



# QuiXand Racing Whippets

[www.quixand.com](http://www.quixand.com)

## Care and Feeding

Your new puppy is used to eating Nutro or Authority Lamb and Rice Puppy food. I generally add a little warm water and let it soften a bit. Remember that your puppy is growing fast but has a small stomach, so three smaller meals a day are best until about four months of age.

I do not recommend free feeding (leaving food out all the time) as it encourages the possibility of picky eating (or overeating) and makes housetraining more difficult.

Of course fresh water should be available all the time.

Begin with a serving of about half a cup of kibble. If your puppy eats all of that food in a minute or two, give him a little more. If he leaves some, then offer a bit less at the next meal. Monitor your puppy's appearance – puppies should not be skinny or bony looking, but they ARE whippets and will begin to have a whippet-shaped body in a few weeks. Don't panic when your pup starts to lean out and have a tucked-up belly!

A little diarrhea is not uncommon when the pup goes to a new home. The stress, travel, new water, and so on can upset young tummies. Sometimes a spoonful of plain yogurt or cooked white rice added to a meal can help. Pepto Bismol is also safe for puppies – half a tablet or about half a teaspoon of liquid. As long as the diarrhea is not excessive (multiple times in an hour), bloody (occasional small amounts of blood or mucus are not an immediate threat but may indicate roundworm, giardia, or coccidiosis, and you should probably have a vet check the puppy out if it continues for a day or so), or accompanied by other symptoms, the pup is most likely just fine.

The general rule of thumb for puppies is that if they are drinking water, playing, and eating at least occasionally (their appetite changes from day to day) then you shouldn't worry too much.

If you are worried, feel free to contact me at 801 484 5374 or [quixand@earthlink.net](mailto:quixand@earthlink.net) and discuss the problem with you or advise you on the most efficient treatment options.

## **New Puppy Care FAQ**

- 1. My puppy sleeps a lot...is he sick?** *Probably not...as long as your puppy plays when he is awake, he's fine. Remember that a puppy is a baby. Babies need lots and lots of sleep to grow up mentally and physically healthy.*
- 2. My puppy hardly eats at all...I give him cooked chicken and he eats that but won't eat his kibble...I'm afraid he's going to starve.** *While there is nothing wrong with adding things to your pup's food to make it more appealing, QuiXand puppies are used to eating kibble mixed with water. If your puppy is very thin (remember, they are whippets and are going to look more and more "whippety" as they get older) and you can see many pointy vertebrae and all the ribs, then you might want to add a little chicken, yogurt, ground beef, or egg to their food. Otherwise, it's best not to create the monster of a finicky eater.*
- 3. My puppy hates his crate – he howls and cries so I let him out!** *And now he has learned how to get you to let him out of his crate. If you intend to have a crate-trained dog then you need to steel yourself against his cries just as you would a baby in a crib. That being said, he IS a baby. Maybe he's cold, scared, hungry...learn to recognize the difference between a real need and a spoiled puppy. Play with him until he's tired, feed him, let him go potty, THEN crate him. Also, feed him in his crate, give him bones or yummy treats in his crate, take him fun places in the car, riding in his crate. Eventually he will learn that it's a good place to be.*
- 4. My puppy won't walk on a leash – he pulls and stops and I can't coax him along.** *Be firm. You are bigger and stronger and as the human, should be in charge. Give him a quick tug and then start walking. Make sure you have a collar he can not pull out of (harnesses actually encourage pulling as the chest is*

*much less sensitive than the neck). He will have no choice but to follow. If he bucks, spins or drags, give him another quick jerk and keep walking. Make sure that whenever he does it right – even for a second – you tell him he’s a good dog, but keep it low key and KEEP WALKING.*

- 5. My puppy pees/poops on the floor!** *He’s a baby...he has limited control of those functions and a short attention span. Housebreaking is initially more about training YOU than it is about training the pup. Take him out every twenty minutes and stay outside with him until he does something or until you are absolutely certain he doesn’t need to. Then put him in his crate or strap him to you with a leash or in some other way make sure he cannot potty in the house. As he gets older and more reliable you can increase the amount of time between outings and give him more freedom.*
- 6. My puppy chews things up!** *Your puppy NEEDS to chew. It’s a normal dog behavior. Give him appropriate things to chew – and lots of them! Keep things that are not to be chewed put away. A puppy has no way of knowing which toys are his and which are your new shoes.*
- 7. My puppy bites us when he plays, and even growls – is he going to be mean?** *Puppies play with each other by chasing, grabbing, biting, tackling – all mock-hunting behaviors. Just as little humans play house or doctor or cops and robbers, little dogs play hunter and pack leader. You have to react the same way the other puppies in a litter and the other dogs in a pack would react. When a puppy hurts its littermate the littermate yelps loudly, indicating pain, and then stops playing. The first puppy then learns to temper his bite in order to keep the fun going. When a puppy gets fresh or behaves inappropriately with an adult dog he gets snarled at/snapped at. That’s how he learns his place in the pack. If your puppy bites you, yell “OW” in a hurt voice, grab his muzzle (not hard), stare him in the face, and yell “NO!”. Then refuse to play with him until he plays more calmly. Small children often can’t do this and the puppy – thinking the kids are puppies too – will bite, chew, grab, drag, jump on the*

*children in an attempt to get them to play. Never leave your children unattended with the puppy and be sure that you not only step in to teach the puppy when he behaves inappropriately, but also teach your children how to be firm and strong instead of letting the pup think he is higher in rank than human children.*

Normal behavior in the canine species includes barking, howling, digging, biting chewing, mounting, marking territory with urine and feces, roaming, guarding, growling, attempting to establish dominance, protecting food, sleeping areas and offspring, etc... Most problems that arise from dog ownership and interaction are a result of an ***expression of normal behavior***. As the human and the pack leader, you need to show your dog how to channel those normal behaviors in ways that are not damaging to your relationship. This takes time, effort, love, and common sense.