



Guide Dogs for the Blind

[Puppy Raising Manual Road Map](#) [\(link to most current version of the Road Map\)](#)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Welcome to Puppy Raising

- [Welcome to Guide Dogs for the Blind](#) - Mission, Vision, Values and Behaviors, Standards of Conduct
 - [About Guide Dogs for the Blind](#)
 - [Guide Dogs for the Blind Fact Sheet](#)
 - [GDB FAQs for Puppy Raisers](#)
- [Puppy Raising Volunteer Application Process](#)
 - [Home Interview Guide](#)
 - [Puppy Raising Volunteer Co-Raiser Agreement](#)

Puppy Raising Club Structure and Leadership

- [Effective Leadership](#)
- [Puppy Club Structure](#) - Leadership Structure, Club Requirements, Meeting Attendance, Club Decisions
- [Puppy Raising Club Fundraising](#)
- [Providing for a Safe and Ethical Puppy Raising Environment](#) - Youth Safety, Confidentiality, Incident Reporting, Visits to Volunteer Homes, Puppy Evaluations, Reasons for Removal of a Puppy, Reporting to CFRs, Humane Treatment, Other Dogs or Animals in Home
 - [GDB Harassment Policy](#)
 - [Child Abuse Reporting Laws in GDB Puppy Raising States](#)

Public Access for Guide Dog Puppies

- [Access and Etiquette for Guide Dog Puppies](#) - Meeting Sites, Facility Policies, Puppy Coat and Equipment Guidelines
 - [Puppy Club Insurance Certificate Request Form](#)

Marketing and Social Media

- [Marketing and Social Media](#)
- [Puppy Raising Branding Guidelines](#)
- [Puppy Raising Facebook Account Instructions](#)
- [GDB Social Media Guidelines for Volunteers](#)
- [Puppy Raiser Media Tips and Talking Points](#)

After Puppies are Recalled to Campus

- [Beyond Puppy Raising](#) - Recall, Training, Class, Graduation, Breeder Evaluations
 - [Training Phase Descriptions](#)
 - [Video playlist: Formal Guidework Training Phases](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Aug 2019 – Training Reports – Explanation of Why Dogs May Stay in a Phase or Jump Several Phases](#)
 - [PRP Training Evaluation Information for Raisers](#)
- [Career Change and Retired Guides](#)
 - [Common Medical Career Change Conditions](#)
 - [Dog Placements with Nonprofit Organizations](#)
 - [Canine Evaluation Committee Information for Raisers](#)

PUPPY RAISING OVERVIEW

Puppy Raising Overview

- [Puppy Raising R+ Training Philosophy](#)
 - [Modifying Inappropriate Behavior – Removal of Reinforcement & Corrections](#)
- [Final Goal Behaviors – Skills as of 14 Months of Age](#)
 - [GDB Puppy Raising Goal Behaviors Tracking Sheet](#)
- [Verbal Cues](#)
- [GDB R+ Vocabulary/Terminology](#)
- [FAQ on Using a Marker](#)
- [Order of Training: A Quick Reference Guide and Order of Training Chart](#)
- [Recognizing and Reporting Negative Behaviors in GDB Puppies](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Dec 2017 – Raiser Monthly Reports](#)
 - [Ruff Notes May 2019 – Puppy Behaviors to Report to the Leader](#)
- [Evaluations, Assessments, and Possible Outcomes](#)
- [Video: Journey vs. Genes – Who's steering this ship? \(Nature vs Nurture\)](#)

Puppy 101: Getting Started as a GDB Puppy Sitter

- [Puppy 101 Course Introduction](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Raising 101 Introduction](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class #1](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class #2](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class #3](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class #4](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class #5](#)
- [Puppy 101 Review Chart](#) – Syllabus of Puppy 101 course content

Puppy 102: Level Up! Skills to become a GDB Puppy Raiser

- [Puppy 102 Course Introduction](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #1](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #2](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #3](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #4](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #5](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #6](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #7](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class #8](#)
- [Puppy 102 Review Chart](#)
- [Puppy 102 Course – Additional Self-Study for New Raisers](#)

PREPARING FOR A NEW PUPPY

Preparing for a New Puppy

- [Human-only Training Games: No puppy necessary!](#)
- [Creating a Safe Environment for a GDB Puppy](#) - Includes tips for keeping a puppy safe/foreign bodies/poisoning and lost puppy procedures.
- [Puppy's Arrival](#)
- [Confinement](#) - Fencing, kennel runs, crates, exercise pens (x-pens) and tie-downs
- [Equipment](#)
- [Preparing a Puppy Emergency "Go Bag"](#)
- [Feeding Guidelines](#)

Puppy Packet: General Information

- [Sample Puppy & Raiser Information Sheet and Vaccine Schedule](#)
- [Puppy Packet Contents List](#)
- [Puppy Raiser Veterinary Care Intro Letter](#)
- [Veterinary Care Guidelines](#)

- [FAQ for Common Guide Dog Puppy Medical Issues](#)
- [GDB Veterinary Care Contact Information for Puppy Raisers](#)
- [Puppy Raiser Reports \(Monthly & Final\)](#)
- [Ear Care, Teeth Cleaning, and Heartgard/Frontline Guidelines](#)
 - [Prescription Label Heartgard](#)
 - [Prescription Label NexGard](#)
- [Puppy Raising Nutritional Policy](#)
- [Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form \(Sample\)](#)
- [Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form](#)

Puppy Packet: Handouts to Share with Your Local Veterinarian

- [Veterinary Care Orientation Packet Cover Sheet](#)
- [Veterinarian Intro Letter](#)
- [Health Care & Reimbursement Guidelines](#)
- [W9 Form for Local Veterinarian](#)

Puppy Packet: Handouts for Special Circumstances

- [Discharge Instructions for Puppies with Base Narrow Canines](#)
- [Discharge Instructions for Puppy with Extraction of Base Narrow Canines](#)
- [Healthy Habits Reminder about Puppy Poop Safety](#)
- [Alter Schedule for GDB Puppies](#)
- [Discharge Instructions for Puppy with Entropion Tacking](#)
- [Healthy Habits Reminder: Salmonella](#)
- [Information about Undescended Testicles](#)
- [Kennel Cough-General Information](#)
- [Kennel Cough-Puppy Exposure](#)
- [Parvovirus Exposure](#)
- [Puppy Going to Puppy Raiser Home on Hill's i/d](#)
- [Recessed Vulva Guidelines](#)
- [Umbilical Hernia Information Sheet](#)

PUPPY CARE

Health

- [Veterinary Care Guidelines](#)
 - [Veterinary Care Flow Chart](#)
 - [Puppy Vaccine Schedule Chart](#)
 - [Fecal Scoring Chart](#)
 - [Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form](#)
- [Feeding Guidelines](#)
 - [Puppy Raising Nutritional Policy](#)
 - [Body Condition Scoring \(BCS\) Guidelines](#)
- [FAQ for Common Guide Dog Puppy Medical Issues](#)
- [GDB Veterinary Care Contact Information for Puppy Raisers](#)
- [Ear Care, Teeth Cleaning, and Heartgard/Frontline Guidelines](#)
- [Flea Prevention Information](#)
 - [Flea Prevention Checklist and Nexgard Order Form \(Word\)](#)
- [Policy: Boarding Female Dogs In Season](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Feb 2022 - Raising an Intact Puppy \(PDF\) \(Accessible WORD\)](#)
 - [Ruff Notes April 2020 - Socialization & Puppy Training Special At Home Edition](#)
- [Common Medical Career Change Conditions](#)

Handling

- [Puppy Body Handling Exercises](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Body Handling Exercises Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Body Handling Exercises Part 2](#)
- [Grooming](#)

- [Nail Trimming](#)
 - [Video: Nail Trimming](#)

Exercise and Play

- [Toy Policy](#)
 - [Food Containing Toys for GDB Puppies](#) - stuffed Kong, Wobbler, Mango
- [Exercise and Play](#)
 - [Dog to Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)
 - [Ruff Notes March 2021 – Yard Time for GDB Puppies](#)
- [Fun Canine Conditioning Games for Guide Dog Puppies 12 Months & Older](#)
- [Swimming and Wading for GDB Puppies](#)
 - [Ruff Notes June 2021 – Summer Socialization](#)
- [Watercraft Guidelines](#)

HOUSE BEHAVIOR

House Behavior

- [Teaching Good House Behavior](#)
- [Teaching Settled \(Calm\) Behavior in the Home](#)
 - [Ruff Notes May 2018 – Someone's at the Door!](#)
- [Food Containing Toys for GDB Puppies](#) - stuffed Kong, Wobbler, Mango
- [Confinement](#) - Fencing, kennel runs, crates, exercise pens (x-pens) and tie-downs
 - [Ruff Notes Aug 2017 – Crating Issues](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Nov 2019 – Settling Behavior](#)
- [Crate Introduction Game](#)
- [Home Alone](#)
- [Preventing Destructive Behavior](#)
- [Preventing Counter Surfing and Scavenging](#)
- [Relieving and Housebreaking](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Oct 2018 – Relieving Review](#)
- [Dog to Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

Puppy Socialization

- [Puppy Socialization](#) - Public access; safety considerations during socialization; puppy jacket guidelines.
General tips for socializing and teaching the puppy to be comfortable on surfaces, confident around traffic and to ride calmly in vehicles. Tips for introduction to public transportation and the policy regarding puppies in strollers, shopping carts and other carriers.
 - [Ruff Notes Nov 2020 – Puppy Socialization during COVID-19](#)
 - [Ruff Notes June 2021 – Summer Socialization](#)
 - [Video: Fearful Behavior in GDB Puppies Raiser Webinar](#)
- [Chart: Steps to a Well Socialized Puppy](#)
- [GDB Puppy Sitting Fillable Form \(Word\)](#)
 - [GDB Puppy Sitting Form Printer Friendly](#)
- [Travel Guidelines](#) - General rules for travel; Career Change dogs; transporting GDB puppies in vehicles; airline travel.
 - [Air Travel for Puppies in Training](#)
 - [Form: Travel Request for GDB Puppies \(Word\)](#)
- [Dog to Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)

- [Building a Confident Puppy with R+](#) - Behaviors indicating fear; explanation of desensitization and counter-conditioning; the three “D’s” as applied to these procedures.
- [Puppies with Sensitive Temperaments](#)
 - [Body Language of Fear in Dogs: Signs of Fear and Anxiety](#) - A pictorial chart.
- [Ruff Notes Feb 2018 – Surviving Puppy Adolescence](#)

TRAINING AND GAMES

Section 1: Starting Off Right

- [Human-only Training Games: No puppy necessary!](#)
- [Crate Introduction Game](#)
- [Relieving and Housebreaking](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Oct 2018 – Relieving Review](#)
- [Food Reward Games](#) - Puppy’s introduction to polite food reward taking and problem-solving techniques for hard taking of food.
- [Food Reward Basics Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Food Reward Basics Part 1](#)
- [Food Reward Basics Part 2 Multiples](#)
 - [Video: Food Reward Basics Part 2 - Multiples](#)
- [Pezzing & Luring](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Mar 2019 – Fading the Lure](#)
- [Puppy Body Handling Exercises](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Body Handling Exercises Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Body Handling Exercises Part 2](#)
- [Grooming](#)
- [Nail Trimming](#)
 - [Video: Nail Trimming](#)

Section 2: First Lessons and Games

- [Introducing The Gentle Leader to Guide Dog Puppies](#)
 - [Video: Introducing the Gentle Leader to Guide Dog Puppies](#)
- [Food Induced Recall](#)
 - [Video: Food Induced Recall, Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Food Induced Recall, Part 2](#)
- [Ground Tether Game #1](#)
 - [Video: Ground Tether Game #1](#)
- [Ground Tether Game #2 Impulse Control](#)
 - [Video: Ground Tether Game #2 Impulse Control](#)
 - [Video: Ground Tether for Greeting Manners](#)
- [Hand Tether Game](#)
 - [Video: Hand Tether Game](#)
- [Hand Tether in Motion Game](#)
 - [Video: Hand Tether in Motion Game – Brief Introduction](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #1](#) - Introduction to the Paw Pad and duration in the stand position.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #1](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #2](#) - Introducing handler movement and increasing distance; moving the pad away from the wall and first introduction of the ‘stay’ cue.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #2](#)
- [Paw Pad Games – Dropped Food](#)
 - [Video: Paw Pad Games Dropped Food, Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Paw Pad Games Dropped Food, Part 2](#)
 - [Video: Paw Pad Games Dropped Food, Part 3](#)

Section 3: Settling and Leash Manners

- [Collar Cues Game](#)
 - [Video: Collar Cues Game](#)
- [Rewarding Calm and Settled Behavior](#)

- [Video: Rewarding Calm and Settled Behavior](#)
- [Ruff Notes Jan 2020 – Smart Use of Reinforcement for Calm/Settled Behavior](#)
- [Loose Leash Walking Guidelines](#)
 - [Video: Loose Leash Walking Guidelines](#)
- [“Go to Bed” Game](#)
 - [Video: “Go to Bed” Game](#)
 - [Ruff Notes May 2018 – Someone’s at the Door!](#)

Section 4: Foundation Positions (Stand, Sit, and Down)

- [Signals for Stand, Sit and Down](#)
 - [Video: Signals for Stand, Sit and Down](#)
- [Introducing Foundation Position Sit](#)
 - [Video: Introducing Foundation Position Sit with Luring and Physical Prompt](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #3](#) - Sit on the pad and introducing the signal for stand; duration in position and changing positions – sit and stand. Explanation of negative punishment – time outs. How to positively teach a ‘stay’ and introduction of the verbal cues.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #3](#)
 - [Video: Luring with prompts on the Paw Pad](#)
- [Introducing Foundation Position Down](#)
 - [Video: Introducing Foundation Position Down with Luring and Physical Prompt](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #4](#) - Down on the pad and changing positions – down, stand, sit. Duration in position and review of: negative punishment – time outs; how to positively teach a stay. Introduction of the verbal cue for down.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #4](#)
 - [Video: Luring with prompts on the Paw Pad](#)

Section 5: Real World Challenges

- [Dog to Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)
- [Food Rewards for Countering Distractions](#)
 - [Video: Food Rewards for Countering Distractions](#)
- [Emergency Lure Technique](#)
 - [Video: Emergency Lure Technique](#)
 - [Video: Modified Emergency Lure/Rapid Fire Reinforcement](#)

Section 6: Extra Training Resources

- [Paw Pads Suggestions and Guidelines](#)
- [Building a Confident Puppy with R+](#) - Behaviors indicating fear; explanation of desensitization and counter-conditioning; the three “D’s” as applied to these procedures
 - [Body Language of Fear in Dogs: Signs of Fear and Anxiety](#) - A pictorial chart.
- [Guidelines for Use of High Value Food Rewards](#)
- [Video: Southern California Puppy Raiser Workshop](#)
- [Video: Fearful Behavior in GDB Puppies Raiser Webinar](#)

RUFF NOTES

Ruff Notes Archive

Permanent archive of quarterly reminders and supplemental information based on frequently asked questions and puppy behavior challenges. Dates reflect when the Ruff Note was originally shared. The information continues to be useful and relevant. These Ruff Notes are also linked within other sections of the manual where they supplement the main instructional documents and offer additional troubleshooting ideas.

- [Ruff Notes Feb 2022 - Raising an Intact Puppy \(PDF\) \(Accessible WORD\)](#)
- [Ruff Notes Dec 2021 - Getting Guide Dog Puppies Fit for Recall \(PDF\) \(Accessible WORD\)](#)
- [Ruff Notes Oct 2021 – Socializing Puppies During Spooky Season: Halloween Edition \(PDF\) \(Accessible WORD\)](#)
- [Ruff Notes June 2021 – Summer Socialization](#)
- [Ruff Notes March 2021 – Yard Time for GDB Puppies](#)

- [Ruff Notes Nov 2020 – Puppy Socialization During COVID-19](#)
- [Ruff Notes April 2020 – Socialization & Puppy Training Special At Home Edition](#)
- [Ruff Notes Jan 2020 – Smart Use of Reinforcement for Calm/Settled Behavior](#)
- [Ruff Notes Nov 2019 – Settling Behavior](#)
- [Ruff Notes Aug 2019 – Training Reports – Explanation of Why Dogs May Stay in a Phase or Jump Several Phases](#)
- [Ruff Notes May 2019 – Puppy Behaviors to Report to the Leader](#)
- [Ruff Notes Mar 2019 – Fading the Lure](#)
- [Ruff Notes Dec 2018 – Getting the Most Out of the Instructional Videos](#)
- [Ruff Notes Oct 2018 – Relieving Review](#)
- [Ruff Notes May 2018 – Someone’s at the Door!](#)
- [Ruff Notes Feb 2018 – Surviving Puppy Adolescence](#)
- [Ruff Notes Dec 2017 – Raiser Monthly Reports](#)
- [Ruff Notes Aug 2017 – Crating Issues](#)
- [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)