

Congratulations on your new puppy!

This litter has been a joy to raise. Seeing them grow up into strong, confident, and lovable puppies has been an adventure. We hope your little one gives you many years of love and companionship!

This is some information that has helped us raise Havanese. Nothing is written in stone and you may have to adjust for your dog and family. So don't be afraid to try something different. Every dog is different and every relationship is different, but I think this will help you get a great start!

We like to start with the exercise pen until the puppy is able to hold it all night which is around 8-9 months. Then you can choose to start with crate training and keep them there at night. But it's up to you, if the exercise pen area works for you, stick with that and slowly encourage the puppy to go outside instead of the litter box. Sometimes the crate training is a necessary step to get them to HOLD it and not just go when they want, so keep that in mind.

1. **Exercise Pen** that is 24"H x 8 Sections x24"W with a litter box for pee pads in a **grated holder** (so they can't get to the pad and tear it up). A bed or towel and a 24" crate so they have a variety of places to sleep and/or play. As they get older you can keep the XPEN open during the day so they can use the litter box. Be sure to choose your location carefully, changing locations can confuse them as they are forming these new habits.

2. **Crate training** – Make sure the crate is small enough they only have a place to sleep and not enough room to potty in another spot or corner. Use wood or wire frame divider in the crate to make it smaller until they grow into it. Make sure you take them out before they have an accident to set them up for success and give them lots of praise and/or treats for going potty outside. High pitch YESSSSSSS helps, sounds they don't normally hear.

Additional Training:

Dogs know sounds, not words, so keep that in mind when you are teaching commands. We use commands like COME or HOUSE when outside in a high pitch method. DOWNNNN in more slow low pitch so they know not to jump. We have been teaching plenty of manding and elevator games where they have to stay sitting for a treat and we slowly lower the treat, but the treat goes back up if they jump. This helps them understand jumping, begging, and biting are not the desirable behaviors.

Havanese are more sensitive with negative re-enforcement so try to keep rewarding good behavior. However we use a loud AHHT sound when they are doing something we don't want. This is far less harmful than yelling at them, but at the same time snaps them out of unwanted behavior and gets their attention to redirect.

I would recommend they get rewarded for every good behavior daily for at least 2 months, potty outside, coming to you when saying COME, going to the house when saying HOUSE. A reward can be a praise or a treat, you will get to know what they love the most! The younger they are, the more positive of an imprint it will make. Then you can re-enforce twice a week or so. You will get to know your dog and what is needed. Havanese typically love praise and affection just as much as treats! **Commands we teach: House, Come, Sit, Stay, Down, Outside, Potty, & Good Puppy!**

Food – Treats – Toys - Meds

We use **Farmina N&D Ancestral Grain Chicken & Pom mini puppy food**.

If you decide to transition your puppy to a different type of food you will want to mix in about 1/3 of the new food for a week, then 1/2 for a week, 3/4 for a week and then give them the full amount of the new food. This is much easier for their digestion. Same for when you transition to adult food.

Redbarn Naturals Lamb Recipe Dog Food Roll – This is great for treats, but does require slicing. Put in the fridge overnight to make it easy to slice into discs and then cross cut into small pieces and put in an air tight container and refrigerate. You will probably only need to cut up 1/3 of the roll and freeze the rest of the block. It makes a LOT, so it's good bang for money!

These are some **good chews** for them to keep them busy:

Best Bully Sticks 4 Inch All-Natural Bully Sticks for Dogs

Norpur Natural Pig Ear Strips for Dogs, 5 lb. Box

Kong Puppy Tires for small puppies are great too! You can put peanut butter or mash the redbarn on the inside of the tire and they spend 20-30 minutes trying to get it all. This helps with their desire to forge and get food!

!!!Make sure Peanut Butter or snacks do NOT contain artificial sweeteners. Xylitol is POISON!!!

Feeding Schedule

Havanese generally will not over eat but having a scheduled is very good for them. Start by feeding them 1/4 a cup of food, 3 times a day, and as they are growing you can work up to 1/3, 3 times. By 1 year you can start doing 1/2 a cup twice a day. If they seem hungry and cobbling it up, feel free to make it a heaping 1/3 or 1/4. This is another case of: listen and know your dog.

Vaccines:

Puppies start getting their first round (TRIO) shot – Distemper, Parvo Corona at 6 weeks.

Then 3 more at 9 weeks, 12 weeks, and 16 weeks. All will have the first 2 rounds finished when you pick them up, older dogs might have the 3rd round finished.

We like to wait till 6 month for you to get them rabies since they are a smaller breed and we don't like to do too many vaccines at one time.

Optional Vaccines:

Vaccine decisions are tough, weighing the risk vs protection and with so many varying opinions, its hard to make the right choice.

Bordetella – We don't, but if you feel like they are going to be around other dogs a lot or if they ever have to stay somewhere when you're on vacation its a good idea to have it.

Influenza – We personally don't do this one, but again if they are near other dogs a lot it might be a concern.

Lyme disease – Lyme can be serious if your near wooded areas or you have a high population of ticks. Totally optional as well, most of the time these dogs don't wander more than 20 feet to go potty outside, so we personally don't use this one.

Heart worm meds can start between 12-16 weeks, talk to your vet. We have had plenty of success with **Simparica Trio** as it covers heart worms, fleas, and ticks all in one tablet. We usually have to hide it in Redbarn to get them to eat it though. Its not as yummy as other meds and its a hard tablet. Another option is to get Heart Guard and Bravecto for flea/tick.

We also test for worms at 9 weeks. Since they grow up in our office, we don't do any harsh deworming treatments unless there is a problem, which we have never had.

Grooming:

It will be good to get in the habit of brushing them every other day to keep knots and tangles out and get them used to grooming. And they will need a full groom every 3-4 months unless you want to keep it long, but they will need about 30-45 min of brushing and combing daily. Full groom will include trimming, nails, and anal gland expression. If you see them doing the "butt slide" you may need to do it more often.

Here is a good brush: **Wahl Premium Pet Double Sided Pin Brush**

Busy tails, happy trails!

Like bored teenagers, puppies will find their own entertainment — and it's not always what you want! Swap out toys daily or a few times a week. If you're leaving for a long period of time, leave a new toy for them, chewy, or horns to keep them busy. You can also feed them with puzzle toys/mats so food is an adventure for them and takes more time. Kongs with red barn or peanut butter works too, freeze them overnight to make it last longer. Make sure they get walks or chase them around the yard, teach fetch, keeping them active will help them settle down. After about a year they will start losing some of that puppy energy and mellow out a bit and routines can be adjusted.