

Stahlrosenhof International

Puppy Information: Frequently Asked Questions

When can I pick up my puppy?

You can pick up your puppy anytime between 6 and 8 weeks. In certain circumstances exceptions are made, but this is the preferred age.

What if something comes up and I can't pick up my puppy at eight weeks?

When you fill out your deposit form, there is a place to designate a range of time in which you think you can pick up your puppy. Often a week either way is not a problem. If for some reason you can not pick up your puppy by eight weeks, we can make arrangements with you to hold the puppy longer, but we will require an additional deposit.

Can we name our puppy or will she already have a name?

Depending on the litter, prospective puppy owners who have placed a deposit on a puppy, are given the option to come up with a first name for the puppy, starting with the current litter letter. However all puppies will be registered under "von Stahlrosenhof" or an approved variation. If you place a deposit on a puppy after the puppies are three weeks old, your puppy will probably already be named, however you may use any 'call name' you wish for your puppy.

We are going to neuter our puppy and will probably not go to shows, why do we need to sign a contract?

It is a standing policy at Stahlrosenhof Kennels that all puppies are sold under contract terms only. Although they are a little flexible, they are designed to protect you as well as us. Basically the contract states that you promise to take care of the dog, and we promise to guarantee your puppy is free from known genetic defects.

Why do I have to take my puppy to a vet within three days if he has already seen one?

You need to take your puppy to the vet to insure it is healthy per your own vet, as well as to establish a baseline for your vet when your puppy needs to be seen again. This not only assures you that you have received a healthy puppy, but also reconfirms our health check and certificate on the puppy. Your puppy appointment should be made prior to obtaining your puppy. This is also part of your contract and microchip verification. Make sure your vet can scan the puppy's chip on the initial visit as well.

Does my puppy need to be microchipped?

Yes, your puppy absolutely needs to be microchipped, and will be before leaving the kennel.

If we already had the microchip scanned at the kennel, why does the vet need to do it again?

Because it is part of the transportation log of which a copy must be returned to the Kennel along with a copy of the vet's findings from the initial puppy visit. It also insures your vet has a copy of the chip number on file. If your puppy ever gets lost and someone starts contacting vets, you have a better chance recovering your puppy if they have the number on file. All microchips are 10 digit Avid Euro chips. Please see our related information

on the chips available on our web site.

Do I need to register my puppy's microchip?

Not unless you want to. The microchips are registered to the Kennel. So if you prefer, as long as we have your current address and contact information, if your puppy is found, they will contact us first. We can provide you with information on how to register with a database under the Avid chip if you like. They do charge a small fee. The chip can also be registered through the AKC.

What if my vet doesn't agree with the vaccination protocol?

If you have a vet that doesn't agree with the vaccination protocol or your situation or environmental areas require a variation on what we recommend, just simply let us know what type of schedule your puppy will be on and what vaccinations he is receiving. Please note that there are a few things we will not guarantee against such as autoimmune hemolytic anemia if your puppy is 'blast' vaccinated every two weeks. There is more information about this in the Vaccination Protocol article that accompanies this information packet. We will not under any circumstances guarantee a puppy that has been given vaccinations less than 3 weeks apart.

How many more vaccinations will my puppy need?

That depends upon when your puppy is picked up. Typically at 8 weeks, you puppy will only need a couple more single vaccines, and one combination vaccine at 14 weeks, and then whatever your state age is for rabies vaccination. Many vets may recommend a combination vaccination at 16 weeks, this is fine but not necessary.

Can I give my puppy 'people food'?

Typically, we don't recommend giving table food to young pups, as it does not take much to upset their systems. However, there is a list in the nutrition pages of your new puppy packet which lists some treat ideas. Always remember that all treats or extras should be given in moderation.

How much and what type of food should the puppy eat?

We recommend Native3 Puppy or Earthborn Puppy food. This is not set in stone. There are a lot of good high quality foods out there. This just seems to work better for us. Your puppy should eat two to three times per day. Typically you can put a bowl of food down and let her eat what she wants in a 5 minute period of time. Do not feed a puppy free choice, or leave the food down all the time. Don't let your puppy become over weight because this puts unnecessary strain on growing joints.

What will come with my puppy?

Your puppy will come with the following:

- Updated vaccinations and Vaccination history
- Health plan with future vaccination schedule
- Training tips and general info
- Sire and Bitch histories (request only)
- Guarantee / contract
- Microchip
- Baby pictures (request only)
- Registration papers (if applicable)

How soon does my puppy need to start obedience training?

As soon as your puppy walks through the door. Ok, I know you are thinking that sounds a little extreme, but

you need to set the ground rules early. For example, you should have your puppy sit for his bowl before you give it to him. And early on, you need to set an awake and bed time. I'm not saying that you won't be up for a while in the middle of the night, I guarantee you will, but you have to have some type of schedule for your puppy to become accustomed to. You also need to have some idea of your expectations for your puppy before you bring her home, so you can imprint these early in the relationship.

We don't travel much, do we still need to socialize the puppy?

Yes! You absolutely need to socialize your puppy and give him as many experiences as possible. Although your puppy will have been imprinted with many factors before they leave the kennel, your puppy will be more stable and easier to work with if he is an active social member of society. This does not mean however that you turn your puppy loose in uncontrolled circumstances to play with every child and dog in the park. Your puppy could accidentally get hurt this way. Always make socialization a controlled and happy experience for your puppy.

What if my puppy becomes sick?

If your puppy should become ill, or stops eating, try to make sure you keep the puppy hydrated. They can dehydrate very quickly. Take the puppy's temperature and contact your vet. If the puppy is very ill, please contact the Kennel as soon as possible.

What are safe toys she can play with?

There are lots of safe toys, tugs, and nylabones (soft ones at this stage). We don't recommend rawhides unless they are pressed, or unless you will be monitoring the puppy while he has it. Nylabones can typically be left in the crate with the puppy, but make sure you keep an eye on the wear, and not let it get too small where it could be choked on. Antlers make good chew toys as well. With all toys, make sure you monitor your puppy after initially giving it to him to ensure it is not going to cause a problem. Your puppy will find things to play with, and quite probably not what you had in mind, but as long as they can't hurt themselves on it, anything they want to play with can be fair game.

How much grooming maintenance do Malinois require?

Malinois don't require much grooming as compared to other working breeds. You will need to brush them well once a week (more often during sheds - probably daily) and trim their nails at least monthly. Bathing is usually on an as need basis, and should not be over done because this could dry out the skin and coat. Puppies are usually bathed more often just because they are puppies and get into everything. Our dogs typically blow their coats twice a year, where upon one can then make 3 Malinois with all the fluff that comes off. Fortunately this phase does not last long.

Why do Malinois have a tendency to get overheated or heat stressed?

A Malinois' off button is genetically missing. Therefore your dog will have the tendency to go, go, go..... (you get the idea) whether it is 10 degrees or 90 degrees. During exertion, the body temperature rises and since dogs have little way of cooling themselves other than through panting, when the air is already at high temperatures it makes it difficult for the dog to remove excess heat. If the dog is allowed to pant heavily for an extended period of time, the body can become acidic and begin to cause real systemic problems. Prevention requires knowing your dog well enough to tell him when it is time to quit. During hot periods, try to play or train in the early morning or evenings and make sure the dog has access to plenty of cool water. You may also consider keeping your dog on a 25 - 50% electrolyte solution during extreme heat and cold temperatures. Keep in mind though that dogs do not sweat like people do, and thus do not release sodium like people do, so if you give them anything, watch the sodium intake.

How long can I leave my puppy alone?

Initially you shouldn't leave your puppy alone for more than four hours at a time. This period can gradually be extended as he matures.

How much exercise should the puppy have?

As much as you can safely provide through controlled play. If you are not providing your puppy with enough exercise time, believe me, he will let you know. Ten to fifteen minutes at a time spread throughout the day for 1 - 2 hours is usually a good place to start.

If my puppy has already been dewormed, why does she have worms now, and how do I get rid of them?

Even though a puppy has been dewormed, they can become reinfected just by playing out in the yard, or going to the park. So, quite often a puppy will need several dewormings. We do not suggest that you continually deworm unless you are always traveling or are in an endemic area. Usually a routine series of two to three dewormings is plenty.

Does my puppy need heartworm medicine? When should I start?

Yes, your puppy will need to be started on heartworm medicine. Depending on your area, and what your vet recommends, you should either leave the dog on it year round or through the mosquito season. Check with your vet on what types of heartworm prevention are available in your area. Different types have different starting ages. Remember, your puppy will not need an initial heartworm test as these are only effective after six months of age.

What if I clip the nails too far back?

Your puppy will probably squeal and be mad at you for some time. Be sure you have some blood stop powder on hand to stop the bleeding, or corn starch in a pinch. It will probably be more traumatic for you than the puppy.

How should I discipline the puppy when he does something bad?

First, you need to consider what the puppy did and why. Did you leave him unattended for twenty minutes while you were on the phone as he was nibbling on a favorite pair of shoes? Then you need to take a rolled up newspaper and smack yourself over the head many times while repeating "I wasn't watching my puppy".... After several episodes of this you will learn the appropriate behavior. Usually redirection takes care of many problems. For example if your puppy continually nips at your hands, find a toy to give him instead. We do **not** recommend 'alpha rolling' your puppy. There is rarely a need for something like this. There may be other issues which come up in behavior that can be difficult to deal with. You are free to contact us anytime you have a question or problem. This is also one reason we like to make sure all new puppy owners already have a trainer available, to help them get through the rough spots.

Why do I need a crate?

Because your puppy needs her own personal space. She needs a space that is her own, where she can be safe, and where she can go to just rest in peace or hide when she chewed on the shoe you left out. It is also a good place for you to put the puppy up so you can have a break. As an added benefit, it will aid in house breaking, if the puppy is not left in there for very extended periods of time. Your puppy will already be used to being in a crate when you get her.

Can I have my puppy shipped if I can't pick him up?

Unfortunately, no. We have previously shipped puppies all over the world, but as of 17 Nov 13, we can no longer ship puppies. USDA/APHIS has new regulations requiring all breeders who ship to comply with commercial kennel housing restrictions. We do not believe that our puppies can be raised in steel cages with no continual interaction of daily life or farm exposure, and still be stable members of society. Therefore we have opted to discontinue shipping puppies to their new owners.

What if we have more questions?

More?? Yes, once you get your puppy home you will have many. Make sure you read the material provided in your new puppy package if you are not too exhausted. We are always available to answer questions and provide technical support. Read the technical support and beyond article which also provides all our contact information. Having and successfully raising a Malinois puppy is a huge but rewarding challenge. Patience will be your friend, and you will need lots of it!