

# Retrievers of Hillside Farms

American and English Labrador Retriever puppies have been raised on our farm for over a decade. These pups have the genetics to produce black, chocolate, and yellow coats. They are pet quality pups and representatives of the American Kennel Club. Our farm is located in Southern Virginia - Northern Lunenburg County.

## **Contact Information:**

Trey Smith, Owner/Breeder

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## **Medical Information:**

Type of dewormer: Pyrantel Pamoate

Puppies dewormed at 3 weeks – Date: -/--/--

Puppies dewormed at 5 weeks – Date: -/--/--

Puppies dewormed at 7 weeks – Date: -/--/--

Vaccination: Solo-Jec5 Plus @ 6 weeks: -/--/--

Recommended: Schedule your puppy for an appointment with a licensed veterinarian within 72 hours after pick-up for a wellness examination.

## **Feeding Instructions:**

The puppies are currently eating Purina Puppy Chow Tender & Crunchy (made with Rice & Beef). It is advised to keep the puppy on this diet to start. This is to avoid a gastrointestinal upset. If you wish to change the diet do so gradually over 7-14 days. To start, mix **6-10 oz (total per feeding)** of half original brand puppy chow with desired feed of choice 2 times daily. If you choose to feed 3 times per day, reduce the serving amount of food given per feeding. As puppy transitions, stool may change consistency and color. Follow feed label directions or the advice of your veterinarian for serving amounts as the puppy increases in age and weight. Dry food is better for your puppy's teeth and digestion; canned food can lead to an increase in dental tartar and diarrhea. During the first week with your new puppy, you may add water to the dry food to soften and make the diet more palatable. As the puppy ages, add less and less water until the puppy is eating completely dry food. Lab pups grow at an amazing rate. They will almost double their weight every 4 weeks for the first few months. Feeding in set meals will give you several advantages; first, it helps to teach the puppy to eat its meals when fed. This is healthier for the puppy and will help greatly with house breaking. Scheduled meals will help lead to scheduled potty breaks. In large breeds, it is recommended to feed puppy food until your pet is about 18 months old. Dog treats can be given in small amounts as rewards, but I strongly discourage the use of table food. Too many treats or table food discourages the puppy from eating its regular diet and unbalances a well-balanced nutrition plan.

### **Crate Training:**

Crate training is highly recommended as an effective and safe way to house train a puppy. There are many types of crates available. I recommend getting a crate that will fit your dog as an adult. The basis of crate training uses the idea that a dog does not like to soil its bedding area to facilitate house breaking. The crate should be used anytime you cannot give your puppy your undivided attention. These times may include dinnertime, cleaning the house, etc. If the puppy is unattended for any length of time is likely to have an accident. I do recommend confining the puppy to whatever area you are in to watch for behaviors that indicate the puppy needs to go potty. The puppy may need to potty every 3-4 hours when crated and even more frequently if it is out in the house playing (every 30-45 minutes). With time 4-8 hours can be achieved. Taking the puppy outside to its designated area, giving its command to potty, and praising it for good behavior will aid greatly in the house breaking process. Treats may also be used to encourage the puppy to want to potty outdoors. When the puppy has an accident in the house, disciplining it with a firm "NO" generally suffices - take the puppy outside immediately. When it resumes its business praise the puppy profusely. The emphasis on praise versus discipline produces better house breaking results. Correcting the puppy after the accident has occurred (without catching it in the act) only confuses the puppy since it has no clue why you are correcting him at that point in time. A towel and a few toys are recommended in the crate; food and water are discouraged unless you will be away for an extended period of time. The puppy will try very hard not to urinate or defecate in the crate once it gets used to it. In time, the puppy will be able to go as long as 6 to 8 hours if necessary in the crate without an accident. I do not recommend paper training in large breeds. It only confuses the puppy as to where the appropriate potty area is located. We want that area to be outside and limit the amount of accidents in the house to help you achieve success quickly. Most labs require at least 45 minutes of play time or walks twice per day. A well exercised puppy is a happy puppy.

### **General Health Information:**

#### **Vaccinations:**

You will be given a record of the puppy's vaccination status and a schedule to follow for future vaccinations. Your puppy will require vaccines every 3-4 weeks until they are 17-19 weeks of age. Yearly vaccinations will be required thereafter. I strongly recommend keeping your puppy away from parks and other high traffic areas where a lot of other K9's travel until the puppy vaccination series has been completed. It is okay to allow your puppy to attend training classes providing all pups are required to be UTD on vaccinations.

#### **Heartworm & Flea/Tick Prevention:**

Heartworm and flea/tick preventatives are a must! There are several different types available, some of which also prevent gastrointestinal parasites. Ask your veterinarian for what is best suited for your pet. Some offer rebates on a 3-6 month supply and some offer exclusive deals online, although, a prescription is required for most.

#### **Stress/Intestinal Parasites:**

Puppies can become stressed soon after leaving litter mates. This is all they have known for the past couple of months. Runny or loose stools (diarrhea) can be a result of stress but should not last for an extended period of time. Persistent diarrhea will cause dehydration. If it does persist,

be sure to get your puppy to a veterinarian within 24 hours for a wellness check as intestinal parasites are a likely cause. They are easily transferred from mother to pup & from pup to pup. We do not guarantee against them in our puppies; however, we do guarantee that they will be de-wormed accordingly as outlined in the medical section above. Communicable diseases such as coccidia and giardia are not uncommon in young pups. They are highly contagious and immune to standard strongid dewormer.

### **Baths**

Your puppy can be bathed as frequently as once per week as a puppy, then every 2-4 weeks as an adult. There are many types of shampoos available. I recommend a shampoo that is designed for dogs, not humans. Oatmeal and Aloe shampoos are a good choice for young puppies as long as it is labeled safe for puppies. Be sure to monitor your pup for excessive scratching. This could be an indicator that you are bathing too frequent and is drying your pup's skin out. With labs it is also a good idea to get your puppy used to having its ears cleaned and nails trimmed at bath time. If you are unsure of how to do this ask your veterinarian to show you at one of your puppy visits.

### **Spay/Neuter:**

Spaying and neutering is healthy for any pet. If there is no intention of breeding your dog it is best to have it spayed/neutered at a young age, usually at 6 months. Unwanted male behavior starts due to hormonal reasons but becomes a learned behavior within 1 to 2 years. Neutering an older male dog generally does not stop all these behaviors, though may help decrease their desires.

### **Quick Tips:**

- If being kept indoors and your pup appears restless or overheated, remove any extra blankets, pillows, or towels. Puppies do not like to be swaddled in blankets. An overheated puppy can make for a restless night and increased thirst followed by more frequent potty breaks.
- In most cases, your pup will need a potty break very soon (almost immediately) after waking from naps and most often times 10-30 minutes after feeding.
- In some cases, when warmer than they would like to be, pups will lay on cool surfaces such as tile, hardwood flooring, concrete – anything cool to touch.
- Puppies tend to eat and chew almost anything their little mouths encounter. It is best to puppy proof your house prior to bringing your pet home. Remove/relocate/elevate toxic plants, cleaning supplies, sharp objects, valuable possessions, etc. so that they are out of reach. Be sure to monitor your pup closely at all times to ensure they do not swallow something toxic or indigestible.

If you have any questions in the future please do not hesitate to text, call, or email. I am always pleased to help you at any time. We also love getting progress reports and pictures!