

# Bitterroot Cavalier's



## NEW PUPPY INSTRUCTIONS

### DAY ONE:

Your puppy may feel disoriented and frightened. He is, after all, just a baby leaving home and mommy and his security for a whole new life. He will need your constant companionship for the first few days to let him feel safe. Please don't expect him to sleep alone in a room away from the family at night, (this can come later if you wish). You may wish to decide upon a routine for housetraining that will work with your schedule. Cavaliers love routines and once they learn it, they willingly comply. Decide on some rules and let all members of the family be consistent.

### HOUSEBREAKING:

Cavaliers are usually quite easy to housebreak. Crate training is what we use to begin the process. This means letting the puppy sleep at night in his crate. The crate should be next to your bed where he can see you and you can comfort him at night. You will probably have to get up at least once a night to let him out during the first few weeks. Dogs prefer not to soil their "sleeping den". Upon waking, puppy must be hand carried outside to his "spot". As he will probably be excited to see you, he may forget to go right away, so be patient (often 15-30 minutes outside). As he is going to the bathroom, calmly repeat a simple command such as "go potty" several times. He will learn to associate the act with the command. After he is finished, praise him and give him a small treat and let him inside.

As a puppy, he will have to go often during the day. Cavaliers will often do a little circling dance before going, so try to watch for this, immediately carry him outside to his "spot" and repeat command and praise. If you miss his dance and there is an accident, pick it up with a paper towel, gently show him the towel and the spot, - say "NO" carry him and towel outside and praise him outside. If you do not have a doggy door, some newspaper near the door may help for those times when you miss the signal. There are several enzyme deodorizing products that will neutralize past pet odors so that accidents will not be repeated.

Keeping puppies water bowl outside will necessitate him going out. Often after drinking, he will want to relieve himself.

Teach your puppy the command "OUTSIDE!". This will let him know that when you say "outside", he must run towards the door. If you catch him starting to dance or squat, give the sharp command "Outside!" and guide him towards the door. Once outside, praise him as if it was his own decision to go outside.

Take puppy outside every 2-3 hours, until you have an established routine.

If these tricks fail, the use of "sani-pants" for girls and "belly bands" for boys while they are inside is helpful. They do not like to wet their pants and will soon learn to hold it until pants are removed outside.

We recommend an indoor "Exercise-Pen" 32 inches high or a confined safe area for the first few months with your puppy. This will minimize chewing damage and hazards such as cords or falling off furniture. He should be kept in the pen whenever you cannot be watching him. This area could have a litter box or newspaper if he must be kept here for extended periods. Food, water and a bed or open crate should also be in the exercise pen.

### FEEDING:

I wean puppies from mother's milk, directly on to coarsely crushed Natural Balance, small bite. Once they are eating good then we start feeding small kibble with grated meat log of Lamb (Natural Balance meat log). Do not spoil him with people food. Cavaliers spoil easily and tend to be quite fussy if you let them. Dry food should be offered 3-4

times a day, and what he doesn't finish should be picked up. Foods to avoid: chocolate and onions, garlic and potato peels, these are harmful to any dog.

#### **WATER:**

Any change in water, along with the stress of moving, may cause loose stools. This should diminish as the puppy's intestinal flora become accustomed to the change. You may wish to give him some natural bacteria or Kaopectate if it persists. If your municipal water supply does not contain FLOURIDE, there are some brands of bottled water that have this and it may help your puppy avoid future tooth decay.

#### **CHEWING:**

Good luck! Prevention is the best policy. Supply safe chew toys and divert puppy's attention away from chewing the wrong items. Keep unsafe items out of the "puppy zone".

#### **HANDLING:**

Remember, your Cavalier is still a baby with growing bones until he is over a year old. Handle him gently, never picking him up by his legs. Don't let him jump down from high places, even though he may try too. He may wish to play rough, but he doesn't know his own limits. Too much or too strenuous exercise can cause skeletal development problems, as can lack of activity. A moderate exercise program can be recommended by your veterinarian.

#### **TRAINING:**

Early puppy classes are not recommended until all vaccines are completed. Your veterinarian may be able to recommend an in house trainer to come to your home for some housetraining tips. After vaccines are complete, puppy socialization classes are helpful. Cavaliers are soft and sensitive and too much strict training at an early age can break their spirit. Don't expect too much too soon. Never use harsh training methods and always use praise and rewards. Cavaliers do very well in obedience classes. They are eager to please you and show you how smart they are.

#### **VETERINARY CARE:**

Consult your veterinarian for vaccination schedule and spay/neuter times. We recommend females be spayed before their first heat, and males neutered before hormones come in. If your puppy has the typical umbilical hernia, it can be sewn up at time of spay/neuter. Cosmetic repair is not recommended if no other surgery is being done. Cavaliers tend to be more sensitive to anesthesia than other breeds. Make your veterinarian aware of this.

#### **GROOMING:**

Cavaliers require very little grooming. A daily brushing with a soft natural boar bristle brush will prevent most shedding and keep coat in good condition. Bathe only as needed, (not more than weekly,) to prevent dry skin use mild shampoos and conditioners. TRIM DEWCLAWS regularly to prevent scratched eyes

#### **DENTAL CARE:**

Clean teeth daily with special dental cloth or brush. Get your puppy used to this at an early age, even if his teeth look clean, there can be plaque build up. This has been implicated in the mitral valve disease found in Cavaliers, so we must be stringent in our dental care routine.

#### **COMMON WORRIES:**

- 1) "My Cavalier drags his bottom on the ground- is this a sign of worms?" This is an "old wives tale" Cavaliers clean themselves this way. They seldom lick themselves clean and prefer to rub clean. This is often MIS-diagnosed as anal gland problems and some vets will express the anal glands to stop this. This can lead to irritation of the glands and a vicious cycle of anal gland infection and veterinary visits. We NEVER let our vets express the anal glands.
- 2) "My cavalier is snorting and choking". Cavaliers have short noses and soft skin flaps in their upper pallets. These sometimes catch and cause what is known as a "reverse sneeze". It is common and harmless. You can often stop it by tucking their chin to their chest for a few seconds or putting your hand lightly over their nose.