

# PUPPY GUIDE

At **Robyn's Nest Mini Goldens**, our top priority is nurturing the lifelong connection between you and your puppy. From the moment they join your family, we're here to support you every step of the way. To start this journey right, we've put together a helpful guide to navigate those first critical months - ensuring a smooth transition into a lifetime of love, joy and companionship.

## #1 Consistency

Puppies thrive on structure. Implementing a regular schedule for feeding, potty, breaks, playtime, and sleep helps your puppy understand expectations and reduces anxiety. Daily routines fosters good behavior and accelerates house training.

## #2 Early Socialization

Introduce your puppy to various people, environments, and other animals during their formative months is crucial. Positive early experiences help prevent behavioral issues and promote confidence. Ensure these interactions are controlled and enjoyable to build a well-adjusted dog.

## #3 Positive Reinforcement

Start basic training sessions early using positive reinforcement such as treats, petting, praise to encourage desired behaviors. Short, frequent sessions are most effective.

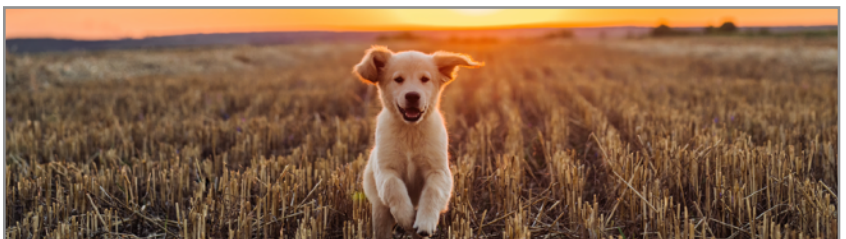


## Setting Your Puppy Up for Success

**Consistency, Early Training, Positive Reinforcement** - Bringing home a new puppy is exciting, but success starts with patience, consistency, and early training. Puppies learn best through clear routines and positive reinforcement, so setting expectations from day one is key.

Start with consistent training and socialization—introduce your pup to new people, environments, and experiences early to build confidence and good manners. Keep training sessions short, positive, and rewarding to encourage learning. Establish a routine for feeding, potty breaks, and sleep to help them adjust smoothly.

Remember, puppies thrive on repetition and positivity!



# The Basics

## Grooming

**Bathing** Recommend bathing your puppy once every 3-4 weeks, unless they get particularly dirty. Over-bathing can strip their skin of the natural oils and cause dryness and irritation

**Brushing** at least once a week to maintain a healthy coat.

**Nail Trimming** recommended every 3-4 weeks.

**Ear Cleaning** recommended weekly or when ears are exposed to water, by using a tissue and wiping the insides of their ears and ear canal.

**Dental Care** recommend daily brushing (the gold standard) with canine toothpaste and soft bristles. You can also use VOHC and other veterinarian approved dental chews.

## Potty Training

Whether using doggy doors or training to ask to go outside, take them out after eating, playing, or getting up from nap. Keep them close and when caught, calmly pick them up and, say 'potty outside', then reward. Here are some useful steps for Bell/Button Training:

1. Choose a Bell or Button and place near door at a height they can reach with nose or paw.
2. Each time you take puppy out, gently guide their paw or nose to bell/button, Say command 'touch' or 'ring bell', when touched, immediately praise them and take them outside
3. Associate bell/button with going potty, only use for potty breaks, the moment they ring/push, take them to their potty spot and say 'go potty' and reward when they go. If they ring bell and don't need to go, don't reward. If they struggle, encourage with a little peanut butter on bell/button at first
4. Once they start ringing on their own, stop prompting them to do it.

## Optional

**If Kennel Training** At this age each puppy can kennel for approximately 6 hours a night, extended to 8 hours at 6 months old. Ensure kennel is large enough to be comfortable, but not so large they can use a corner as a bathroom, introduce gradually, make crate inviting, reward, establish routine, be patient!

**Highly recommend** a play pen area as an effective alternative or augment to kenneling.



## Feeding

Plan on (2) mealtimes daily. Follow the recommendations on your food bag for proper proportions based on weight and age. Freely offer water.

## Please Remember

### **NexGard and HeartGard**

Puppies can begin taking HeartGard, a heart worm preventative, at 6 weeks of age. NexGard, a flea and tick preventative, at 8 weeks. Always consult with your veterinarian first.



## Basic Commands

We start with 4 basic commands Sit, Down, Come, and Stay. We also recommend Focus. Heel is an advanced command we would recommend for after they excel at the basics.

**Sit** is a key command and should be used as the puppy's way of saying Please. So we use *Sit* often and as the first step to other tricks such as *Down*. Simply hold a treat over their head, fist closed around it, and say "sit". If they don't sit, move towards behind them and repeat the command. You only want to say sit once, maybe twice while training. When they sit, immediately reward, and say "Yes" "Good Sit". 'Yes' will be a trigger word for good behavior, and saying 'Sit' before and after, will reinforce and link the command with a reward. When they get good, try just lifting a closed fist for them to sit.

**Down** can be a follow up to Sit. When in the sitting position, place your close fist with treat on the ground and say "down". Wait for them patiently to go down, again, try repeating command only once. Say "Yes" "Good Down" and reward once done.

# Fun Time!

## Dog Walking

The goal is for the pup to walk beside you. If they pull, try stopping and even walking backwards a little and say 'no pulling' (or 'heel' if keeping them by your side), be patient until they relax, then say "good walk", praise/reward, and resume walking. If you keep walking, they think they're right! When they've improved, lightly tug leash and remind them no pull. A no pull harness can also really help.

## Play Time

Like most retrievers Mini Goldens will also enjoy chasing after a ball or toy. Bringing it back can be helped along with offering treats when they retrieve, and training with them alone. Tug of war with a rope or crinkle toys is almost always a hit. Puppy's also enjoy puppy safe chews, such bully sticks. Please see [Robyn's Shop](#) or the QR code under Recommended Items section below.



## Basic Commands

**Come** - Dogs can learn dozens of words, so the *Come* command can be anything ("come", their name, whistle, clicks, etc). For this command, its ok to say it more than once. If your pup gets distracted on their way to you, use "come" command again. Reward/praise heavily as this command is critical.

**Stay** - Start with Sit. Hold your hand palm out, say "Stay" in clear calm voice. If puppy Stays, reward/praise. Gradually step farther away and wait longer before rewarding. Use "Okay" or another word to let them know they can move.

**Focus** - Start by saying *Focus* and hold treat right next to your eyes. When pup looks at you, say "Yes, good Focus" and reward/praise. Repeat until pup looks at you without treat by eyes.

**Remember** Be Patient, Be Consistent, and Keep it Fun!

## More Tips/Tricks

### Robyn's Training Vids



(Or) **Baxter and Bella**



## Puppy Biting

It is normal for a puppy to explore with their mouths (it's like their hands), but puppy teeth can be sharp and hurt. Our favorite method to curb puppy biting is to say loudly 'Ouch!' when they get too rough, then quickly reward them with petting and a 'good boy' when they stop. You can also choose to walk away when they begin biting to send the message it's not welcome.

Be ready with chews and/or toys to place in their mouths when they begin playing, that way, they learn from an early start it's the toy and not your hand that's the object of fun.

Finally, when treating, try placing treat between your fingers, making it harder to get so they need to avoid biting you. Only give when they sit and gently take it from your hand.

## Prepare for Success



### **Robyn's Pups Go Home With:**

- Puppy Vet Records
- PawTree Food
- PawTree Treats
- NuVet Vitamins
- Plush Toy
- Squeaky Toy
- Whimzees Dental Chew
- Yak Cheese Chew
- Bully Stick Chew
- Home Scented Blanket
- Potty Pad
- Gastro ProPlus

### **Recommended Items:**

- Food Dish
- Water Bowl
- Collar
- Leash
- Walking Harness
- Crate
- Crate Liner/Bed
- Play Pen
- Hair Brush
- Toothbrush & Paste
- Nail clippers or Dremel
- Hard chew toy (Benebone for Puppies)
- Soft chew toy (Kong Wubba)
- VOHC approved Dental Chew
- Puzzle Toy
- Pull Toy / Crinkle Toy
- Squeaky Toy
- Treats
- Fenced outdoor area
- Pooper Scooper / Bags



**Robyn's  
Amazon Shop:**

### **Set Up Your Home:**

- Short-term space (crate)
- Long-term space (dog run/ play pen)
- Pick up small items off floors
- Hide electrical cords
- Move any plants on the floor
- Remove any mouse traps or other dangerous items
- Choose a potty location and identify the door you will use
- Hang a leash by the door and place potty treats in a nearby jar
- Start the habit of keeping counters and tables clean; use pantry for snacks

## Continue Your Journey

After establishing your home, gathering essential supplies, and teaching basic commands, like “sit”, and “come,” it’s time to advance your puppy’s training and development. Here are our recommended **Next Steps**

- 1. Socialize Early and Often** - Introduce your pups to various environments, people, and other animals to build confidence and adaptability.
- 2. Advanced Obedience Training** - Build upon basic commands by introducing more complex cues such as “down,” “leave it,” and “heel” Consistent practice in diverse settings enhances your puppy’s responsiveness amid distractions.
- 3. Leash Training** - Teach your puppy to walk calmly on a leash without pulling. Begin in a distraction-free area, rewarding them for staying by your side, and gradually introduce more stimulating environments. If they pull, stop, wait for them to stop pulling then praise and continue walking.
- 4. Mental and Physical Enrichment** - Engage your pup with interactive toys, puzzle feeders, and regular play sessions to stimulate their mind and body, preventing boredom and promoting overall well-being.



## Robyn's Blog

**Stay Connected** with [Robyn's Nest Mini Goldens](#) by following our **Blog** for the latest news, updates, and valuable tips on raising your furry family member. Join our **Newsletter** to ensure you never miss out on important information and heartwarming stories. We're so happy to help build a lifelong bond with you and with your new puppy.



## Robyn's Partners

[Baxter & Bella](#)  
[GoodDog](#)  
[Pawtree](#)  
[Trupanion](#)  
[Designer Breed Registry](#)  
[Taylormade Mini Goldens](#)