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**PURCHASE CONTRACT & HEALTH GUARANTEE- Pet Puppy (no breeding or showing)**

**Seller:** Impeccable Chihuahuas/Kimberly Harac Heruth,17165 SE 104th Ave., Summerfield, FL 34491 phone- 352-299-0631 email- impeccablechihuahuas@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*WARNING\*\*\*\*\* we do not intend to sound condescending at all but we are extra careful placing our dogs. After 34 years of raising quality dogs, we place these points in the contract for the puppy’s sake, buyer and seller. Please do not be offended.

**Buyer(s):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(this is the Owner of the dog not to be sold or gifted or leased to anyone else)

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Puppy Information:**

* **Breed:** Chihuahua
* **Sex:** [Male/Female]
* **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Color:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Coat type\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* Sire\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Dam\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Purchase Price:** $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Cash/Zelle or GoodDog payments only)
* **Date of Pick-up or Shipping:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Spay/Neuter Agreement:** Non-breeding pet only. Spay/neuter required at or before 1 year of age or when puppy reached 3lbs based on buyer’s veterinarian’s suggestion.
* **Deposit amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_If puppy is not picked up within 10 days of the health certificate issue date, buyer loses deposit and puppy unless seller and buyer agree to a new pick up date and seller pays for puppy in full.** Seller will ask for an additional $20 a day for the care of the puppy if not picked up within the 10 day time frame. Deposit is nonrefundable or transferable unless the puppy does not pass the FL health exam/certificate.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS (page 2 of 6)**

1. **Non-Transferability:** This agreement is **not transferable** to another party. Buyer is not purchasing this puppy for another person nor will transfer to another party.
2. **Breed Assurance:** The puppy is from 2 AKC registered **Chihuahuas** who have passed numerous health clearances and have excellent temperaments and structure worthy of reproducing.
3. **Pet-Only Sale:** Buyer understands that this puppy is being sold as a **pet only and never to be bred or produce or create a litter of pure-bred Chihuahuas or mixes**. No registration papers will be provided. At owner’s request, AKC limited registration papers will be provided after proof of spay or neuter.

**HEALTH GUARANTEE & VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Pre-Purchase Veterinary Check:** The seller guarantees that the puppy has been checked by a licensed veterinarian within **ten (10) days** before the buyer takes possession. No health concerns were found or minor issues listed on certification, Puppy is found free of parasites or diseases and a health certificate has been provided to prove this.
2. **Post-Purchase Veterinary Check:** The buyer must take the puppy to their own veterinarian **within ten (10) business days** of possession. Failure to do so will **void this contract**, including the health guarantee. Until this veterinary check is completed, the buyer should avoid taking the puppy into public spaces or placing them on public grounds. Buyers are required to take puppy to an ER if puppy is severely hypoglycemic or other life threatening problems and not to wait for a regular appt.
3. **Buyer must sign up for the free Trupanion 30 day health insurance.** Must call the day of pick up or all health guarantees are null and void. Seller may cancel after the free trial but seller HIGHLY suggests pet insurance due to accidents or injuries or other health concerns.
4. **Veterinary Expenses:** The buyer is **fully responsible** for all medical expenses once they take possession of the puppy. The seller does not reimburse for any veterinary costs as the puppy was deemed healthy at the time of the FL Health Certificate and veterinary inspection.
5. **Environmental & Temperament Issues:** The seller does not guarantee against issues arising from **environmental factors**, such as neglect, improper training, accidents injuries, abuse, or poor socialization. If the seller determines that the puppy is being neglected or abused, they have the right to **repossess** the puppy at the buyer’s expense.
6. **Returning the Puppy:** If the buyer decides to return the puppy for any reason, they will be responsible for **all associated costs**. **No refunds will be issued**. All paperwork and medical records will be provided to seller by buyer.
7. **Dental Health Recommendation:** The seller recommends **annual dental cleanings** and **weekly brushing** for the puppy’s long-term health.
8. **Ongoing Veterinary Care:** The buyer agrees to provide **routine and emergency medical care** as needed for the well-being of the puppy and follow Chihuahua Club of America Vaccine and Titer testing procedures.

**HEALTH GUARANTEE COVERAGE- Buyer acknowledges that the breeder has done due diligence breeding the parents who pass DNA disease panels, veterinary inspection and OFA clearances. Breeder has not intentionally bred issues but they occasionally crop up by fluke or genetics going back several generations. Buyer has performed their due diligence in researching a puppy/dog and has chosen this breeder to put their odds of a healthy puppy in their favor. Buyer understands flukes happen but seller will remedy based on these conditions.**

This puppy is guaranteed against **congenital heart defects, portosystemic shunt, spinal issues causing lameness,** and any congenital defect that will prevent the puppy from **surviving** at least 5 years with receiving medical intervention (surgery/medication). **Must be diagnosed in the first year after birth**. Hydrocephalus must be diagnosed by 4 months of age as severe enough preventing the dog from living past 5 years of age even with medical or surgical intervention.

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* If the puppy is diagnosed with a covered condition, the buyer must notify the seller **within 24 hours** of diagnosis with proof of condition which could not possibly arise out of environmental factors. This must be documented by a DVM that it could not be environmental under the care of the buyer. (injury, illness, medicine or vaccine related)
* The buyer is responsible for all veterinary costs associated with diagnosis and treatment. It must be 100% directly related to congenital defects.
* If the puppy dies or is euthanized due to a covered condition after medical intervention is proven and all avenues explored and puppy/dog cannot live a full life without pain, a **licensed veterinary pathologist must provide a necropsy report** and necropsy request confirming the cause of death before a replacement puppy is considered. Necropsy **request** must list “unknown” to prevent bias and proof of request must be sent to seller and seller’s veterinarian. Necropsy must state that environmental factors could NOT have caused death or illness (injury, illness, medicine or vaccine related) It must state with 100% clarity that it is congenital.
* No **monetary refunds** will be issued; only a replacement puppy of equal value of any sex (seller’s choice) will be offered when available.

**EXCLUSIONS FROM HEALTH GUARANTEE-**The seller is **not responsible** for covering the following conditions:

* **Common Health Issues:** Diarrhea, respiratory infections, kennel cough, hernias (unless it has occurred before puppy leaves breeder), giardia, coccidiosis, or worm infestations. These can be treated if detected early and very common in puppies as their immune system is new and building tolerances. **Puppy has been found free of these issues at the time of the Health Certificate and dewormed at 6 and 8 weeks old and on the day of pick up as a safety measure only.** Seller maintains a clean environment to prevent these issues and puppies are not brought outside on soil or grass.
* **Viral Diseases:** The puppy has received age-appropriate vaccinations, but the seller is **not liable** for Parvo or Distemper beyond **five (5) days** after pickup.
* **Size, Temperament, and Appearance:** No guarantees are made regarding adult size, coat color, temperament, or conformation. Best guesses based on breeder’s experience, the puppy’s lineage and more has been communicated. Puppy is not sold as show quality (virtual perfection of the breed) and purposely sold as pet for the minor non-perfect attributes. Breeder aims for improvement of the breed by only breeding dogs that are show quality or near show quality, but only one maybe two in a litter are show quality.
* **Minor Genetic and Physical Conditions which are common in the breed (but are not present in puppy at the time of sale nor present with his/her dam and sire):** Includes, but is not limited to, **open fontanel, strabismus, toes/feet turning out, cherry eye, patellar luxation as this is proven to be environmental also (both parents are OFA clear) , hernias (unless present at 8 weeks and buyer will compensate), over/underbite, tartar build up, collapsing trachea (reverse sneezing), missing or retained teeth, allergies or skin conditions** as the parents of this puppy are free from these issues and proven through OFA and DNA panels and/or veterinary inspection/records. Every effort is made to eradicate these minor issues, but sometimes they are so far back in the pedigree without knowledge of the breeder, they emerge from time to time.
* **External Conditions:** Issues like flea infestations, lice, tonsillitis, or ringworm, which may be contracted after leaving the seller’s care. Puppy is free of these issues at the time of leaving seller’s care based on FL Health Cert. Seller maintains a clean environment to prevent these issues.
* **Adverse reaction to medication, vaccines, surgical outcomes and procedures after the puppy leaves seller’s care.**
* Injuries to the puppy once the puppy leaves the seller including head trauma causing issues to the brain since open fontanelles are common with puppies. Care must be taken with puppy.
* Hypoglycemia is not covered as it’s the buyer’s responsibility to keep the puppy eating every 4-6 hours to prevent this common issue.

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**BUYER’S RESPONSIBILITIES & CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

**First Right of Refusal:** If the buyer cannot keep the puppy, they **must contact the seller first**. There will be no exchange of money. If the seller does not reclaim the puppy, written or text permission is required before rehoming and name, address and phone number of new home must be provided. Failure to follow this rule will result in a **$2,000 penalty** and the puppy must be spayed/neutered before rehoming.

1. **No Refunds:** The seller does not offer refunds for issues such as **allergies, incompatibility, lack of training on buyers’ part, poor attempts at potty training, or landlord disputes**. However, the seller is willing to assist in rehoming the puppy if necessary.
2. **No Defamation:** The buyer and seller agree **not to slander, defame, negatively speak of or harass** the seller in any form, including social media, email, texts, reviews or verbal communication. Legal action WILL be pursued if this clause is violated.
3. **No Breeding Rights:** This puppy is being sold as a **pet only for the person signing this contract. Puppy is not to gift, lease or resell puppy.** If the buyer or buyer’s friend, associate, relative, a breeder, neighbor etc…breeds the dog/puppy this contract covers, they will be required to pay the seller **$10,000 per breeding** for breach of contract.
4. **Buyer will provide quality and nutritious food, shelter in a home environment (not in a kennel or outside), love and attention free from abuse or neglect, proper training/socialization and care for the rest of the puppy’s life.** Fresh water available at all times. Puppy is kept safe from danger at all times (predators, poison, marijuana, bigger dogs, motor vehicles, snakes etc…). Puppy is to never be left alone for more than 8 hours at a time without attention and ability to drink, eat or relieve itself. Puppy is to be socialized and trained so that it is not a burden to society or to owner. The first 4 months of training is crucial to this. A professional dog trainer may need to be paid to assist with training.
5. **Buyer will call microchip company within 10 days to register puppy to the new owner and include breeder as back up person if allowed by microchip company.**

**SELLERS OBLIGATIONS:**

* To be available via text, email or phone call for the life of the dog as a recourse person between 7 am-9 pm every day. Texting will get a faster answer.
* To produce a healthy puppy based solely on the DNA, OFA and veterinary inspection of the parents and day to day care including good nutrition of puppy since birth.
* To produce quality dogs based on conformation, temperament and health of the parents aiming for show quality puppies even with pets.
* To raise a well-adjusted puppy giving early physical, auditory, sensory stimulation, baths, toenail trimming, toy and chewy introductions, love and attention and to follow Puppy Culture suggestions.
* To start the puppy on paper or pad potty training but not leash training or outside potty training.
* To be sure the puppy is weaned correctly (as proved by the FL health certificate and veterinary inspection)
* To take back the dog or puppy at any point if seller can no longer keep him/her.
* To enforce contract and to follow as agreed to by both parties for the sake of the puppy.

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**LEGAL ENFORCEMENT:**

**Violation of Contract:** If the buyer breaches any term of this contract specifically the “pet only/no breeding”, the seller may repossess the puppy and seek legal action. The buyer will be responsible for **all associated costs**.

**Governing Law:** This contract is legally binding under the laws of the **State of Florida**, with disputes settled in **Marion County**. The buyer is responsible for **all legal fees** related to enforcement. **If parties cannot resolve issues between one another first, a mediator paid equally between parties will be used.** If the mediator does not resolve the issues, disputes will be settled in Marion County courts.

**\*\*\*Seller may use a private investigator at the expense of the buyer if buyer is found to be in violation of the “no breeding” portion of this contract.** This has only happened once when we suspected the dog was bred by another breeder who purchased a dog from us through a friend. Yes. We won in court.

By signing below, both parties acknowledge and agree to the terms of this contract.

**BUYER’S INFORMATION:** I affirm I am the buyer and the legal new owner of this dog. The dog lives solely with me with no co-owners unless listed below. I am not purchasing this dog for a breeder, friend, colleague, neighbor, relative or anyone else. I do not know or associated with another breeder of Chihuahuas. I have presented myself accurately and honestly. **(Present your Driver’s License or passport now needed to prove your identity and you will have a copy of mine. A photo or copy will be kept on file)**

Date of Agreement between seller and buyer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Printed Name of all owners:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Puppy nanny signature or notary if applicable\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SELLER:**

* **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Quick points:

* 1. No breeding or showing the puppy. This puppy was sold as a PET with no breeding rights.
  2. Buyer has done everything possible to breed show quality, healthy puppies by OFA certifying parents and using DNA panels
  3. ALL chihuahuas eventually die from something. This is out of seller’s control.
  4. STUFF happens and it’s not the breeder’s fault most of the time
  5. Buyer needs health insurance as Chihuahuas are living creatures who deserve the best medical attention and care.
  6. Buyer suggest wholistic approaches vs. “better living through chemistry” thought process (more vaccines and medication is not the answer)
  7. Puppy needs socialization and TRAINING from a young age or will become a nuisance!!!!
  8. There are no bad dogs, only owners who did not socialize or train correctly from 12 weeks to 2 years old.
  9. Buyer can call seller for advice but it is up to the buyer to keep the dog safe, loved and healthy.
  10. No dog or human is 100% without flaws. Dogs will have flaws in phenotype and genotype.
  11. Veterinarians DO NOT know everything. ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS AND KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. Get a second opinion! I have had dogs die because of a misdiagnosis that I diagnosed but the vet basically told me I was nuts and did not follow my requests. By law, you ONLY need a rabies for the county. Make sure it’s only a 3 year vaccine good for 3 years. Text Kim for guidance.
  12. Dog parks are a sure way to get a disease
  13. Parasites are normal in humans and dogs and the environment. De worming and regular check ups are important.
  14. Keep your yard trimmed back and clear of debris and poop and “critters” that carry disease.
  15. Dogs don’t get colds. Respiratory infections, yes. See a vet.
  16. LOOK AT YOUR DOGS POOP EVERY DAY. It should be firm, dark brown and without puss or blood.
  17. Dogs eat things they shouldn’t. Clear your floors of small objects and medications.
  18. Dogs can get high from eating marijuana. It can kill them. See a vet.
  19. CRATING or penning A DOG is NOT cruel. What is cruel is having them ill or die because you wanted them to have freedom.
  20. Your dog is NOT your baby. It is a precious dog. It needs love but boundaries and training are necessary or it will take over your house or develop bad habits such as barking, biting or urinating on floors. YOU are the alpha dog and in charge. You dog will not hate you for setting boundaries.
  21. Keep a close eye on your dog for minor changes in walking, sleeping, eating, drinking or other behavior. They cannot talk to tell you something is wrong. You will learn what is normal for your dog. See a vet if behavior changes.
  22. Vomiting happens. If it’s more than once, it’s an issue.
  23. Get HEALTH insurance for your dog or put away $100 a month for the future.
  24. ER vets are expensive, but sometimes, they need to GO see one.
  25. Keep your dog on a harness and lead in public even if you are carrying him/her
  26. Register microchip ASAP
  27. Dogs bark. You should expect a warning bark but NOT excessive barking. Stop that as soon as it starts. Think “Startle and redirect”

Chihuahua Puppy General Information

Supplies

Before you bring your puppy home, you should have the following: An exercise pen or crate to confine your puppy, newspapers, potty pads or a litterbox, a collar and leash, food and water bowls, premium food, plenty of safe items to chew on and toys to play with, bedding, Nutri-cal, a good book on chihuahua care and training, the contact information of a good vet and a puppy proofed home (no exposed electrical cords, cleaning supplies, plants, etc.)

Housetraining

Small puppies eliminate frequently and with little or no warning. They are like babies and can’t hold it! Constant supervision is key. Never let a puppy have free run of your home if you are not supervising every move, every minute.

The more accidents your puppy makes when you are not watching, the more ingrained this bad habit becomes, and the harder it will be to housetrain your puppy. Prevention, supervision, and rewarding the desired behavior are the way to train your puppy.

A puppy will need to eliminate after each meal, after play periods, and after waking from a nap. Small puppies may need to urinate as often as every 15 minutes! Sniffing the ground and circling can be signs that it is time to take your puppy outside, or to his litterbox, newspaper or potty pad- whichever method you have decided on. If you catch the puppy starting to squat, bring him to the correct place, and reward and praise after he has eliminated in the correct spot! Never punish a puppy for an accident you find after the fact- he will not remember doing it, and will not understand why you are angry. Besides, the accident will be your fault for not having supervised him well enough.

When you cannot watch your puppy, you can keep him in an exercise pen with a bed and food at one end and a potty pad, newspaper or litterbox at the other end. The puppy will naturally not want to soil his sleeping/ eating area and will walk away towards the appropriate spot to eliminate. It may to helpful to place a small piece of soiled newspaper or potty pad, or a handful of soiled litter in the spot where you want your puppy to eliminate. Puppies naturally want to eliminate where they can smell urine.

Often, puppies will cry and whine when first introduced to their pen (or crate). Going back to comfort the whining puppy, or lifting him out every time he cries is rewarding bad behavior- this tells the puppy that “when I cry, mommy or daddy rescues me”. If you would like a puppy that is quiet and well behaved in his crate or pen, this behavior must be ignored. From day one, praise and attention should be given when the puppy is calm and quiet- reward the good behavior and ignore the bad!

Feeding

Chihuahuas have higher metabolisms than most breeds and only premium dog foods should be fed. The higher expense should not be an issue, as chihuahuas eat very little. When a quality dog food is fed, no additional supplementation is recommended.

Young puppies should have dry food available at all times to prevent hypoglycemia. Older adult dogs may be fed twice daily. Be careful not to overfeed your chihuahua, as obesity can create health issues and shorten your pet’s lifespan.

Also be careful not to create a fussy eater. For adults, offering the same food twice a day for 15-30 minutes on a consistent schedule can prevent fussy eating habits. Leaving food out at all times and/or constantly feeding treats and table scraps can lead to a dog that refuses to eat dog food, which can create serious dietary imbalances and health issues.

Homecooked diets are not recommended unless they are formulated by a nutritionist and followed to the letter. Be aware that not all recipes on the internet and/or in dog cook books are balanced or healthy for your dog.

Always provide water in a container that is heavy and can’t be tipped, but not large enough for puppy to fall into.

Milk or table scraps can cause diarrhea in a puppy. Small bits of lean meat may be used for training purposes, but should make up no more than 10% of any dog’s diet.

Certain foods are toxic to your chihuahua and should not be fed. These include: chocolate, onions, xylitol (found in candy and other sugar-free sweets), raisins, grapes, raw bread dough, large quantities of garlic, raw potato, mushrooms, coffee, tea, alcoholic beverages, apple seeds, pear/peach/plum/apricot cores, avocado, tomato leaves and stems, large amounts of broccoli, cooked chicken bones, cooked meat fat trimmings/drippings (can lead to pancreatitis) and large amounts of beef liver (can lead to excesses of vitamin A and certain minerals. Safe in small amounts)

Hypoglycemia

Before the day your pup comes home, go to your vet or pet supply store and buy a tube of Nutri-cal, (or “Nutri-stat” or “Vitacal”). This may save your pup’s life.

Hypoglycemia means low blood sugar. It can occur if a puppy has gone too long between meals, has gotten chilled or is stressed. It is common in small breed puppies and is life threatening- your puppy could die if not treated for it quickly.

A chihuahua puppy should always have access to food and must be monitored to make sure that he/she is eating.

The puppy should always be kept warm, just like you would with a human baby, and should be watched closely after periods of stress, such as the first day in a new home, shipping, or first trip to the vet, and after periods of prolonged activity.

Here are some signs of hypoglycemia: weakness, listlessness, uncoordinated (acting as if drunk), blue or gray tinge to the ears, gums or skin, cold to the touch, confusion, disorientation, and/or unusual drowsiness. Left untreated, the dog may go into seizures and/or unconsciousness and may die.

If you see any of the above signs, FIRST, administer a supplement such as Nutri-cal (preferable), corn syrup or sugar- (dab it on the pup’s gums and/or squirt under tongue). THEN feed a protein-rich food, such as meat baby food or canned food. If symptoms do not improve immediately, CALL YOUR VET. If your pup perks right up and seems just fine after receiving the Nutri-cal or other sugar source plus protein food, closely monitor him/ her.

Do not put sugar in your chihuahua’s drinking water. This will not prevent low blood sugar, and could even cause the blood sugar to spike anddrop, creating the very condition you were trying to prevent.

Grooming Your Chihuahua

Puppies should be bathed as needed with a mild, puppy-safe shampoo and kept warm and out of drafts until completely dry. Great care should be taken that no water gets into a puppy’s nose or mouth during bathing. Inhalation of water can lead to pneumonia.

Long coat chihuahuas should be brushed regularly.

Brush your chihuahua’s teeth regularly and provide appropriate chew toys. Have your veterinarian check his teeth yearly. Poorly maintained teeth may lead to other health problems.

Clean ears with a cotton ball and mild ear cleaner made for dogs. If the inside of the ear is red, irritated, has a foul odor or a dark brown residue, have your dog checked by a veterinarian.

Trim your chihuahua’s nails regularly. If you do not feel comfortable with this procedure, have your veterinarian or a groomer do it. Dewclaws left untrimmed can cause painful injuries. Untrimmed nails can also create splayed feet and make walking uncomfortable for your pet.

Health Care

Ask your chihuahua’s breeder and/or other toy breed owners to recommend a good vet.

Your puppy’s breeder should provide you with a medical history for you to bring to your vet. Your veterinarian can advise you on how to continue to keep your puppy free of fleas, heartworms and other parasites.

vaccine protocol is recommended:

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Age of Pups** | **Vaccine Type** | | 9-10 Weeks | Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (e.g. Intervet Progard Puppy DPV) | | 14 weeks | Same as above | | 16-18 weeks | Titer testing begins- revaccinate if antibodies show less than ideal immunities to parvo or distemper. | | 6 months or older | Rabies | | 1 year | Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV if needed per titer test if antibodies show less than ideal immunity | |  |  | |  |
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**Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus annually thereafter**. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request.  Leptospirosis and Coronavirus vaccines are not recommended. The usefulness of vaccinating for adenovirus, hepatitis, Lyme disease, giardia, bordatella, and parainfluenza is debatable.

It is a good idea to have a rectal or special pet ear thermometer just for your dog (normal temperature is 99° to 101°).

General Safety Tips:

Do not allow puppies to jump off of furniture or steps as they can break a leg or be seriously injured. Never leave a chihuahua puppy on a bed, chair or couch unattended! Letting your chihuahua puppy sleep in the bed with you can also be dangerous- if you roll over on him or he falls off the bed this can cause serious injury or even death.

Young puppies chew and ingest everything! Many plants are harmful and should be kept out of a puppy’s reach. Electric cords should also be out of a puppy’s reach. Puppy proof your house before bringing your puppy home.

A tiny dog is easy to lose. Never leave a puppy outside unattended. It is easy for someone to steal a tiny dog and large birds of prey have been known to carry off tiny puppies and small adult chihuahuas. Check fences regularly for repairs or open gates. An exercise pen or a playpen is worthwhile investment to safely confine your puppy.

Have your puppy microchipped or have him wear a collar with an ID tag at all times.

Take care that you do not let your puppy play on a lawn that has been treated with toxic insect repellents, fertilizers, cocoa mulch, salt in winter, etc. Insect or rodent bait, carpet fresheners, floor cleaners and other cleaning supplies can also be toxic to your chihuahua.

Remember a large dog can kill a chihuahua in one bite! Pick up your dog if another dog approaches and always have your dog on lead.

Never let your chihuahua run loose in a hotel room. Insect and rodent poison may be hidden under beds or behind furniture where your chihuahua can reach and ingest it.

Never leave a dog in the hot sun or outside in extreme cold. Never leave a dog in a parked car when it is warm outside!

Be careful of swimming pools – a chihuahua that falls into a pool can easily tire and drown.

Always hold your chihuahua with both arms, one securely under the dog supporting it against your chest and the other on top of the dog. Squeeze with your elbow if the dog wiggles and kneel quickly to the floor. (A dog dropped from this height has less chance of injury than if dropped from a standing position.)

Never attempt to hold two chihuahuas at once or something else along with the dog.

Tiny dogs are easily stepped on- watch your step and keep your puppy in a safe place when you have visitors! They will not be used to having a small puppy underfoot and are more likely to step on the puppy.

Special Precautions for Children and Chihuahuas

Children can easily drop or injure a tiny dog. Children should only be allowed to hold a chihuahua while they are sitting on the ground.

Toddlers must be constantly supervised around a chihuahua puppy! A toy thrown at a chihuahua’s head may prove fatal. A toddler tripping and falling on a chihuahua puppy may also lead to serious injury or death of the puppy.

Young children that are left unsupervised with chihuahua puppies may tease or scare the puppy, leading to fear aggression and biting even in a puppy with a genetically stable temperament. This type of situation should be prevented by constant supervision of children interacting with your puppy.

Chihuahuas are defenseless with small children and again, they must be constantly supervised around the dog and kept separated when direct supervision is not possible.

Barking

If you are consistent with your puppy from day one, you can teach him to be a quiet companion. A squirt bottle is a safe deterrent for avid barkers but it must be used consistently and with a stern command. Be careful to avoid squirting water into the nose or mouth. Praise your puppy when he is quiet and calm. Praising good behavior is just as important as correcting bad behavior.

Behavior, Training and Socialization

Although chihuahuas are small dogs, that is no excuse to let them get away with poor behavior or treat them as helpless little beings. Chihuahuas should be raised to have self confidence. Never soothe your chihuahua and say “it’s okay, good boy” if he is barking or growling at another person or dog, or acting fearful around something harmless like a plastic bag on the ground- this is actually rewarding negative behavior. Displays of aggression should be corrected with a firm “no”, and you should act calm and confident and ignore displays of irrational fear. Your puppy should be praised anytime he is calm, relaxed, curious about new things and outgoing.

Socialization is very important! As soon as your puppy has been vaccinated, bring him to different places to meet lots of people, children and other small dogs as often as possible. Have strangers and children give your puppy treats to create positive associations. Puppy playgroups and basic obedience classes are strongly recommended! Chihuahuas are just as able to learn commands and tricks as big dogs are. Positive training techniques are recommended.

To avoid separation anxiety in your puppy, make sure to not make a big deal of coming and going. If you have to leave your puppy alone at home for a few hours, do not make a big display of hugging and kissing the puppy goodbye and reassuring him that he will be okay. Simply place him in his pen or crate and leave. If you hear the puppy whining when you close the door, do not go back in and soothe him- this is a reward and is teaching the puppy to whine and cry while you are gone. When you get home, the same rule applies- do not make a big deal out of coming back and do not let the puppy out of his pen or crate if he is whining- wait until he is quiet and calm and then let him out and praise him. He will learn eventually that you always come back, that it is not a big deal when you leave, and that quiet, calm behavior brings him rewards- but only if you are consistent with these rules.

Philosophy

You have just made a major commitment in your life and accepted a loving, living responsibility that is looking to you for care, comfort, food, protection and attention. Your rewards for fulfilling your obligations to your chihuahua are endless and he will be a loyal devoted companion to you for life. Please treat him as an important member of your family at all times. Remember a chihuahua can’t talk or fend for itself so he is dependent on you!

Always feel free to contact your chihuahua’s breeder with questions. A good breeder is always happy to help and will enjoy hearing about how your puppy is progressing!