



BGV Appreciation

BGV OWNER'S GUIDE



You and Your BGV- Getting to Know Each Other

Try and bring your puppy home fairly early in the day. This allows time for the newcomer to get to know both you and the new environment. Any holiday period is far from ideal, as the extra excitement and noise will frighten and confuse. Ideally pick a routine day or the beginning of a weekend.

During the first few hours, watch your puppy as he explores and gets used to his new home. If you already have a dog, bring him outside the house to meet your puppy and he will think he is bringing a new friend back into the house. Other animals will accept him if introduced one at a time - too many at once will be overpowering and frighten your puppy. Be ready to separate them if there are any signs of dominance as it may take a little while for "oldies" to accept the newcomer. Also, pay equal attention to the puppy and your older dogs, who may become jealous if ignored.

Whether or not you already have dogs, to start with the puppy will miss his mother and littermates, so warmth at night and a draught-free spot are top priorities. Although the BGV has a great liking for human company, ideally the area for sleep at night should be quiet. Rest is important for your new puppy but, when awake, he needs lots of attention to exercise his agile mind. So don't cut him off completely from family activity as he also needs to socialise.

Teething, crying at night, toilet training. Does this sound familiar to you? Puppies, like human babies, go through stages of growth and learning. If you aren't prepared to experience it with them, don't have one! However, most people will tell you that the short period of inconvenience is well worthwhile for the many years of joy your BGV will bring you.

Teething

Your puppy will be teething, so wait a while before you buy that expensive dog-bed. A low-sided plastic crate will do for the early days. Cheaper still is a strong cardboard box, with one side cut down for getting in and out. Or consider a wire dog-crate - more expensive but this will give many years' service. The pup will soon get used to this little house and feel secure inside it. Leave the door open while he gets used to it. It is portable so useful when travelling and your BGV will adapt easily to being left for a short time with the door shut. Whatever type of bed you decide on, make sure it is not too large and easy to clean. As your puppy grows, you can replace this with a larger, adult-sized, washable bed or even a bean bag, when your BGV has outgrown the chewing stage.

The BGV is a playful breed, full of life, curiosity and with a mischievous mind. In the early days damage to bedding and your own furniture can be minimised if you channel your puppy's chewing into constructive behaviour by ensuring a good supply of suitably safe toys or bones.

Crying



You may, of course, be lucky enough to have a puppy that snuggles down with the blanket, or whatever you brought back from the breeder, and sleeps straight away. However, be prepared for a few restless nights. The newcomer may cry when first left alone. This will test you! Are you strong enough to teach him where his own bed is - or are you going to give in and let him sleep with you? Remember, once allowed into your cosy bedroom, you will find this a difficult habit to break.

Try giving the puppy a well-wrapped warm hot-water bottle to provide warmth and comfort in his own surroundings. If this fails, on hearing crying or barking at night, open the door, smack the floor with a rolled-up newspaper and shout “Quiet!” and slam the door shut. This may seem harsh but your puppy will soon associate its yapping with an unpleasant noise - and stop.

Housebreaking

Training your puppy from the outset is so important. This includes teaching him to be clean indoors. However, don't expect miracles early on. Until about 3-4 months old, he will have little control over his bladder. If he has been kennel reared, expect learning to take slightly longer than for a BGV who began life indoors.

Like many hound breeds, BGVs are extremely sensitive so *don't* automatically punish or hit your puppy after an accident or you may end up with a nervous, frightened dog. Above all, don't rub his nose in excreta, or you will have a bewildered BGV who feels rejected and afraid.

Do not give the newcomer full run of the house because, as with all puppies, accidents *will* happen - and probably on your best carpet! But a well-toned “Aargh” or “Yuk!” will work wonders. Remember it is *your* responsibility to help your BGV puppy learn. Praise, encouragement and reward at the right time will produce far better results and give confidence.

Start house training as soon as you arrive home. Always put your puppy outside straight after every meal or as soon as he wakes up - and praise him lavishly when he does the right thing. In this way the puppy soon learns what is routine. In the evening, put your BGV outside as late as possible which will help him to manage through the night. Put layers of newspaper near the door away from your puppy's bed, so that he gets the idea where to go in emergencies. Once he begins to move around, the kidneys increase activity to do their job of clearing the body of toxins and filtering the blood, hence the increased frequency of urination in the day. During daytime, when you can leave the door open, try gradually moving the newspaper from inside to just outside the door. Leave a small piece of soiled paper with the clean layers for smell association.

Remember routine plays an important part in successful housebreaking. Have patience. Your BGV is keen to please. Give plenty of encouragement and understanding and you will be surprised how quickly he learns. By four months, he should be fully reliable.

Microchip



It is now law to microchip your dog and all puppies must be microchipped by the age of 8 weeks. Normally the breeder will have had this done before you collect your puppy and you will receive the microchipping certificate. You will then have to transfer this into your name and contact details. If your puppy has not been microchipped, get him done as soon as possible. Your vet should be able to perform this service or it is worth asking around to compare prices.

DNA Testing PBGVs can suffer from an eye problem called Primary Open Angle Glaucoma. POAG is a painful condition where the pressure in the eye(s) increases over time eventually leading to blindness. Early detection and treatment can help prolong the eyesight. Eye testing has been carried out regularly for over 20 years now but, since early 2015, a DNA test has been available to give breeders and owners information on whether a PBGV is either Clear, a Carrier or Affected with the disease. If you have a PBGV, your puppy's breeder should give you proof of the parents' POAG status. If your pup's sire and dam are both tested clear, he will automatically be hereditary clear, thus no need to test him. However, with the various possible permutations, any other than progeny from two clear parents will require testing to establish their status. This is especially important with those destined for reproduction, as the key to managing genetic conditions with a DNA test through successive generations is in knowing exactly where the faulty copies of the genes are. If not already done you need to order some cheek swabs from the Animal Health Trust, wipe round your PBGV's cheeks and send them to the AHT for analysis. The AHT will give you details on everything you need to do.

Vaccinations

While some diseases can be seen in older dogs, many are most common and severe in young puppies. However, if given a good start and regular preventative treatment, your pup will be strong and resist these health risks which may include distemper (which used to be called hardpad), hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis and para-influenza. You can also vaccinate your dog against kennel cough.

Puppies should visit their vet and, depending on the vaccine used, begin a vaccination regime as early as 6-8 weeks of age. You will receive a card confirming which diseases your puppy has been protected against - and, importantly, the date the next annual booster is due. If he has only had one injection, to complete the course you will need to take him to your own vet. However, if your vet uses a different vaccine protocol, he may wish to start the course again. Until your BGV is fully vaccinated, he should not go out near other dogs or where they have roamed.

When your BGV is older, if you are at all concerned about annual boosters and over-vaccination, you can have a blood test done to show whether he has sufficient antibodies therefore does not need a booster for a while.

Worming

Before you take your puppy home, he will have been wormed several times as all dogs have worms at some point in their lives, with puppies being most at risk. Pregnant bitches should be wormed at the time of mating and again when the puppies are one week old. If these precautions are not taken, worms are passed from the mother before birth and afterwards through the milk. Infestation may cause weight loss, vomiting, diarrhoea, a swollen abdomen and, in extreme circumstances, death. Puppies should be wormed from two weeks of age at two weekly intervals until they are twelve weeks of age, then every month until they are six months of age.

Worming should continue at least three times a year with a recommended veterinary preparation for the rest of the dog's life. As a responsible dog owner, it is important for you to continue to worm your dog regularly.

- Dogs with worms may not show signs of illness, except when the worms are present in large numbers.
- Most worms will live in the intestine and feed on partly digested food.
- The two main types of worms are Tapeworms (*Dipylidium* species) and Roundworms (*Toxocara canis*).
- Tapeworms look like white grains of rice, joined together to form a tape. These are most commonly found in adult dogs but rarely in puppies. Tapeworms are spread through an intermediate host (usually the flea). The intermediate host is necessary to form part of the life-cycle; more development stages take place in the intermediate host.
- Roundworms look like elastic bands, possibly several inches long. These are the most common, particularly in puppies but they are not often passed through. They are occasionally vomited up if they get into the stomach. Roundworms are spread through the environment.
- *Giardia* is an intestinal parasite that is sometimes seen in puppies but unlike roundworms and hookworms, which are actual worms, *Giardia* is a single celled parasite known as a protozoan. Infection can cause diarrhoea and dehydration so a faecal sample may be needed.
- With climate change, new types of worm, particularly *Angiostrongylus* (lungworm), are beginning to appear. The adult lives in the heart and major blood vessels supplying the lungs, where it can cause a host of problems. Left untreated, the infection can often be fatal. The lungworm parasite is carried by slugs and snails. The problem arises when dogs purposefully or accidentally eat these common garden pests when rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from puddles or outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from their toys. Foxes can also become infected with the lungworm and have been implicated in the spread of the parasite across the country. Talk to your vet about the best wormer to use to ensure your puppy is protected against infection from this type of worm.

As a responsible pet owner, discourage your BGV from fouling in public places, parks and children's play areas. Always carry plastic bags (eg nappy bags) to pick up after your dog and ensure you routinely pick up faeces from your own garden. This will all help to reduce risk of contamination.

Flea and Tick Treatment

Fleas are not unique to puppies and can infest dogs of all ages. Remember, if your dog has tapeworm you must also treat him for fleas. These external parasites are capable of transmitting disease to both puppies and adult dogs. So it is wise to begin flea control measures at an early age. Many of the monthly topical flea preventive medications can be used as early as 6-8 weeks of age. If necessary, consult your vet to determine which preventive measures are best for your BGV.

Ticks are another external parasite that can infest dogs of all ages, including puppies. There are many tick-borne diseases that can be passed to dogs through tick infestations. Many of the popular flea control products also control ticks but seek advice from your vet for the most appropriate medication for a puppy. Keep a tick remover handy in case you need to remove one from your BGV – and ensure you remove the whole body.

Diet and Good Eating Habits



As the proud owner, you will naturally want your BGV puppy to grow up fit and healthy and to reach his full potential. The first few months are so important. Now is the time that your highly active puppy, who is growing rapidly, will need a digestible and enjoyable diet of just the right blend of protein, carbohydrates, minerals, fats and vitamins. However, the diet must be balanced, so that your BGV receives the correct amount of nutrients, and concentrated, so that he takes in all the nutrients needed before his stomach becomes full.

The diet sheet here will be a good guide as to how much to feed your BGV during his first few months with you, so don't be in too much of a hurry to alter this. There will be time enough to change type or brand once your puppy has settled in; and there is no substitution for good common sense when deciding how much to feed. If you do change to a different type of feed, do this gradually to avoid an upset stomach.

All BGV puppies need plenty of food in the first few months so that they grow into adults with good bone and substance. Good bone cannot be made - it is inherited. However, much can be done to improve it or encourage it to develop during these formative months.

Look at any old dog-care book and you find marvellous diet sheets which relied heavily on items such as calcium phosphate powder, raw or cooked minced meat and vegetables, brown bread, cod liver oil, raw eggs and evaporated milk.

Nowadays, with balanced commercial canned dog foods, dry complete feed, biscuit, milk powder and supplements of combined vitamins, minerals and nutrients, the modern puppy owner has a much easier time in producing a good, strong, healthy dog.

Both the old and new methods are good in their own way. If you have an obstinate or finicky feeder and feeding by hand fails, it may be a simple case of changing diet to find something that suits. However, if your puppy is happy with what you are giving him, don't change the diet just for the sake of it.

Try to feed your puppy at the same time each day and in the same area so that good feeding habits develop alongside this daily routine. Unlike many breeds, BGVs on the whole tend to be well-mannered eaters. They will inspect food before accepting it very gently. If your BGV doesn't finish each meal, after about 20 minutes remove the bowl. If he still seems hungry, offer a little more next time – but *don't* feed too much, little and often will avoid any problems. The adult dog has a good appetite and any favourite food will be devoured steadily. Bear in mind that your ideal is neither a thin dog nor one that is overweight. Aim to have a well-balanced hound with plenty of flesh over his ribs and the healthy appearance that goes with a well-fed animal.

Number of Meals a Day

2 months to 3 months	4 meals a day
4 months to 6 months	3 meals a day
7 months to 12 months	2 meals a day

Suggested Diet

2-3 months

Breakfast Complete puppy food, amount as recommended by the manufacturer, softened with warm water or a mixture of warm water and milk (either evaporated or goat's milk). To make the food more palatable, and give the puppy extra nutrition, mix in a small amount of canned puppy food.

If you are not feeding a complete dry food and only a biscuit mixer, you will need to add more canned food. Always ensure a good supply of water nearby.

Mid-day Repeat breakfast

Or

Milky porridge, made with evaporated or goat's milk.

Late afternoon Repeat breakfast

Late evening Repeat breakfast.

Some prefer to end the puppy's day with warm milk. However, be warned, your puppy is unlikely to last the night, having had a large drink.

4-6 months

Breakfast Complete puppy food, amount as recommended by the manufacturer, dry or softened with warm water. This can be fed alone or with a small amount of canned puppy food mixed in. Always ensure a good supply of water nearby.

Or

Half a can of puppy food, with puppy mixer

Mid-to-late afternoon

Milky porridge, made with evaporated or goat's milk

Or

Repeat breakfast

Evening meal

Repeat breakfast

7-12 months

Complete puppy food twice a day, either dry or with warm water, amount as recommended by the manufacturer. Mix in small amounts of canned puppy food or feed alone. Supply of cold water nearby.

Or

Two meals a day of half a can of puppy food with puppy mixer.

As an extra, give milk, raw (or boiled) egg, diced baked chicken or cottage cheese in small amounts. Your puppy's motions may become loose until he adjusts to this new food. The decision on whether to continue feeding milk alone or mixed with food after weaning is a personal choice. Give nutritional supplement sparingly. Good quality manufactured food contains all the nutrients your puppy needs; you could do more harm than good by overdosing.

Always ensure fresh water is available.

Upset stomach

If you BGV develops an upset stomach or diarrhoea, depending on severity, starve him for 24 hours then give regular small quantities of boiled rice and boiled chicken or fish. If this doesn't work, try dosing with Pro-Kolin or a similar pro-biotic. Any continued symptoms will need a trip to the vets.

Children and your Puppy

BGVs are lively hounds and any children in the family must learn how to respect the new puppy, not to pull him around, handle too much or over-excite him but to be gentle and considerate.

As a parent, it is your responsibility to ensure the puppy isn't squeezed, teased or hurt in any way. Avoid accidents by not leaving pup and child alone together. All family members can play an active part in puppy-care. Your child may like the responsibility of grooming him regularly, while an adult can clean ears and trim nails.

Socialisation

At this early age, from 8 to 16 weeks, the contact and love your BGV puppy gets from his new family is so important. This is an important learning period for your puppy and every experience will help him feel secure and build a permanent bond between you. This relationship will stand you in good stead when expecting your puppy to accept gentle discipline. Outside the home, socialisation means letting your puppy get used to other people and dogs and to learn communication skills so that he can get on happily wherever he is. And you can teach your puppy that people, other animals, new experiences, objects and situations are nothing to be afraid of.

Praise your puppy when he meets a new experience with an alert and curious reaction – your voice, touch or a small treat will tell him how pleased you are. Taking your puppy to any nearby area where more people congregate, such as the local shops or school will be an invaluable experience for him and consider taking him to a local training club or ringcraft where interaction with other dogs will give him confidence.

As he meets new experiences, tick them off here. This list is not exhaustive but see how well your puppy is progressing!

Grooming Experiences

Brushing	Combing	Clipping nails	Stripping out hair	Cleaning ears	Bathing	Dryer	
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People

Adults	Babies	Toddlers	Children	Different ethnics	Postman	Vet	Refuse collector
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People or children with

Prams	Buggies	Brooms	Toys	Zimmer frames	Lawnmowers	Wheelie bins	
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People wearing or carrying

Fancy dress	Uniform	Hat	Umbrella	Sunglasses	Walking stick	Shopping bags	Luggage
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People in the home

Decorator	Delivery person	Visitors	Gardener	Repair man	Service man		
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People on the move

Cyclist	Child on scooter	Jogger	Skate boarder	Horse rider			
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Forms of transport

Car	Motorbike	Cycle	Motility scooter	Lorry	Train	Aircraft	Refuse cart	General traffic
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Animals

Other dogs	Cats	Birds	Livestock	Chickens	Rabbits	Other animals	
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Environments

Car journeys	Vet's surgery	Market	Walk in dark	School	Playground	Fete	Park/country park
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Noises

Doorbell	TV	Phone	Radio	Vacuum	Hair-dryer	Fireworks	Thunder
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Exercise



A puppy scampering around and playing will get all the exercise he needs – though remember proper exercise by taking him outdoors cannot begin until immunisation is complete. Until then, you can carry him. Once the vaccination course is complete, keep your walks short and regular.

At four months, give your puppy a little exercise, possibly a scamper in an enclosed field or park. Very short spells of road-walking are also excellent for tightening up his feet at this crucial time in development. However, until you understand your puppy's stamina, a short five-minute walk four or five times a day is far preferable to one long walk. The following is a general guide on how to gradually increase walk time, with preferably two walks a day.

3-4 months	10 minutes each walk
5-6 months	15 minutes each walk
7-9 months	20 minutes each walk
10-12 months	25 minutes each walk
1 year +	30 minutes or more

At a young age pups generally lack muscle tone to take them far and great damage can be done by over-exercising while still growing so even too much running about when under six months old is likely to harm developing limbs. In general, most puppies will tell you when they have had enough, so it is important to resist pushing your puppy beyond this point.

Above all, don't let your puppy go up and down steps or stairs until at least six months old as jarring the BGV's front legs may lead to malformed limbs and being out at elbow. Similarly, don't let your puppy get into the bad habit of climbing up onto your best sofa as both the effort of pulling himself up and jarring his limbs when jumping down is likely to damage them. The associated problems of allowing him to "take over" your favourite chair and become a couch potato go without saying.

Never pick up your puppy under the armpits or by the front legs. Support the entire body by placing one hand under the chest, between the front legs and the other hand under his rear end. In this way you are not putting a strain on the limbs and your puppy will feel comfortable and less inclined to wriggle.

As a general rule, once adult your BGV can be exercised to the degree he seems comfortable; that is, most BGVs will give signals when they have had enough or need rest.

Lead Training and Training Classes

Lead training time will soon arrive but, in the early days, sessions should be frequent and brief as, at this age, attention-span is short and your puppy will tire quickly.

Start by getting your puppy used to wearing a light collar. It is best not to leave this on for long periods as young puppies are into everything and a collar can become hooked on low branches or caught on another dog's nails and restrict breathing. When introducing the lead itself, your pup may initially buck all over place, pull away, go into a "death roll" or simply sit down and refuse to budge. If you have an older hound, linking the two together can be a great training aid as your puppy will follow. If not, be patient and firm. Don't lose your temper as it is vitally important that you don't frighten your puppy at this stage. Rather, lavish praise for something done well.

Invest in a flexi-lead if you are happy for your puppy to move further away from you when walking. This way you know he is safe – and tempt him with a treat to get him to return.

Remember neither lead training nor socialisation with unknown dogs should take place in public areas until the pup has had his full set of vaccines, which is usually anything up to 12 to 14 weeks of age. At this time you might like to take your puppy to local training classes – look for details at your local vets, on-line or in local newspapers. Not only will you learn how to teach the basics of obedience but, importantly, your puppy will be able to socialise with other dogs. If you aspire to show your BGV, seek out your local canine society which runs evening sessions on ringcraft. Again, this is a wonderful way of socialising your puppy and you too will meet and learn from like-minded owners.

The Collar and Lead

Your BGV has a harsh coat. A choke collar or chain around the neck can be an effective training tool but you will soon find that it tears at your puppy's coat, resulting in short, flat hair around the neck - not desirable if you want to show. Beware too of the body harness. One that is too thin may wear away the coat, not only around the neck but over shoulder blades and under arms. A good, strong body one is ideal for controlling your exuberant BGV and for preventing pulling.

A rolled leather or nylon noose-type slip collar, or choke chain with larger links, will help reduce hair damage. However, many find the nose halter favourite. Like a horse's halter, it controls from the head.

All a dog's pulling power is in its shoulders. Use a normal collar or chain around the neck and the power is still there. Put the harness around the dog's head and nose and you reduce your BGV's ability to pull, with the bonus of no damage to the coat. It may take your puppy a little while to accept but, after a few outings of nose-rubbing on the ground, you will find your walks are enjoyable. For added safety attach an additional short lead to the collar.

As your puppy gets older, introduce the various types of control - leather collar with lead attached, choke chain, harness, nose halter - and find out which one works best for your BGV. Devote just a short time each day to training and your hound will come to accept any type of collar. This is especially useful if you need greater control when walking more than one dog. No longer will your bBGV tow you along the road.

Never leave your dog tied up anywhere, for example outside a shop – there is a market for stolen dogs.

Car Journeys

Get your puppy used to the car gradually. You probably took your new puppy home in your car and he will hopefully have been good and quiet on the journey. To avoid possible motion sickness, once home, acclimatise your dog by just sitting him in the car for a few minutes outside your house, without the engine running.

Lift him in and out of the car, never letting him jump out as this will cause damage to growing bones and risk him running off. Short, pleasurable journeys will then help get him used to travelling.

- Do not feed your dog for at least one hour before you travel, or ideally two or three hours. If the dog has nothing in its stomach it will be less likely to vomit.
- A ginger biscuit can help settle the stomach and reduce nausea.
- Try a herbal supplement. Treats or supplements with ingredients such as peppermint or chamomile can help reduce nausea and anxiety.
- Stop every hour when on longer journeys.

Importantly, make sure your puppy is secure in your car so will not be thrown around if you have an accident. You will find your dog crate indispensable for this but make sure it is anchored in place with bungee ropes. Alternatively, buy a dog harness which fits around your dog's body. This allows him to travel in safety, comfortably attached to the seatbelt. It will also ensure your BGV is facing forwards, which may help with any motion sickness problems.

NEVER leave your dog in the car during hot or even warm weather. Even with the windows open a car can turn into an oven in minutes. Dogs die every year through the thoughtlessness of ignorant and careless owners.

BGVs Win Prizes

As you can see, most dog care is a matter of being careful and sensible – but members of the BGV Club committee are there to help you if you need advice. Own a BGV and you will soon be owned *by* him. Countless adjectives describe the breed - unrepentant, stubborn, sweet, smart, rugged, active, curious, exuberant and, above all, happy.

Combine that musical voice with a rear-end that is constantly wagging; the quick, lively gait and high activity level with a busy nature - and you have the irresistible BGV. Whether yours is a top-winning show-dog or a family pet, the greatest prize that he will ever win is your heart.

