

Shurbeez Shih Tzu

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INTRODUCTION: Thank you so much for choosing your puppy from Shurbeez Shih Tzu. We appreciate your trust in us, and we will do everything we can to continue to support you as you begin your life with your new puppy. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns after your puppy arrives home. We also love pictures and notes on happy times with your new family member.

Be prepared that the first few days might be a bit of a challenge....sort of like bringing a brand new baby home from the hospital. It is possible for your puppy to experience separation anxiety as he/she adjusts to a new environment, a good night's sleep may not be an option. But, many do just fine and sleep through the night from day one in their new homes.

TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS: We highly recommend crate training (I don't usually start crate training with a closed door at night until my pups are about 16-20 weeks old. By then they can hold it for several hours, but maybe not all night. If your pup is waking up in their small gated area without messes in the morning, that's a good indicator that it is time to start.) It is believed that a puppy's need to 'hold it' equals the amount of months in age plus one, so if your puppy is 3 months old he/she can hold it for 4 hours...maybe. However, like children, I believe every puppy is different. You will quickly get to know the signs from your puppy when it needs to potty. Communication between you and your puppy is the milestone to successful potty training. **Keep in mind, every accident is our fault, not the puppy's.** Many have found a bell on the door handle of the door helps with this communication. We agree that 'bell training' will help your puppy learn to communicate the need to go outside (consistency is key). Shih Tzu do well with praise, they want to please you. On the other hand, punishment will undo all your positive training, and create a nervous and anxious dog that

becomes fearful when around you. Dogs will view you as unpredictable if you lash out in anger. Praise and reward will work 100 times faster and make for a better relationship with your new puppy.

I believe restricting your puppy to a smaller area is wise (such as in her crate). It is believed this helps to increase their ability to “hold it” for longer periods of time. Maybe. But remember, they are young and will not be able to hold it for long amounts of time. The older they get, the longer they will be able to hold it. It is not for us to determine the length of time they can hold it, especially when they are so young.

Getting a large crate for your puppy is your choice, but be aware that giving your puppy ample space in his crate will also allow him to go to the bathroom in a corner if they cannot hold it any longer. This makes a mess in an area that hopefully your puppy will consider her ‘den’. Dogs do not like to sleep or live in their own filth by nature. This is why crate training has been so successful. Not to mention, it protects them from harm around your house when you are not home, as well as protects your house! Your puppy is used to being in and around a crate. They have had a crate in their puppy enclosure and they love to go into it on their own.

When you begin crate training your puppy do not wait more than 45 minutes in between potty breaks. It will be beneficial if everyone in your home knows to follow your consistent pattern.

My pattern is:

1) Open the crate and take the puppy right to the spot you want her to learn to potty. (I begin training on a leash when we go outside). *this is not a time to play around - that will only distract the puppy from going potty.

2) After the puppy ‘goes’, praise and give a small treat, every time. The praise is more important than the treat.

a. Wait - many puppies are double and triple eliminators. This means they can go, and go, and go. Be patient and make sure they are empty before coming in. If you find that your puppy goes potty outside and then again when coming inside,

increase the time you spend outside to ensure he/she completely empties their bladder and bowels.

3) Bring your puppy in the house and play or play in the yard for 30 minutes or so.

4) After 30 minutes of play, place your puppy back into the crate for 30-45 minutes, and begin again. Your puppy will not love being away from you or being in the crate, but it is important that you don't let the puppy teach you to rescue her from the crate every time she cries. Place the crate near you in the room you're in. Speak in low reassuring tones. Ignore the cries and only get her out when she is quiet and it is time, *or you will be trained by your puppy in no time at all.* *(It is better to wait at least a full minute after your puppy is quiet before releasing them from the crate, ideally there should be a delicious chewy or treat for them to work on while in the crate - it should never be a punishment or sterile environment -we want it to be a place they feel safe, happy, and relaxed.)

WARNING! It is possible for your puppy to hang himself if wearing a collar in his crate. Be careful or decide not to leave your dog's collar on while in the crate or unsupervised. I've heard too many tragic stories of hanging in crates, fence posts, and air vents when dog tags get stuck. I don't want your puppy to be one of those!

FOOD: We have started your puppy on [Life's Abundance Small/Med Breed Puppy](#). It is a premium food that will be perfect for your pup as he grows. I am sure through the time you have anticipated the arrival of your new puppy, you have researched the vast variety of dog foods on the market. First and foremost, be sure any food you feed your dog does NOT contain Soy, flaxseed or legumes (including any pea products) -these ingredients contain phytoestrogens that interfere with proper growth and development. I also do **NOT** advocate grain free. If you plan to change foods, do so slowly and look for foods that follow all of the WSAVA Guidelines, and please only use formulas adapted for small breeds. It is fine if you have chosen a different food for your puppy. However, we recommend that you wait until your puppy is several months old before trying to change their food. When they are so young, their immune systems are not completely developed and they don't have the ability to tolerate sudden changes in their diet. Watch the ingredients in treats, too! Even if the treats are made by the same manufacturer as your dog food, it does not mean the ingredients are the same,

not to mention we don't want the puppy to put on unnecessary weight. Puppies can get diarrhea easily. The issues with diarrhea in puppies can often be attributed to the stress of change in their environment, in addition to the mistake of too many treats and changing their food.

****NO TABLE FOOD!** "People food" has so many calories and ingredients that your dog's digestive tracts cannot handle very well. It could make them sick and will make them fat!

****Fresh carrot slices, blueberries, strawberries, sweet peppers - these are all fine in moderation**

It is recommended to change from puppy formula to an All Stages or Adult formula at the age of 1 year to encourage proper development and avoid painful growth spurts. I recommend Purina Pro Plan Small Breed, or any of their other premium formulas.

Once again, we thank you for trusting us as your breeder of your new faithful companion. We are here for you always, as you are now a part of the Shurbeez Shih Tzu Family.

May God Bless You, and give an extra hug from me to your new fuzzy baby!