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## Shar-Pei instruction sheet

The Shar-Pei is an aloof breed, and is considered to be territorial. They are very devoted to their families. They should be exposed to people, other dogs, cats etc., while young to help them develop a well-rounded personality. Correct them firmly if they growl; it is much easier to correct a small puppy than a fifty-pound dog! They are easily crate trained if started as puppies, and they tend to look at the crate as their "house", and enjoy staying in it if you are away for short periods. Obedience training is a MUST.

They are highly intelligent, and learn very quickly. Establish the rules early in their training. It is a good idea to give them their own dog toys so they learn not take people objects and play with them. They are extremely easy to housebreak, and are extremely clean pets. I recommend using the crate training method for all pups. It is a good idea to enroll your dog in obedience classes when they are five months old, as it teaches them manners and serves the double duty of exposing them to other animals as well as other people. When approaching a shar-pei come from under the chin NOT on top of head as they do not see above their wrinkles and tend to shy away from a hand from above.

The ears are a very sensitive area, as they are held very close to the head. It is important to keep them clean and dry, using a cleaning/drying solution from your vet. Using cotton in their ears when bathing is an excellent way of keeping water out of their ears. Your dog should be bathed once a month (or as needed). Use a good shampoo from your vet; don't use something from the grocery store!

We feed our puppies *Purina Pro Plan Chicken Rice* adult food or *Pro Plan Puppy* food (this is the same as the grocery store *Purina ONE*). Follow the directions on bag as to how much to feed your puppy depending on his weight. Your new puppy has been free fed and fed Dry kibbles. If the puppy doesn't eat well you might want to add a bit of warm water and some canned *Purina Pro Plan Puppy* meat to the dry food. Should you want him on a feeding schedule try feeding 3 times a day. Give 1 cup and let him eat is fill in 20 minutes then take it away. Give back again 4 hours later etc. We have found that foods too high in protein are not advisable. Use a **stainless steel shallow** pan, 1-2 inches deep (or cake pan), and a deeper stainless bowl for water. We have found that plastic pans oftentimes result in a loss of pigment. Doggie treats are okay, but people food is too rich, and therefore not good for the puppy.

Oftentimes, the skin under the chin will remain damp after drinking water, and a rash may develop. An antibiotic ointment will usually clear it in no time. If this does not work please see a vet. Wiping the chin after drinking also helps, and it is best to keep collars off, except when they are outside or on a leash.

Vaccines should be continued every three weeks until dog is over four months of age. Rabies should be given at three to six months of age, with boosters yearly thereafter OR as recommended by your veterinarian. A fecal sample should be checked every six months, ears cleaned weekly, and nails trimmed every week. You should check their eyes regularly and see a vet at the first sign of trouble (excessive tearing or discharge, red swollen eye, or pawing at the eyes). A tube or vial of eye medicine is included with the puppy. Should your puppy have eye problems such a heavy tearing or squinting you may use this ONLY until you can get to the vet, NOT instead of seeing a vet. Please use the included Ear Cleaner weekly to keep ears clean and free of debris. See a vet at first sign of redness or odor.

If at all possible puppies should not be taken to public places or be exposed to other dogs until all of their vaccines are completed at four and ½ months of age. Be careful of exposure to other dogs that might not be vaccinated.

Acceptable toys are the stuffed ones that squeak, Nylabones, cow hoofs and the rubber dog toys or rope toys. **NO RAW HIDE** at all. I prefer a **choke collar- nylon if possible and the flexi leads**. Shar-Pei like the cuddle beds with the side to rest their chins on. To find many of the things I mention check on line at some of the pet supply places.

Just a piece of information for training. IF your puppy barks when in the crate or chews things he is not to chew and you catch him doing it have a spray bottle on hand with water in it. Set on narrow spray and spray the puppy in the face saying **NO** loudly before you spray. Soon the pup will learn that **NO** means he might get sprayed.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have regarding your new puppy.

I also suggest getting some kelp granules to put on her food just a tsp. is fine and give her Vit. C daily 1000 mg Regular human Vit C is fine. I use the tablets and IF you get some pet tabs usually they will just take them from you like a treat.