

## **Telaquire Kuvasz Puppy Information**

### **Items for preparing for puppy**

- Crate for crate training at home
- Travel crate for puppy pick-up
- Small collar and leash
- Food and water bowls
- Food- you will be provided several days of food that the puppy is currently eating when you pick-up your puppy
- A few toys- appropriate chew toys save other items in your home from puppy teeth

### **Feeding kuvasz puppies**

Your puppy has been eating Nutro Ultra Large breed puppy food. There is much debate on the best food, but a couple of things I consider. We recommend against a puppy food that is not large breed. The make up of these foods has been associated with higher rates of hip dysplasia, HOD and panosteitis. The large breed puppy food accommodate the rapid growth of the puppies better than traditional puppy food. Some people use an adult food, but make sure if you do you use a All Life Stages food, not a maintenance food as the bone support is not adequate. We recommend against a grain freed food or one with peas or lentils in the first 5 ingredients. These do seem to have some association with heart troubles. The puppies have done very well on the Nutro Ultra and they have some good less expensive options, but other foods I have evaluated and think are good are the Diamond Naturals Large Breed Puppy, Fromm Large Breed Puppy (not the grain free) and ProPlan Large Breed Puppy (depending on where you live you may notice more pink on the fur, but overall a good food). If you have questions on a specific food, I would be happy to look at it with you.

Equally important to the quality of the food, is feeding your puppy the right amount. Overfeeding leads to hip dysplasia, unequal bone growth, and HOD as well as other problems. Puppies need adequate calories, but not a lot of extras. Your puppy will go through growth spurts at several different times and the feeding amount will

need to be adjusted accordingly. I recommend checking your puppies body condition (ribs and hips) a least weekly and adjusting the food as needed. When your puppy is sent home, it has been transitioned to 3 meals per day. Depending on the puppy they are eating  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 cup per meal. Young puppies do best with 3 meals per day since their stomachs are still small. As they get bigger, you can change to twice per day. I always feed adults twice per day to reduce the risk of bloat. It is a good habit to limit exercise before and after meals to also reduce the risk of bloat.

If you are using a lot of treats for training, make sure to consider this as you monitor how much food the puppy is getting. I usually train on an empty stomach, so motivation is high.

### **Health Maintenance and Vaccinations**

Your puppy received their first vaccine on 3/22/23. This was a DAP or distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus vaccine. Your puppy will need a second shot of this between 3-4 weeks after (4/12- 4/19). Distemper and Parvo can be deadly to puppies. The coverage from the first vaccine alone is low, limit exposure to areas where other unknown dogs are until at least one week after vaccine two. Your puppy will need at least two more shots possibly three depending on timing, please discuss with your vet. Diseases such as leptospirosis and Bordetella depend on your location and environment of the puppy. Please discuss with your vet. Some kuvasz have trouble with vaccine reactions. I recommend getting just one vaccine at a time to reduce this risk and help know which vaccine is a problem. If you discuss this with your vet, they are usually willing to help space them out, but by default they give multiple in a day because it is convenient for owners. Rabies has the most reactions, I typically push this one out for the last vaccine and all by itself and four weeks from other vaccines.

Heartworm prevention is needed in most areas. I like Heartgard brown, but have also had good luck with interceptor. I would avoid using anything that is a combination treatment for heartworm and fleas. We have seen lots of issues with oral flea treatments. For fleas, topicals like Frontline and Advantage have worked very well without reactions as well as the Seresto flea collar.

## **Puppy training**

Kuvasz are very smart and learn things quickly. They respond well to positive training as they are learning. Train in short sessions, a couple minutes is generally more powerful than an hour long class on the dogs end.

All the puppies have been started on crate training. They have been transitioned to eating their meals in the crate which provides a very positive association. I recommend continuing crate training as puppies, to help with housebreaking and to give them a safe place when needed. Often times puppies make mistakes when they get overstimulated or tired, so a quick rest in the crate can make them a lot easier to deal with.

For puppy biting, I recommend redirecting it to toys, etc. If they get too rough with play, it would be a great time for a short crate rest.

I strongly recommend a puppy class to help keep your training on track and to help your puppy learn to work for you around other dogs. Remember you are your dogs leader, so if the training instructor doesn't seem to be a good match or you feel uncomfortable with the training methods, seek another trainer. All your efforts should be to a good leader and protector of your dog.

They have been litter trained on pine pellets. This should help with transitioning to potty training outdoors. You may want to put some in a small area outside. Remember, the puppy only has a bladder the size of a walnut, so take them out often, especially when they first wake up, eat or have been playing for a while.

## **Socialization**

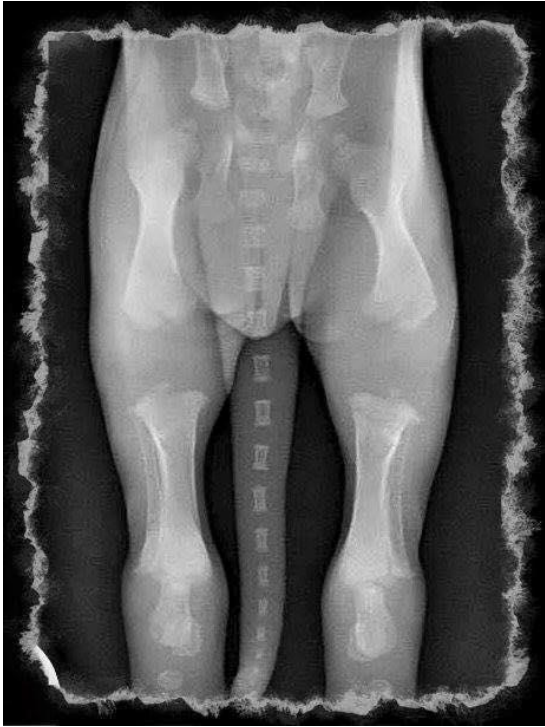
Your puppy has been systematically exposed to many things for the first 8 weeks. The major socialization period in all dogs is 4-12 weeks. The exposures in this time are critical for helping the puppy be a good adult dog and accept normal everyday life. Exposure to many different people and experiences in a non-overwhelming fashion is key. Do one new thing at a time and allow your puppy to slowly accept these things with positive reinforcement (food, praise). Remember, you can't get this time back, so take advantage, but do your best to choose activities that keep the puppy safe until the second vaccine coverage is good.

In addition, kuvasz are bred to be independent guard dogs which requires an astute judge of normal and safe. Therefore, they must continue to be exposed to various things throughout their life. They will be slower to accept new things as they get older, so more positive experiences help. Don't let them get stuck in a rut. Speak up if you need help!

## **Puppy Exercise**

The picture below shows the joints of a two week old puppy. Puppies are born with essentially no attachments of their joints and they slowly form. This makes them very susceptible to injuries and problems with later joint problems. However, appropriate exercise is important for their development. A few tenets:

- Avoid repetitive motion. Climbing and jumping should be very limited. They should not be jumping repeatedly or climbing over elbow height. Repetitive exercise can also cause issues. Watch things like jumping off of couches.
- Short strolls at the puppies pace are good. Just make sure to go at the puppies natural pace for a walk. If they get tired, it is likely too much.
- Playing with a similarly aged puppy is generally good exercise. Puppies may overdo it with adult dogs and therefore short periods of well monitored play are recommended.
- Self directed play in the backyard with supervision is good and help develop the muscles around the joints.
- Slippery floors are hard on joints. Rugs can help puppies get better traction.
- Avoid flights of stairs before 3 months and routine use of stairs until 6 months. 1 or two stairs is generally fine and helps them with body awareness.
- If you play tug or use balls keep them low and the puppies neck not raised above the body.
- If you need to tire them out, try teaching them a new trick or skill, this will often tire them out far more than exercise, without wear and tear on the joints.
- I've attached some general guidelines by age from the puppy culture program.



## Health problems

We work hard to decrease health problems by selective breeding, but there are a few things that we do see come up in the breed. One of our major goals is to always improve health. If you have a health problem with your dog, please reach out to me. In combination with our mentors, we have raised many kuvasz and may be aware of something that could help. The kuvasz is an old and rare breed and many vets may never have seen one or a unique problem that may crop up. Also, we want to use any health information to improve future generations of the breed.

Hip dysplasia occurs. Genetics, environment and nutrition are key components. We have selected many generations of dogs without hip dysplasia to reduce risk. Please keep in mind nutrition and exercise to help as well. There are several studies that show increased risk of hip dysplasia with early spay/neuter. If you can delay until 18-24 months, this may also help with joint growth and formation. We recommend delaying when possible. Elbow dysplasia is less common (I have not seen any problems in the lines these puppies come from).

Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) causes blindness. Two genes are required to cause affected puppies and the puppies father does not carry the gene, so puppies will not be affected, but may carry a gene that could affect breeding.

Hypothyroidism can be genetic in origin or non-genetic. It is no uncommon in older kuvasz, but can usually be easily managed with medication. If your dog has unexplained fatigue, hair loss or weight gain, please talk to your vet about thyroid testing.

Cardiac issues have been seen, but rarely.

Bloat can occur in any large dog, particularly ones with deep chests. I recommend reading carefully about the symptoms, as this is a surgical emergency if it occurs. Avoid exercise close to meals, split meals for smaller volume food intake and monitor for any concerning signs.

Cancer is less frequent than in other large breed dogs, but I have heard of cases of both bone and GI cancers in older dogs.

We hope you will enjoy a wonderful companionship with your puppy. Kuvasz are loyal companions beyond compare! If you are having trouble or have any concerns, please reach out to me. I have lots of resources and experience and I am here to help in anyway. I would encourage you to join one of our facebook groups or the national club, to also have support of other owners. We love picture and updates! Please share with us how your puppy is doing!



**8-12**  
weeks

## Exercise Guidelines For Puppies

shop.puppyculture.com

### Sustained and Continuous Walking

- 50-200 feet at a time.
- Break up with sniffing and noodling around.
- Formal heeling/leash walking training limited to 2 minutes.

### Sniff 'N Stroll

- Informal "sniff and stroll" sessions can be up to about 10-15 minutes.

### Noodling and Kibble Trails

- Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.

### Running

- No directed running except for very short spurts in play.
- Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.

### Jumping and Impact Activities



### Swimming

- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height.
- No more than one or two obstacles in a row.
- Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but very low.
- Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised.
- Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs.
- Carry puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.
- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- Wading and playing on the shoreline.
- Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water.
- Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water.
- Puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.

### Chasing

- Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.

### Tugging

- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line.
- Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.

### Fast Turns

- No FAST turns or sudden stops.
- No fast weaves or lure coursing.
- We do begin SLOW shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles.

### Free Play with Other Dogs

- 10-15 minutes for formal "play dates."
- Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults).
- Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play.
- You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps.



## 12-16 weeks

# Exercise Guidelines For Puppies

shop.puppyculture.com

### Sustained and Continuous Walking

- Gradually increase duration and length of walks, between 100-200 feet by the time the puppy is 16 weeks old.
- Let the puppy volunteer to keep going and stop if he shows reluctance to go further.
- Keep formal training under 2 minutes per session.

### Sniff 'N Stroll

- Can be increased to 15-20 minutes.

### Noodling and Kibble Trails

- Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.

### Running

- No directed running except for very short spurts in play.
- Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.

### Jumping and Impact Activities

- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height.
- No more than one or two obstacles in a row.
- Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but very low.
- Carpet all indoor stairs. Don't let puppy go up or down stairs unsupervised.
- Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs.
- Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.

### Swimming

- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- Wading and playing on the shoreline.
- Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water.
- Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water.
- Puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.



### Chasing

- Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.

### Tugging

- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line.
- Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.

### Fast Turns

- No FAST turns or sudden stops.
- No fast weaves or lure coursing.
- We do begin SLOW shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles.

### Free Play with Other Dogs

- 10 -15 minutes for formal "play dates."
- Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults).
- Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play.
- You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps.





## 4-6 months

# Exercise Guidelines For Puppies

shop.puppyculture.com

### Sustained and Continuous Walking

- Gradually increase duration and length of walks. Probably going to be between 200-400 feet at a time by the time the puppy is 6 months old.
- Let the puppy volunteer to keep going and stop if he shows reluctance to go further.
- Keep formal training under 2 minutes per session.

### Sniff 'N Stroll

- Can be increased to as much as 45 minutes by the time the puppy is 6 months old, provided you are moving at a very slow pace with lots of opportunity for the puppy to stop and noodle around.

### Noodling and Kibble Trails

- Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.



### Running

- No directed running except for very short spurts in play.
- Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.

### Jumping and Impact Activities

- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height.
- No more than one or two obstacles in a row.
- Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but very low.
- Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised.
- Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs.
- Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.

### Swimming

- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- Wading and playing on the shoreline.
- Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water.
- Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water.
- Puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.

### Chasing

- Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.

### Tugging

- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line.
- Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.

### Fast Turns

- No FAST turns or sudden stops.
- No fast weaves or lure coursing.
- We do begin SLOW shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles.

### Free Play with Other Dogs

- Up to 20 minutes for formal "play dates."
- Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults).
- Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play.
- You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps.



6-12 months

## Exercise Guidelines For Puppies

shop.puppyculture.com

### Sustained and Continuous Walking

- Walks on pavement should be kept short, but duration of walks on dirt or turf can be increased and more "hiking" type activities can be introduced.
- Again, best to keep doing these walks as "sniff and strolls" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft surface by the time the puppy is a year old IF the puppy volunteers to go that far.

### Sniff 'N Stroll

- Can be increased to as much as 60 minutes by the time the puppy is 12 months old, provided you are moving at a very slow pace with lots of opportunity for the puppy to stop and noodle around.

### Noodling and Kibble Trails

- Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.

### Running

- No directed running except for very short spurts in play.
- Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.

### Jumping and Impact Activities

- Jumps can be gradually raised half way to elbow height between 6 and 12 months old, with correspondingly more challenging ramps, wobble boards, and teeters.
- Platform work for rear end awareness can be introduced at this time very carefully and slowly.
- This is also the time when we see the most spiral fractures happen because the puppies have the wherewithal to get up on high couches and beds - be extra vigilant about not letting puppies up on high furniture without very close supervision!
- Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors.
- Although the puppy may start doing stairs with good traction at this time, you should still supervise and don't let him run down the stairs with other dogs.



### Swimming

- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- Wading and playing on the shoreline.
- Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water.
- Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water.
- Puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so. Limit swimming to a few minutes at a time.
- Very short swim out to retrieves in the water.
- Keep the toy close to shore. High toy-drive dogs will swim further after a thrown toy than they can or should.

### Chasing

- Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.

### Tugging

- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line.
- Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.

### Fast Turns

- No FAST turns or sudden stops.
- No fast weaves or lure coursing.
- We do begin SLOW shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles.

### Free Play with Other Dogs

- Up to 20 minutes for formal "play dates."
- Your puppy's increased body mass can make him more liable to injury if he engages in body-slammng play or a lot of fast sprints and turns.
- Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play.
- Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults).
- You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps.



## 12-18 months

## Exercise Guidelines For Puppies

shop.puppyculture.com

### Sustained and Continuous Walking

- Walks on pavement should be kept short, but duration of walks on dirt or turf can be increased and more "hiking" type activities can be introduced.
- Again, best to keep doing these walks as "sniff and strolls" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft surface by the time the puppy is a year old IF the puppy volunteers to go that far.

### Sniff 'N Stroll

- OK to do 60 minutes provided you are moving at a very slow pace with lots of opportunity for the puppy to stop and noodle around.

### Noodling and Kibble Trails

- Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.

### Running

- No directed running except for very short spurts in play.
- Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.

### Jumping and Impact Activities

- The height can be changed to elbow height between 12-18 months with correspondingly more challenging ramps, wobble boards, and teeters.
- Platform work for rear end awareness can be continued at this time.
- This is also the time when we see the most spiral fractures happen because the puppies have the wherewithal to get up on high couches and beds - be extra vigilant about not letting puppies up on high furniture without very close supervision!
- Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors.
- Although the puppy may continue doing stairs with good traction at this time, you should still supervise and don't let him run down the stairs with other dogs.

### Swimming

- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- Wading and playing on the shoreline.
- Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water.
- Retrieves/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water.
- Puppies should be allowed to swim if they volunteer to do so. Limit swimming to a few minutes at a time.
- Very short swim out to retrieves in the water.
- Keep the toy close to shore. High toy-drive dogs will swim further after a thrown toy than they can or should.

### Chasing

- Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.

### Tugging

- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line.
- Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.

### Fast Turns

- No FAST turns or sudden stops.
- No fast weaves or lure coursing.
- We do begin SLOW shaping of weave poles but discontinue if the puppy shows any signs of speeding up or really "weaving" through the poles.

### Free Play with Other Dogs

- Up to 20 minutes for formal "play dates."
- Your puppy's increased body mass can make him more liable to injury if he engages in body-slammng play or a lot of fast sprints and turns.
- Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and throw handfuls of food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play.
- Puppy can have free access to other puppies and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults).
- You may have to enforce rest periods by putting puppy away for naps.



**18 months  
to 2 years**

## Exercise Guidelines For Puppies

shop.puppyculture.com

### Sustained and Continuous Walking

- Hikes and walks can be gradually increased to as long and as rigorous as you and your dog both like, but remember that a dog's soft tissue is still maturing through about three years old. Increases should be gradual and you should back off if your dog appears tired or reluctant.

### Sniff 'N Stroll

- Sniff and strolls can be gradually replaced with more sustained "walks" but remember that sniffing is the primary way dogs relate to the world, so be a sport and continue to give your dog an opportunity to stop and sniff from time to time.

### Noodling and Kibble Trails

- Your dog can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.

### Running

- Running and endurance training can gradually be introduced at this time.

### Jumping and Impact Activities

- Gradually raise jumps and contact obstacles to full competition height between 18-24 months old.
- Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors.

### Swimming

- Competition swimming behaviors can be introduced and dog can swim for as long as he volunteers to.
- Life jackets are always a must.

### Chasing

- Gauge your play style by your dog's common sense. If you throw a ball and your dog tumbles head over heels to get it, don't throw the ball - roll or lob it.

### Tugging

- You can start to hold the tug toy higher but generally it's best to let the dog tug on the toy rather than you pulling on it.

### Fast Turns

- Full weave pole training and other activities that involve twisting and turning can be introduced.

### Free Play with Other Dogs

- Always be vigilant when your dogs are playing and intervene by throwing handfuls of food down if there's a lot of body slamming or the play just gets too crazy.

