Introduction:

Thank you for giving a loving home to one of our beautiful puppies. We’d like you to remember the following:

* Make an appointment for your puppy’s next shot ASAP since most vets book well in advance. **Don’t take him or her anywhere other dogs may have been until he or she gets that important shot**.
* Exercise, proper weight and a good diet will help your new friend live a long and healthy life. Please feed a quality food like Life’s Abundance. Giving treats that Life’s Abundance offers will help both in weight control and nutrition.
* Whatever you teach or allow in the next few months will go with your dog for the rest of its life. **Treat your puppy now like the dog you want it to become.** Make sure all of its interactions are good ones and you are off to a fantastic start. **We HIGHLY recommend obedience training.** A small investment of your time now will reap years of benefits when you have a well-trained companion.
* The birth date of the puppy is on the AKC form and on the vet report.
* The pups are being fed 1 ¼ cup of Life’s Abundance Food daily. You can split it up into 2 or 3 feedings. Allow to soak in water for a bit before serving.

## The First Few Days

The first few days of transition may be difficult for your puppy and maybe even for you. **Your pup will whimper and cry (sometimes loudly) for a few days. This is normal.** What he is experiencing is separation anxiety. He misses his littermates. Also, you may notice that she doesn’t have much of an appetite or want to play. As long as he or she is bright-eyed don’t worry about how much he or she eats.

Put your pup in a quiet place so he can rest and get used to his surroundings. Avoid loud noise and much handling. He probably will feel better on the floor or outside as opposed to being held for the first few days.

**Avoid putting on a collar or leash if possible the first week.** She probably will not leave your side when taken out. Do not put a collar on your pup when she is in her crate because the collar can get caught in the cage and the pup can strangle.

I found it helpful when purchasing a pup to fill a plastic laundry bottle with warm/hot water and after covering it with a towel, place it next to the pup when he starts to cry in the night. Try to make the nighttime crate as cozy as possible.

After the pup gets her next shots but during the next few months, make sure to socialize the pup with other people of all ages including strangers. Also make sure the pup is around other dogs. Make sure the pup has a pleasant experience because you are building a foundation for the rest of her life. An excellent investment in your pup’s future is an obedience class. The class will combine some essential socialization with some valuable tips on controlling unwanted behaviors.

Bathe when needed using a mild shampoo. Life’s Abundance has a great option that is botanically based. Try to only bathe when necessary, maybe every few weeks. If the paws get dirty, try just washing them, not the whole body. Be careful with chemicals and perfumes. Baby shampoo also works well.

**House Training Your Puppy**

Goldens love to be outside. They are usually easy to house train. We strongly recommend crate training since it takes advantage of a dog’s instinct. Dogs in the wild live in a den. The den provides a wild dog protection from predators and the elements. It provides them a great deal of security and psychological satisfaction. All dogs, therefore, have a strong natural tendency to seek out this type of shelter.

In your home, your dog has no such place to call his own. Therefore he make feeble attempts to curl up under the coffee table, chair, or in corners. By “giving them back their den” in our domestic homes, we take advantage of natural instincts and quickly house train, control chewing, and actually raise a more well adjusted, more self-confident dog, while keeping him safe from just about anything.

Simply start from early puppyhood and have the little guy sleep and rest in his home. Almost without trying, he will train himself to seek security and comfort inside his little dog ‘room’.

Buy a metal crate large enough for your dog when he grows up. This gives him adequate room to go in, turn around and lie down. If the home is too big when your pup is small, box off one end for a while. Otherwise, your pup may designate one side as “bedroom’ and the other as ‘bathroom’.

I recommend that during all unsupervised times, you simply close the door and he stays in his home. During the times when someone can supervise him, have him out to play and train as much as you like. Sometimes the pup will cry to be let out. You may feel like you are being mean by keeping him caged, but short periods are good training.

The idea behind this theory is that while he is inside his home, he will not want to urinate or defecate. This is nature’s way of keeping the home clean. **Keep in mind that a young puppy, up to the age of about 16 weeks, will mess his crate because he doesn’t have the mental or physical ability to control himself.**  Just keep cleaning the crate when accidents happen and he will eventually catch on. Sometimes it helps to take the ‘accidents’ outside to the area where you want him to eliminate. The scent of a few of them in the area aids him in comprehending how that area is to be used. Understand that little puppies have to ‘go’ at least every 2-4 hours when they are young.

Set up a schedule or use the one provided and teach him the route to the door then praise him at the door and take him out. Very quickly you are teaching him an elimination schedule that will stay with him the rest of his life.

As the pup get older (4-6 months) you can gradually leave him in his home for longer periods and he will ‘hold it’ longer. As an adult, you will probably just leave the door open all the time. Now your dog is trained and he will like to have access to his home when he wants. Trained in this manner, dogs have less behavioral problems, are more secure and confident, easier to obedience train and can stay calm when boarded.