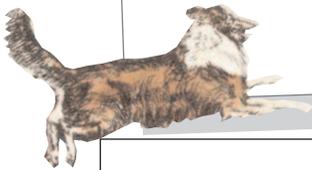


## HOMECOMING!

*Planning for your 'new arrival'*



**B**efore a new dog comes home for the first time, there are various preparations that need to be made by both the dog's new family and the breeder.

Once a match has been made between a family and a Collie, a good breeder will provide information and guidance to help the dog settle into its new home. As part of the procedure for transferring a dog to its new owners, each Breeder will provide a "puppy packet" containing paperwork pertaining to that dog. The Breeder will spend time explaining this paperwork to be sure each part is understood.



What slipper?

This is the perfect time for the family to ask all their questions about their new Collie, from dog care, grooming and training to future expectations.

The **Puppy Packet** should include:

- A **Contract** signed by both breeder and buyer that details the rights and responsibilities of both parties.
- The **AKC Registration** of the dog or the written statement of when the registration will be delivered (it is common to hold back registrations during an initial settling-in period.)
- A **Health Certificate**, signed by a veterinarian, which includes all immunizations that have been given to the puppy and which are needed in the future.
- A copy of the dog's **Eye Check**, signed by a veterinary ophthalmologist.
- Written **Feeding and Care Instructions**.





### Training

Once you have started to focus your search for a family dog, you can begin the rest of the preparations and go shopping. Have a look at your household traffic patterns and routines and think about how the dog will fit in. "It takes a village to raise a puppy," so all the family should plan to become involved. The specific



- A **Starter Supply** of the dog's food.

A Puppy Packet might also include:

- A **collar and lead**.
- A **favorite toy**.
- A bottle of the **breeder's water**.
- **Grooming brushes**.
- **Ear Training instructions**.



Meeting the kids...

### Family Preparations

Getting ready for the arrival of a new dog is exciting and fun. It is worthwhile to invest some time now to ready for this "big event" so that you can spend your new dog's first hours at home fully enjoying the magic. Some of the preparations for a new dog can be done quite quickly, while others require more time and resources. Most breeders will hold a dog for you with a deposit while you make your final preparations for homecoming.

### Fencing

The most important long-term preparation you will need to consider is probably the fencing of your yard. Large breed dog breeders would all prefer to place a dog in a family with a fenced yard.



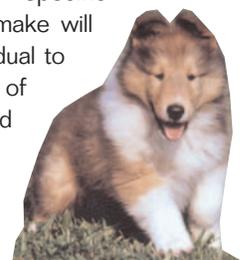
Playtime!

Fencing keeps the dog safe and makes it much easier for the family to care for the dog, especially in poor weather. Four feet in height is the standard minimum height of a fence for a large dog, and this is fine for a Collie. Electronic or "invisible" fencing is not recommended for Collies. It keeps the dog in, but does not protect the dog's area from intrusion by other animals, neighborhood dogs, or even "unwelcome" human visitors. This makes e-fences a difficult mental adjustment for the contained dog.



... Welcome party!

plans you make will be determined by the age of your new dog as well as your family's character and schedule. Working families of puppies may need a dog walker to assist them, and many families use the assistance of grooming shops in coat maintenance. All new dogs and their families benefit from training classes, starting with Puppy Kindergarten. The specific plans you need to make will necessarily be individual to you. A general list of things you may need to buy or arrange can be found in Chapter 12: *Resources*.



## CHAPTER 10: Getting Started in Performance

