



Welcome to the El Silencio Family

Standard Poodles bred with intention, health, and heart.

Complete Puppy Welcome Packet

Important Information

Please read all pages



Feeding & Nutrition Guide

Your puppy has been started on **Victor High Energy Dog Food**. Maintaining consistency during the first several weeks is critical for digestive health. General Guidelines:

- Free-Feed or Feed a minimum of 4 meals per day
- Provide fresh water at all times
- Avoid sudden food changes

Treat Guidance for El Silencio Puppies

Puppies have **very sensitive digestive systems**, especially during the first weeks in a new home. Treats should be introduced **slowly and carefully** to avoid stomach upset.

! Important Guidelines

- **Avoid treats entirely for the first couple of weeks** after bringing your puppy home. Their digestive system is still adjusting to new surroundings, routines, and stress.
- When treats are introduced:
 - Offer **very few per day**
 - Use **small, soft pieces only**
 - Treats should never replace meals
- **Only feed treats that are:**
 - **Non-chicken** (chicken is a common trigger for digestive upset and allergies)
 - **Made in the USA**
 - High quality with minimal ingredients
- **DO NOT feed rawhide – ever.**
 - Rawhide poses serious risks including choking, intestinal blockage, and digestive irritation.
 - Rawhide offers no nutritional benefit and is not safe for puppies.

Why This Matters

Puppies' stomachs are easily disrupted. Overfeeding treats, introducing them too early, or using low-quality products can quickly result in diarrhea, vomiting, or appetite loss.

Keeping treats limited and high quality helps:

- Maintain healthy digestion
- Reduce stress-related stomach upset
- Support proper growth and development

Best Practice

For training in the early weeks, **kibble from your puppy's regular food** can be used instead of treats. This minimizes digestive issues while still reinforcing positive behavior.

The First Week at Home

Adjustment takes time. Mild whining, disrupted sleep, and hesitation are normal. Establish routine, keep things calm, and offer reassurance.

Call your vet if:

- Refusal to eat for over 24 hours
- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Extreme lethargy

Puppy Adjustment Period (The 3-3-3 Rule)

First 3 Days

Your puppy may feel overwhelmed during the first few days in their new home. Signs of hesitation, fear, or anxiety are completely normal. Keep the environment calm, limit stimulation, and give your puppy space to quietly observe their surroundings and co-habitants while they begin to feel safe.

Next 3 Weeks

As your puppy starts to settle in, they will become more comfortable and begin to understand their daily routine. Confidence grows during this stage. Gentle structure, basic training, and consistent positive reinforcement help build trust and encourage good habits.

First 3 Months

By this time, your puppy is well adjusted to their environment and the people in their lives. Their true personality begins to emerge as they integrate into the household. Ongoing training, bonding, and consistency are essential for long-term success and a strong human-canine relationship.

Vaccination & Deworming Information

Your puppy has received age-appropriate preventative care to support a healthy start in life.

Vaccination History

- DHPP (Distemper/Parvovirus) Booster – 1st dose
Administered at six (6) weeks of age

Deworming History

- Pyrantel Pamoate administered at:
 - 2 weeks of age
 - 4 weeks of age
 - 6 weeks of age

Ongoing Veterinary Care

- Your puppy will require the next booster vaccination between 9–10 weeks of age.
- Additional booster shots will be needed according to your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Owners should consult their veterinarian regarding:
 - Future vaccination timing
 - Continued deworming protocols
 - Flea, tick, and parasite prevention appropriate for age and weight

Vaccination and parasite prevention schedules may vary based on geographic location, lifestyle, and individual health needs. Always follow the guidance of your licensed veterinarian to ensure optimal protection.

Puppy Exercise & Safety Guidelines

(8 Weeks and Up – Protecting Joints, Growth Plates, and Healthy Development)

Growing puppies are not miniature adult dogs. Their bones, joints, and growth plates are soft and developing, and certain types of exercise or physical stress can cause long-term damage. Proper activity is essential, but over-exercise or unsafe movement can lead to permanent orthopedic issues.

This guide will help you understand what's safe, what to avoid, and why.

Understanding Growth Plates

Growth plates are soft cartilage at the ends of long bones. They remain open while the puppy is growing and do not fully close until 12–18 months (sometimes longer in Standard Poodles).

Before closure:

- Growth plates are weak and vulnerable
- High-impact activity can cause injury
- Damage can result in limb deformities or early arthritis
- Puppies don't yet have the muscle strength to stabilize joints

This is why controlled, age-appropriate exercise is essential.

✓ Recommended Exercise by Age

8–12 Weeks

Appropriate:

- Free play on soft surfaces
- Short, supervised play sessions
- Exploring the yard safely
- Light mental enrichment (snuffle mats, simple puzzles)

Avoid:

- Stairs (one or two steps only, with supervision)
- Jumping off furniture
- Fast turns/chasing games with older dogs
- Long walks

12–16 Weeks

Appropriate:

- Short walks 5–10 minutes, 1–2x daily
- Controlled play with calm, sized-appropriate dogs
- Continued soft-surface play
- Basic training sessions

Avoid:

- Full flights of stairs
- Jumping in/out of vehicles
- Running on slick floors
- Forced exercise (treadmills, jogging)

4–6 Months

Appropriate:

- Walks up to 15 minutes
- Gentle fetch (rolling ball, not airborne)
- Light hill walking (slow, controlled)
- Confidence work (tunnels, low platforms)

Avoid:

- Repetitive jumping
- Roughhousing with large/strong dogs

- High-impact agility obstacles
- Running beside a bike

6–9 Months

Appropriate:

- Walks 20 minutes, controlled pace
- Structured leash work
- Confidence-building obstacles under 6 inches
- Swimming (excellent low-impact exercise)

Avoid:

- Forced running
- Frisbee catching
- Jumping higher than knee-height
- Long hikes

9–12 Months

Appropriate:

- Walks up to 30 minutes, moderate pace
- Light jogging on soft ground for VERY short distances
- Start basic agility foundation (no jumps)
- Swimming continues to be ideal

Avoid:

- Repetitive high jumps
- Hard landings
- Long-distance running

12–18 Months

Growth plates are closing, but not fully closed until closer to 16–18 months.

Appropriate:

- Gradually increasing walking and conditioning
- Beginner agility groundwork
- Low jumps with soft landings (with vet approval)

Avoid:

- Full high-impact sports until cleared by a vet

🚫 Activities to Avoid Until Fully Grown

- Jumping off beds, couches, or porches
- Jumping into/out of vehicles
- Going down full staircases
- Running on slippery floors (tile, hardwood)
- Over-exercising with older/larger dogs
- Long hikes or runs
- Repetitive fetch with hard landings

🧠 Why These Restrictions Matter

⚠️ Growth Plate Vulnerability

Impact can deform the bone or cause early closure, resulting in:

- Limb length differences
- Crooked legs
- Joint misalignment

⚠️ Joint Development

Hip and elbow joints are still forming. Hard play can cause:

- Hip dysplasia
- Elbow dysplasia
- Chronic lameness

⚠️ Musculoskeletal Imbalance

Puppies lack developed muscle tone. Excess exercise leads to:

- Tendon strain
- Soft tissue injuries
- Inflammation and pain

⚠️ Overheating & Fatigue

Young puppies can't regulate temperature well and tire quickly.

🐶 Healthy Alternatives

Safer ways to exercise your puppy include:

- Short daily training sessions
- Puzzle feeders and mental stimulation

- Leash manners practice
- Controlled play with matched temperament/size
- Sniffing walks (very short)
- Swimming (once vaccinated and water-safe)

Mental stimulation often tires puppies more effectively and safely than physical exertion.

Puppy Safety & Appropriate Toys

Protecting Your El Silencio Puppy at Home

Puppies explore the world with their mouth, which means **environmental safety is critical**. Preventing accidents requires supervision, safe toys, and removing hazards that young puppies can swallow, chew apart, or get tangled in.

Safety protects your puppy's **digestive system, teeth, joints, and overall well-being**.

Appropriate Toys

These toys are generally safe when used under supervision:

- **Durable rubber toys** (KONG®, West Paw®, Nylabone *non-edible*)
- **Soft toys with reinforced stitching** (only if monitored)
- **Teething rings** made for puppies
- **Slow feeders or puzzle toys**
- **Balls that cannot fit entirely in the mouth**

Choose toys sized appropriately – **too small is a choking hazard**.

Toys to Avoid

These can cause dangerous blockages or injuries:

Rope Toys

Puppies often ingest the fibers, which can cause:

- Intestinal blockage
- Linear foreign bodies (life-threatening condition)
- Emergency surgery

Plush toys with squeakers (unsupervised)

Puppies can tear them open and swallow stuffing or plastic squeakers.

Hard chews that splinter

Avoid:

- Real bones
- Antlers
- Hooves

These can break teeth or cause GI injuries.

🚫 Cheap rubber toys

Thin rubber can be chewed apart and swallowed easily.

⚠ Household Hazards to Prevent

✗ Clothing Items

Keep out of reach:

- Socks
- Underwear
- Towels
- Washcloths
- Tights or leggings

These items are extremely common causes of **intestinal obstruction**.

✗ Leather Items

Puppies love the smell of leather. Keep away:

- Shoes
- Boots
- Belts
- Work gloves

Leather is soft enough to chew apart but strong enough to create blockages.

✗ Unsafe Surfaces & Environmental Hazards

- **Slippery floors** → risk of joint injury or splits
- **Sticks and landscaping debris** → can impale the mouth or throat
- **Rocks** → dangerous choking and blockage risk
- **Sharp objects** (yard tools, stakes, decorative metal pieces)

Puppies must always be supervised outdoors.

✗ Electrical & Electronic Hazards

Keep away from puppies:

- Electrical cords
- Chargers
- Phone cables
- Remote controls
- Game controllers
- Battery-powered devices

Chewing these items can cause:

- Electrocution
- Burns
- Internal damage from swallowed batteries

Use cord covers and baby gates when needed.

✗ Food Left Out

Do not leave food unattended on:

- Counters
- Tables
- Coffee tables
- Nightstands

Counter-surfing can begin extremely early and can lead to ingestion of toxic foods or choking hazards.

✗ Toxic Plants & Flowers

Common dangerous plants include:

- Lilies
- Sago palm
- Aloe
- Dieffenbachia
- Philodendron
- Pothos
- Azaleas
- Tulips and bulb plants

Keep any questionable plant **out of reach or out of the home.**

If in doubt – remove it.

🧠 Why Safety Matters

Puppies explore first and think later. Their:

- Teeth are growing
- GI system is still developing
- Judgment is nonexistent
- Curiosity is constant

Foreign-body ingestion is one of the **leading causes** of emergency surgery in puppies under 1 year old.

With supervision and a safe environment, many emergencies are preventable.

✓ Quick Safety Checklist

- Keep small objects off the floor
- Use baby gates to limit access

- Crate the puppy when unsupervised
- Provide safe chew toys daily
- Store shoes, clothing, and leather goods securely
- Puppy-proof electrical cords
- No access to trash cans
- Remove toxic plants
- Supervise all outdoor time



Grooming & Coat Care

Standard Poodles require **consistent and ongoing grooming** to maintain healthy skin and coat. Begin gentle brushing immediately to help your puppy become comfortable with handling and regular care.

Professional grooming should be scheduled **every 4–6 weeks once all vaccinations are complete**. Until it is safe to visit a professional groomer, you may bathe your puppy at home as needed.

When bathing at home:

- Use **high-quality shampoo and conditioner specifically formulated for dogs or puppies**
- **Do NOT use dishwashing liquid** or any product not labeled for canine use, as these can severely dry and irritate the skin

Early grooming routines help prevent matting, support coat health, and create positive experiences that will benefit your puppy throughout life.

Includes:

- Regular brushing and combing
- Bathing with appropriate canine products
- Nail trimming
- Ear care and maintenance
- Gradual introduction to professional grooming

Recommended Grooming Tools

- **Long pin brush** (ideal for curly and dense coats)
- **Metal comb with fine and coarse teeth**
- **Canine ear wipes** for routine ear maintenance
- **Dog dental brush or dental wipes** to support oral health



AKC Registration

The breeder will supply the AKC Registration Application Form for your puppy.

Registering your puppy with the American Kennel Club (AKC) is an important step in documenting your dog's pedigree and preserving the integrity of the breed. AKC registration provides official recognition of your puppy as a purebred Standard Poodle and serves as permanent identification within the AKC registry.

Why AKC Registration Is Important

- Confirms pedigree and lineage, helping maintain breed standards and responsible breeding practices
- Provides official proof of purebred status
- Allows participation in AKC events, including conformation (solid colors only), performance, and companion sports (as eligible)
- Helps support responsible dog ownership and ethical breeding
- Ensures your puppy's information is properly recorded and traceable for life

Limited vs. Full Registration

Limited Registration

Most pet puppies are placed with **AKC Limited Registration**. This means:

- The dog is registered with the AKC as a purebred
- Offspring produced by the dog **cannot be registered with the AKC**
- The dog **may still participate** in most AKC performance and companion events (such as obedience, rally, agility, and more)

Limited Registration helps protect the breed and ensures puppies are bred intentionally and responsibly.

Full Registration

Full Registration is reserved for puppies approved by the breeder for breeding or show purposes. This means:

- The dog and any eligible offspring may be registered with the AKC
- Breeding rights are granted only with breeder approval
- Additional terms or agreements may apply

Registration type is determined by the breeder and outlined in the purchase contract.

Registering your puppy also adds value by creating a verified record that can be referenced for health, training, and competition purposes.

Owners are encouraged to complete the AKC registration promptly after bringing their puppy home.



Lifetime Commitment & Return Policy

El Silencio puppies are bred with care, intention, and lifelong responsibility. As part of that commitment, any puppy or dog bred by El Silencio must never be surrendered to a shelter, rescue, or similar facility.

Important Terms

- El Silencio puppies and dogs always have a home at El Silencio.
If, at any point in the dog's life, the owner is unable to keep the dog, the breeder must be contacted immediately so proper arrangements can be made.
- Puppies and dogs may not be sold, rehomed, or transferred without notifying the breeder.
This ensures the dog's safety, well-being, and continued placement in an appropriate home.
- El Silencio puppies and dogs may never be sold or transferred to a pet shop, broker, or commercial reseller.
Such placements are strictly prohibited.

These policies exist to protect the well-being of every El Silencio dog and to uphold the standards of ethical breeding and responsible ownership. By honoring this commitment, owners help ensure that each dog remains safe, cared for, and valued for life.

A Final Note from El Silencio

Welcoming a puppy into your home is the beginning of a lifelong journey built on trust, patience, and commitment. Your El Silencio Standard Poodle has been carefully bred, raised, and prepared for this next chapter, and we are honored to be part of that journey with you.

The information in this packet is designed to support you during the transition period and beyond. Puppies thrive with structure, consistency, and understanding. Allow your puppy the time they need to adjust, grow, and develop confidence at their own pace.

Please remember:

- Adjustment takes time – progress is not always linear
- Consistency builds security
- Patience and positive reinforcement create lasting bonds

When you bring home an El Silencio puppy, you are never on your own. We are always happy to offer guidance, answer questions, and celebrate milestones along the way.

Thank you for providing a loving, responsible home and for honoring the standards and care behind every El Silencio Standard Poodle.

With appreciation,

El Silencio Standard Poodles

 304-771-4210

Bred with intention, health, and heart.