

Dixie Darlings Puppy Protocol:

Below is our Puppy Protocol. It contains information on their food, vitamins, potty training and more. Your puppy comes with 24/7/365 lifetime tech support, frustration counselor or drinking buddy, whichever you need depending on the development stage. If you have any questions at all don't hesitate to ask! There are no stupid questions, we have a great sense of humor and we've seen/heard it all, or pretty close to it. If I don't know the answer off-hand, I will do my best to find the answer or point you in the direction to help you find it.

- Food: The puppies are currently eating All Stages **Purina ProPlan Lamb and Rice Small Bite** [PURINA PRO PLAN Sport Small Bites All Life Stages High-Protein Lamb & Rice Formula Dry Dog Food, 37.5-lb bag - Chewy.com](#)

1/4 -1/3 cup three times a day to start and gradually increase as their appetite increases as they grow. Being in a new environment causes stress, and not eating is common, making it easier for puppy to eat will help with this transition, moistening their kibble with a little warm water makes it softer. This only needs to be done for a day or two if they aren't eating normally. **Avoid introducing too many new foods and treats until they are at least 12-16 weeks old, their little digestive system can't handle too many new things too close together.**

A Probiotic is always a good idea to have on hand, it helps keep everyone's gut healthy and I've found it really cuts down on soft stool during teething, food changes and allergy season. We use a couple different ones, Fortiflora by Purina, Bene-Bac Plus, this one comes in powder or paste. Links for these are below.

[PURINA PRO PLAN VETERINARY DIETS FortiFlora Powder Digestive Supplement for Dogs, 60 count - Chewy.com](#)

[Amazon.com : Bene-Bac Plus Prebiotic Pet Powder, 1 lb : Pet Probiotic Nutritional Supplements : Pet Supplies](#)

The puppies get Fortiflora daily in their food, it really helps keep their stool well-formed while weaning. Our older dogs all get Bene-Bac daily with their dinner.

**Puppy will go home with a 6-pound bag of food and their goody bag. If you choose not to feed them Purina ProPlan once they are home, make sure you introduce their new food slowly by mixing $\frac{3}{4}$ of the provided food with $\frac{1}{4}$ of the new food beginning on day 2 then gradually decrease/increase the ratios of the two foods until they are solely on their new food. Please keep in mind, we recommend certain foods because we have fed them or are currently feeding them to our dogs, and have raised many litters on the foods we recommend. Other foods we recommend are Life's Abundance <https://lifesabundance.com/Dixiepugs>, Nature's Select Cold River Recipe or their Select High Protein [Checkout - Nature's Select \(naturesselectpetsupply.com\)](#), Origins -Six Fish or Tundra, Royal Canin or Purina ProPlan Puppies under one-year. The Purina ProPlan Puppies under one-year wet food is also a nice add in to keep their feeding routine interesting. ProPlan essentials wet food is a nice one for adults over a year for the same reason. The mousse is the first food with flavor puppies are introduced to with us, and we feed our adults the ProPlan essentials once a week with their lunch. Our pregnant and nursing moms get it regularly because they're picky eaters during that time.

- Nu Vet Vitamin Supplements:
½ tablet until 5 pounds then 1 tablet daily or scoop of powder daily. We add NuJoint at 6 months for our dogs, and our senior dogs do so well we can tell the difference.

For your convenience, you may order directly from the manufacturer by **calling 800-474-7044** and using **Order Code: 72705**, or ordering **online** at www.nuvet.com/72705. You can also save an additional 15% and assure you never run out of NuVet by choosing the “AutoShip” option at check out.

Please remember that our Health Guarantee goes hand in hand with keeping your new puppy on NuVet for the first 12 months. All of our dogs (15) and all litters, take NuVet daily, and we see how much of a difference it makes.

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* Manufactured in an FDA laboratory
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Why NuVet Plus is a part of our guarantee -

As a quality breeder, my highest priority is the health of the dogs I breed. Part of that responsibility includes doing everything possible to assure their wellbeing after they go to a new home.

While all quality dog foods will provide everything needed to sustain life, virtually all of them are cooked during the manufacturing process. The heat from cooking causes much of the nutrients to be lost during the process. NuVet Plus is cold processed allowing all of the benefits of its rich nutrients to be retained, giving your new puppy an extra layer of protection, especially during the most critical first year of life.

Additionally, when puppies nurse, they rely on their mother’s colostrum (highly nutritious milk produced right after birth) for the antibodies they need to fight infection. However, the maternal antibodies’ effectiveness declines as the puppy’s immune system begins to mature. By 8 weeks, your puppy’s immune system is at a vulnerable point and will soon be challenged on multiple fronts.

When a puppy is moved away from its mother and siblings to live with its new family, the immune system is weakened by the stress of adoption and exposure to bacteria and viruses in its new home. These are pathogens for which the puppy’s body has not yet developed antibodies, and it is widely recognized that the immune system is less effective in times of stress. So starting NuVet Plus now is important to helping your puppy grow into a healthy adult.

The vaccine series is also started during this time period. Vaccines are only effective if the immune system can respond properly. If the immune system is distracted by combating an actual disease

processor and it does not receive the nutrients required to keep it strong during times of stress, the health of the puppy is at risk. The best way to prevent illness during this critical time is to provide the nutritional support required for proper immune system function.

About NuVet Plus -

NuVet Plus is a synergistic combination of antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals known to boost immune system function. All of NuVet Labs' ingredients are sourced in the United States, manufactured in a human-grade U.S. FDA registered pharmaceutical laboratory, and cold processed to maximize the potency of the nutrients. NuVet Labs has been in business since 1997 and has never had a product recall. By including NuVet Plus® into your puppy's daily diet, you can be confident that you are providing the nutrients required for optimal immune system performance. Additional information may be found on the NuVet Labs website www.nuvet.com.

- Practical medicines to have on hand:

Pro-Pectalin paste of tablets (great for diarrhea!) [VETOQUINOL Pro-Pectalin Medication for Diarrhea for Cats & Dogs, 30-cc syringe - Chewy.com](#) Baby Benadryl (The clear liquid) dosage chart below. Once they are a year old, they can take the tablet form at a dosage of 1 tablet per day.

DOG WEIGHT	TABLET (MG'S)	CHILDREN'S LIQUID BENADRYL (ML'S)
5 - 10 lbs	5 - 10 mg's	2 - 4 mL's
11 - 20 lbs	11 - 20 mg's	4 - 8 mL's
21 - 30 lbs	21 - 30 mg's	8 - 12 mL's
31 - 40 lbs	31 - 40 mg's	12 - 16 mL's
51 - 60 lbs	51 - 60 mg's	20 - 24 mL's
61 - 70 lbs	61 - 70 mg's	24 - 28 mL's
71 - 80 lbs	71 - 80 mg's	28 - 32 mL's
81 - 90 lbs	81 - 90 mg's	32 - 36 mL's
91 - 100 lbs	91 - 100 mg's	36 - 40 mL's
100 + lbs	100+ mg's	40+ mL

- Coconut oil or Fish oil (optional but great for their skin and coats)
½ teaspoon with kibble daily (can warm oil in microwave to mix evenly with food)
As of 10 pounds 1 tsp in kibble daily
- Bathing and claw clipping:
We use Blue original Dawn as it's proven to be gentlest on their skin and doesn't strip too much natural oils from their coats.
We also recommend Noni Pup [Nonipup | Holistic Dog Care](#)
Keep their claws short by trimming them with clippers yourself or having your vet do it every 3 weeks during their follow up shots. If you have a good trustworthy groomer that's always a good option as a lot of pugs will wiggle and turn while you try to clip. **DO NOT take them to a groomer until they are fully vaccinated.**
- Puppies are trained with a hamster watering system, lick to dispense. These are a great option for playpens, and lead to less spillage.
Provide 4-6oz of water for puppy with meals and every 1.5 hours through the day
Take puppy out using a potty command every 45/60 min for first week then gradually increase time between potty to 2 hours (use about 2 weeks to get there)

If you are going to be out and are not crate training, then leave only 6-8 oz of water available. A puppy's bladder can only hold about 1-2 oz of fluid at a time, this translates to 4oz of "raw" fluid and will keep puppy hydrated for about 3 hrs.

- Potty training: Pups should not use communal areas like rest stops, parks, apartment potty areas etc. until they are fully vaccinated (3-4 does depending on your vet's practice) Pee pads, grass pads, and similar should be used until then. If you have a back yard select a small area for the puppy to use, keep roaming to a minimum, especially if you have frequent critter visits.
- Washable Pee pads are a frustration suppressant and life saver the link below are the ones we use.
- [Amazon.com: IMPROVIA® Washable Underpads 34" x 36" \(Pack of 10\) Heavy Absorbency Reusable Bedwetting Incontinence Pads for Kids, Adults, Elderly, and Pets - Waterproof Protective Pad for Bed, Couch, Sofa, Floor : Health & Household](#)
- [Amazon.com: Qeils Washable Pee Pads for Dogs, 2 Pack Reusable Puppy Pads 36"x41" Super Absorbent Leakproof Dog Training Pads, Non-Slip Potty Pads for Floor, Crate, Couch, Whelping Pads Litter Mat Pet Supplies : Pet Supplies](#)

Belly Bands! If you have a male, BB's are a life saver and a huge frustration suppressant. I line them with slim generic incontinence pads and don't have to worry about finding little puddles along my baseboards. These really come into play once they start marking, before neutering. (We recommend waiting until puppies are at least 12-18 months old before spay/neuter). Here is a link to the ones we use (You'll have to measure for size):

[Amazon.com : Vecomfy Belly Bands for Male Dogs 5 Pack,Premium Washable Reusable Small Dog Belly Wrap Leakproof Puppy Diaper,XS : Pet Supplies](#)

- Shots- Puppy will need 1-2 more sets of shots, 2-3 weeks apart. Puppies get their first two sets of shots with us at 7 1/2 & 9 1/2 weeks of age.
- Pugs are a social breed. When you are home, you should allow your pug to be with you, despite accidents, that will happen, as they do with all puppies. Keep an eye on the warning signs. When puppy starts sniffing and going in circles take puppy outside and use your chosen potty command. Remember to praise and reward during the learning process. Pugs are food motivated, don't allow them to train you! For the first week or two a treat each time they potty is fine, we use Little-Jacs (By BilJac) [AmazonSmile : Bil-Jac Little Jacs Small Dog Training Treats - Soft Chicken Liver Dog Treats for Puppy Rewards - Real Chicken, No Fillers, 16oz Resealable Double Zipper Pouch \(2-Pack\) : Pet Supplies](#) they are small and soft and aren't empty calories. Blueberries and Cherrios also work well.
- Crating is a personal choice. We prefer to use exercise pens and crates. Playpens are great as it gives the babies a little more play room, especially if you are at work and can't come home throughout the day to check on them. Crate training is a good idea, even if you don't crate them overnight or while you are gone as it gets them used to a crate. Crates are used for travel, at the groomer and at the vet, so having a dog used to a crate helps keep their anxiety low. Below are a couple of links to kennels and playpens we like.
[Amazon.com : Petsfit Dog Crates for Medium Dogs, 36" L x 24" W x 23" H Adjustable Fabric Cover by Spiral Iron Pipe, Strengthen Sewing Fabric Dog Crate 3 Door Design 36inch : Pet Supplies](#)

[Amazon.com : MidWest Homes for Pets Foldable Metal Dog Exercise Pen / Pet Playpen, Black w/ door, 24'W x 24'H : Dog Exercise Pen : Pet Supplies](#)

[Amazon.com : Puppy Playpen Portable Small Animals Playpen, Pet Playpen Yard Fence for Guinea Pigs, Bunny, Ferrets, Mice, Hamsters, Hedgehogs, Puppies, Turtles : Pet Supplies](#)

- Bedding and toys- We always include “safe” toys in their take home bag when you come to pick up your new baby. These are the same or similar toys they play with while they are with us so they know they are “allowed” to play and chew and be rough with them while they learn about the rules at their new home, and you introduce them to their new toys in their new space. The puppies have standard pillow sized beds that are soft and fluffy and easy to wash, that will also hold up to being washed almost daily with a non-slip waterproof bottom.
- Replacement toys – Should you ever want/need to replace any of the toys your puppy came home with, just text us and I’ll be happy to send you the Amazon link. There are many we have at home (an entire storage tub full) that listing the link would take up a whole page. I have included the link to the hedgehog and the teething rings below.

[Pet Supplies : Pet Squeak Toys : ZippyPaws Woodland Friends Burrow Interactive Dog Toys - 3 Pack Miniz Refills for Hide and Seek Dog Toys, Plush Dog Puzzles and Colorful Squeaky Dog Toys, Hedgehogs : AmazonSmile](#)

[AmazonSmile : N-Bone Puppy Teething Rings, Chicken Flavor, 6 count : Pet Supplies](#)

[Amazon.com : Himalayan Dog Chew Original Yak Cheese Dog Chews, 100% Natural, Long Lasting, Gluten Free, Healthy & Safe Dog Treats, Lactose & Grain Free, Protein Rich, Chicken Flavor, 4.5 oz Resealable Pouch : Pet Supplies](#)

[Amazon.com: Himalayan Knotted Cheese Bone Bulk | Small | 3-4 Inches for Dogs 15-25 lbs : Grocery & Gourmet Food](#)

- The link below is for our family group on Facebook. It’s for families to keep in touch, post copious amounts of pictures and videos, stay in touch with litter mates, ask questions etc. we hope to see you there!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/213347582339427/>