



# Bringing your puppy home

## Prior to Bringing Your Puppy Home:

After you've identified a reputable breeder and agreed that one of their puppies is for you, you then need to get ready to bring your puppy home. This is when your breeder can provide invaluable help deciding whether or not to crate, what food, and other items are appropriate.

Spend time to locate a good veterinarian. Having a vet that you trust can be very important if any health issues develop through out the dog's life. Something as simple as allergies can be treated many ways and you'll want to feel confident that your vet does what is right for your dog and you. Get recommendations on a veterinarian and don't feel shy about checking them out. It could have a significant impact on the quality of your dog's life.

Your breeder should take care of your Puppy's first set of shots and have had them wormed or their stool samples tested clear.

## After Bringing Your Puppy Home:

Your breeder should provide a feeding schedule and/or guidelines of what and how your puppy should be fed. Please note that puppy's stomachs are small and hence frequent (3 is typical) meals will be necessary in the beginning to avoid upset. Different breeders will vary which foods they recommend. The important thing is that it be of sufficient quality to supply the required balance and nutrients to support the puppies' development without causing problems (like allergies).

The first night in your home a puppy will be missing their littermates and can be soothed by knowing that their new "family" is near by. Trying to isolate a puppy at this age can be very upsetting and lead to sleepless nights for the rest of the household. Something that has the smell of their old home can help.

You should take your puppy to your Veterinarian for examination in the first few days. In the initial visit you should establish the schedule of additional inoculations which should be in line with your breeder's recommendations.

A training facility that offers Puppy school can get you & your puppy off to an invaluable start. Just as with children going to school, puppies will benefit from training. Learning some basics like sit, down, and come can go a long way to making your dog a pleasant & well adjusted companion. Most puppy schools also allow some playtime so dog to dog socialization skills can be developed.

Again take your time to find a training facility that you're comfortable with and remember that Bernese Mountain Dogs respond well to praise but can "shut down" if treated roughly or negatively.

Also remember that puppies need time to develop and need to rest frequently. It takes a lot of energy to grow!



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Dogs need time to get the hang of house breaking and it's not unusual for dogs to have set backs up until about 6 months of age. Do not scold your dog if they make a mistake as this can lead to them seeking privacy which can be very inconvenient on the end of a leash! Praise, consistency and patience are key.

A good resource for training and understanding how your dog thinks is:

“How to Teach A New Dog Old Tricks”  
by Dr. Ian Dunbar, ISBN 1-888047-06-2

Remember you may think your dog is human like, but he looks at you and thinks you're a 2-legged dog!

## Prior to bringing your puppy home:

- **Locate a veterinarian that you trust and feel comfortable with**

## After bringing your puppy home:

- **Follow the feeding schedule**
- **Set up a examination with your veterinarian**
- **Take you puppy to Puppy School**

