

Fehr Meadow Farm

meadowviewgoldens.com

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The First Few Days

The first few days of transition may be difficult for your puppy and maybe even for you. Your pup may whimper and cry (sometimes loudly) for a few days. This is normal. What he is experiencing is separation anxiety. He misses his littermates. Also, you may notice that she doesn't have much of an appetite or want to play. As long as he or she is bright-eyed don't worry about how much he or she eats.

Put your pup in a quiet place so he can rest and get used to his surroundings. Avoid loud noise and much handling. He probably will feel better on the floor or outside as opposed to being held for the first few days.

Avoid putting on a collar or leash if possible the first week. She probably will not leave your side when taken out. Do not put a collar on your pup when she is in her crate because the collar can get caught in the cage and the pup can strangle.

I found it helpful when purchasing a pup to fill a plastic laundry bottle with warm/hot water and after covering it with a towel, place it next to the pup when he starts to cry in the night. Try to make the nighttime crate as cozy as possible.

After the pup gets her next shots but during the next few months, make sure to socialize the pup with other people of all ages including strangers. Also make sure the pup is around other dogs. Make sure the pup has a pleasant experience because you are building a foundation for the rest of her life. An excellent investment in your pup's future is an obedience class. The class will combine some essential socialization with some valuable tips on controlling unwanted behaviors.

Bathe when needed using a mild tearfree natural shampoo for puppies. (We use Life's Abundance Revitalizing Shampoo.*) Try to only bathe when necessary, maybe every few weeks. If the paws get dirty, try just washing them, not the whole body. An additional 'freshener' is Life's Abundance Bath Fresh Mist*. Be careful with chemicals and perfumes. In a survey of Golden owners, "a very consistent and statistically significant increase in the frequency of hot spots was found for Goldens exposed to lawn chemicals or flea/tick drops, shampoos, and sprays." (1998 Golden Retriever Club of America National Health Survey)

*** a link to Life's Abundance is on the 'Puppy Page' meadowviewgoldens.com**

