

PUPPY INSTRUCTIONS

CHARACTERISTICS

Congratulations on your purchase of one of my beautiful Bichon Frise puppies! Bichons have many wonderful characteristics that make them excellent family dogs. Best known for their delightful companionship, Bichons are also known for their intelligence, adaptability, sturdiness, and longevity. Bichons are family-oriented and love children and other pets.

GROOMING

Bichons have a soft coat that is dense and curly in texture. Their puppy hair is straight and will start curling near the skin at about three to four months old, at which time they will need their first puppy cut. Bichons are non-shedding making them ideal for people who suffer from allergies.

The Bichon's coat should be brushed with a small slicker brush a minimum of three times per week to prevent matting. Always brush the coat before you bathe your puppy. Trimming the hair is a personal preference and can be done by a groomer or you may choose to do it yourself. I recommend a trim at least every 2-3 months.

Toenails should be trimmed 1-2 times per month to prevent injury to yourself or your puppy. The nail should never be longer than the toe or touch the ground. If you hear a "clicking" sound when your puppy walks across a floor it is time for a trim.

Your puppy should get a bath at least once per week. You can bathe them more often if you like, it won't hurt them. Only use puppy shampoo because dogs' skin has a different PH level than ours. Ears should be cleaned or flushed once every 1-2 weeks or after every bath. I recommend checking your puppy's ears daily for dirt and grime and don't forget to pluck the ear hair or let your groomer pluck the hair. Clean with a cotton ball or cotton swab and cleaning solution. Never shove a cotton swab into the ear. See my product recommendations on my website on the Puppy Guide tab.

There are many Youtube videos that will cover every aspect of grooming your Bichon. I recommend watching several different ones as there are many tools and techniques. Find what works best for you or let a professional groom your puppy.

VACCINATIONS

Your puppy's health record is in the puppy pack I send home and should be taken to your puppy's first vet appointment. Your vet will determine your puppy's vaccination and worming schedule going forward. See my website under the Puppy Guide tab for vaccination and worming schedule for information only.

Please remember, your puppy is not fully immunized until they have had a series of three puppy shots! Puppies are very susceptible to the Parvo Virus so it is critical to keep them at home until they are fully immunized. Parvo is passed through other dog and bird feces or saliva. It is on the ground and in soil and can be tracked in on your shoes. It can live in the ground for 9-12 months and is difficult to get rid of if your yard becomes contaminated. Discuss safety issues with your vet and let them determine what is best for your puppy. There is no need to start over with shots. The vaccines I use have been kept and administered properly but if your vet has questions please have them call me.

HOUSEBREAKING

Your puppy was started on a potty pad around 4-5 weeks old. You will have to decide if you want to train your puppy to go outside or provide an indoor potty. I recommend an indoor potty until they are fully immunized then transition to outside. This does create a bit of confusion for your puppy but I would rather have them safe and alive than sick with parvo and possibly perish. This is totally your decision and I would also ask your vet's opinion on the matter if you are unsure. I include Housebreaking Tips, *Where Should Your Puppy Be* flowchart, and two booklets, *My Puppy Guide* and *Way To Go* in the puppy pack to help you get started with the process. Youtube is a great tool for more research or if you're having problems. I highly recommend two other books for complete puppy training, *The Puppy Primer* by Patricia B. McConnell and Brenda Scidmore and *Respect Training for Puppies* by Michele Welton, both available on Amazon.com. Both are excellent books for new puppy owners or if you've had dogs in the past. Remember, patience and consistency are the keys to success!

SOCIALIZATION

Your puppy's socialization started at birth. With most litters I am there through the entire birthing process. Days 3-16 your puppy has had Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS) also called the "Super Dog Program" to help your puppy's development, build a

stronger body, and become more stress tolerant. You can research all the benefits of ENS.

Your puppy has been handled every day to desensitize ears, nose, legs, feet, tail, etc. Puppies have heard all kinds of noises such as banging, clapping, stomping and also clipper noise and vibration. It will be up to you to continue your puppy's socialization with other pets and people. The whole process is birth to 12 weeks. The critical part of the process is week 3 to week 12 as this is when puppies are like sponges and what they learn in this timeframe will have a huge impact on their lives. Puppies want to learn, and you have to be able to communicate clearly with them. You don't speak dog and they don't speak human. This is why I highly recommend the puppy training books mentioned earlier. If you are having problems, it's most likely a communication problem. Your puppy simply doesn't understand.

Please keep in mind week 8-9 will be a fear period for your puppy. It could last a minute or a week. Read your puppy's fear level and reinforce with a treat when they overcome it. Help your puppy conquer fear with love, attention, patience, and by keeping things simple. Try to keep your puppy's environment low key during this week.

PET BEHAVIOR

Please keep in mind the transition from my house to yours can be a time of stress for your puppy. Going from familiar to new surroundings and separation from littermates are stressors so be sure your puppy gets plenty of rest, playtime, and most of all attention. Young children should be supervised with the puppy at all times. Please teach them how to hold and play with the puppy so that it is enjoyable for both.

I hope the information I have provided is helpful. If you or your vet have any questions, please contact me.

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