

GO-HOME PUPPY PACKET



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND



Congratulations!

Thank you for choosing a Homegrown Hounds puppy. Each of our pups is lovingly raised in our home — surrounded by kids, other dogs, and the everyday rhythms of real life.

This guide will help you understand your puppy's background, provide tips for the transition home, and support you in raising a confident, healthy, and happy companion.

THE CHECKLIST

Items We've Provided:

- Vaccination and deworming records
- A starter bag of their current puppy food
- Scented blanket with mom and littermates' scent
- Printed or digital copy of this Go-Home Guide

What You'll Need to Get:

- Stainless steel or ceramic food and water bowls
- Puppy food (if switching brands, mix gradually with our starter bag)
- Crate, if you wish (appropriately sized for now — upgrade later!)
- Puppy bed (look for easy to wash options)
- Puppy collar and leash (our whelping collar is not very strong on a leash)
- ID tag with your contact info (I recommend at looking at options where your contact info is sewn directly onto the collar so the tag can't be pulled off)
- Toys (chews, enrichment, and comfort)
- Enzyme cleaner for accidents
- Treats for training
- Vet appointment shortly after pickup

BREED BACKGROUND & TEMPERAMENT



Our puppies come from two incredibly loyal and intelligent parents. Embark will continue updating our parent's results as new information is added to their database, but as of today, this is your puppy's parent's current mix:

- **Bingo** – 81.7% Border Collie, 18.3% Unresolved
- **Waffles** – 55.1% Border Collie, 29.2% Australian Shepherd, 15.7% Australian Kelpie

WHAT'S IN YOUR PUP'S DNA?

Border Collie

- ✓ Highly intelligent and eager to please
- ✓ Extremely loyal and alert
- △ Needs daily mental stimulation and consistency
- △ May become reactive or anxious if bored or under-socialized

Australian Shepherd

- ✓ Expressive, people-oriented, naturally playful
- △ Tends to bark and become excitable
- △ Can herd small children or other animals unless redirected

Australian Kelpie

- ✓ Agile, brave, a natural worker
- △ Highly independent and energetic
- △ Needs firm but loving boundaries and frequent activity



BINGO'S EMBARK
<https://my.embarkvet.com/dog/bingo805>



WAFFLES' EMBARK
<https://my.embarkvet.com/dog/waffles950>

What Does That Mean for You?

Your puppy is naturally affectionate, socially confident, and observant. These dogs want a job, whether it's fetch, hiking, cuddling, or learning new tricks. With your love and guidance, they'll become an incredible lifelong companion.

EARLY LIFE & THE FIRST THREE DAYS



YOUR PUPPY'S EARLY LIFE

Your puppy has been raised with intention and love:

- ✓ Handled and loved daily by children and adults
- ✓ Exposed to everyday household sounds, surfaces, and movements
- ✓ Potty training started on natural surfaces (dirt and grass)
- ✓ Introduced to enrichment activities and toys
- ✓ Experienced a early curriculum including:
 - Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS)
 - Early Scent Introduction (ESI)
 - Early Handling & Socialization (EHS)

We've laid the foundation, and now you get to build the bond!

THE FIRST 72 HOURS

Transitioning home is a big change. Here's how to make it smoother:

✓ Do:

- Keep the environment calm
- Allow naps every 1–2 hours
- Stick to a gentle routine (meals, potty breaks, cuddles)
- Use treats and praise generously
- Limit visitors until they're settled

✗ Avoid:

- Overstimulating your pup too soon
- Trips to dog parks, pet stores, or other high-traffic areas (especially when they are not yet full vaccinated)
- Introducing new environments without supervision
- Punishment for accidents or nervous behavior



CHOOSING A VET

Please book your vet appointment within the first few business days of pickup.

You will want to find a vet that matches your philosophy on medicine. For example, are you strict on traditional vaccination schedules? Do you believe in holistic and natural medicine? Do you prefer a combination? Find a vet that aligns with your care philosophy.

Remember to bring:

- Your puppy's vaccination & deworming records (included in this packet)
- The Embark DNA reports (linked via QR code) if your vet would like to review parent background
- Any questions about future care, diet, or wellness

More informed vets = better care for your pup. Be honest about what your pup's history and background, and your vet can provide better support.

SETTING THE DAILY RHYTHM

You don't need a rigid schedule — just keep things consistent. Choose a routine that matches your family's lifestyle while still providing for their needs!

Sample Day:

- *Morning:* Potty, breakfast, a little play or cuddle time
- *Midday:* Nap, gentle walk or yard time, potty
- *Afternoon:* Short training or play (2–5 minutes max), another nap
- *Evening:* Dinner, potty, quiet wind-down time
- *Before bed:* Final potty trip, then crate or designated sleep area

ZOOMIES ALERT!

Puppy zoomies (random bursts of wild energy) are common, especially before bedtime. Let them zoom safely; it's totally normal. Afterward, offer water, a potty break, and wind-down time.

Once the energy winds down, help your puppy transition to sleep by dimming the lights, speaking softly, and offering a chew toy or soft blanket in their crate or bed. Keeping your tone and environment calm will signal that the day is winding down.

GROOMING THE COAT

Your puppy may develop either a **smooth/medium coat** like Bingo or a **shaggier, wiry coat** like Waffles. Knowing what to expect will help you care for it well as they grow.

COAT TYPES IN THE PARENTS

- **Bingo (Smooth/Medium Coat):** Typical of Border Collies — a medium double coat that sheds seasonally. Though it appears longer, Bingo sheds less than Waffles. Occasional brushing is helpful, especially behind the ears and around the hindquarters where minor matting may occur.
- **Waffles (Wiry/Shaggy Coat):** A rustic, coarser coat from her Idaho Shag background. Waffles sheds more, but is not prone to matting. Vision-obstructing hairs may be trimmed as needed.

COAT TYPES IN YOUR PUP

Puppy coats are often soft and fluffy but will shift between 6–12 months.

- **Brush Care:** Light brushing 2–3 times a week helps build positive habits. As adult coats come in, shedding increases—especially during seasonal coat blows.
- **Cutting the Coat:** We don't cut our dogs' coats and recommend speaking with a groomer before considering it. For deshedding, we suggest a gentle grooming rake (sparingly used) to reduce loose hair indoors:
 - **Maxpower Planet Grooming Rake:** <https://a.co/d/5NuMP4K>

BATHS, NAILS, & EAR CARE

BATHING:

Only when dirty (usually every 4–8 weeks). Our dogs love natural water (rivers, pools) but aren't always fans of bathtubs. If your pup wiggles out, a suction-cup bathing tether may help. Choose natural shampoos with minimal fragrance—baking soda-based products help eliminate odor rather than just cover it.

Recommended products:

- ***Bodhi Dog Shampoo Brush:*** <https://a.co/d/7hTTozY>
- ***Arm & Hammer Deodorizing Dog Shampoo:*** <https://a.co/d/aronrE7>
- ***Bathing Tether:*** <https://a.co/d/acDcrUr>

NAILS:

Trim your puppy's nails when you start to hear a “click” on hard floors. Be careful not to cut the **quick**—the pink, sensitive area inside the nail that contains blood vessels. If nails are long, trim just the tip and allow time between sessions; as the nail shortens, the quick will naturally recede. With patience and consistency (trim–wait–trim again), you can safely reach the ideal length.

Get your puppy comfortable with regular paw handling early—it makes future trims much easier. Here's the nail clipper we use for our dogs.

- ***Tweezerman Small Nail Clippers for Dogs & Cats:*** <https://a.co/d/3LlxZCD>
- ***Epica Professional Nail Clipper (good for adult dogs):*** <https://a.co/d/8ZS4Twr>

EARS & BUG CHECKS:

Gently wipe ears monthly with a cloth or dog-safe wipe. Look for odor, wax, or redness. Check regularly for fleas and ticks, especially around the ears. Here is a flea and tick collar that works for us, but please check what bugs your dog may be prone to as their needs will change based on their location and lifestyle.

- ***Seresto Flea & Tick Collar:*** <https://a.co/d/eIepmWv>

POTTY TRAINING

POTTY TIPS:

- Your pup is already familiar with natural surfaces (like grass)
- Offer potty breaks: after waking, meals, and every 1–2 hours
- Use a consistent phrase (“Go potty!”) and praise immediately after (“Good potty!”) in a very sweet voice
- Clean accidents with enzyme spray; no harsh punishment needed. However, you can tell them “Bad potty” (if you do catch them in the act) in a firm voice to help remind them that they did not go in the right spot.

ADDITIONAL HYGIENE TIPS:

Puppies love to play and explore, and getting dirty is part of growing up! But a consistently clean environment is important, especially in early weeks when puppies are more vulnerable to illness. Dirty conditions increase the risk of **parvo**, **coccidia**, **giardia**, and other preventable infections.

- *Potty Area Cleanliness:* We train puppies to go on **grass**, which encourages healthy long-term habits and makes the transition to outdoor pottying much smoother.
- If you choose to use puppy pads, be aware they can create confusion — some pups may associate soft cloth with potty time, which increases the risk of accidents on rugs or bedding. If pads are your best option, consider using a **grate cover** to prevent shredding and improve cleanliness.
 - *Little Wolves Potty Grate:* <https://a.co/d/aaTLg2F>
- *Sanitizing:* Wipe paws after muddy play or walks. Clean crates, potty trays, or designated puppy zones regularly using a **pet-safe disinfectant** like **Wysiwash** or **Rescue** to reduce germ buildup.
- *Parasite Prevention:* We use a combination of **Durvet** and pumpkin seeds as a gentle natural support. Talk to your vet about flea, tick, and heartworm protection based on your local risks and lifestyle (hiking, beaches, traveling across state lines, etc.). The more they know, the better they can guide you.

BARKING, NIPPING, HERDING & ENERGY



These are natural behaviors — and they're manageable with calm, consistent redirection.

Barking:

- Reward quiet moments, even 3–5 seconds
- Teach a “quiet” cue with a calm voice and treat

Nipping:

- Redirect to chew toys
- If it continues, say “Ouch!” in a high pitch voice and walk away to signal it's not acceptable

Herding:

- Although herding is not something we have seen in excessively in your puppy's parents, it's that natural instinct to herd is still there and might be show up in your pup
- Provide lots of movement outlets (fetch, agility play, tug)
- Redirect herding behaviors toward toys — not people

Hyper Energy:

- These working breeds can have bursts of high energy that may seem overwhelming
- Channel it into short play sessions, walks, puzzle toys, and training games.
- Calm structure, regular routines, and rest time help keep energy balanced

BEHAVIOR THAT MAKES YOU SAY “WELL THIS IS ANNOYING”



Things like barking, nipping, herding, and hyperactivity are natural behaviors for a puppy, especially a puppy of your breed — and they're manageable with calm, consistent redirection.

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ONGOING SOCIALIZATION & ENRICHMENT



Your work continues after pickup! To help channel your pup's energy in a healthy way, provide safe enrichment activities that match your planned lifestyle. These dogs may be high energy, but they are hardy and flexible.

Safe Exposure:

- Introduce your pup to your lifestyle in a slow, structured way
- Use praise and treats for brave moments
- Ensure all experiences are positive — never forced or overwhelming

Easy Enrichment Ideas:

- Snuffle mats, Kong toys, puzzle feeders
- Short car rides or calm visits to friends' homes
- Gentle leash walks in new places
- Let your pup experience different surfaces, smells, and sights

Make It Match You:

- Want a beach dog? Go to the beach.
- Want a kid-friendly dog? Supervised and continued play is key.
- Want them chill around chickens, bikes, or guests? Start now, go slow, and reward calm behavior.
- Make sure these experiences are safe and positive. The best time for them to learn is now (assuming they are vaccinated) and it will be easier to train a young pup than an older dog. Each new experience helps shape a confident, stable dog.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR TRAINING & OTHER RESOURCES



Unfortunately, we cannot provide all the training and resources we would like in this packet alone. But we do want to leave you with some of our favorite books, courses, podcasts, and videos that might interest you and help you address specific behaviors. These are a combination of free and paid resources.

Teach Your Herding Breed to Be a Great Companion Dog: From Obsessive to Outstanding - Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell (PAID): A great book for those with Border Collies, Aussies, or similar breeds. This book helps you understand and redirect natural herding instincts like chasing, barking, and nipping into positive, manageable behaviors.

- <https://a.co/d/3SqbqlG>

Puppy Culture (PAID): A comprehensive program that walks breeders and puppy owners through critical developmental periods. Covers socialization, enrichment, early training, and more.

- <https://www.puppyculture.com>

Baxter & Bella Online Puppy School (PAID/FREE): Lifetime access to structured video lessons, printable schedules, live Q&A calls, and personalized support for training your puppy from basics to advanced skills.

- Paid Courses: <https://www.baxterandbella.com>
- Free Spotify Podcast: <https://open.spotify.com/show/5UurTOoYiHpeaXoZuk1g2D>

Shaped by Dog with Susan Garrett Podcast (FREE): A fantastic podcast series by world-renowned agility trainer Susan Garrett. Covers topics like reinforcement strategies, crate training, confidence building, and real-life problem solving.

- <https://open.spotify.com/show/5RKUa5PU665MNUo4Ruzkkn>

Zak George's Dog Training YouTube Channel (FREE): Friendly, upbeat, and modern dog training tips using reward-based methods. Great for beginners and families.

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/zakgeorge>

LET'S KEEP IN **TOUCH**

 homegrownhounds.com

  [@hello.homegrownhounds](https://www.instagram.com/hello.homegrownhounds)

