



Guide Dogs for the Blind

[Puppy Raising Manual Road Map](#) [\(link to most current version of the Road Map\)](#)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Welcome to Puppy Raising

- [Welcome to Guide Dogs for the Blind \(GDB\)](#) - Mission, Vision, Values and Behaviors, Standards of Conduct
 - [About GDB](#)
 - [GDB Fact Sheet](#)
 - [GDB FAQ for Puppy Raisers](#)
- [Puppy Raising Volunteer Application Process](#)
 - [Home Interview Guide](#)
 - [Puppy Raising Volunteer Co-Raising Agreement](#)

Puppy Raising Club Structure and Leadership

- [Effective Leadership](#)
- [Puppy Raising Club Structure](#) - Leadership Structure, Club Requirements, Meeting Attendance, Club Decisions
- [Puppy Raising Club Fundraising](#)
- [Safe and Ethical Environment](#) - Youth Safety, Confidentiality, Incident Reporting, Visits to Volunteer Homes, Puppy Evaluations, Reasons for Removal of a Puppy, Reporting to CFRs, Humane Treatment, Other Dogs or Animals in Home
 - [GDB Harassment Policy](#)
 - [Child Abuse Reporting Laws by GDB States](#)

Public Access for Guide Dog Puppies

- [Access and Etiquette for Guide Dog Puppies](#) - Meeting Sites, Facility Policies, Puppy Coat and Equipment Guidelines
 - [Insurance Certificate Request Form](#)

Marketing and Social Media

- [Marketing and Social Media](#)
- [GDB Puppy Raising Branding Guidelines](#)
- [GDB Puppy Raising Facebook Account Instructions](#)
- [Social Media Guidelines for Volunteers](#)
- [Media Tips and Talking Points](#)
- [Graduation Media Release for Puppy Raisers \(Word\)](#)

After Puppies are Recalled to Campus

- [Beyond Puppy Raising](#) - Recall, Training, Class, Graduation, Breeder Evaluations
 - [Training Phase Descriptions](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Aug 2019 – Phase Reports](#)
 - [PRP Training Eval Info for Raisers](#)
- [Career Change Dogs and Retired Guides](#)
 - [Common Medical Career Change Conditions](#)
 - [Dog Placements with Non-Profit Organizations](#)
 - [CEC Information for Raisers](#)

PUPPY RAISING OVERVIEW

Puppy Raising Overview

- [Puppy Raising R+ Training Philosophy](#)
 - [Modifying Inappropriate Behavior](#)
- [Final Behavior Goals](#)
 - [Goal Behaviors Tracking Sheet](#)
- [Verbal Cues](#)
- [R+ Terminology](#)
- [FAQ on Using a Marker](#)
- [Order of Training Reference Guide and Training Chart](#)
- [Recognizing and Reporting Negative Behaviors](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Dec 2017 – Raiser Monthly Reports](#)
 - [Ruff Notes May 2019 – Reporting Negative Behaviors](#)
- [Evaluations, Assessments, and Possible Outcomes](#)
- [Video: Journey vs. Genes – Who's steering this ship? \(Nature vs Nurture\)](#)

Puppy 101: Getting Started as a GDB Puppy Sitter

- [Puppy 101 Intro and Presentation Recording](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Raising 101 Introduction](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class 1](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class 2](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class 3](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class 4](#)
- [Puppy 101 Class 5](#)
- [Puppy 101 Review Chart](#) – Syllabus of Puppy 101 course content

Puppy 102: Level Up! Skills to become a GDB Puppy Raiser

- [Puppy 102 Introduction](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 1](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 2](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 3](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 4](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 5](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 6](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 7](#)
- [Puppy 102 Class 8](#)
- [Puppy 102 Review Chart](#)
- [Puppy 102 Additional Self-Study for New Raisers](#)

PREPARING FOR A NEW PUPPY

Preparing for a New Puppy

- [Human-only Training Games: No puppy necessary!](#)
- [Creating a Safe Environment for a GDB Puppy](#) - Includes tips for keeping a puppy safe/foreign bodies/poisoning and lost puppy procedures.
- [Puppy's Arrival](#)
- [Confinement](#) - Fencing, kennel runs, crates, exercise pens (x-pens) and tie-downs
- [Equipment](#)
- [Feeding Guidelines](#)

Puppy Packet: General Information

- [Sample Puppy Raiser Info Sheet](#)
- [Puppy Packet Contents List](#)
- [Puppy Raiser Veterinary Care Intro Letter](#)
- [Veterinary Care Guidelines](#)
- [FAQ on Common Puppy Medical Issues](#)

- [GDB Veterinary Care Contact Sheet](#)
- [About Puppy Raiser Monthly & Final Reports](#)
- [Ear Care, Teeth Cleaning, and Heartgard/Frontline Guidelines](#)
 - [Prescription Label Heartgard](#)
 - [Prescription Label NexGard](#)
- [Puppy Raising Nutritional Policy](#)
- [Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form \(Sample\)](#)
- [Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form](#)

Puppy Packet: Handouts to Share with Your Local Veterinarian

- [Veterinary Care Orientation Packet Cover Sheet](#)
- [Veterinarian Intro Letter](#)
- [Veterinary Health Care and Reimbursement Guidelines](#)
- [W9 Form for Local Veterinarian](#)

Puppy Packet: Handouts for Special Circumstances

- [Base Narrow Canines: Discharge Instructions](#)
- [Base Narrow Canines: Post Op Instructions](#)
- [Diarrhea Handout: Puppy Poop Safety](#)
- [Early Alter Schedule for GDB Puppies](#)
- [Entropion Tacking: Discharge Instructions](#)
- [Salmonella Handout](#)
- [Undescended Testicles Information Sheet](#)
- [Kennel Cough-General Information](#)
- [Kennel Cough-Puppy Exposure](#)
- [Parvo Exposure in Young Puppies-General Recommendations](#)
- [Puppy Going to Puppy Raiser Home on Hill's i/d Diet](#)
- [Recessed Vulva Information Sheet](#)
- [Umbilical Hernia Information Sheet](#)

PUPPY CARE

Health

- [Veterinary Care Guidelines](#)
 - [Veterinary Care Flow Chart](#)
 - [Vaccine Schedule Chart](#)
 - [Fecal Scoring Handout](#)
 - [Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form](#)
- [Feeding Guidelines](#)
 - [Puppy Raising Nutritional Policy](#)
 - [Body Condition Scoring](#)
- [FAQ on Common Puppy Medical Issues](#)
- [GDB Veterinary Care Contact Sheet](#)
- [Ear Care, Teeth Cleaning, and Heartgard/Frontline Guidelines](#)
- [Flea Prevention Information](#)
 - [Flea Prevention Checklist and Nexgard Order Form \(Word\)](#)
- [Boarding Female Dogs In Season](#)
 - [Ruff Notes April 2020 - Socialization & Puppy Training Special At Home Edition](#)
- [Common Medical Career Change Conditions](#)

Handling

- [Puppy Body Handling](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Handling, Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Handling, Part 2](#)
- [Grooming](#)
- [Nail Trimming](#)

- [Video: Nail Trimming](#)

Exercise and Play

- [Puppy Raising Toy Policy](#)
 - [Food Containing Toys for GDB Puppies](#) - stuffed Kong, Wobbler, Mango
- [Exercise and Play](#)
 - [Dog-to-Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)
 - [Ruff Notes March 2021 – Yard Play](#)
- [Fun Canine Conditioning Games for Guide Dog Puppies 12 Months of Age and Over](#)
- [Swimming and Wading for GDB Puppies](#)
 - [Ruff Notes June 2021 – Summer Socialization](#)
- [GDB Puppy Watercraft Guidelines](#)

HOUSE BEHAVIOR

House Behavior

- [Teaching Good House Behavior](#)
- [Teaching Settled Behavior in the Home](#)
 - [Ruff Notes May 2018 – Someone's at the Door!](#)
- [Food Containing Toys for GDB Puppies](#) - stuffed Kong, Wobbler, Mango
- [Confinement](#) - Fencing, kennel runs, crates, exercise pens (x-pens) and tie-downs
 - [Ruff Notes Aug 2017 – Crating Issues](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Nov 2019 – Settling Behavior](#)
- [Crate Introduction Game](#)
- [Home Alone](#)
- [Preventing Destructive Behavior](#)
- [Preventing Counter Surfing and Scavenging](#)
- [Relieving and Housebreaking](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Oct 2018 – Relieving Review](#)
- [Dog-to-Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

Puppy Socialization

- [Puppy Socialization](#) - Public access; safety considerations during socialization; puppy jacket guidelines.
General tips for socializing and teaching the puppy to be comfortable on surfaces, confident around traffic and to ride calmly in vehicles. Tips for introduction to public transportation and the policy regarding puppies in strollers, shopping carts and other carriers.
 - [Ruff Notes Nov 2020 – Puppy Socialization](#)
 - [Ruff Notes June 2021 – Summer Socialization](#)
 - [Video: Fearful Behavior in GDB Puppies Raiser Webinar](#)
- [Chart: Steps to a Well Socialized Puppy](#)
- [GDB Puppy Sitting Fillable Form \(Word\)](#)
 - [GDB Puppy Sitting Form Printer Friendly](#)
- [Travel Guidelines](#) - General rules for travel; Career Change dogs; transporting GDB puppies in vehicles; airline travel.
 - [Air Travel for Puppies in Training](#)
 - [Form: Travel Request for GDB Puppies \(Word\)](#)
- [Dog-to-Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)
- [Building a Confident Puppy with R+](#) - Behaviors indicating fear; explanation of desensitization and counter-conditioning; the three “D’s” as applied to these procedures.

- [Puppies with Sensitive Temperaments](#)
 - [Canine Body Language: Subtle Signs of Fear and Anxiety](#) - A pictorial chart.
- [Ruff Notes Feb 2018 – Surviving Puppy Adolescence](#)

TRAINING AND GAMES

Section 1: Starting Off Right

- [Human-only Training Games: No puppy necessary!](#)
- [Crate Introduction Game](#)
- [Relieving and Housebreaking](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Oct 2018 – Relieving Review](#)
- [Food Reward Games](#) - Puppy's introduction to polite food reward taking and problem solving techniques for hard taking of food.
- [Video: Food Reward Basics: Part 1](#)
- [Video: R+ Training: The Basics Part 2](#)
- [Pezzing & Luring](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Mar 2019 – Fading the Lure](#)
- [Puppy Body Handling](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Handling, Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Puppy Handling, Part 2](#)
- [Grooming](#)
- [Nail Trimming](#)
 - [Video: Nail Trimming](#)

Section 2: First Lessons and Games

- [Introducing The Gentle Leader](#)
 - [Video: Introducing The Gentle Leader](#)
- [Food Induced Recall](#)
 - [Video: Food Induced Recall, Part 1](#)
 - [Video: Food Induced Recall, Part 2](#)
- [Ground Tether Part 1: Introduction](#)
 - [Video: Ground Tether Intro](#)
- [Ground Tether Part 2](#)
 - [Video: Ground Tether Impulse Control](#)
 - [Video: Ground Tether for Greeting Manners](#)
- [Hand Tether](#)
 - [Video: Hand Tether](#)
- [Hand Tether in Motion](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #1](#) - Introduction to the Paw Pad and duration in the stand position.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #1](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #2](#) - Introducing handler movement and increasing distance; moving the pad away from the wall and first introduction of the 'stay' cue.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #2](#)
- [Video: Paw Pad Dropped Food Games, Part 1](#)
- [Video: Paw Pad Dropped Food Games, Part 2](#)
- [Video: Paw Pad Dropped Food Games, Part 3](#)

Section 3: Settling and Leash Manners

- [Collar Cues for GDB Puppies](#)
 - [Video: Collar Cues for GDB Puppies](#)
- [Rewarding Calm Behavior](#)
 - [Video: Rewarding Calm Behavior](#)
 - [Ruff Notes Jan 2020 – Smart Use of Reinforcement for Calm/Settled Behavior](#)
- [Loose Leash Walking Guidelines](#)
 - [Video: Loose Leash Walking Guidelines](#)
- [“Go to Bed” Game](#)
 - [Video: Go to Bed](#)

- [Ruff Notes May 2018 – Someone’s at the Door!](#)

Section 4: Foundation Positions (Stand, Sit, and Down)

- [Signals for Stand, Sit and Down](#)
 - [Video: Signals for Stand, Sit and Down](#)
- [Introducing the Foundation Position Sit](#)
 - [Video: Introducing the Foundation Position Sit](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #3](#) - Sit on the pad and introducing the signal for stand; duration in position and changing positions – sit and stand. Explanation of negative punishment – time outs. How to positively teach a ‘stay’ and introduction of the verbal cues.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #3](#)
 - [Video: Luring with prompts on the Paw Pad](#)
- [Introducing the Foundation Position Down](#)
 - [Video: Introducing the Foundation Position Down](#)
- [Paw Pad Game #4](#) - Down on the pad and changing positions – down, stand, sit. Duration in position and review of: negative punishment – time outs; how to positively teach a stay. Introduction of the verbal cue for down.
 - [Video: Paw Pad Game #4](#)
 - [Video: Luring with prompts on the Paw Pad](#)

Section 5: Real World Challenges

- [Dog-to-Dog Interaction](#) - In the home; at puppy meetings; in public; what to do around loose dogs.
 - [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)
- [Food Rewards for Countering Distractions](#)
 - [Video: Food Rewards for Countering Distractions](#)
- [Emergency Lure Technique](#)
 - [Video: Emergency Lure Technique](#)

Section 6: Extra Training Resources

- [Paw Pads Suggestions and Guidelines](#)
- [Building a Confident Puppy with R+](#) - Behaviors indicating fear; explanation of desensitization and counter-conditioning; the three “D’s” as applied to these procedures
 - [Canine Body Language: Subtle Signs of Fear and Anxiety](#)
- [Guidelines for Use of High Value Food Rewards](#)
- [Video: Southern California Puppy Raiser Workshop](#)
- [Video: Fearful Behavior in GDB Puppies Raiser Webinar](#)

RUFF NOTES

Ruff Notes Archive

Permanent archive of quarterly reminders and supplemental information based on frequently asked questions and puppy behavior challenges. Dates reflect when the Ruff Note was originally shared. The information continues to be useful and relevant. These Ruff Notes are also linked within other sections of the manual where they supplement the main instructional documents and offer additional troubleshooting ideas.

- [Ruff Notes Oct 2021 – Socializing Puppies During Spooky Season: Halloween Edition \(PDF\) \(WORD\)](#)
- [Ruff Notes June 2021 – Summer Socialization](#)
- [Ruff Notes March 2021 – Yard Play](#)
- [Ruff Notes Nov 2020 – Puppy Socialization](#)
- [Ruff Notes April 2020 – Socialization & Puppy Training Special At Home Edition](#)
- [Ruff Notes Jan 2020 – Smart Use of Reinforcement for Calm/Settled Behavior](#)
- [Ruff Notes Nov 2019 – Settling Behavior](#)
- [Ruff Notes Aug 2019 – Phase Reports](#)
- [Ruff Notes May 2019 – Reporting Negative Behaviors](#)
- [Ruff Notes Mar 2019 – Fading the Lure](#)
- [Ruff Notes Dec 2018 – Getting the Most Out of the Instructional Videos](#)
- [Ruff Notes Oct 2018 – Relieving Review](#)
- [Ruff Notes May 2018 – Someone’s at the Door!](#)

- [Ruff Notes Feb 2018 – Surviving Puppy Adolescence](#)
- [Ruff Notes Dec 2017 – Raiser Monthly Reports](#)
- [Ruff Notes Aug 2017 – Crating Issues](#)
- [Ruff Notes June 2017 – Fear of Dogs and Dog Distraction](#)