Welcome Home Letter & Puppy Care Information

The time has finally arrived to welcome your sweet puppy home—we are so excited for you! This is such a special moment, and we feel truly honored to have raised your new best friend. Below you will find important information to help make your transition smooth and successful.

Veterinary Care

Your puppy has received (or will receive) a full health exam by our veterinarian, along with their first vaccine and microchip.

- The microchip number is included in your contract/health guarantee.
- Please register your microchip as soon as possible. If it is not registered, there will be no way to link your puppy back to you if they are ever lost.
- You will receive a copy of your puppy's vet exam and vaccination record—please bring this to your first veterinary visit.

We recommend scheduling your puppy's first vet appointment within 3 business days of going home to establish care and ensure everything continues on track.

Contract & Receipt

At pickup, we will review and sign two copies of your contract. This document includes your payment history (dates, amounts, and method of payment) and serves as your official receipt.

Pet Insurance

We provide 30 days of complimentary Trupanion Pet Insurance.

To activate coverage:

- Call 855-266-2156
- Use Promo Code: BR1BD3124
- Activate within 24 hours prior to pickup

Please note: Activation of this policy is required for your Brookside Doodles two-year health guarantee to take effect.

Food & Nutrition

The puppies are on PawTree dog food. We stongly encourage you to stay on pawTree for a minimum of 3 months while your puppy adjusts and completes its vaccines. It is a great nutrient dense dog kibble and we would love for your dog to remain on it. However, if you would like to transition to another food please do so slowly over a 7-10 period. If you switch too fast it is very common for puppies and dogs to get diarrhea which is no fun for anyone.

PawTree is a small kibble and the puppy is eating it moistened or dry. We do not encourage adding wet food. For treats we use pieces of dry kibble as a reward to the puppy. Too many treats can also upset their stomachs.

Important notes:

- Avoid rawhide (choking hazard and not digestible)
- Bernese Mountain Dogs can be prone to chicken sensitivities, so we recommend limiting chicken-based foods and treats
- If you notice loose stools, check ingredient labels for chicken

Health & Safety

Your puppy's safety is extremely important, especially in the early weeks.

Vaccines received:

- NeoPar vaccine (~5 weeks) – helps bridge early immunity
- 8-week vaccine (DHPP)

Upcoming vaccines:

- 12 weeks DHPP + lepto
- 16 weeks DHPP + lepto (final booster). Puppy is considered fully vaccinated and can go on walks and have paws on the public ground 2 weeks after the 16 week vaccine.

We also recommend:

- Adding Lepto vaccine starting at 12 weeks. It is a two part series and needs to be given 4-5 weeks apart. It can be added to their 12 and 16 week vaccine.
- Giving the Rabies vaccine separately (about 3 weeks after the 16-week booster), rather than combining—this is gentler on your puppy's system.

Parvo Prevention

Parvo is very serious and can be fatal to puppies.

Until fully vaccinated:

- Keep all four paws off public ground
- Avoid parks, sidewalks, pet stores, and high-traffic dog areas
- Carry your puppy or use a stroller when out
- At the vet, consider bringing a towel or requesting a clean pad

Parvo can live in soil and on surfaces for up to 2 years, so caution is essential.

Socialization is still very important—just be sure to do it safely and thoughtfully.

Flea, Tick & Heartworm Prevention

Your vet may recommend preventative medications.

We encourage you to:

- Do your own research
- Use caution with very young puppies, as some treatments can be harsh

We personally do not use flea/tick prevention in low-risk environments, but needs may vary depending on your location (especially coastal areas).

Toxic Foods & Plants

Puppies explore the world with their mouths, so awareness is key.

Common toxins include:

- Chocolate
- Grapes & raisins
- Certain plants (such as sago palm, which can be deadly)

We recommend familiarizing yourself with household and outdoor hazards to keep your puppy safe.

Adjusting to Home

Bringing home a puppy is incredibly exciting! While they will love the attention and cuddles, please remember:

They are still babies.

- Puppies need plenty of rest
- Balance playtime with quiet time
- Allow them space to decompress and adjust

Please remember they are still young. They are very smart and need consistency and training.

Staying Connected

We are always here for you—no question is too small.

You are now officially part of the Brookside Doodles family, and we would love to stay connected:

- Join our Facebook group: Brookside Doodles Families
- Share updates and photos—we love watching our puppies grow!
- Tag us on Instagram so we can celebrate your journey with you. Sometimes we share stories/posts from puppy families. Instagram is BrooksideDoodles

It has truly been our absolute pleasure to raise your puppy. Thank you for trusting us with such an important part of your family. We can't wait to see all the joy your new companion brings into your home.