

## Sample AKK Puppy Guide

The following pages include information that AKK breeders might want to hand out to prospective puppy owners or to accompany the puppy when going to a new home.

Much of the information is commonly found in generic commercial puppy guides or dog behavior books.

Our purpose here is to provide some general puppy care and some information specific to the Alaskan Klee Kai as distinct from most other breeds. We hope to have included sufficient specific information.

The information can be selectively printed by topic or in its entirety. This allows AKK breeders to pick and choose from the material to provide any or all of it to new puppy owners.

You Have  
An  
Alaskan Klee Kai

Information Provided by the  
Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America

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Welcome Home, Alaskan Klee Kai Puppy!

## ***I. Ready?***

Puppies are very much like little babies. They will get into all sorts of things if you are not careful. They are also notorious for chewing on things and swallowing objects that can get caught in their throats, stomach, or intestinal tract and cause the puppy pain and may even result in surgery or death. Make sure that small objects are put away and that your puppy cannot get to them. Put locks on cabinet doors and close closets where dangerous chemicals are kept. Hide, cover, or unplug electrical cords that are within the puppy's reach. Puppy-proof your house the same way you would child proof a house.

## ***II. Food***

### **A. What kind of food:**

It is recommended that you check with your breeder to see what they suggest you feed your new puppy. Many Klee Kai are allergic or cannot digest grain such as corn, wheat, or barley, so grain-free dog food is recommended.

Canned puppy food is perfectly all right for special treats or if recommended by your Vet. Some breeders prefer feeding a good quality dry food because it is less expensive than some alternatives and is easy to use. But, if serving kibble, be sure to provide adequate fresh water as well.

Others prefer high quality raw diets, home ground and fresh frozen or pre-ground frozen available for purchase. Freeze-dried raw food is available in a number of different protein types. Virtually all fresh beef sold for human consumption contains microorganisms not harmful to humans, but harmful to dogs and killed only by cooking or freezing below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Avoid feeding raw beef.

### How to Read the Ingredients on Dog Food:

1. Read the ingredient list on the container of dog food. The ingredients are listed in order of weight, which means that the first ingredient listed weighs more in the final product than the last ingredients listed. If the first ingredient is corn and the second is meat, then you know you are giving your dog food that has more corn than meat.
2. Calculate the amount of protein in the food based upon the moisture content. This can help you decide whether to purchase canned or dry dog food. Divide the protein amount by the dry matter amount in the food, which is listed on the label, to arrive at this number.

3. Read the guaranteed analysis portion of the label to determine the minimum amount of protein and fat, as well as the maximum amount of moisture and crude fiber that the product contains.
4. Look on the label for information about additions to the product, such as vitamins and oils. Some manufacturers will include this information on labels, while others will not.
5. Check the feeding guidelines for information about how much to feed your dog. This information is based upon the weight, size and activity level of the animal. These are only general guidelines, so talk to your vet about the proper amount and balance of ingredients in the food, especially if the dog has weight or health issues.

### **B. How Often:**

Offer food to young puppies two to three times a day, but not later than 4 hours before bedtime. Even adult dogs should have their food split into morning and evening feedings. Let your puppy eat as much as she wants in fifteen minutes and then pick up the food dish. Having food continually available encourages overeating, and chubby puppies are more likely to have hip dysplasia and weight problems later in life. Also, because free-fed puppies never get very hungry, they don't enjoy their food unless given special treats. The combination of special treats and freely available food encourages them to become bored, overweight and picky. Also, free fed pups will potty any time all day so they are more likely to have accidents in the house and take longer to house train.

### **C. People Food:**

Any treats that are reasonably balanced are acceptable, but do not let them become a staple of the diet. You should look at people food as a treat and not a meal, so, if you choose to offer it, do so in small quantities. Xylitol (a sugar substitute used in sugar-free gum) is very harmful to dogs. Dark chocolate, and to a lesser extent, milk chocolate are also toxic to dogs. *Don't leave anything out that you don't want the puppy eating.*

### **III. House Training**

Upon the puppy's first arrival at your house, take him immediately to the place you want him to go. Encourage him to go, and praise him for doing so. Develop a routine right away. This is crucial to puppy training. Puppies thrive on routine. Feed the puppy at the same time each day and then take him out for a walk or to the litter box, pee pads, or papers. He will most likely have to go potty after eating. If you feed him the same time each day, he will most likely go potty at the same time each day. Puppies instinctively do not want to go the bathroom where they live. As a result, once the puppy understands where its territory is, house training should come naturally and quickly. **The key is to be consistent and patient.** Vets often recommend that training may begin any time after five weeks. Pups should be taken out or have access to papers to potty within 15 minutes of eating. Pups should also be taken out right after naps or exuberant playtime.

#### **A. Where to go Potty**

You should feed your puppy inside the house. Immediately after your puppy finishes eating, take it outside to his or her **potty** area. Letting the dog outside or walking him or her regularly lets him or her know that it can wait and there will always be opportunities to go **potty** outside. Dogs quickly learn and remember **your** routine. After your puppy goes potty, reward him with praise. Look right at it, not at the dog. If your dog sniffs it, praise and pet him enthusiastically. We estimate after around 4 days you can expect your puppy to automatically head for his correct place whenever the urge strikes, or wait until your regularly scheduled walk. It may take longer. Any time that they show interest in the door, praise them and reward them with letting them out. Keep in mind that this is all business though, they are let out, and if they potty they get praise. If not, they are let back inside, and watched like a hawk for any other signals.

Expect accidents. Keep them on a regular schedule and be patient.

#### **B. When to go Potty**

It is best to keep feeding and walk times generally consistent. Most of us do this naturally due to our already structured schedules during the week, but it is best to try to keep the schedule close on the weekend too. This consistency will encourage self-control in your puppy. You should try to let your puppy outdoors only at times when you are ordinarily home to do so. Ideally, have your puppy sleep in a room with people. It will be inclined to learn your sleeping times and there will be less accidents and late night wake ups. Crate training is invaluable to the learning puppy. Crate training is also invaluable for relieving separation anxiety.

### **C. Take your puppy outside:**

- After waking up, even from a nap;
- After extreme excitement – play;
- After drinking water;
- After prolonged chewing on a toy, etc.;
- If he starts sniffing around the house for a good spot.

### **D. What to do if your pup has an accident:**

Just make a noise like a \*grunt\* or say “uh-oh” and take puppy out to his or her potty area. Accidents should be cleaned up well enough to eliminate the odor. You would generally try to accomplish this for your own benefit, but it also makes it less likely the puppy will again soil the same spot. There are some great spot cleaners available at the grocery with simple instructions. Clean up is best when after being washed you use an odor eliminator such as baking soda. Wash the spot thoroughly and then sprinkle baking soda over the wet spot and leave until dry then sweep or vacuum it up. Baking soda absorbs the odor and lessens the chance the pup will eliminate there again; but they may start to hide their potty, so keep a careful watch.

NEVER, NEVER rub puppy’s nose in its potty and scold it no matter how frustrated you get. The puppy will not understand what you are trying to tell him. It’s not his fault. Dogs do what dogs do. He probably gave you some sign that you didn’t notice. Learn to watch for those signs.

Enzymatic cleaners that work well are: Nature’s Miracle and Simple Solutions.

## **IV. AKK Personalities**

Dogs are social animals by nature, one reason they are such GREAT pets. Being part of the pack is at the top of their priorities. Play is usually a fluid activity where one pup can be top dog one minute, and then happily reverses roles the next. Longer time with their birth litter is definitely helpful in learning social skills.

You CAN get overly pushy puppies that don't let up, but that's an issue that requires training the puppy how to play properly. What puppies need most is a leader they can depend on. All members of the family should be leaders in a well-structured household. Dogs do not understand the concept of friends or equals. More dominant puppies will try to be boss, challenging your authority. A more submissive puppy may spend its entire life fretting and worrying, never sure what is expected. Everything usually works out just fine. Your puppy will eventually find its place in the family.

Remember, Klee Kai have a general tendency to be shy, so if your puppy seems unsure or "suspicious", that's fairly common with the breed. Rewarding positive behavior and active socialization will help in time. If you have an overly assertive or submissive puppy there are some things you should consider.

### **A. Assertive puppies**

Assertive puppies are quick to tell you what they think about a particular concept, and can have initial struggles with appropriate interaction behaviors with people and dogs. They can be more challenging to train, but consistent and positive reinforcement gets them there. Their confidence is exciting in training situations, as they are often fearless and up for trying new things. They benefit enormously from a structured lifestyle, most commonly led by the "Nothing in Life is Free" protocol. This is where they have to "ask" for everything they want. If they want to be pet, they have to sit first. If they want to go out, they have to shake first. If they want a treat, they have to down first. If they want you to come in the room, they have to sit and stay first, etc. Really, NILIF is something that works for every dog in every lifestyle and can bolster confidence in shy dogs as well.

The training techniques used to establish your teacher-student relationship are especially important with assertive dogs. It is very important for you to be the leader, in charge. Do not allow your dog to nip or bite at you or anyone even in a friendly way. Try not to become what your puppy perceives to be an equal and competitive playmate. You are the \*leader\*. Same for everything: socialize, socialize, SOCIALIZE!



## **B. Submissive puppies**

Submissive puppies tend to "shy away" from new people or things, either by lying down or running away. Most puppies tend to be slightly submissive. They wish for nothing more than to please you and this makes them easy to train. Try to provide a peaceful environment and a dependable schedule that includes exercise and reliable feeding times.

The AKK are dogs that need confidence boosting. When training new behavior, break it up into pieces to build small successes and have a high rate of reinforcement. NILIF again works wonders; the dog's confidence increases as they conquer new criteria. Be mindful of socialization activities, choosing fear-free situations first, and then introducing them to scarier things later on. Flooding is not a technique that is usually very successful in the shy AKK. Flooding is almost the opposite of what a submissive dog needs. Confidence building training is exactly what has helped time and time again with any shy AKK. Just because your dog may be shy or scared of things does not mean it's ok to never try anything new or go anywhere new - there's no excuse not to socialize.

### Submissive urination

Many puppies and young dogs can urinate in response to new or exciting situations. This shows your puppy may be uncertain about what is expected. Never punish the puppy when this happens. The puppy is trying to please you. Try to calmly reassure the puppy, ignoring the urination. Clean up later, in private.

### Destructive chewing

Puppies naturally chew, especially when still teething. Try to keep chewable valuables out of reach and provide good alternatives like chew toys that you know are OK to chew. Chewing is a way to work off excitement, relieve frustration, and sooth teething, not a plan to get even with you. When you leave home in the morning, don't make a big deal. This can build stress, which can result in destructive chewing while you are out. Simply leave your home, while trying to ignore your puppy. Arrive home in the same way. Ignore your puppy at first. If things are a mess when you get home, don't let puppy know you care. Behave calmly. Clean up later when your puppy can't watch. If you have a destructive puppy, don't leave them unattended. Crate training (or barrier training, like in a kitchen) is a must with puppies until they learn what is acceptable to chew.

Don't get excited and yell at the puppy. He does not understand what he did. Your excitement and yelling will only build more stress and anxiety.

## Fear biters

When puppies don't know what is expected, they may react inappropriately to strangers. The puppy is afraid, but unable to be completely submissive. They usually show signs of fear and try to run away from what they perceive as a threatening situation, but when they cannot, they can bite. This often happens when children insist on petting a frightened dog, particularly small submissive dogs. These puppies need firm leadership and reassurance, which can be achieved through high quality training.

Rebuilding of the confidence in people-oriented situations is a must.

Working from the ground up, such as rewarding the puppy for just LOOKING at a stranger. Then walking near a stranger. Then approaching a stranger. Then taking food from a stranger, etc. Wait for success in each step before progressing to the next.

## ***V. Kids and Puppies:***

Introducing puppies to kids at a very young age, and fostering that good relationship can do wonders. From the first introduction, parents should supervise the child and dog interaction. Parents should show a child how to greet a dog. Most people want to reach over the dog's head to pet him, but dogs may perceive this as a threat, so, show the child how to greet reaching under the chin, so that the dog can smell the hand. Approach a shy or nervous dog with your body in a lowered sideways position, which the dog perceives as far less threatening. After the dog is comfortable with the child, he will tolerate, and even enjoy head patting or scratching.

There needs to be instant correction any time a dog nips at anyone. The nipping that is seen with puppies/dogs around kids is often when a toddler is getting loud and wildly spinning or jumping - the puppy/dog will run in and "correct" the child just as if s/he was one of her puppies - but he's not, so that should not be ok with the parent. Usually just a sharp "HEY" stops the pup/dog and then correct the child, explaining about being calm around the dogs.

Having your child involved with the care of a puppy helps develop a sense of responsibility and caring, -good virtues for adulthood. The love and friendship bond that can grow between the child and dog is wonderful.

## **VI. Wellness**

### **A. Vaccinations - Be sure to check with your Vet:**

Very young puppies do not have fully developed immune systems and are highly susceptible to infectious diseases. This is especially true as the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk gradually wears off. To keep gaps in protection as narrow as possible and to provide optimal protection against disease for the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations are scheduled, usually 3-4 weeks apart. For most puppies and kittens, the final vaccination in the series is administered when they are about 4 months of age. Check with your vet on what Vaccinations your dog needs for the area of the country in which you live.

#### 1. Some of most common:

- a. Distemper/Adenovirus/Parvovirus/Para influenza
- b. Rabies
- c. Leptospirosis
- d. Lyme disease
- e. Bordetella

#### 2. How often

Your veterinarian will tailor a vaccination schedule to suit your pet's needs. For many years, a set of annual vaccinations was considered normal and necessary for dogs and cats. Veterinarians have since learned more about diseases and pets' immune systems, and there is increasing evidence that immunity triggered by some vaccines provides protection beyond one year. The immunity triggered by other vaccines may fail to protect for a full year. More than one successful vaccination schedule is possible. Talk with your veterinarian about what is best for your pet.

### **B. Diseases/Illnesses**

1. Factor VII - a hereditary bleeding disorder that has been identified in many different canine breeds and involves clotting (coagulation) factor deficiencies, platelet disorders, and vonWillebrand disease. Coagulation factor VII (FVII) deficiency has been known to occur in Beagles for decades, and there are a few reports of FVII deficiency in the Alaskan Malamute, Bulldog, and a mixed breed dog.

For more info check: <http://www.akkaoa.org/healthissues.htm>

2. Patellar Luxation - is a condition in which the patella, or kneecap, dislocates or moves out of its normal location. Patellar luxation is a common condition in dogs, particularly small and miniature breeds. The condition usually becomes evident between the ages of 4 to 6 months.

3. PDA - Normally at birth, this connection is no longer patent (open). Once a newborn has begun to breath on its own, the pulmonary artery opens to allow blood to flow from the right side heart into the lungs to be oxygenated, and the ductus arteriosus closes. But in patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) the connection remains patent. Consequently, blood is shunted (diverted) in abnormal patterns in the heart. PDA allows blood to flow from the aorta into the pulmonary artery, and then to the lungs. More info:

[http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/cardiovascular/c\\_multi\\_patent\\_ductus\\_arteriosus#](http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/cardiovascular/c_multi_patent_ductus_arteriosus#)

4. Autoimmune Thyroiditis - While it is not a life-threatening disease, the quality of the animal's life that's suffering is substandard. The most common clinical symptoms of canine autoimmune thyroiditis are:

- **Sluggishness** · **Obesity** · **Skin disease** · **Cold intolerance**
- **Hair loss** · **Weakness** · **Poor coat quality** · **Infertility** ·

A simple blood screen is all that is needed for an accurate diagnosis. Pet owners should check with their breeders to insure that a pup's parents are disease free. Ask your breeder for documentation that both of the pup's parents have been tested within the past year.

5. Pyometra - is a bacterial infection of the uterus that mostly occurs in middle-aged or older unspayed female dogs, though it may also occur in young dogs. It can result in the accumulation of infection in the bloodstream or abdominal cavity, which can rapidly lead to systemic infection, shock, and death. The severity of symptoms varies depending on whether the female's cervix is open or closed. More info:

<http://petsmd.com/Health/Dogs/Pyometra>

6. Liver Shunts - The presence of a liver shunt in your pet means the blood flow to and through the liver is compromised.

There are two primary types of liver shunts:

- Intra-hepatic (inside the liver)
- Extra-hepatic (outside the liver)

More info: <http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2011/02/01/liver-shunts-disease-in-pet-dogs.aspx>

7. Mitral Valve - Very small, and very large breeds of dogs are a bit more prone to valvular heart disease and it is slightly more common in male dogs. Any valve or multiple valves, can wear out; but the most common

one to wear out first is the mitral valve – the one that must close before the left ventricle can force blood throughout the body. Its job is the hardest of the four valves because the pressure difference across this valve is the greatest of all the valves when your pet's heart beats.

8. Addison's Disease - There are three forms of Addison's disease: primary, secondary and atypical. Primary and atypical Addison's are usually the result of immune mediated damage to the glands. Secondary hypoadrenocorticism is from failure of the pituitary to stimulate the adrenals with adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH). It is important for you to know which type of Addison's disease your dog is being treated for. While your dog with Addison's disease will need medications and monitoring for the rest of his life, most dogs with Addison's can return to their favorite activities. You will learn to read your dog, understand what his stress triggers are and follow your instincts in his care.

9. Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)- is a disorder in which one or more sections of the gastrointestinal tract have become invaded with inflammatory cells. Over time, this inflammation causes the intestine to become less efficient at absorbing nutrients from digested food and weight loss, vomiting or diarrhea often result. Early signs are often subtle which allows IBD to go undiagnosed for months to years until the dog begins to develop more serious symptoms

10. Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia (AIHA), also known as Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) - most of the time, a specific cause for AIHA is unrecognized. Many theories exist, but the ultimate answer is "We don't know." Dr. Jean Dodds, a veterinarian studying immunology, states in her article, [The Immune System and Disease Resistance](#), that there are four main causative factors of autoimmune diseases. Those factors are: Genetic predisposition; Hormonal influences; Infections, especially of viruses and Stress. <http://www.cloudnet.com/~jdickson/>

Check - <http://www.akkaoa.org/healthissues.htm> for more AKK health issues and recommendations for health monitoring.

## **C. Worms**

1. Heartworm
2. Hookworms & Roundworms
3. Tapeworms

## **D. Fleas & Ticks**

Why is consistent flea prevention one of the most important things for your puppy? If you prevent flea and tick bites rather than treat them after, your puppy won't get tapeworms or have bites that can cause severe itching and flea allergy dermatitis. In addition, you can help prevent diseases that fleas and ticks carry such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Tick Paralysis. The latest medicines have provided effective and safe flea and tick prevention products.

### **Flea & tick medicines help your pet prevent:**

1. Tapeworms
2. Lyme Disease
3. Ehrlichia
4. Flea allergies
5. Skin infections
6. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
7. Fleas and ticks in your home

### **These are examples of flea preventatives:**

K9 Advantix, Advantage, Frontline Plus, Program Liquid, Program Tabs, Sentinel Rx and Revolution Rx

Traditional flea products, flea spray and powder are obsolete. Frontline works ten times better, it is safer, and costs about the same.

Flea dip is a reasonable choice for big dogs, which are expensive to treat with Frontline or Advantage. It, however, entails dipping the entire dog, nose to tail, every 3 weeks through the flea season. Because of the smell, dip is not a good choice for indoor dogs. Dip is a waste of time for small dogs, since Frontline is cheaper, more effective and easier to use.

Flea collars are still an economical and useful method of flea control when used *before* you see fleas. If your pet is already itchy, it is too late for collars.

## **VII. Grooming**

**A. Brushing** - The AKK are double coated and need to be groomed on a weekly basis. The undercoat of a double-coated breed can become very matted very easily, and it is very painful to brush out a neglected undercoat. It's not recommended to shave a double-coated dog as they do not grow their coats back properly, and can suffer from sunburn and windburn. Double coated (or matted) coats that are neglected put your dog at higher risk of getting sick as well...when a neglected coat gets wet, it takes a long time for it to naturally dry, which makes your pet more susceptible to catching colds. The best types of brushes to use are undercoat rakes and slicker brushes. Also the double coat/undercoat keep dogs cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

**B. Bathing** - an AKK does not need regular baths, they don't have a doggy odor. So, bathe as needed, like after the dog rolls in something nasty, or when it's muddy out, etc.

**C. Cleaning Eyes, Ears & Teeth** - Some Klee Kai develop rust-colored stains below their eyes. Causes for this are disputed but products are available to help eliminate the stains. If yellow or green discharge is evident, consult with a Vet to treat a probable infection. If the discharge is in one eye, it was caused externally. If both eyes are affected, it may be viral. Remove discharge with a clean, warm, wet washcloth.

Ears are waxy or oily and dust and dirt cling to them. Disposable "baby wipes" are easy to use for safe, gentle cleaning. The warm, wet washcloth is also effective. Dogs love to get their ears cleaned as is evident by their pressing their head in your direction as you clean. Clean only the area you can see without digging deep.

You should start to brush your dog's teeth at as early a stage as possible. Puppies who have their teeth brushed regularly soon get used to the process. It's advisable not to pin your dog or puppy down and start trying to give their teeth a thorough brushing. It will be easier for you in the long run if you can get your pet to willingly engage in having his or her teeth brushed. Be warned though – this may take time!! The key to this is gradually increasing the time you spend attending to your dog's teeth.

The first stage is to put dog toothpaste on your finger and let your dog lick it. You can then try and put your finger into your dog's mouth and rub his or her teeth. When your dog is ready to accept you putting your finger into his or her mouth, you can then start to use a dog finger brush. You can put some dog toothpaste

on this and rub it across your dog's teeth. Although a finger brush is effective, you are likely to get a better result using a dog toothbrush.

Once you are at the point where you can get a toothbrush (or at least a finger brush) into your dog's mouth, you can start getting into a dental hygiene routine.

### **Here are some tips:**

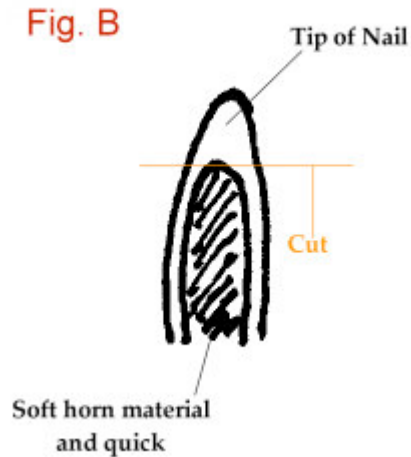
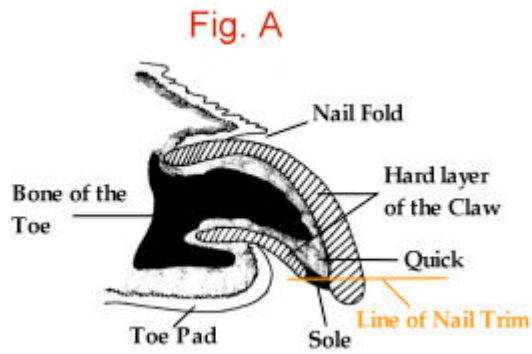
- Aim to brush your dog's teeth on a daily basis (failing this, as regularly as possible);
- Deal with the teeth in 4 sections – back left, back right, front left and front right. Quickly brush all 4 areas using the recommended amount of dog toothpaste. As your dog gets used to the teeth brushing process, you can start doing each area more and more thoroughly;
- Give your puppy or dog loads of praise and affection throughout the teeth cleaning session. This will, hopefully, lead to your dog seeing tooth cleaning as something positive and fun;
- Have a good look at your dog's teeth when you are cleaning them. Look out for any problems such as: excessive plaque build up, sore looking gums and loose teeth (in dogs who have all of their adult teeth);
- Be prepared to take your dog for veterinary teeth cleaning whenever there is a big build up of plaque. During this process dogs are usually put under general anesthesia so that all the plaque can be scraped off their teeth.

So, in answer to the question, how to brush my dogs teeth? Tooth brushing is a crucial part of overall dog care and it is quite easy to do if your dog complies with what you're trying to do! It's, therefore, really important to gradually get your pet accustomed to having his or her teeth brushed. If you provide your dog with regular teeth brushing sessions, you are likely to avert any serious dental problems (especially if your dental routine begins at the puppy stage).

There are a number of oral hygiene solutions on the market, which help keep a pet's breath fresh and prevent or remove dental plaque and discoloration. A few contain xylitol, which is harmless to humans and some other animals but is toxic to dogs and can result in death. Be sure to check the ingredients on the label before you buy.



## D. Toenails



Not all dogs will need to have their nails clipped. Some dogs that get extensive walking or running, especially on pavement or rocky ground, wear their nails down naturally. But most dogs will need your help or help from a groomer.

### Get good Clippers or use a Nail Grinder

Invest in some good dog nail clippers right from the start. There are different size dog nail clippers made for different dog breeds. Smaller dogs, naturally, use smaller dog nail clippers.



### Give the dog a bath first.

If you bathe your dog prior to clipping his nails, they will be softer and more pliable. You will not have to struggle so hard. The entire grooming process should take place once a month including checking his ears and clipping his nails.

Get your puppy used to getting his nails clipped on a regular basis and talk soothingly to him as you are performing this action. One thing that may be helpful is handling the dog's feet when you are holding him so he gets used to it. Remember each dog is different. You are better off to talk soothingly to your dog and hold him firmly.

## Clip what you can.

If your dog gives you a lot of trouble and gets away, do not fret. Clip what you can. Each time you try this, he will get better. Again, the secret is to make it as pleasant an experience as possible for him while you are clipping him. Talk to him. Dogs cannot understand most of the words you are saying, but they understand tone and simple commands. By talking soothingly to him, you can calm him down in order to get his nails clipped.

## Clip the tips square



Do not attempt to clip the entire nail and do not go down too deep. This can cause bleeding and possibly even cause an infection on your dog. Just as you would clip your own nails, do the same with your dog. Just clip the tips. Dog nails grow similar to the rate of human nails, so clipping the tips each month will keep them in good shape. If you clip too much, it can possibly give your dog discomfort. Then the next time that you clip his nails, he will be afraid.

## Practice makes perfect

The more you practice clipping dog nails, the easier it will become and the faster the process will be. Soon it will be like a routine. The first few times you attempt this may be difficult, but the more you continue, the easier it will get for both you and your dog. Obviously this will differ from dog to dog as they all have different characters and temperaments.

Have your breeder or your Vet show you how if you have never cut a dogs toenails before to avoid cutting to much and cause them to bleed.

Stop any bleeding immediately!



If you cut the quick (often called *quicking*), you'll have an unhappy dog and a bloody mess. The quick bleeds a great deal, so if you cut it, you need to use a styptic powder you can apply with a cotton swab. Have a damp washcloth at hand ready to clean up styptic powder and blood as necessary.

## VIII. Training

### A. Leash

Leash training should always be a positive thing. Have the puppy drag a light lead around to get used to the feel of it. Then pick up the leash, and call the puppy to you. Reward. Use a target (stick/hand/spoon/etc) to encourage the puppy to walk next to you. Reward often and quickly, even just for a few steps at first. No corrections when they are babies on lead.

### B. Crate

You should get a crate that is large enough for the puppy to move around in. Don't think of a crate as a jail. Dogs are descendants of den animals and feel secure in their own cozy space. Have you seen a dog curl up under the coffee table or desk? But, the purpose of crate is twofold: the pup has a safe place and your house is protected from a bored dog while you are away for any length of time.

A 2-month-old can only hold for 3 hours (that is one hour of each month plus 1). After this he will potty in his crate. He will not be happy about it but he will relieve himself. This is against the nature of the animal. Crate training a puppy is a simple concept. You keep the puppy in the crate unless you are watching him carefully. You make sure that you establish a firm routine and do the same thing every day. This will give the puppy a sense of security. Never feed or water a pup in the crate; it will only encourage him to potty in it. You can give him things to chew on or play with but food only makes it so he has to potty with no way out. If you are there to take the puppy immediately out, you could feed in their crates, as it encourages the idea that the crate is a good place. But you need to be there to let them out as soon as they're done! The pup should be allowed a chance to go potty before sleeping in his crate overnight, then let out in the morning to go potty again before being fed or allowed to run loose in the house. Again, routine is very important. When you leave the house, allow the pup to potty and then you can put the puppy in the crate.

Some people crate train a puppy and then, once it is fully housebroken, allow it to run free in the house. Others keep the crate as the den for the dog and it becomes the place where the animal sleeps. Either way, crate training is the easiest way to house-train your puppy.

Young pups in crates should not wear collar or tags, with the exception of cat collars that have the easy release catches. They pop off if the collar gets stuck so the pup can't hang itself.

## B. Fun Stuff and Socialization

The following is a fun and effective rule for providing great social conditioning. Of course, if you only get your puppy at 12 weeks of age, this may seem overwhelming. It should be obvious that the more experiences you provide for your puppy, the better adapted he or she will be.

By the time your puppy is 12 weeks old, he/she should have:

- Met and played with 12 new people: including children of all ages, adults (both male and female), the mailman and other people in uniform, elderly people, disabled people, people wearing hats, people wearing glasses, and other people different from the puppy's usual encounters.
- Played with 12 different types of objects: big balls, small balls, rubber balls, tennis balls, soft fabric toys, fuzzy toys, squeaky toys, toy with a bell inside, paper or cardboard items, heavy rope, sticks, a "Kong", and anything else that will broaden his experience with objects.
- Been in 12 different locations in the home: front yard, back yard, basement, kitchen, car, garage, laundry room, bathroom, crate, your bedroom, spare bedroom, children's room, living room, closet, etc.
- Been introduced to 12 different types of surfaces: carpet, concrete, wood, vinyl, marble, foam, grass, dirt, gravel, wood chips, sand, paper, sawdust, & rubber matting.
- Met and played with 12 new animals: including puppies, older dogs, kittens, adult cats, horses, and other animals that may be part of the family environment.
- Been exposed to 12 different sounds: vacuum, bus, garbage truck, other dogs barking, rustling of a paper bag, a dropped pot, washing machine, hair dryer, doorbell, toilet flushing, telephone ringing, high pitched children, running water.
- Been exposed to 12 new challenges: climb on a box, go through a tunnel, climb steps, go down steps, climb over obstacles, go in a dog house, play hide and seek, go in and out of a doorway, run around a fence, walk beside a wheel chair, beside a bike, etc.
- Eaten from 12 different surfaces: plastic dog dish, metal dog dish, clear plastic big bowl, different colored bowls, cardboard, paper plate, china, tin pie plate, frying pan, linoleum floor, rubber mat, out of your hand, etc.
- Eaten in 12 different locations: kitchen, crate, yard, kennel, basement, laundry room, living room, bathroom, in the car, rest stop, park, beach, etc.
- Gone to 12 new places: park, school yard, shopping center, parking lot, pet store, veterinary clinic, groomer, baseball game, beach, forest, puppy obedience classes, airport or bus station, etc.
- Been introduced to 12 new things: an umbrella, collar, leash, television, radio, fan, mirror, an elevator, escalator, alarm clock, skateboard, fireplace, etc.
- Become accustomed to 12 handling procedures: being brushed, bathed, touching paws, clipping nails, showing teeth or opening mouth, lifting/holding up tail, rubbing belly, touching ears, taking temperature, wrapped in a towel, been blow dried, placing of collar or harness, etc.

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*Original written by Diane Hamster for AKKAOA*

## **IX. Exercise**

Adequate exercise is an important aspect of your dog's health and contributes to a long and happy life. The Alaskan Klee Kai are a relatively new breed and are descendants of hard working running dogs including Alaskan Huskies and Siberian Huskies. Adding a dog to your household is in many ways like having a child. With it comes a serious commitment to provide for its needs, which includes exercise.

Having more than one dog and an average-sized yard generally results in the dogs playing together and getting some degree of exercise and a chance to develop their agility. But in the one-dog family, the responsibility falls back on you.

If you are physically unable to walk or run daily with your Klee Kai, make arrangements to have a friend or hired dog walker take him out daily.

If you are able to walk or run with your dog, you will quickly see how a Klee Kai can be a perfect work-out buddy, helping keep both of you in better health.

One of the most common causes of premature death in dogs is being killed in traffic.

Here are a few safety tips for walking or running with your Klee Kai:

- Use a maximum 6ft leash attached to a harness, not a choke collar. This could save his life if distracted by a squirrel or cat near traffic. Extended leashes are inherently dangerous.
- Stay on sidewalks when available.
- If no sidewalks, stay to the left side of the road where you can clearly see on-coming traffic. Keep your dog to your left to keep him away from traffic.
- Talk to your dog to keep his confidence in you. Reassure him when approaching other dogs. Praise him for doing well, or correct with a verbal cue like "leave it" or "easy".
- Watch for predators or venomous snakes when hiking in the wild.
- Bring sufficient water for long hikes.

## **A. How Long and How Far?**

Puppies are by nature playful and get most of the exercise they need for development by playing in their home environment. As they begin to mature at 4 to 6 months, they can be leash led on walks around the block or short walking excursions for 20 minutes or half an hour. Lengthen the distance and time as they mature and add some running for short distances.

If you are a serious runner, wait until your puppy is a full year before taking him on 5 to 6 mile daily runs because his bone structure needs to mature. After that, you'll see which of you has the better endurance. Bets favor the Klee Kai.

## **B. Agility, Lure Coursing, and Rally-O**

Check with your local dog clubs or humane society for schedules. Look for UKC events that sometimes include these fun exercise opportunities at their dog shows.