make crate training a little easier.

Make sure the crate is size appropriate for the puppy. They should be able to stand up and turn around comfortably. If the crate is too large, they will potty at one end and sleep at the other . not good.

If you put bedding in the crate (blanket, towel, etc.) make sure you inspect it for soiling and to make sure the pup is not chewing on it. If they are chewing on it . no more bedding or you will have a choking hazard. If they are pushing the bedding out of the way and lying on the crate bottom-then stop putting bedding in the crate. They are getting too hot. Remember, your pup is wearing a fur coat in the house. OccuPaws can also supply a Kuranda bed for the crate for excessive chewers.

Only let the pup out of the crate when he is being quiet (even for a couple seconds). If you let them out when they are making noise they figure out that is how they get out and then they will make more noise! If you believe the puppy is making noise because they have to go potty . then let them out of the crate and take them out to go potty. As soon as they are done going potty, put them back in the crate . even for just a few minutes and then you can let them out when they are quiet. Then ask the pup to maintain quiet for gradually longer periods, teaching that quiet works and noise doesn't.

Never throw anything at the kennel in hopes of making the puppy be quiet. It will only cause the puppy to become noise-shy.

You should feed the puppy in the crate. This develops a positive association with the crate and gives the puppy another reason to keep it clean- the crate becomes the bedroom and the kitchen.

Crate the puppy when you need a break from bad puppy behavior or when you can't supervise him completely. This will allow you both to be happy about each other's company and keeps the puppy from learning bad habits while running loose in the house. Think of the crate as a playpen.

Give the puppy an indestructible toy like a Kong or hard Nylabone to help occupy his time in the crate. Always make sure the toys are size appropriate so they are not a choking hazard. Always inspect the toys to make sure they are not being chewed up and could become a choking hazard.

Young puppies will need to go potty a lot. It takes a puppy until the age of about five to six months to consistently have enough control over their bowels and bladder to be able to signal you and hold it until they get outside. A basic guideline is at two months of age they can hold it two hours, at three months of age they can hold it for three hours, at four months of age they can hold it four hours, etc. The longest you should ever ask an adult dog (one year old or older) to hold it is eight hours.

If the puppy has an accident in the crate, be sure to clean it with Nature's Miracle or a similar type product. You must clean the crate or spot of the accident with a product that will break down the odor enzymes so that the puppy can no longer smell where they pottied. If they can smell that they pottied in a particular spot or in their crate . they think it is okay to go there again.

You can clean the puppies feet and belly with a baby wipe to keep them smelling fresh if they have an accident.






HOUSETRAINING

For housetraining . the use of a crate is wonderful! Crates are one of the best tools to aid in housetraining. Use a crate that is small enough to not allow the puppy room to eliminate at one end and sleep at the other end.

Umbilical cording the puppy to you is also very helpful with house training. Umbilical cording is when you have the puppy leashed to you. This way you know the puppy's whereabouts at all times. As soon as you see any signs that the puppy has to go to potty you can take him outside immediately without having to run around the house looking for the leash.

Always take the puppies OccuPaws vest OFF when they go potty.

The young puppy will have to go potty:

-  as soon as they wake up in the morning or from a nap
-  after they have been playing for a while and all of a sudden stop playing
-  approximately 20 to 40 minutes after they eat
-  when you see the same actions they do outside before going (circling, nose down, etc.)
-  or about every 20 minutes 😊

Okay, usually they can go longer, but to a new puppy raiser, it seems like every twenty minutes!

Take the puppy out on leash every time it needs to relieve itself for the first month or two. This teaches the important skill of leash relieving and allows you some control over what the puppy may be picking up with its mouth.

CHEWING / MOUTHINESS

Puppies start teething . losing their razor sharp baby teeth at about four months of age. Teething puppies are like teething babies. Their mouth is sore and they want something to chew on . usually us because we are squishy and feel good on their mouth😊

It is not acceptable for the puppies to chew on us or anything else that is not designated as a puppy toy. If the puppy is chewing on you say "no bite" and redirect the puppy's attention on one of their toys.

TOYS

Toys are an important part of a puppy's development. Appropriate toys provide mental stimulation, an outlet for normal chewing drive, and provide a positive alternative to destructive chewing of personal property.

A stimulating variety of toys keeps the puppy occupied. Puppies, like children, become bored with the same toys; it is highly recommended that toys are rotated. Do not put all the toys out at the same time. Puppies should have a number of toys to choose from at all times; not only does this help keep the pup engaged but also reduces the chance of him ultimately becoming

protective of his toys.

Not all toys currently on the market are safe for the ages, size or breeds of puppies in our program. In addition, some toys and activities are counterproductive to developing a working guide dog. Remember, a guide dog must willingly work past common distractions such as balls, Frisbees or other toys encountered in everyday life.

Toys can be an effective tool in reducing attention seeking behaviors such as ~~keep away~~q Puppies pick up unacceptable items and ~~parade~~qthem in front of you to get your attention. Praising and admiring the pup that parades his toys will make him less likely to steal household items. A pup that brings his toys to you should be encouraged, but under no circumstances should you throw toys for a pup or participate in retrieve games.

Ball playing should be very limited. If the puppy becomes obsessive, ball playing should cease and be replaced with other toys.

Even the best toys experience normal wear and tear. Toys should be routinely checked for any damage, splintering or wear. Special attention should be paid to ensure the toy has not become worn to the point of becoming too small, thus posing a choking or ingesting hazard. Some dogs are voracious chewers and will destroy even the strongest, safest toys. Observe the puppy and use toys with caution with strong chewers.

The toys in the list below have been carefully researched; these are the preferred toys for OccuPaws puppies. Be sure to stay with the brand names listed below as not all toys are of good quality material.

Approved Toys

General use toys

These toys can be left readily available for a dog to play with at will.



Kong brand: black original and Ultra Kong 6", black Kongs are stronger than red ones



Planet Kong "Xtreme Goodie Ship" (DO NOT place food in it)



[GoughNuts Dog Toy](#) - Doughnut and stick type. Green for most dogs; black for extreme chewers.



Nylabone Dura Chew Plus

"Designed for powerful chewers, these non-edible chews have multiple textures to help clean teeth and gums. They are infused with an irresistible chicken flavor to entice your pup to chew while helping to clean teeth and control tartar and plaque build-up. Veterinarian recommended, Nylabone Dura Chew plus features multiple textures including massage nubs to provide dental stimulation."

Item Specifications:

- Regular: 4.5" long
- Wolf: 5.5" Long
- Souper: 8" Long

Galileo 5" or 6" by Nylabone, also now packaged as 'Dino Bones'



Nylabone products: Nyla Wishbone, Nyla Ring, Nyla Knot, Dinosaur, any Nylabone (original hard material) that is appropriately robust enough for the size of puppy.



Nyla 'Big Chews'; the red tire is OK but the yellow one is softer and not approved. Colored "keys" are not approved.



Jolly Ball – the larger horse style is best as they cannot puncture it and cost far less



Sterilized Bones (may be stuffed): at least 4" long (No smoked or meaty bones)

Remember to routinely inspect the puppy's toys to make sure they are not destroying them or that they are not becoming choking hazards.

Make sure the puppies toys grow with them so no small toys can become a choking hazard.

POISONOUS PLANTS AND FOODS

If you need immediate assistance with a possible poisoning, call ASPCA Poison control hotline . 1-888-4ANI-HELP or 1-888-426-4435.

ASPCA List of Common Toxic Foods, Outdoor and Household Items, and Plants

<u>Foods</u>	<u>Plants</u>		
Alcoholic Beverages	Amaryllis	Fiddle-leaf Fig	Poison Oak
Avocado	Apple Leaf Croton	Florida Beauty	Pothos
Chocolate	Autumn Crocus	Foxglove	Precatory Bean
Coffee	Azalea	Fruit Salad Plant	Primrose
Macadamia nuts	Baby's Breath	Geranium	Red Emerald
Moldy/Spoiled food	Bittersweet	German Ivy	Red Princess
Onions/Onion Powder	Bird of Paradise	Giant Dumb Cane	Red-Margined Dracaena
Raisins and Grapes	Branching Ivy	Glacier Ivy	Rhododendron
Salt	Buckey	Gold Dieffenbachia	Ribbon Plant
Yeast Dough	Buddist Pine	Gold Dust Dracaena	Saddle Leaf Philodendron
Garlic	Caladium	Golden Pothos	Sago Palm
Products sweetened w/ xylitol	Calla Lily	Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy	Satin Pothos
<u>Outdoor Items</u>	Castor Bean	Heartland Philodendron	Schefflera
Toads	Ceriman	Hops	Silver Pothos
Snakes	Charming Dieffenbachia	Hurricane Plant	Spotted Dumb Cane
Scorpions	Chinese Evergreen	Indian Rubber Plant	Stargazer Lily
Some Insects and Spiders	Christmas Rose	Janet Craig Dracaena	String of Pearls
Blue-green algae in ponds	Cineraria	Japanese Show Lily	Striped Dracaena
Cocoa mulch	Clematis	Jerusalem Cherry	Sweetheart Ivy
Compost piles/fertilizers	Cordatum	Kalanchoe	Swiss Cheese Plant
Lawn/Garden flea products	Corn Plant	Lacy Tree Philodendron	Taro Vine
Fly baits w/ methomyl	Cornstalk Plant	Lily of the Valley	Tiger Lily
Slug/snail baits w/ metaldehyde	Croton	Madagascar Dragon Tree	Tobacco
<u>Household Items</u>	Cuban Laurel	Marble Queen	Tree Philodendron
Antifreeze	Cutleaf Philodendron	Marijuana	Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia
Liquid potpourri	Cycads	Mexican Breadfruit	Walnut (shells and nut)
Ice melting products	Cyclamen	Miniature Croton	Weeping Fig
Rat/mouse bait	Daffodil	Mistletoe	Yew
Fabric softener sheets	Devil's Ivy	Morning Glory	
Mothballs	Dianthus	Mother-in-Law's Tongue	
Christmas tree water	Dieffenbachia	Narcissus	
Batteries	Dracaena Palm	Needlepoint Ivy	
Water-based paints	Dragon Tree	Nephtis	
Treated toilet bowl water	Dumb Cane	Nightshade	
Silica gel	Easter Lily	Oleander	
Poinsettia	Elaine	Oriental Lily	
Cat litter	Elephant Ears	Peace Lily	
Glue traps	Emerald Feather	Pencil Cactus	
Glow jewelry	English Ivy	Plumosa Fern	
		Poison Ivy	

*List of items from
ASPCA website
www.asPCA.com
10/2007

If you observe changes suggesting illness or injury, contact Barb at 608-772-3787. Be prepared to answer questions about the following; eating, drinking, urination, defecation, activity, and non-activity. If possible, have a first aid kit available and develop basic skills in taking temperature, bandaging, and CPR. When combined with a simple plan, these skills may one day save a puppy or grown dog's life.

GROOMING

Labrador Retrievers typically involve little grooming. A Labrador Retriever can shed quite a bit especially during the times of year when they "blow coat" . shedding their under coat to make way for new growth. This usually happens twice a year, during spring and fall. The excessive shedding should last about 3-4 days.

Golden Retrievers will need brushing at least a couple times a week and tend to shed continuously it seems. Standard Poodles need more brushing than Labs or Golden Retrievers and will also need a shave and a haircut about every 6 weeks. Contact Suef@occupaws.org to find out where.

BRUSHING

Daily brushing is beneficial, and does serve a purpose. Brushing can help eliminate unwanted hair and prevent skin issues. Brushing is a form of bonding that occurs with you and the puppy. He will learn to trust your hands and this will help build confidence. He will look forward to the one-on-one attention that he will receive.

To initially familiarize yourself with the brushing process, begin by stroking his coat with only your hands. Once he accepts this idea, follow by using a soft-bristle brush. Again, start by gently stroking the fur on his neck in the direction of the coat. Move on to the tail and underside once you and the puppy are comfortable. Be careful of the amount of pressure you are using . it is a puppy after all. You do not want to apply too much as the brush may scratch the skin surface. Do not turn brushing into a game! No biting the brush, running, or jumping is allowed!

BATHING

Bathing your puppy should not be a routine matter, and should only be undertaken when absolutely necessary (such as that unexpected meeting with a local skunk, a roll in the mud, or the presence of an accumulated "doggy odor" from the oils in the coat). Washing a Retriever or even a poodle too frequently eliminates too many of the natural oils that give the outer coat its desired harshness.

When choosing a shampoo, make sure it is a dog shampoo. No people or baby shampoos . these are too harsh for a dog. You will likely laugh at what we use and recommend, but remember, we've tried all the rest and like this the best! We use plain old Dawn dishwashing soap. Not the bleach or power scrubbers added stuff, not the nice smelling added stuff but the plain old blue stuff. This is the same stuff that is used for animals that have been affected by an oil spill and it works great. It takes out the bad dirt and grime in their coats but doesn't take away the natural oils of the dog. Because it doesn't have any fragrance added it doesn't bother their skin either.

To bathe the puppy, begin by wetting his coat. Gently, but firmly work the water down through the outer coat to the skin. Place a small amount of shampoo in your hands (about the size of a quarter), and lightly rub your hands together to emulsify. Rub your hands over the coat, taking special care around the eyes. As with the water, make sure to get the soap through the dense

outer coat to the skin. After soaping, be sure to rinse well! Keep rinsing until the water coming off the puppy is no longer soapy.

After bathing, be very careful to dry the dog thoroughly. It may sound unnecessary to worry about a Retriever getting a chill from a bath when a hunting dog often spends many hours diving in and out of icy water without so much as a shiver. With the bathing process, however, some of the dog's natural water-repellent oils are removed and the dog gets wet to the skin. When this happens, even the best water dog is vulnerable to temperature extremes, so be careful. Also, do not put the collar on the dog until both are completely dry. The moisture can tend to create ~~Hot~~ Hot Spots+which is a fungal or bacterial infection of the skin caused by trapped moisture.

EAR CLEANING

Ear cleaning can prevent ear infections! Frequent shaking of the head or smelly reddened ears indicates ear problems which may require a vet check and possibly antibiotics. Preventative ear care is very important.

Retrievers have a tendency for dirty, moist ears due to ear carriage and water play. This results in a perfect environment for bacterial and yeast ear infections, as well as ear mite infestation. Routinely using a good ear cleaner every week or two will greatly reduce the incidence of ear problems.

Begin by squirting a small amount of ear cleaning solution into the dog's ear canal. Massage the base of his ear for five seconds until you hear a squishing sound. Allow him to shake his head after the massage. This will allow any debris to shake loose and rise to the outer ear. Use a cotton ball, gauze, Kleenex or cotton pad to remove the excess liquid and debris from the outer ear. Make sure to do both ears!

Poodles will need to have ear hair plucked to prevent infections. You can learn how to do this or else ask the groomer to be sure to pluck and clean the ears.

Signs of an Ear Infection

Shaking the head

Tilting the head

Frequent or prolonged scratching of the ears or back of the head

Rubbing the side of the head along the floor

Brown debris in the ear despite regular cleaning

Odor or redness in the ear

TOE NAILS

Long nails are uncomfortable, can crack off and bleed, and look bad. Learn to clip off the growth tip, taking care not to cut into the quick or blood vein. Nails should be clipped every week for the first 6 months and about every two weeks after that. If the puppy has round, upright feet, walks frequently on concrete or asphalt, his nails may be worn down so that clipping is not needed as often. In any case, handle the feet and toes even if clipping is not needed. If you are uncomfortable clipping the nails yourself, contact a local groomer.

DENTAL CARE

Help your puppy maintain a healthy mouth by giving him lots of things to chew on and by regularly brushing his teeth.

Brushing his teeth with doggy toothpaste as often as possible is a great deterrent to tooth decay and doggy breath. This also teaches the puppy to get used to having his mouth inspected. **Do not use toothpaste made for people as this is toxic to dogs!**




Chewing helps to relieve boredom and also removes tartar. We recommend real beef bones or deer antlers. The beef bones that have the marrow on the inside or are filled with a flavoring can be refilled with peanut butter to keep the puppy busy. Please note that beef bones may stain carpet or other surfaces until the puppy gets the stuff off the outside of the bone. The deer antlers are a lot easier on the teeth as they are a bit softer on the inside.

We do not recommend raw hides as they are hard for dogs to digest (which means you may see it again at 3am!) and they easily become choking hazards.

GOING ON OUTINGS WITH THE PUPPY

"What's in your puppy kit/backpack?" - you know, the ones we all carry when we go out with our dogs (especially the baby puppies). Of course, we each discover what works best for us; the main thing is to be prepared for every contingency and take responsibility for cleaning up well when accidents happen, wherever they happen--inside or out. Here's a list to get you started of what some experienced puppy raisers carry in their purses, back-packs, travel and duffel bags to clean up when things get messy and to keep the puppies happy on outings:

FOR IDENTIFICATION:

-  the puppy must always have his vest on when going into a public place
-  OccuPaws ID tag on collar
-  ADA Laws and OccuPaws ID Card






FOR CLEAN-UPS:

- *travel-sized bottle of Nature's Miracle (decanted into a travel sized lotion or spray bottle)
- *Clorox wipes or packets of pre-moistened towelettes (for wiping the floor clean as well as your hands)
- *poop bags (newspaper or other small plastic bags for outside pick-ups)
- *paper towels
- *plastic grocery bags or trash bags (for disposing of larger, inside clean-ups and control of odors)
- *disposable diapers - these absorb more liquid than paper towels and are relatively small to carry
- *Paper plates cut in half - great for scooping up even the loosest stools from tile floors

FOR PUPPY'S COMFORT:

- *a bottle of water
- *folding water / food bowl
- *a chew toy
- *treats
- *ration of food if an all-day outing

While out on your outing keep the following in mind:

-  Keep the dog's attention on you before his attention goes elsewhere
-  Never allow your dog to scratch or lick itself in public or while in vest
-  Your dog should never be allowed to play while in vest
-  When your dog needs to potty, always remove their vest
-  In the car, your puppy must be in a crate!! No free movement. As they get older they should learn to lie on the floor in front of the front seat passenger, with or without a person sitting in the front seat.

When It Comes To Outings with The Puppy: Quality Is Better Than Quantity

Instead of taking the pup everywhere, choose outings that are appropriate for the pup's age and abilities, and only take the pup with you when your entire attention can be on working the dog, especially when it's very young.

When you're preoccupied with your errand, at best the puppy will be learning bad habits like pulling on the leash or picking up things in its mouth, and at worst might have an accident, or try to jump on people. When the situation overwhelms the pup, an outing becomes a negative experience - one that may lead to shyness, distractibility, or other behaviors that the puppy will have to work to overcome.

Until housetrained, most pups do best with short, in-and-out trips, about ten minutes in length, to quiet locales where they can observe the goings-on without being stressed. Until they have completed their vaccinations, new pups should avoid high-dog. traffic areas.

As the dog gets older and more experienced; you'll get a feel for the kinds of outings he can handle and how much supervision he will need. Then you can begin to take on more challenging outings with the puppy and include him in more of your daily activities.

Never take the puppy on outings if he has been vomiting, has diarrhea, or has any open wound.

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION GUIDELINE CHART

This chart is helpful in determining the appropriate outings for puppies of various ages.

Never=Never do **OK**=Okay to socialize **PC**=with Puppy Coordinator Approval

	8-9 Wks	9-10 Wks	10-11 Wks	12-16 Wks	4-6 Mo	6+ Mo
Airline Travel	Never	Never	Never	Never	<5 Mo. Never >5 Mo. PC Approval	PC Approval
Amusement Parks	Never	Never	Never	Never	PC approval	PC approval
Dog Shows	Never	Never	Never	Never	PC approval	PC approval
Fireworks Display	Never	Never	Never	Never	PC approval	PC approval
Gun Ranges	Never	Never	Never	Never	PC approval	PC approval
Professional Sporting Events	Never	Never	Never	Never	PC approval	PC approval
School	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval
Any unusually loud, crowded, high-speed, multi-stimulant, or otherwise unusual activity	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval	PC approval
NEVER APPROVED						
Animal Parks & Zoos	Never	Never	Never	Never	Never	Never
Amusement Rides, including carousels	Never	Never	Never	Never	Never	Never
Escalators/Moving Sidewalks	Never	Never	Never	Never	Never	Never

ANIMALS	8-9 Wks	9-10 Wks	10-11 Wks	12-16 Wks	4-6 Mo	6+ Mo
Adult Dogs	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Puppies	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Cats/Kittens	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Small Pets	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Birds	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Livestock	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
PEOPLE						
Young Adults	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Middle Aged Adults	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Elderly Adults	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Disabled/odd gaits	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Loud People	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Big Looming People	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Uniformed People	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People in Costumes	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People in Hats	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People with Beards	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People with glasses	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People with helmets	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People with gloves	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
People with Umbrellas	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Babies	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Toddlers	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Juniors	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Teens	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
PLACES						
Walks at dusk	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Evening walks	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Friend's homes	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
The Beach	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
Ball games	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK

Parks	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
Outside a school yard	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
The Vet	Carry in	Carry in	Carry in	Carry in	OK	OK
A Local Kennel	Walk near	Walk near	Walk near	Walk near	OK	OK
Car Rides	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Riding in a car in a crate & riding in different cars	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Shopping centers	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Restaurants	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Warehouse Store (Costco, etc.)	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
THINGS						
Crate	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Tie-Down	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Skateboards	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Ceiling fan	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Elevators	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK	OK
Flags/tarps blowing	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Shopping carts	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Lawn Equipment	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Household appliances	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Slippery floors	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Stairs	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Grates	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Public Transportation	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
TRAFFIC						
Residential-Oncoming light traffic with buffer	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Residential-Light traffic from behind with buffer	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
City Sidewalk or sidewalk less--moderate traffic	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK

Big City -- Heavy traffic	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
Bus Stops	Never	Never	Never	Never	OK	OK
Parking Lots	Never	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

FINAL PUPPY RAISING TASKS

By the time a dog enters formal guide dog training at approximately 15 to 18 months of age, the following concepts and behaviors should be in place. Feel free to check each item off as it is accomplished.

The dog must be housebroken

The dog should be comfortable having its paws, ears, and mouth handled

The dog should be able to remain quietly in its crate for reasonable periods of time

The dog must be able to WAIT for its food - practice having the dog STAND & WAIT, DOWN & WAIT and SIT & WAIT

The dog should walk nicely beside its person, without getting distracted or pulling on its leash

The dog should remain focused on and obedient to its person even in distracting situations

Four feet on the floor. The dog should not jump or lunge at people.

A quiet dog is a good dog. The dog should not bark at other dogs or people.

The dog should know all the commands in the training vocabulary

The dog should be able to ride nicely in a car (this means it must lay still and keep quiet)

The dog should be able to lie quietly at its person's feet while in restaurants, waiting rooms, public buses, office settings, etc.

The dog should make physical contact with its person when the "come" command is used

"Come" is an extremely important command both on and off leash

The dog should play nicely with children and other animals (no aggression will be tolerated)

The dog should stand quietly while being bathed, brushed, and otherwise groomed

The dog should be able to remain by itself (while crated) for reasonable periods of time

The dog should be comfortable wearing its training vest, as well as a range of different types of training collars: fur savers, martingales, Infin8 head collar, perfect pace head collar

The dog should be comfortable wearing dog boots on its paws

Make sure to Expose the dog to:

Relieving on different surfaces

Relieving on and off leash

Different sizes and types of animals

Children of all ages

Adults of different ages, cultures, clothing etc.

Crowded sidewalks and buildings

Elevators

Different types of stairs . no escalators

Walking on different surfaces: grates, slippery floors, cobbles, etc.

Variety of noises: mechanical, natural, household appliances, music, construction tools, etc.

Eating and drinking out of different bowls and in different environments

Riding in a variety of vehicles

Practice with remaining in a "sit" during meet and greets

Practice with extended "stays ", "stands+", "sits " and "downs"

Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, skateboarders, rollerbladers, etc.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When puppies have matured, between 15 to 18 months of age, they are evaluated for advanced harness training. The evaluation process starts with the OccuPaws veterinarian giving the dog a thorough health examination. Each dog then completes a temperament assessment during which an experienced raiser, or the instructor will note the dog's reaction to different situations that are common for a guide dog to encounter. The criteria for selection are extremely stringent as the personal safety of their future vision impaired handler is at risk. The assessment may be as long as two or more months, depending upon the dog. Finally, they are assessed by an OccuPaws Guide Dog Mobility Instructor for suitability and readiness.

Dogs that pass the testing and are in good health are then trained for about 4 months by one of our Guide Dog Mobility Instructors. This training teaches the dogs the skills they need to become guide dogs.

Dogs that successfully complete the training are carefully matched with a visually impaired adult through the OccuPaws program. The pair then trains together for approximately two weeks to develop the teamwork required for them to navigate the world together.

Puppy raisers/sitters are invited to a graduation ceremony at the end of the formal training and have the opportunity to present the puppy to his new partner and to celebrate in the accomplishment of having helped make this partnership possible. For many puppy raisers, this completes the circle that started when they first met the small bundle of joy that eventually grew into someone's guiding eyes.

For a variety of reasons, not every puppy succeeds in passing the evaluation. The following is a list of common reasons for not passing the evaluation:

- * Aggressiveness - attacks or bites without provocation
- * Nervousness - suspicious of new surroundings
- * Shy-sharp - panics and tries to bite from fear
- * Unfriendly - not trusting of strangers
- * Protective - too possessive of handler, food or cage
- * Physically Weak - hip dysplasia, eye problems, heart murmur or other physical problems
- * Pulls too hard - won't respond to correction to walk at proper gate
- * Inconsistent - work attitude is unpredictable, performance is good one day and poor the next

- * Lacks Responsibility - distracted while working, not concerned about the work
- * Soft - overly gentle personality, will pout upon correction

For puppies that do not become guides, OccuPaws will explore other working dog organizations to see if the dog may be a fit working in another way. For example, the dog may become a search and rescue dog, diabetic alert dog, seizure alert dog, etc. Dogs that will not have a future as a working dog are then put up for adoption or returned to the breeder. Puppy raisers may have the option to adopt the dog as a pet. OccuPaws always has a list of applicants waiting to adopt these wonderful dogs to become family pets.

In Conclusion, above all “*Remember the Mission*”

You, as a puppy raiser, may be asked questions concerning other service dog organizations within our immediate area, and nationally.

When you think about how to address these questions, always remember the mission. We are all trying to serve the disabled public, each in our own way.

Therefore please keep in mind that in dealing with questions or issues regarding other associations, be professional in our statements and not try to advance our cause at the expense of others. The best way to answer questions about other non-profit organizations would be to refer members of the public to the web site of the other organization. OccuPaws can only speak to what we do. Any negative comments concerning other organizations are considered unprofessional and can be considered as a reason for dismissal as a volunteer.

Always be a positive influence in the community we serve and avoid unkind or derogatory statements or actions.

If you have any specific questions, please ask your puppy coordinators.

New raiser thoughts.

1. OccuPaws is here to help you be successful in raising a dog for a life of service. Do not hesitate to e-mail or call Barb (Primary) 608-772-3787; Mark 608-695-4710; Sue Frey 608-279-3187 or Kristen Schoville 608-574-3695
2. Report any health or behavior problems right away.
3. Your puppy should only receive food from you. When out and about, do not allow strangers to offer your dog treats.
4. Your dog should only receive food from your hand or out of his bowl. Do not allow your dog to eat off the floor. This will encourage “surfing” in restaurants.
5. Carry treats with you to reward your dog at those opportune moments. Get yourself a treat bag – there are many styles available.
6. Your dog should be unobtrusive. At a restaurant, for example, they should be under a table. Your dog should be silent.
7. Take your dog potty away from the front of the business. Always pick up after yourself and dispose of the poop properly.
8. Do not allow your dog to greet other dogs in public, especially when a vest is on.
9. Your dog should wait for strangers to greet him/her, not the other way around.
10. Your dog should keep four on the floor when greeting.
11. If you encounter a business that refuses entry to your vested dog, please do not make a fuss, but allow Barb to call the business.
12. Always carry your OccuPaws IDs, for both you and your dog.
13. Always have OccuPaws ID tags on the dog.
14. There are many, many commands to teach your dog, but you can focus on the most important commands of: come, wait, settle, a loose leash heel (on the left side)

Information for the OccuPaws Puppy Sitters

Here is some information that will be helpful in handling an OccuPaws Guide dog in training when you are at home or out in public.

*** BE SURE TO CONTACT either Barb at 608-772-3787 or Kris at 608-574-3695 if you have a question or emergency. All incidents that could require veterinary care (emergency or non-emergency) should be pre-authorized by calling either of the numbers above.**

At the House

- Dogs are NOT allowed on any furniture or beds
- No human food is allowed except from a treat pouch (ie bits of cheese, hot dog, etc.
- Be aware of ~~stuff~~ the dog can pick up or chew . ex: socks, electrical cords, remotes, small toys, stuff in bathroom waste can i.e. dental floss, tissues.
- Dogs sleep in crates during the night and MUST be crated when left alone at home
- Should be on a leash to go outside unless is a fenced in yard but a leash is highly recommended
- House plants are not dog friendly
- Dogs are not allowed to drink from the toilet . Keep the lid down
- Restricting the dog access within the house is recommended
- Hide kitty litter and kitty food . dogs love these.
- No free feeding of an OccuPaws dog . should be on a schedule
- Dogs should not play fetch or chase
- NO toys with squeakers, pigs ears or raw hide bones
- Be very careful with human medications

For the Dog

- Must go potty on a leash . please potty dog before going on a walk or into a public building
- ALWAYS take off training vest prior to going potty
- Dog should go potty prior to walks not during the walk
- Vest should have elimination bags and dog ID in pockets

- All dog collars should come with an OccuPaws ID, rabies and dog license in older dogs and some will have the microchip ID tag as well
- KEEP hydrogen peroxide in the house for emergencies as directed by President or Vice-President

Out in Public

- Be sure to potty your dog prior to entering a public building.
- Dogs should not be seen or heard . under the table is where they should be
- Dogs should not bark, whine or growl
- Dogs should not be fed by anyone else but you
- Dogs should not be petted in public unless it is at an approved event
- Dogs should never beg for food
- ALWAYS check under tables for food, paper, medication

Basic Commands to Use

Sit:	Dog puts rear end on ground. The dog should not roll onto a hip or lean into the handler.
Down:	Dog should lie completely on the ground in sphinx position. If the dog is in heel position when commanded to down, it is permissible for their hip to be rolled in toward the handler. The dog's hip cannot be rolled out away from the handler.
Stay:	Dog remains where he is until handler comes back to dog. Use sparingly-less than 3 minutes
Free:	Releases the dog from position
Wait:	Stop moving or hold position and wait for further instruction
Leave It:	Dog should leave the item alone. Don't touch it
Off:	Remove your feet from an object
Jump on/in:	Sends dog completely to an object; i.e. Jump into car,
Come:	Dog should come to within reach of handler.
No:	Whatever you are doing, quit. This is a severe correction should be used sparingly
Potty:	Dog should go to the bathroom (on leash/no vest) within 2 minutes of command. Command is used both for peeing and pooping.

A new dog in the pack

Get your smell on the new dog

Before the introductions, have everyone in the household, if possible, pet and rub the new dog being introduced all over its face and body. A new dog that smells like family is much easier to introduce. If not everyone is available, at least the handler that is introducing the new dog should pet and rub the new dog.

Introduce on neutral territory.

It's best to let dogs become familiar with each other on neutral territory: outdoors. Each dog should be walked separately on a leash, and each walker should have a bag of high-value treats or food broken into small pieces. At first, walk the dogs at a distance where they can see each other but are not too provoked by each other's presence. If the dogs are not showing any negative behaviors, reward them with treats just for seeing each other. For example, when the dog you're walking looks at the other dog, you can say "Good boy!" in a happy, friendly voice and give him a treat. Repeat often.

Pay attention to each dog's body language.

Watch carefully for body postures that indicate a defensive or wary response, including hair standing up on the dog's back, teeth baring, growling, a stiff-legged gait or a prolonged stare. If you see such postures, either when the dogs are at a distance or near each other, immediately and calmly interrupt the interaction by interesting the dog in something else. If the dogs seem relaxed and comfortable, you can shorten the distance between them. Again, offer treats to the dogs any time they look at each other in a relaxed manner.

Let the dogs determine the pace of the introduction.

It's possible that the dogs will just want to play with each other by the middle of the walk. It's also possible that it will take more time before the dogs are comfortable enough to walk side by side. The most important thing is to take this introduction slowly. The more patient you are, the better your chance of success. Do not force the dogs to interact.

Once the dogs are able to view each other at a close proximity, allow one dog to walk behind the other, and then switch. If the dogs remain comfortable, allow them to walk side by side. Finally, let the dogs interact under close supervision. If one or both dogs show any signs of stress or agitation, proceed more slowly with the introduction.

Monitor closely in the home.

When first introducing the dogs in the home, use a sturdy, tall baby gate to separate them. Observe how they interact through the gate. Reinforce positive behavior by providing high-value treats to the dogs for positive interactions.

Make sure that there are no toys, food or treats left around the home that the dogs could potentially fight over. Also, be aware of situations that could lead to conflict— for example, when the dogs get overly excited. Closely monitor the dogs when they are together, rewarding them with treats, until you are 100% confident they are comfortable and safe with each other.