



2024

# PUPPY STARTER KIT

FOR BORZOIS

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# PROLOGUE

You have just welcomed a young Borzoi into your family, and this is only the beginning of a beautiful and long adventure with your puppy. This document aims to guide you in the care of your Borzoi and to answer some of your questions to make you as autonomous as possible. It is designed to offer you precise steps to follow based on your puppy's age and development up to adulthood. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions; we will be delighted to help you.

The adaptation and exploration period is crucial for your puppy. Having just left its family, it will need time to acclimate to its new environment. During this period, it might show signs of stress, such as whining, loss of appetite, or sleep disturbances, which should lessen over time.

Toilet training accidents are common, and a consistent training routine is essential.

With that, happy reading and enjoy your Borzoi puppy!

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Pile Poil Photographie

# GROWTH



A DOG'S GROWTH IS CRUCIAL FOR ITS HEALTH, BEHAVIOR, AND OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE. PROPER NUTRITION, REGULAR EXERCISE, AND VETERINARY CHECK-UPS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ENSURING HEALTHY GROWTH AND PREVENTING LONG-TERM ISSUES.

## STAGES OF GROWTH FOR THE BORZOI

4-12  
weeks

### RAPID GROWTH

Intense bone growth period with rapid development of the growth cartilage in long bones.

3-6  
months

### JUVENILE PERIOD

Rapid growth period with an increase of up to 50% of the adult size, intense bone, cartilage, and muscle development, increased coordination, and a need for teething toys.

6-18  
months

### ADOLESCENCE

Continued growth, though at a slower pace, with muscle strengthening and development of coordination. Progressive closure of growth cartilage signals the end of bone lengthening.

18  
months  
to  
3 years

### MATURITY

Borzoi reach their full adult size and weight, completing their physical maturation. Regular exercise is crucial to support their health and muscle maintenance.

On this page, you will find charts illustrating the growth progression of puppies, allowing you to compare your puppy's measurements to standard references to assess their development. Additionally, there is a calculation tool to estimate your dog's expected weight based on their size. This calculation becomes particularly relevant once they reach their adult size (18+ months) as puppies go through different stages of bone and muscle development during their growth period.

## WEIGHT CALCULATION

$(\text{kg} / 0,45) / (\text{cm} / 2,54) = 2,66$  (Sighthound BMI)  
 donc  
 $\text{kg} = 2,66 * 0,45 * \text{cm} / 2,54$

**kg = 0,47 \* cm**

So a dog measuring 83 cm at the withers ...  $\text{kg} = 0,47 * 83$   
 should weigh approximately 39 kg.

### Adult Size and Weight

♂	75-85 cm	34-47 kg
♀	68-78 cm	27-41 kg

## GROWTH CHARTS

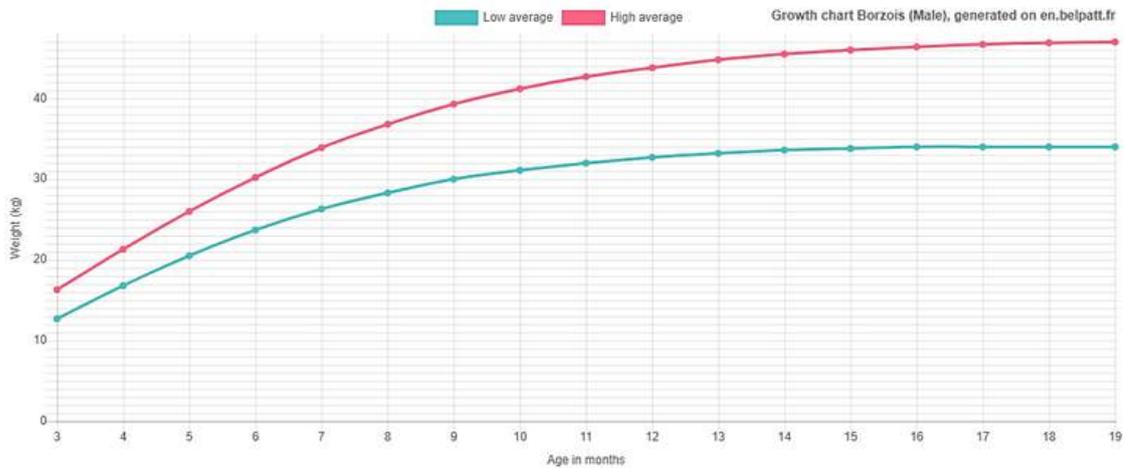


Figure 1. Standard Growth Curves for Male Borzois. (belpatt.fr)

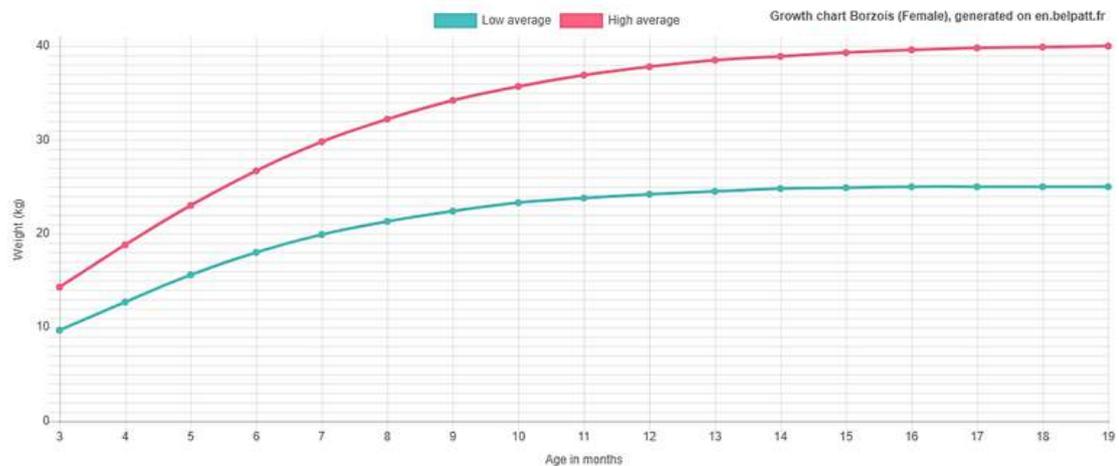


Figure 2. Standard Growth Curves for Female Borzois. (belpatt.fr)

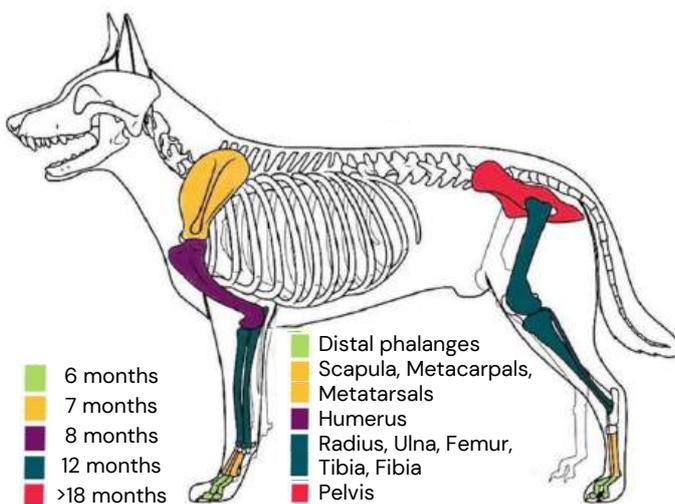
# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR LARGE DOG BREEDS AS IT PROMOTES THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. REGULAR EXERCISE HELPS PREVENT OBESITY, STRENGTHENS MUSCLES, AND SUPPORTS CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH. ADDITIONALLY, IT CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR EMOTIONAL BALANCE BY REDUCING STRESS AND CHANNELING THEIR ENERGY.

However, it is crucial to adjust the intensity of activities to their age and development, particularly considering the closure of growth plates, to avoid injuries and ensure healthy growth.



## GROWTH PLATES



**Figure 3.** Closure of Growth Plates in Large Dog Breeds.

As outlined in the growth section, the closure of growth plates typically completes around 18 months, after which they transform into hard bone.

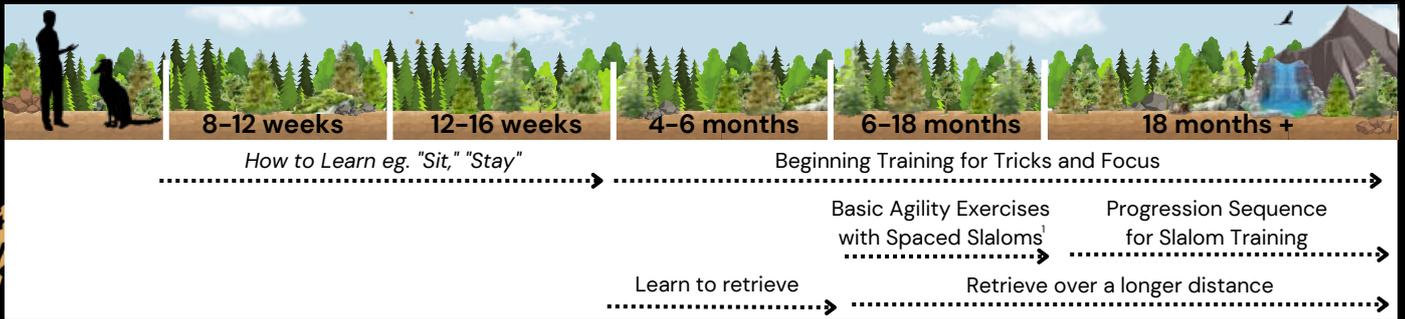
These cartilages are particularly important to consider during physical activities, as they represent the most vulnerable bone areas in puppies. An injury can lead to premature closure of the cartilage, resulting in reduced growth of the affected bones and potentially causing lameness, for example.

Therefore, it is crucial to remember that any intense activity should not be undertaken before the age of 18 months.

On the following page, you will find safety guidelines based on your puppy's development to help guide you towards age-appropriate physical activities and stages of growth until adulthood.

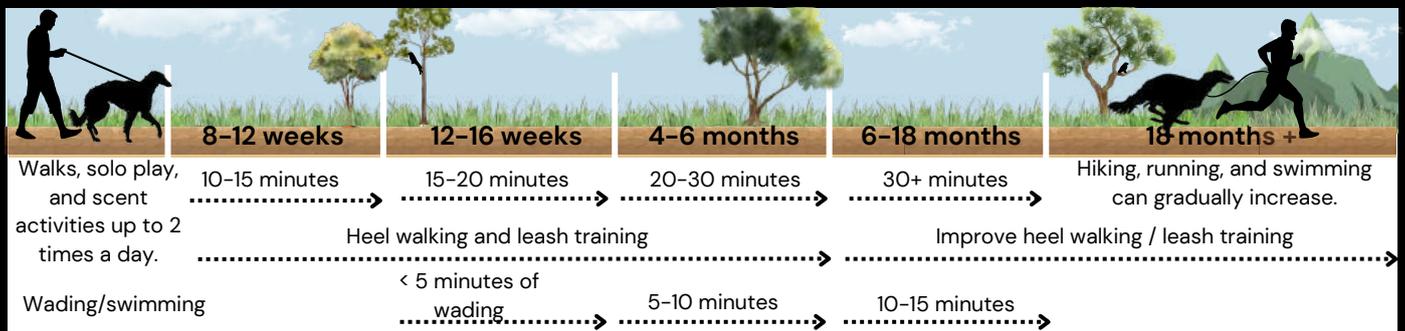
# SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PUPPY EXERCISE

## Basic Training



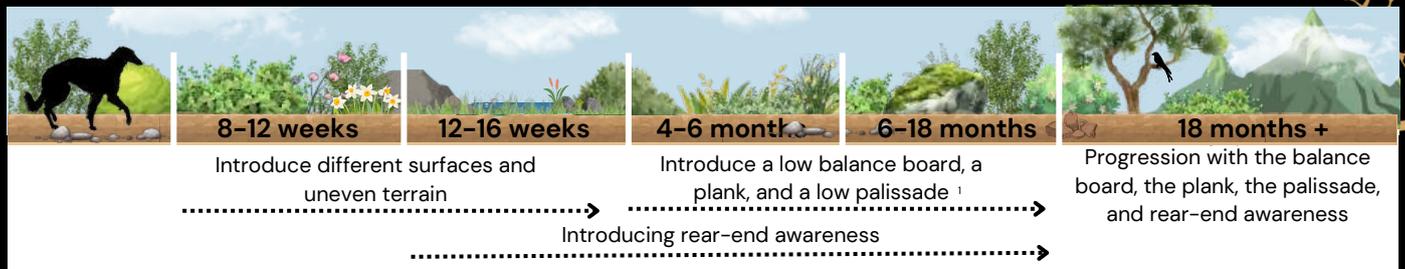
Sessions should be limited to 2 minutes each until the age of 6 months.

## Increase Physical Fitness



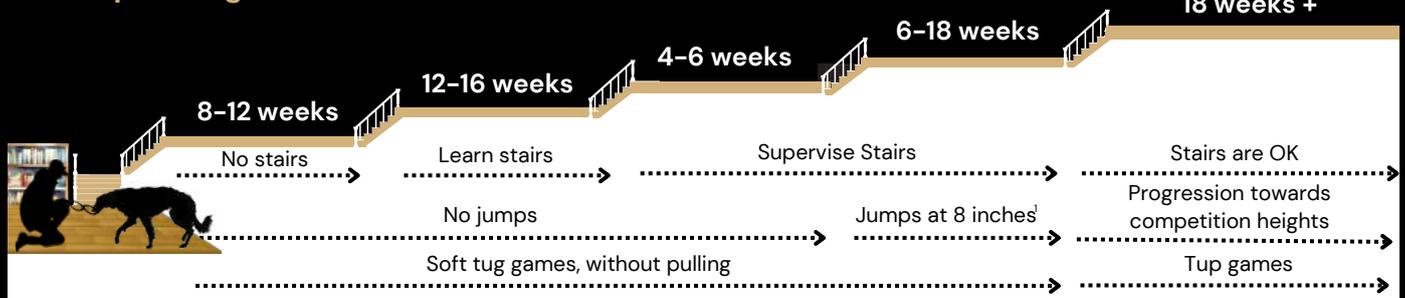
Let your puppy choose when to continue or stop based on its willingness. Play only with puppies of similar size/energy. Avoid play on slippery surfaces. Provide opportunities for free running in a secure area to let it exercise and run to its full potential. Lure coursing can begin gradually from around 12 months of age.<sup>2</sup>

## Improve balance and body awareness



Helps the brain understand where the body is and how it moves.

## Develop Strength



Monitor access to furniture, stairs (use barriers), and vehicle entry/exit until the age of 18 months. For jumps, even if the dog can easily jump 20 inches, maintain a safe height and limit repetitions until 18 months.

\* References: <https://the-balanced-dog.com> ; Agility Association of Canada (AAC)<sup>1</sup> ; Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)<sup>2</sup>

# STRETCHING AND WARM-UP EXERCISES

## STRETCHING

**Nose twist towards**  
(hip, knee, ankle,  
shoulder, elbow, wrist)  
neck and spine



**Stand | Bow**  
Triceps, middle back,  
hamstrings

**Head up / down**  
Neck

90 degrees up and down



**2-3 times per week**



**Sit | Paws on chair**  
Hips, iliopsoas,  
and spine

**Shake paw**  
shoulder and tricep

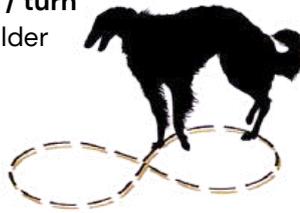
## WARM-UP

**Shake paw**  
shoulder

**Slalom / turn**  
shoulder

**Standing | Bow**  
triceps, middle back,  
hamstrings

**Reverse**  
glutes,  
hamstrings,  
shoulder



**Perform 15 minutes before physical activity.**  
Start with 5-10 minutes of walking/jogging and  
do 5 repetitions of each exercise.

**Crab walk**  
hips, thighs



**Sit | Paws on me (chest)**  
hip flexors and  
iliopsoas

**Low tug**  
hamstrings and shoulder,  
increases heart rate



**Sit | Lie down**  
elbow, shoulder, hip, knee

**Sprint**

\*Reserved for dogs over 18 months who are engaged in sports. Beneficial for enhancing performance in high-intensity sports and reducing the risk of injuries.

# HEALTH

## TO NOTE

### MILK TEETH

LBorzo puppies begin to lose their milk teeth around 3 to 4 months of age. This process of losing milk teeth and having adult teeth come in typically continues until around 6 to 7 months. During this time, it's important to monitor their dental health and provide appropriate chew toys to alleviate teething discomfort.

### SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Spaying and neutering are recommended after growth, typically from around 18 months of age (UC, Davis, 2024)<sup>1</sup>.

### PREVENTION

Owners should ensure regular veterinary check-ups, provide a balanced diet, and engage in appropriate exercise to reduce the risk of potential health issues. Prophylactic surgery may be considered to prevent gastric torsion. Additionally, we recommend annual treatments for fleas, ticks, and heartworms to support your dog's overall health.



## IN MY PHARMACY

These items will help you care for your Borzoi in case of minor injuries or emergencies.

### WOUND OPENING

- **Colloidal Silver Liquid:** Non-toxic disinfectant for superficial wounds.
- **Veterinary Disinfectant:** For proper care.

### PROBIOTICS: FOR MANAGING DIARRHEA

- **Aventi GI (veterinary):** Effective but expensive.
- **Fortiflora by Purina:** Useful for sudden diarrhea or after antibiotics. Aventi is a reliable alternative.

### EARS

- **Veterinary Cleaner:** Prefer veterinary formulas to avoid ear infections. Regular cleaning is recommended if your dog frequently goes into the water. Start acclimating your puppy to this routine from a young age!

### STINGS

- **Benadryl:** Regular version, 1 mg per pound of body weight, with a maximum of 50 mg per dose. Administer every 6 hours, up to 3 times a day.\*

### TO INDUCE VOMITING

- **3% Hydrogen Peroxide:** Check with a veterinarian before use. Dosage: small dog 5 ml, medium dog 10 ml, large dog 15 ml. Wait 20 minutes. Use within an hour of ingestion.\*

\* These items are good to have in your medicine cabinet, but consult with your veterinarian before use.

### BULK

- **Vet wrap**
- **Sterile 4x4 compresses**
- **White bandage**
- **White paper Diachylon (adhesive bandage)**
- **Old cut socks:** To prevent excessive licking
- **Round-tipped scissors**
- **Skunk odor shampoo**
- **Sticks:** To immobilize a limb

# FOOD



1

## ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS AND TYPES OF FOOD

Russian Wolfhounds need a diet rich in high-quality proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals. Recommended options include high-quality commercial food formulated for large breeds, well-balanced raw diets, and home-cooked meals prepared under veterinary supervision.

2

## QUANTITY, MEAL FREQUENCY, AND HYDRATION

Puppies should be fed three to four times a day until about 4-5 months old, while adults can be fed twice daily. It's crucial to divide daily portions into several meals to avoid gastric torsion issues. Fresh water should always be available.

It's also essential to space out physical activity sessions from meals to prevent gastric torsion, which can be fatal. It is recommended to wait at least 1 hour before and 2.5 hours after meals for any intense physical activity. Additionally, it's necessary to limit the amount of water consumed by the dog immediately after intense physical activity for the same reasons.

3

## WEIGHT MONITORING, SUPPLEMENTS, AND PRECAUTIONS

Monitor your dog's weight to prevent obesity or malnutrition and adjust portions as needed. Supplements such as omega-3 and omega-6 promote a healthy coat, while glucosamine supports joint health. The next page will provide information on supplements for active adult dogs. Avoid toxic foods like chocolate, grapes, onions, and garlic. If in doubt, consult online lists of toxic foods and plants.

4

## FOOD ENRICHMENT

Food enrichment stimulates your dog's environment and promotes their mental and physical development. Using treat-dispensing toys, food puzzles, or hiding food pieces stimulates their natural hunting and foraging instincts. This practice enhances their cognitive skills, prevents boredom, and improves their overall well-being, while also strengthening your bond with them.

# SUPPLEMENTS FOR ACTIVE DOGS

Supplements for active dogs help maintain joint health, support muscle recovery, strengthen the immune system, and promote cardiovascular health.

They also enhance endurance, balance electrolytes, and complement the diet to ensure overall optimal health. These benefits are crucial for preventing injuries, improving performance, and supporting recovery in active dogs.

## PRO | PRE | POSTBIOTICS



Probiotics, by promoting healthy digestion, prebiotics by selectively feeding beneficial gut bacteria, and postbiotics by actively supporting the immune system, work together to create optimal gut balance.

This synergy strengthens your loyal companion's natural defenses, improving not only their digestion but also their ability to fight infections and diseases. By promoting a balanced gut flora, these supplements contribute to better nutrient absorption, thereby enhancing overall vitality and well-being.

## MARINE OIL



Omega-3s (DHA and EPA) are essential for brain development, heart health, and inflammation management in active dogs. On the other hand, omega-6s provide essential energy while supporting skin and coat health.

Maintaining an appropriate ratio (4:1 omega-3 to omega-6) between these fatty acids is crucial. An excess of omega-6 can lead to excessive inflammation, highlighting the importance of omega-3 supplements. Marine oils, which are better absorbed than plant-based oils, are preferred to ensure optimal absorption for your dog.

## COLLAGEN



Collagen is essential for active dogs as it optimally supports joints, prevents joint issues, enhances mobility, and aids in recovery after exercise.

Derived from New Zealand green-lipped mussel, powdered collagen effectively prevents joint issues. Choose a lighter, less concentrated powder to avoid renal overload. For mild to moderate problems, liquid collagen or Tanus + are effective options. Very active dogs can also benefit from these supplements to prevent degeneration. Natural sources such as raw beef knee or trachea are also interesting alternatives.

# SOCIALIZATION

## SOCIALIZATION OF A DOG IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING BALANCED BEHAVIOR AND PREVENTING BEHAVIORAL ISSUES.

The socialization period, up to 16 weeks, is crucial for establishing a strong bond with new family members. We have initiated your puppy's socialization by exposing them to various environments, situations, people, and animals. It is essential to continue this process to help them acclimate to their new environment and thrive fully.



3-12  
weeks

### PRIMARY SOCIALIZATION PERIOD

- **Human Interactions:** Puppies should meet various people to become familiar with different types of interactions.
- **Environmental Exploration:** They need to explore different environments, sounds, objects, and surfaces.
- **Interaction with Other Animals:** They should be exposed to other dogs and animals to develop their social skills.

3-6  
months

### JUVENILE PERIOD

- **Socialization Window:** Up to 16 weeks, it is crucial to make the most of this period to prevent your puppy from developing fears of the unknown.
- **Social Skills Development:** Expose the puppy to various situations, people, animals, and environments.
- **Socialization Classes:** Enroll in puppy-specific classes.

6-18  
months

### ADOLESCENT PERIOD

- **Training Reinforcement:** Continue training and socialization to solidify learned behaviors.

+18  
months

### ADULT PERIOD

- **Maintaining Social Skills:** Regularly socialize the dog throughout its life to maintain balanced behavior.

## TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SOCIALIZATION:

- **Diversify Experiences:** Expose your dog to a variety of people, environments, sounds, and animals.
- **Stay Positive:** Use rewards to encourage good behavior.
- **Be Patient:** Introduce new experiences gradually.
- **Observe Reactions:** Watch for signs of stress or fear and adjust interactions to maximize positive experiences.

# SOCIALIZATION WITH ANIMALS

Socializing puppies with living beings is a crucial step in their development. By following these tips and ensuring that every interaction is positive and well-controlled, you will help raise well-balanced, confident, and sociable puppies.

## DOGS

### SUPERVISED MEETINGS:

Start with meetings involving well-socialized adult dogs under supervision. Allow the puppies to observe interactions between the adult dogs before letting them join in. Caring adult dogs will play a crucial role in teaching the puppies proper canine behavior and social cues.

### CONTROLLED PLAY:

Encourage play between puppies and adult dogs, while ensuring the puppies are not overwhelmed or dominated too harshly. Interactions should remain positive to build their confidence and understanding of canine social dynamics.

### GRADUAL PROGRESSION:

Introduce the puppies to an increasing number of dogs of different ages and sizes, while closely monitoring their reactions. Negative experiences at this stage can have a lasting impact, so it's crucial to maintain a safe and supportive environment.

## CATS AND SMALL ANIMALS

### SAFE ENCOUNTERS:

When introducing puppies to cats or other small animals, ensure that the puppies are calm and under control. Use a barrier or crate for the initial meetings to ensure the safety of both parties.

### CONSTANT SUPERVISION:

Interactions with smaller animals should always be supervised. Pay attention to signs of stress in both the puppy and the other animal. If necessary, interrupt the interaction to prevent any predatory or fearful behavior.

### POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT:

Reward puppies when they behave calmly and respectfully around other animals. This will help them associate these encounters with positive experiences, fostering harmonious coexistence.

# TIPS: SOCIALIZATION WITH ANIMALS

Animal socialization is a crucial step for their harmonious development. In this section, you will find practical tips to facilitate the first encounters between your puppies and other animals. Each strategy is designed to ensure safe and positive interactions. These recommendations will help you create a calm environment where each animal can learn to interact confidently, fostering a peaceful and enriching coexistence.

## USING A LEASH:

For initial encounters, keep the other animal on a leash to better control interactions. This allows for quick intervention if necessary.

## NEUTRAL ENVIRONMENT:

Choose a neutral location for the first meetings where neither animal will feel territorial. This can help reduce tension and aggressive behaviors.

## INDIVIDUAL INTRODUCTIONS:

Introduce the puppies to one animal at a time. Too many stimuli at once can be overwhelming for a young puppy.

## POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT:

Reward the puppies and other animals with treats or praise for calm and friendly behavior. This helps them associate new encounters with positive experiences.

## OBSERVATION OF STRESS SIGNALS:

Learn to recognize signs of stress in puppies (tail tucked, lip licking, whining) and in other animals (growling, ears back). If either animal shows signs of discomfort, interrupt the interaction and give them time to calm down.

## SHORT SESSIONS:

Keep the first interactions short and positive. It's better to end a session on a positive note than to risk a stressful or negative situation.

## VACCINATION CHECK:

Ensure that the other animals are properly vaccinated before introducing them to the puppies, to minimize the risk of disease transmission.

## SEPARATION IF NEEDED:

If interactions become too intense or stressful, separate the animals and give them time to calm down before trying again.

These precautions will help make socialization experiences safe and positive for your puppies and the other animals involved.

# TRAINING



## EXAMPLE OF STEPS FOR TRAINING YOUR PUPPY:

### YOUNG PUPPY

0-3  
months

- **House Training:** Start house training by establishing a regular routine for taking the puppy outside (after meals, playtime, and naps).
- **Basic Commands:** Begin with simple commands such as "sit," "come," and "stay."
- **Leash Training:** Introduce the puppy to walking on a leash.
- **Puppy Kindergarten (2-4 months):** Preferably start after vaccination against kennel cough.

### PUPPY

3-6  
months

- **Consolidation of Basic Commands:** Work on precision and quick responses to basic commands.
- **Introduction to Focus and Advanced Commands:** Introduce commands such as "down," "heel," etc.
- **Obedience Classes Level 1:** Enroll in basic obedience training.
- **Controlled Walks:** Incorporate commands and "heel" exercises during walks.

### ADOLESCENT

6-12  
months

- **Ongoing Training:** Continue reinforcing previously learned commands while introducing more advanced ones, such as "sit-stay," "wait," etc.
- **Obedience Classes Level 2:** Enroll in advanced obedience training.
- **Managing Adolescent Behaviors:** Monitor typical adolescent behaviors, such as increased exploration, curiosity, and rebellion.
- **Appropriate Physical Activities:** Provide age-appropriate exercises to channel your dog's energy.

### YOUNG ADULT

12-18  
months

- **Ongoing Training:** Regularly practice training to maintain good behavior and keep the dog mentally stimulated.
- **Skill Refinement:** Continue working on the precision and reliability of commands.
- **Specialized Activities:** Introduce activities such as agility, scent work, or other canine sports based on the dog's interests.

## PUPPY TRAINING TIPS

**Daily Routine:** Maintain regular schedules for meals, walks, and training.

**Calm:** Encourage your puppy with a gentle voice, avoiding shouting.

**Rewards:** Use treats and praise to reinforce good behaviors.

**Firm Yet Gentle:** Be firm with undesirable behaviors, but without holding grudges or being aggressive.

# CRATE DESENSITIZATION

Crate training is a valuable tool in raising a well-balanced and disciplined dog. The crate serves not only as a safe haven for the dog but also helps manage behavior, facilitates house training, and provides a calm space where the dog can retreat when needed. However, the introduction of the crate must be done carefully and methodically to ensure the process is positive and stress-free for the animal.

## UNDERSTANDING CRATE TRAINING

Crate training involves teaching your dog to see the crate as a comfortable and secure place. Dogs, by nature, seek enclosed spaces that resemble dens, providing them with a sense of security. When introduced correctly, the crate can become a refuge for your dog, a place they willingly enter and feel relaxed.

## STEP-BY-STEP DESENSITIZATION PROCESS

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CRATE:

Start by placing the crate in a quiet and accessible area of your home. Leave the door open and make the inside inviting with soft bedding and scattered treats. Allow your dog to explore the crate at their own pace, encouraging them with praise and treats when they investigate or enter willingly.

### MEALS INSIDE THE CRATE:

Create positive associations with the crate by feeding your dog near the entrance. Over the days, gradually move their food bowl inside the crate, ensuring your dog feels comfortable and enters willingly.

### SHORT SESSIONS IN THE CRATE:

Once your dog is accustomed to entering the crate for meals, begin closing the door for short periods while they eat or rest. Stay nearby to reassure them with a calm voice and gentle petting if necessary. Gradually increase the duration your dog remains in the crate, ensuring they stay calm and relaxed throughout the process.

### COMFORT AND FAMILIARITY:

To further reinforce positive associations, place your dog's favorite toys or blankets inside the crate. This helps create a comforting environment that they will associate with relaxation and security.

### THE CRATE AS A POSITIVE PLACE:

Throughout the desensitization process, never use the crate as a form of punishment. It should always be a place where your dog feels safe and happy, associated with positive experiences like treats, meals, and quiet time.

### GRADUAL ALONE TIME:

Once your dog is comfortable spending longer periods in the crate with the door closed, gradually increase the time they spend alone inside. Start with short intervals and slowly extend them as your dog becomes more confident and accustomed to being alone.

# POTTY TRAINING

House training is often one of the first priorities for new puppy owners. This process can be facilitated by a few key strategies:

**Create a routine:** Puppies need structure. Taking your puppy out after every meal, playtime, and after waking from a nap is crucial. The more frequently the puppy is taken outside, the fewer accidents there will be indoors.

**Use positive reinforcement:** When your puppy goes potty outside, praise them immediately and offer a treat. This reinforces the idea that going outside is a good thing. Timing is essential.

**Watch for signs:** Learn to recognize signs that your puppy needs to go out (sniffing, restlessness, circling). Anticipating these behaviors can help prevent accidents.

**Use of a crate or enclosure:** Puppies do not want to relieve themselves in their sleeping area. Using a crate can help create a habit of holding it for short periods, especially at night.

**Establish a keyword:** Associate a specific word (e.g., "potty") with the action of going to the bathroom. This can speed up the learning process and help your dog understand what you expect from them.

## MANAGING ACCIDENTS

Even with a well-established routine, accidents can happen, especially at the beginning:

**Stay calm:** Never punish your puppy for an accident. This can create confusion and anxiety, and may even slow down the learning process. If you catch them in the act, a firm "no" followed by taking them outside immediately is sufficient.

**Immediate cleanup:** Cleaning up quickly is essential to prevent the puppy from returning to the same spot. Puppies are attracted to the smell of their previous messes.

**Create safe spaces:** If you can't constantly supervise your puppy, limit their access to certain areas of the house to avoid accidents in hard-to-clean spaces.

## USEFUL CLEANING PRODUCTS

To effectively clean up accidents and prevent recurrence, here are some effective products:

**Enzymatic cleaners:** These products break down the enzymes present in urine and feces, eliminating residual odors that dogs may sniff and encouraging them not to relieve themselves in the same spot again.

**Absorbent pads:** Useful during the initial weeks, they can be placed near the door to gradually encourage the puppy to go outside.

**Puppy wipes:** Convenient for quickly cleaning small areas, especially while on the go.

# MANAGING PUPPY ENERGY

Managing a puppy's energy is crucial for its well-being and development.

When a puppy has excess energy, it can lead to undesirable behaviors like chewing inappropriate objects, excessive barking, or hyperactivity indoors.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Play is the primary way for a puppy to release energy and learn to interact with its environment. It fulfills several needs:

- **Physical Development:** Regular movement is essential for strengthening muscles and improving coordination. Play contributes to their growth and helps them expend energy positively.
- **Mental Stimulation:** Puppies also need mental challenges. Games that require problem-solving, such as finding hidden objects or completing simple puzzles, engage their brains and develop cognitive skills.
- **Bonding:** Play strengthens the relationship between the puppy and its owner, building trust and fostering natural obedience through shared moments.
- **Socialization:** Playing with other dogs or interacting with different people teaches puppies to understand social cues and respond appropriately in various situations.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF DAILY WALKS

Daily walks are crucial for managing a puppy's energy. While short outings are sufficient at first, they provide numerous benefits:

- **Physical Exercise:** Walks help burn off excess energy, complementing play sessions and preventing destructive behaviors.
- **Mental Stimulation:** New smells, sounds, and sights enrich the puppy's environment and promote adaptability.
- **Socialization:** Meeting other dogs and people builds confidence and reduces fear of new situations.
- **Leash Training:** Walks are ideal for teaching proper leash behavior, encouraging respectful conduct.

# MANAGING PUPPY ENERGY

## TYPES OF GAMES TO MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY STIMULATE YOUR PUPPY

Introducing a variety of games that engage both the body and mind of your puppy is essential. Here are some effective game examples to help manage their energy:

### INTERACTIVE GAMES:

- **FETCH:**  
Throwing a ball or frisbee for the puppy to retrieve channels their energy while reinforcing their hunting instinct. It's also an excellent exercise for recall and cooperation.
- **TUG-OF-WAR:**  
This game helps strengthen your puppy's muscles while teaching control. It's important to teach your puppy to release on command ("drop it") to prevent them from becoming too possessive of objects.
- **LURE ON A STICK:**  
This game involves attaching a lure, often shaped like small prey, to a flexible stick and moving it unpredictably. It stimulates the Borzoi's natural interest in hunting and allows for a controlled way to satisfy that instinct.



### MENTAL GAMES:

- **FOOD PUZZLES:**  
Food-dispensing toys (like Kongs or dog puzzles) are excellent for mental stimulation. Puppies must think to access the food, keeping them engaged and helping develop concentration.
- **HIDE AND SEEK:**  
Hiding toys or treats around the house or yard encourages puppies to use their sense of smell and cognitive skills to find them. This can also involve family members to reinforce recall.

### OBEDIENCE GAMES:

- **COMMAND LEARNING:**  
Games involving simple commands like "sit," "down," or "come" serve as obedience exercises and provide mental stimulation. They encourage the puppy to think while expending energy.

### SOCIALIZATION GAMES:

- **PLAYDATES WITH OTHER PUPPIES:**  
Organizing play sessions with well-socialized puppies or adult dogs helps channel energy while learning canine communication rules. It's crucial to supervise these interactions to ensure they remain positive.

# BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT



## CHEWING AND BITING: HOW TO MANAGE

Puppies explore the world with their mouths, and chewing is a natural behavior, but it can sometimes be destructive or painful for the owner:

**Offer Substitute Toys:** Providing chew toys from the beginning helps channel this behavior toward appropriate objects. Prioritize durable and safe toys for puppies (e.g., ropes, Kong toys, nylon chew bones).

**Gentle Interruption of Bites:** If your puppy bites your hands or clothing, a firm "ouch" followed by withdrawing your hand can help them understand that this is inappropriate behavior. Reward them when they play gently.

**Provide Enough Stimulation:** A bored puppy often chews more. Offering alternatives, such as interactive games or food-stuffed balls, keeps them occupied.

**Teach Bite Inhibition:** During playtime, if the puppy bites too hard, stop playing immediately so they understand that biting hard ends the fun. This will help them better control their strength.

## BARKING: KNOWING WHEN IT'S APPROPRIATE

Barking is a normal behavior in dogs, but it's important to know when it's appropriate and how to manage it:

**Understanding the Reasons for Barking:** Puppies bark to get attention, express needs (going outside, hunger, etc.), or in response to stimuli. Identifying the cause helps you respond better.

**Reward Calm Behavior:** When your puppy stays calm in a situation where they might bark (e.g., someone passing by the door), praise or reward them. The idea is to reinforce moments when they remain quiet.

**Ignore Attention-Seeking Barking:** If your puppy barks to get something (toy, food), avoid giving them what they want immediately. Wait until they calm down before responding to their need, or they may learn that barking is effective.

**Training the "Quiet" Command:** Teach them to respond to commands like "speak" and "quiet" to better control when they can or cannot bark.

# GROOMING

## BRUSHING AND BATHS

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The Borzoi requires regular brushing to prevent tangles and mats. It is recommended to brush them at least two to three times a week.

Baths do not need to be frequent. A bath every two to three months, or as needed, is usually sufficient. Use a mild shampoo specifically designed for dogs to maintain their skin's natural oils.

## EAR CARE

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Ears should be checked regularly to detect any wax buildup or signs of infection. Clean the ears with a product recommended by your veterinarian, and avoid inserting anything too deep into the ear canal.

## DENTAL CARE

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It is essential to brush your Borzoi's teeth several times a week to prevent tartar buildup and periodontal disease.

Use a toothbrush and toothpaste specifically designed for dogs. Dental treats and chew toys can also help maintain good oral hygiene and reduce plaque buildup.

Pile Poil Photographie

## PAW CARE AND NAIL TRIMMING

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Regularly inspect your Borzoi's paw pads and legs for cuts, irritations, or foreign objects. Trim the fur between the pads to prevent matting and dirt buildup.

Nails should be trimmed regularly to avoid overgrowth, which can cause discomfort or posture issues. If you hear the nails clicking on the floor, it's time for a trim. It's crucial to acclimate your puppy to these handling practices and tools (clippers or dremel) from a young age to ensure they are comfortable with paw care.

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By following these steps, you will help maintain the health and beauty of your Borzoi's coat while ensuring their overall well-being.

# CONCLUSION

This starter kit has been designed based on our experience and values. We aim to share with you the knowledge we have gained over the years to answer most of your questions. We continue to learn and stay updated with new developments, which we are pleased to pass on to you as they arise.

We encourage you to stay vigilant in the training of your Barzoï. Today, your puppy may be cute, but they will grow into a gentle giant or a terror weighing 35 to 45 kg. Take their development seriously and don't hesitate to seek guidance if necessary to prevent undesirable behaviors from becoming ingrained. Remember that an obedient puppy might seem to forget everything they've learned during adolescence. Be patient; what has been learned will come back. Don't chase after them if they steal a shoe or a dangerous object; keep treats on hand to call them back and praise them. It is essential to continue reinforcing obedience commands throughout their life.

Never forget that you have in your hands a highly sensitive being who will love you for life.

Today, you embark on a beautiful adventure and will have the privilege of walking alongside this great wolf who will change your life forever.

Wishing you a wonderful journey,

**Flaming Fenyx Kennel**

Ginette and Laurence

# REFERENCES

Here are some recommendations for trusted companies to help you with your dog's socialization, training, and physical activity needs.

## SOCIALIZATION AND TRAINING

Socialisation et entraînement pour chiot



Puppy Culture

Obedience



L'Académie Chien

Dog behavior



Évolution Canine



Club Canin Chomedey



Coeur Canin

## RECOMMENDED BUSINESSES

Stores



Nature Animale



Bêtes Gourmandes

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Canine Pulling Sports



Sports Canins Attelés Québec

Agility



Agility Association of Canada

Lure coursing



Canadian Kennel Club



Club Canin Chomedey



Borzoï Canada

Food



Purina Pro Plan

Massotherapy



Services Canins Stefany

## OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS



2 Hounds Photography



Catherin Arsenault Photographe Animalière

Pile Poil Photographie

Pile Poil Photographie



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