

Puppy Details
by Judy Mautz
RJM Australian Shepherds

Miscellaneous – Important Reminders

- A. Puppy shots** – approximately 30 days after first series and thereafter until completed.
1. Shots are required to keep puppy safe from contagious diseases that can be life threatening. Additionally, as a routine practice, most vets will also give puppy another dose of Strongid (wormer) as puppies can typically have hookworms, simply picked up from dirt.
 2. Second shot series required prior to starting Puppy Kindergarten.
- B. Heart Worm Preventative** – Do not use any product that contains Ivermectin. This ingredient is known to affect liver functions in some breeds, especially Collies and those related breeds. For that reason, we only use the brand, Interceptor, for heart worm protection.
1. Environmental conditions (such as medication) can affect immune system.
 2. We use Interceptor and your vet can order that on your behalf.
- C. Registrations** – keep time frame in mind (up to 2 years for AKC)
1. Submit ASCA first obtaining accepted registered name, then submit to AKC.
- D. Love squeezes** - are applicable when baby is overly energetic and nearly approaching a child like sugar high! It is important that you establish control and the alpha position and there are physical manipulative methods that apply, such as holding puppy to your chest and wrapping your arms around puppy squeezing enough that you feel his/her sigh....then release. Also, you can hold puppy straight from you in a gentle bouncing manner. You will control the puppy when their feet are off the ground if you control the head, you control the dog. Another concept that promotes human leadership/alpha position is that you ignore precious when he/she jumps on you to be held....wait three seconds and YOU initiate the hugging session. All of this is intended that baby respect you.
- E. Oral stage** - as previously discussed, it will pass and there are many methods that will curb the biting portion. Each pup is different, so we will explore several approaches always starting with the least offensive, first. Start with the phrase “easy” while substituting the favorite toy...next would be applying pressure to the muzzle enough that baby can associate the same pressure you receive from his bite. You can pretend to cry....loudly...to see if that gets baby's attention and if not, try phrases similar to what their Mommy dogs would have “said”....stern, deep tones such as..AH, AH. Big difference between puppy growls and bites and more advanced testing...for the latter, the BIG NO applies and those are the only two points of that word's use.
- F. Growth & Puppy Food** - Puppies grow quickly...fast growing pups should be taken off puppy food by 6 months of age. Those that grow quickly, need less fat and keeping them on puppy food content "can" conflict with proper skeletal development.