



## Advisory notice

### Guide to Rearing Your Ridgeback Puppy

AN 6(b)

28.06.99

Raising a puppy properly is a demanding business- he/she will need plenty of loving care and attention. A Ridgeback likes to "belong"

Prepare for its arrival, it will need -

**Water dish and food dish:** Both items should be non-chewable and structurally firm so that the puppy is unable to tip them over.

**Collar and Lead:** Start with a small leather collar and light lead.

**Sleeping Box, Basket or Cut-out Tyre:** Use newspaper for bedding. This is easily disposed of and can be replaced. At a later age use a dry bed or a blanket.

**Puppy Food:** This puppy has been fed on .....

**Feeding:** Feed four times a day - enough to fill but not to bulge. A little and often is the rule. While still young, soak the puppy's pellets in hot water prior to feeding. Cool, clean water must always be available. Should you wish to change the brand of food, do so gradually but make sure it is a properly balanced puppy food. Ridgeback puppies grow at a tremendous rate from four to six months. When the puppy is not interested in four meals, cut one out. At six months it should be eating two meals a day. To reduce the risk of stomach torsion try to prevent your puppy exerting himself strenuously within two hours of eating.

**House Training:** Choose a convenient spot and cover it with a cloth that has been used to mop up the first "accident". Let your puppy smell this, it will soon sense that this is its place. Your puppy should be taken to this spot when he wakes up, before play and after a meal.

Should the puppy have an "accident" on your carpet clean the spot thoroughly and douse it with soda water. He/she has a keen sense of smell and will return if the scent is not removed. Use the name you have chosen for it frequently, so that the puppy knows when it is spoken to.

**Obedience and Character Training:** If at all possible arrange to attend formal classes. Ridgebacks are lively and can be very mischievous if bored. Be firm but never violent - this latter will destroy the puppy's trust in you. Remember that it is natural for a dog to chew so beware furniture and shoes. Let it have its own collection of toys, big bones (never chicken or chops) and things to chew.

When young, the puppy needs plenty of rest and of course his special place to sleep.

**Inoculations:** Your puppy has had its first inoculations at ..... weeks. Please check your Certificate for the next inoculation at ..... weeks of age.

NB Rabies inoculations are compulsory in certain areas: check with your vet.

**Parasites:** Your puppy has been dosed .....

Follow your vet's recommendation for future treatment. Keep your puppy free of fleas which may carry Tape worm and ticks which could infect your dog with biliary.

**Breeding:** If you wish to breed, both the dam and sire should be x-rayed for HD (Hip Dysplasia) at 18 month of age and pronounced free of HD a pre-requisite for registration of the progeny with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. (refer AN1).

Always be prepared to seek advice from the breeder of your pup, and contact the RRIF for additional help if required.