

YOUR BRITTANY PUPPY

YOUR NEXT
PUPPY
VACCINATIONS

START NOW!
SOCIALIZATION
ENDS AT 16 WEEKS



**Jumping +
Safe Exercise
Guidelines**

+ Don't Waste Money
**YOUR TRIAL
INSURANCE
POLICY**

WHAT'S THE BEST DIET?

**PUPPY
EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM**

**COMPLIMENTARY COURSE FOR
HUNTER'S HEART PUPPY OWNERS**



"WE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR PUPPY, OVER SEVERAL WEEKS OF INTENSIVE, EARLY SOCIALIZATION, HANDLING, FIELD TRIPS, AND SNUGGLES"



Congratulations!

Congratulations on your new Hunter's Heart Brittany puppy! It's an exciting day when you finally get to bring home your new puppy, after months or even years of waiting.

The first eight weeks of your puppy's life have been a labour of love, full of intensive early socialization, handling, field trips, and snuggles. We're sad to see the puppies leave, and at the same time we know they're ready to being the next chapter in their new homes with loving families.

Sometimes it may seem like you're getting advice from everyone, and it can feel overwhelming when you want to raise a great puppy. I created this course to help inform you of the latest scientific research and how it's applied to raising your Brittany puppy. This will help you to get off to the best foundation possible.

Enjoy the process of raising your puppy, because it will be over before you know it. Questions are always welcome. Please don't forget to share photos: they make us smile.

Wishing you the best of luck in the years to come.

Dr. Carla Simon, MD, BSc, MBA

Owner and K9 Scent Detection Trainer,
Hunter's Heart Kennels Ltd.



PUPPY VACCINATIONS



First Vet Visit

48 hours after picking up your puppy

Bring your puppy to your vet within 48 hours of bringing them home.

This visit teaches your puppy to like the vet, and verifies their health status. Bring string cheese in bite sized pieces and use it to help make the visit a positive experience.

Ask your vet about which parasites are common in your location, both at home and before travelling.



Deworming

First vet visit

Your puppy received their first dose of Interceptor from us.

Bring a stool sample (in a doggy poop bag or sealed container) to your vet. Your vet can test the stool to determine if any further deworming is required.



Puppy Vaccinations

Our vet gave your puppy their first shot at 7.5 weeks, and details are included in your health record.

It's critically important to bring your puppy to your vet to finish their vaccinations:

2nd shot - Due Sept. 18, 2020

3rd shot - Due Oct. 16, 2020



Play Safe

Limit exposures to strange dogs until the 2nd or 3rd vaccination

It's very important to limit the risk of infectious diseases in busy dog parks where unvaccinated dogs carry disease, until your puppy is fully vaccinated. While continued socialization is crucial for development, being injured is counter-productive. Well run puppy kindergarten classes will pre-screen puppies to ensure they are healthy, and will supervise one on one play time with appropriate playmates.

NAME AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE



SEPT. 3, 2020 // CKC REGISTRATION

We'll submit your puppy's paperwork no later than Sept. 3, 2020. If you want to change their name, please let me know ASAP. If I don't hear from you, I'll use their existing name for CKC registration.

If you decide to rename your puppy later, you'd have to make that request to the CKC directly. You'd be responsible for completing any paperwork and for all applicable fees.

If you're renaming your dog, the CKC has some rules. The name must begin with our kennel name, "Huntersheart". The entire name must be 30 letters maximum, including Huntersheart, and all spaces.

Titles you earn from the CKC can be added before and after the registered name e.g. your puppy's grandsire is CH HuntersHeart RedDevil Fantome FDJ TOG SDS-SP CGN MN EC EV EI TNN AGNJ AN SGDC. Most families use a "call name" or nickname around the home e.g. "Boo".

Mail is slow during COVID-19, so you won't receive your CKC registration certificate for at least a few months. Once you receive their CKC certificate, you may choose to register them with the American Kennel Club also (if you want to compete in events in USA). For AKC registration, you'll need to order a CKC pedigree, complete the Foreign Born Individual Dog application and pay all fees.



CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB

Your puppy is a purebred Brittany Spaniel, bred for exceptional health, temperament and working ability over several generations. CKC Registration is included in the purchase price.



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

PUPPY INSURANCE

Your puppy comes with a free trial of pet insurance, so you're covered from the date you pick up your puppy.

For Canadians, your puppy is enrolled in the complimentary, temporary Pets Plus Us 6 Week HeadStart Trial Insurance Coverage Program (or substitute, provided that such a service is available). Therefore, your puppy is covered in case of unforeseen illness from the day you pick them up.

You can cancel the pet insurance, at no cost, by contacting the insurance provider directly. Alternately, if you decide to continue coverage beyond the trial period, you will be solely responsible for all related costs).

PETS + US
 I (800) 364-8422
 Learn more at:
<https://www.ckc.ca/en/Choosing-a-Dog/Pet-Insurance-for-New-Puppy-Owners>

If you live or travel in USA, Trupanion insurance may be a better option because it covers your dog across both USA and Canada. Their customer service has been excellent.

If you want Trupanion insurance, let us know ASAP by emailing webmaster@huntersheart.com and we'll send you the PDF instructions. You can get your first month free, with Hunter's Heart breeder code.: BR1HH81920.

The offer is time sensitive. "Puppy owners must use the promo code to activate your coverage in the 24-hours before or after their Go Home Date".





■ MICROCHIP

Your puppy was implanted with an international, ISO microchip, and the barcode number is on the front of your health record.



■ STAY IN TOUCH

We'd love to hear how your puppy is doing, so please stay in touch. If you move, please update us, and the Canadian Kennel Club with your new contact information. Then we'll know how to reach you if your puppy gets lost and someone is tracing their microchip.

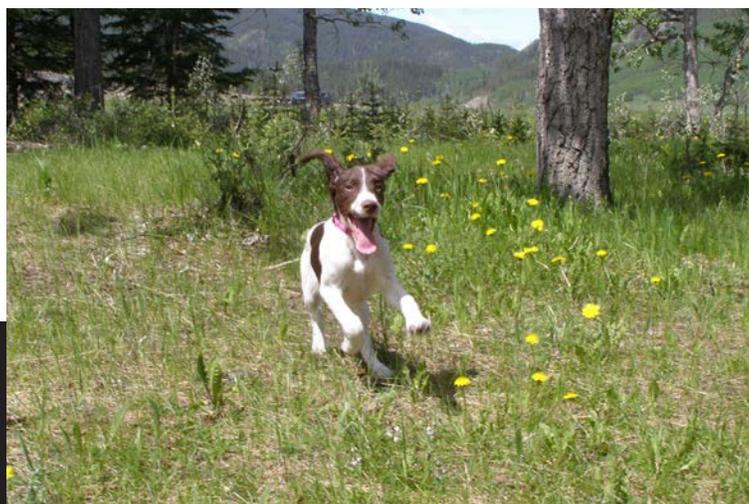


■ DOG LICENSES

Your home town may have by-laws requiring you to register your dog for a municipal dog license by 3-6 months. Include the microchip in your puppy's license and all veterinary records to help you reunite with them if they are ever lost.



IF YOU ONLY TEACH YOUR PUPPY ONE THING, TRAIN THEM TO COME WHEN CALLED, NO MATTER THE DISTRACTIONS.



TEACH YOUR PUPPY A RELIABLE RECALL

If your puppy won't come when called, it's a life-threatening problem. Because if they get lost and are scared, they may run into traffic, or run so far away they can't find their way back to you, especially if you're travelling

If you only teach one thing, invest the time to train your dog to come to you reliably when you call their name.

The first step is to find a food your

puppy loves, to make coming when called very rewarding. In a distraction free environment, wait until the dog is looking at you and say your dog's name once. Then immediately give a food reward. Repeat a hundred times, and your dog should respond the instant you say their name.

Learn how to progress in our Puppy Employment Program, on the next page.

FREE! PUPPY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Is your puppy crying for a puppy employment program? This online course will harness your puppy's natural drives to keep them out of trouble. The secret is giving them a job to do that helps you out, instead of stressing you out. Using positive, 2 to 3-minute training sessions, your puppy will sit, come and play their way to becoming a well-mannered neighbour.

Learning is a change of behaviour based on experience. Your puppy is learning 24/7, whether you think you're "training" or not.



If you purchased a Brittany puppy from Hunter's Heart, your Puppy Employment Program online course is free. Email Carla if you did not receive your login instructions.

Bookmark this page: <https://scentdetection.huntersheart.com/login>.

Once you've logged in, go to "My Library" to access the course contents. We'll add topics as the puppies grow and develop. To be notified of new lessons by email, click your icon in the top right corner, then "Settings" and check to select "Please notify me about updates to my products."

CANINE EMOTIONS

Did you know that dogs can follow humans' pointing gestures, that even chimps cannot? Even though humans and chimps share 99% of our DNA (which was confirmed in 2005, when the chimp genome sequence was completed), humans have been living and co-evolving so long we share a special bond.

Today we know more about dogs than we ever did before, including how they feel, how they learn, and what makes them happy. For example, Dr. Panksepp's research showed that animals and humans share emotion systems in our brains. These include SEEKING (featuring curiosity, anticipation and enthusiasm) and play.

Like us, dog's aren't robots. Like us, play and exploration are basic needs, and meeting those needs helps dogs to be more happy. (See Hare B., 1998; Mimklosi A, 1998; and sciencemag.org.)

Today, many dogs lives are boring and they spend most of the time with nothing to do. It's like caging an animal in a gilded cage, with nothing to do to pass the time. Jobs help give dogs a sense of purpose and structure, building good habits.



GIVE THEM A JOB, GIVE THEM PURPOSE

Brittanys are athletic hunting dogs, who have a lot of energy and require daily exercise. Think of exercise as an “off switch” for misbehaving. Giving your Brittany jobs to do to earn their food is one of the easiest ways to meet their needs, make them happier, and help them to behave around the house.

DITCH THE BOWL

Try ditching the boring food bowl, and use dinner as a learning opportunity for you to work and play with your dog. Try feeding dinner in a food dispensing ball (e.g. Starmark Everlasting fun ball or Kong).

Or “scatter feed” by sprinkling the food over your lawn. This works equally well in grass and snow. It’s a win-win situation that can prevent many problem behaviours.



BE CALM



Enjoying activities with your dog needs to be balanced with some quiet, alone time. Especially if family members are working at home during COVID-19, some dogs never end up learning to be content by themselves, which may lead to separation anxiety when you go back to work.

Training your dog to stay calmly on their bed (or mat/crate/table/platform) helps teach dogs to be content when alone. Start by putting their bed next to your feet

when you’re relaxing and your dog is tired. When they put a paw on the bed, reward with food onto the bed. Next, wait for 2-4 paws on the bed. Continue feeding on the bed until your handful of food runs out.

With repetition, your dog will be attracted to it like a magnet. Once trained, when visitors ring your doorbell, you can prevent jumping up by sending your dog to their bed.

WHAT'S THE BEST DIET?

Decrease your puppy's dinner on days where you gave lots of training rewards.

While at Hunter's Heart, your puppy has been eating half Royal Canin dry puppy food and half Hill's Science Diet puppy food (available from pet stores like PetSmart). We feed 3-4 times a day, offering as much food as the puppy wants to eat.

Puppies eat about a half cup a day total, and adults eat approx. 2 cups/day, total. When in doubt, ask your vet how much to feed.



Many families switch to another brand of premium dog food. Select a food with a label that states “approved by AAFCO feeding trials for puppies, or for all stages of life”. That means that the food passed scientific tests in the lab, proving it contains the required nutrients.

When changing your dog’s diet, always change it gradually over a week. Gradually increase the proportion of the new food as you decrease the original food. More abrupt changes will likely cause gastrointestinal upset, and diarrhoea makes housetraining difficult.

We do not recommend raw food. Usually, it has not been tested and proven to include adequate nutrition (and most people don’t have the time to learn enough about dog nutrition to design a well balanced diet). Please note that bacteria and parasites contained in raw food may be excreted onto the ground by dogs who eat raw. From there, it can be picked up by humans and cause infections, especially infants, elderly, sick and immunocompromised people.

Some studies have shown that over-feeding decreases life expectancy. We recommend switching from puppy to adult food at 6 months of age.

For adult dogs, we recommend Science Diet Oral (from pet stores) or Healthy Advantage (from veterinarians). The large pieces help clean the teeth, which is especially important if you don’t brush your dog’s teeth every day.

One potential issue is that some Brittanys gulp down their food quickly, without chewing. This may cause stomach upset or bloat that requires emergency care. If your dog eats too quickly, invest in a Portion Pacer (a huge stainless steel ball that gets in the way while eating), or a slow feeder bowl (that looks like a maze).

Most of our puppies are very active and look thin despite eating adequate food. But as dogs mature, their metabolism slows. Some dogs start putting on weight at 2 years of age. Measure the amount of food you feed your dog, and monitor body weight with the help of your vet.

It’s important to consider all treat and training rewards being given by all members of the family. When everyone gives rewards, they all add up!



DOG #NO. 1 HAS A DEFINED WAIST, AND AN APPROPRIATE WEIGHT.



How do you know when your adult dog is overweight? You should be able to see an hourglass waist (like dog #1 in the photo above).



Another method of evaluating weight is to place your hand over the dog’s ribcage to feel the bones. Compare how it feels when you run your hand over your knuckles. If your dog’s ribcage feels like your knuckles, they are probably underweight and you need to feed more calories. If it feels like the palm of your open hand, their weight is better. If it’s hard to feel their ribs, then they may be overweight, so you should reduce their caloric intake and/or increase activity.



Training Rewards

While at Hunter's Heart, we used Black Diamond string cheese as training rewards. The cheapest source in Calgary is large boxes in Costco's freezer section.

Use bite sized pieces, that only take a second to eat, not several seconds of chewing.

Pull each string cheese apart with your hands, separating it into 4 smaller strings. Then cut each string into the size of a pea. Each cheese string makes about 80 training rewards.

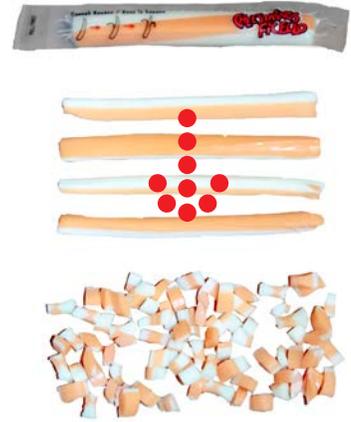
For higher distraction training environments (like busy dog training

classes), you need to increase the value of the food rewards. Pick moist, smelly treats. Consider making tuna fudge or dehydrated liver.

If you offer food rewards your puppy normally loves and they won't eat the food, then you can't train! They are probably overwhelmed by the distractions in that environment.

When your puppy lets you know they're overwhelmed, you need to alter your plan. Take your time and use food to get the puppy used to that environment. Try adding distance so distractions grab less attention, and work on being calm together.

ONE CHEESE STRING EQUALS
80 BITE-SIZED REWARDS



Puppy Exercise

After the socialization window closes (at 16 weeks), continue the positive exposures to varied environments, and increase training and exercise.

The photo to the left shows an x-ray of a 2-week old puppy, whose skeleton is still developing. The large gaps between bones are filled in at the growth plates as the puppy grows. If the puppy breaks their leg and the growth plates are damaged, they may end up with one leg longer than the other, and become lame for life.

Brittanys need daily exercise, but you need to use your common sense while your puppy is growing to keep them safe. Puppies should start with 5 minutes of exercise per day and work up to 30-60+ minutes as an adult (after 2 years of age).

The bottom photo shows two 7-week old puppies exploring a tunnel that they may eventually train for agility.



Jump Low

Jumping too high and running too far too long at an early age can lead to a variety of health problems, especially joint problems.

As a rule, medium sized puppies (like Brittanys) shouldn't jump higher than their age in months. So at 6 months of age, your puppy shouldn't jump higher than 6 inches. At 9 months, keep jumps below 9 inches. When the dog reaches physical maturity (at 18-24 months), you can gradually raise the height of jumps. Having said that, always choose a cushioned, non-slip surface such as padded floors at training centres or on grass outdoors.

At all ages, never allow your dog to jump out of a vehicle onto pavement. That's a height greater than stairs and maybe even several times your dog's height. Lift your dog down or use a ramp when exiting vehicles, and choose grass to cushion landings when possible.



Outdoor Exploration on Uneven Surfaces

Research shows that puppies born in the spring or summer, either on farms or with other opportunities to exercise during the first 3 months of their lives, have a lower risk of developing hip dysplasia (arthritis). We recommend outdoor exercise on grass or soft ground, in moderately rough terrain to minimize the risk of hip dysplasia. If you live in a city, set up an indoor playground, or rent a one with variable surfaces and good footing.

Pro tip: keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, with scissors to remove burrs and ticks. After every field trip, check your puppy before you head home, including inside ears and between the paw pads.

Watch for spear grass. It can enter their ears, lungs, anus and vulva. "Once inside the animal, it can cause harmful infections, and possibly death, if left untreated" (vicnews.com). So if your puppy shakes their head repeatedly, bring them to the vet.

Forced Exercise

Forced exercise is when a mounted human or adult dog sets the pace for a puppy, and should be avoided. For example, don't attach your puppy's leash to your bike, horse, or on Rollerblades. Brittanys love to run, and may try to keep up with the fastest in the pack, beyond the point of injury. Hunting dogs are generally stoic, and will continue to run with serious injuries. Puppies have poor judgement, like a 2 to 3-year old child, so it's up to you to manage your puppy's activities to keep them safe.

No Stairs Until 3 Months

In the same vein, small puppies can't navigate stairs safely. If they attempt stairs (specially while running with older dogs), they may fall and seriously injure themselves. Research also shows that puppies allowed to do stairs before 3 months of age face an increased risk of hip dysplasia. We recommend blocking stairs with a baby gate and carrying the puppy until they are better able to safely navigate stairways.



Socializing involves exposing your puppy to the environments and experiences your puppy will be expected to work, play and live in. For example, if your puppy will work with children, focus on many positive experiences with children. If your puppy will live on a farm, prioritize positive experiences around sheep, without chasing.

Aim to keep your puppy relaxed and happy, by carefully managing positive experiences. While socializing, quality of exposures is as important as quantity. Always keep exposures fun and positive. Use many bite sized treats, toy play, petting, and reassuring with your voice, when those appear to help reassure your puppy. Keep sessions short, no more than 2-5-minutes.

Think of experiences like putting coins in a behavioural piggybank. When done properly, your investment will help develop a friendly, outgoing dog that successfully navigates the human world, especially new distracting situations.



Choice = comfort

Always let your puppy opt out. Don't force them or drag them. Start low and go slow so your puppy is always comfortable.

Never drag your puppy through an experience. You wouldn't like being dragged around by an instructor, and puppies don't either. Take swimming, for example. Throwing a puppy into the water means they don't have a choice. Out of control and in a panic, that's not the best way to teach your puppy to enjoy swimming. The goal is not to make your puppy swim the first time they see a lake, but to teach them to enjoy swimming.

Be patient. Choose a hot day at a gradual beach. Put on a life preserver so flotation is easier. Show your puppy the way out first, so they don't panic. Try putting wieners along the shoreline. Watch and see if they go in for a drink or a wiener. Go into the water and encourage them to come a few inches in, teach your dog to retrieve and then throw a ball a few inches in, or bring an adult dog who loves swimming to show the puppy how.



Focus on socializing with positive experiences from 8-16 weeks.

Socialization teaches puppies how to successfully navigate the human world. During the sensitive period (up to 16 weeks), the tendency to be afraid is low, and positive experiences help shape the puppy's expectations of what is normal.

As breeders, we started the process of socialization from 2 days of age. When you pick up your puppy, we're passing the baton for you. It's very important to attend puppy class and continue providing varied, positive experiences as much as you can until the socialization window closes at 16 weeks.

Socialization can't be accomplished well inside your house with your family alone. As a bare minimum, exposure your dog to at least 4 strangers and 4 non-household dogs to avoid problem behaviours from insufficient socialization.

Look at each category on the opposite page and start with your favorite idea. Prioritize people, places, things, sounds and smells that your dog will be expected to navigate and work around as an adult.

QUESTIONS?



We wish you many years of success with your Brittany.

Don't forget we'll take any Brittany we bred back, at any age, for any reason. If things don't work out, please contact us immediately to arrange shipping the dog back to us instead of burdening a shelter.

Please stay in touch and let us know how you're doing. Questions are always welcome. We'll help get you back on track as soon as possible, so you and your dog can enjoy your time together.



JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Discussion about Brittanys is always our favourite topic on the Hunter's Heart Facebook page. Get answers to your questions, post brags, or reminisce over old photos at: <https://www.facebook.com/HuntersHeart>

This document contains excerpts adapted from The Kennel Club, Assured Breeder Scheme, Reviewed April 2018.
Learn more at <http://www.thepuppyplan.com/>.





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