

Riverwind Shilohs Nutrition and Socialization Guidelines and Agreement

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The way your puppy matures both physically and mentally is a result of his/her diet and environment. With this in mind a great deal of study and research has been undertaken by Shiloh Shepherd Breeders to help the new owner insure their puppy will reach his/her full genetic potential. We encourage you to follow these guidelines in feeding and socializing your Shiloh Shepherd.

1. Feed Puppy 3 times a day until he/she reaches 9 months of age, then feed him/her no less than 2 times a day for his/her life.
2. **YOUR PUP has been started on Eukanuba, Large Breed Puppy formula, as it has a lower calcium/phosphorus ratio, as low levels of these two nutrients is better for large breed pups' bones and joints, while growing. Keep your pup on this or similar food till he/she is at least a year old. Look for moderate levels of protein, fat & calcium. (Protein 23-27%, Fat 12-15%, Calcium .09 -1.2%) NEVER use a chemically preserved Dog Food, and only feed Puppy a naturally preserved kibble. When your pup is between 1 and 2 years of age, switch to grain-free to minimize the chances for bloat. Acana is a highly recommended grain free kibble.** Check this link, <http://www.championpetfoods.com/acana/locator/> to locate a store near you that carries Acana. You are welcome to switch your pup to another food, but transition to your kibble slowly, and make sure the food you switch to is a high quality or premium kibble. Here is a list (not inclusive) of reasonable dog foods. (1) Nutri-Source Large Breed Puppy, (2) Precise Plus or Holistic Large Breed, (3) Blue Buffalo (4) Go Natural (Petcurean), (5) Canidae, (6) Planet Organics, (7) Pure Vita (8) Eagle (large breed Puppy or Holistic), (9) Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy, (10) Flint River Ranch, (11) Fromms Gold, (12) Healthwise, (13) Innova EVO, (14) Karma Organic Food for Dogs, (15) Maximum Nutrition Growth Formula, (16) Merrick Pet Foods, (17) Natural Balance Ultra Premium, (18) Natural Choice Ultra, (19) Natural Life, (20) Natures Recipe Working Dog Formula, (21) Nature's Variety Prairie, (22) PHD, (23) Pinnacle, (24) Honest Kitchen, (25) Pro Plan, (26) Regal, (27) Royal Canin Natural Blend, (28) Timberwolf Organics, (29) Wellness, and (30) Wysong -- Check this too: **Recommended food from The Great Dane Lady:** http://www.greatdanelady.com/articles/large_giant_breed_feed_chart.htm **One last note on kibble: Please do not overfeed your puppy.**
3. Your puppy has been supplemented with **Nzymes Bac-Pak Plus**. Use it to maintain a healthy microbial balance in your puppy. http://www.firstchoicenaturals.com/Index/showroom.php/All_Supplements-Canine_Supplements-Vitamins_Minerals_Digestive_Health/pid-50?gid=4 I also use **Probios** for my adult dogs. <http://leerburg.com/50.htm> Another supplement to consider helping develop the immune system is **Missing Link**. The least expensive place to order it is at: Care A Lot Pet Supply, phone # 800-343-7680, <http://www.carealotpets.com>. Make sure that you have good solid stools prior to adding any supplement.
4. It is important to give a supplement to facilitate joint development. such as **Liquid Health Level 5000**: http://www.firstchoicenaturals.com/Index/showroom.php/All_Supplements-Canine_Supplements-Joint_Muscle_Support/pid-20?gid=6 or similar supplement (glucosamine and chondroitin and MSM) It is affordable and necessary, especially for growing stages of large breed dogs. Give according to label directions, but if loose stool develops, wait & give after GI tract is more fully developed.
5. Never give puppy tomatoes, grapes, or raisins. Carrots or apples make a very natural and nutritious chew toy. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure. Read this list for other foods that can harm or be lethal to your puppy: <http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+1659&aid=1030>
6. **Limit the fat in Puppy's diet.** Fat is very detrimental to dogs and can lead to mild EPI and other problems. (12-15% fat & no more than 17% fat in kibble)
7. **NEVER** give Puppy any kind of grease (especially bacon), raw egg whites, pork, small cut beef bones, any cooked bones (cooking makes bones brittle and can choke and cause other serious damage to your Puppy), chocolate, sugary or starchy foods.
8. Note that overfeeding can contribute to skeletal problems that would otherwise not occur, so please make sure that you keep your pup on the leaner side. Research has shown that delayed growth (leaner pups) have less skeletal issues occurring later in life. Excess calories and fat and too much calcium and phosphorus in a growing dog's diet leads to bone and joint problems. **NO CALCIUM SUPPLEMENTS**
9. Provide Puppy with a supply of fresh water at all times, and do not give any other beverage without consulting Breeder or your puppy's vet first.
10. **Take Puppy to Puppy obedience as soon as possible (after last set of vaccinations) and try to get in as many training classes as possible for the first year of his/her life.** This can be a great bonding experience for the Puppy and the entire family if everyone attends together. Plus, it helps with consistency of teaching the Puppy and the Puppy will learn much faster if everyone implements the same training techniques and commands. It also helps with the socialization of the Puppy to be in training classes with other puppies.

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11. **In addition to Puppy obedience and subsequent training classes, take Puppy on frequent outings where Puppy will be exposed to other people, animals, and situations. Begin this as soon as taking possession of Puppy and Puppy is settled in (after last set of vaccinations).** Understand that failure to give the Puppy this exposure could result in shyness, or damage his/her ability to socialize properly with people as well as other animals.
12. **Continue proper socialization as the Puppy gets older through, participation in shows, obedience classes, and/or continued outings in public places (parks, the mall, etc.).** Also, become educated regarding the various aspects involved in this Puppy's inherited behavior traits, so that you can help him to attain his full potential.
13. Do not be neglectful or over protective of the Puppy and share him/her with others, as it will make a well adjusted citizen out of him/her.
14. **Bloat or Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus** is a very serious health risk for deep chested dogs, such as Shilohs. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of bloat. Check <http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm> for some of the best information on the topic I have ever seen. You may want to print it out and keep it handy. Another reference with useful information: http://www.greatdanelady.com/articles/bloat_and_torsion_is_nutrition_a_factor.htm Follow the suggestions listed to prevent bloat from ever happening to your Shiloh. It is the one emergency at a Vet clinic that they will stop all other procedures to tend to. Bloating of the stomach is often related to swallowed air (although food and fluid can also be present). It usually happens when there's an abnormal accumulation of air, fluid, and/or foam in the stomach ("gastric dilatation"). Stress can be a significant contributing factor also. Bloat can occur with or without "volvulus" (twisting). As the stomach swells, it may rotate 90° to 360°, twisting between its fixed attachments at the esophagus (food tube) and at the duodenum (the upper intestine). I put this here for you to be aware of, not to scare you. Many of my puppy people have told me they were not aware of bloat, wishing they had been aware because they previously had lost their dogs (large breed – deep chested dogs) to Bloat.
I also use these precautions: At least 1 hr. rest before & after eating, NO raised food or water bowl and a bloat prevention bowl that helps to slow the puppy from gulping his/her food. <http://www.brake-fast.net/>
15. **EXERCISE:** Take it easy the first year. Your puppy's rapid development means he/she is at risk for injury if exercised too strenuously. Avoid jogging or running on hard surfaces, jumping from any significant height (pickup bed, SUV, etc...) playing on slippery or slick surfaces such as tile, wet ground, etc..., wrestling or roughhousing. Start with short walks and moderate games such as fetch. Before you progress from one type of exercise to another or to longer sessions of exercise, evaluate your puppy's level of development, his strength, coordination and overall size & weight. You may also want to consult your vet for further advice.
16. Note: If any piece of this contract is invalid, the rest of the contract remains valid.

I/We _____ (printed name) hereby agree to abide and follow the guidelines for my puppy's feeding and socialization program for its entire life. I understand the importance of these strict guidelines for the proper development and socialization of my Shiloh Shepherd. I agree to keep my dog in ultimate condition through this de-worming, vaccination, feeding and proper exercise program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Initial/Date _____/_____