

## Your First Weeks with Your New Puppy

### **Congratulations, if you're reading this, you have a new puppy!**

We are excited that you have a new, extremely gifted, rare breed of dog, the Hanoverian Scenthound. We want you to have the best chance of success, so we have put together this list of commonly asked questions/concerns in the hopes that it will ease the transition into daily life with your puppy.

### **Basics of Dog Psychology:**

Dog training/Obedience is not the same thing as behavior, so always keep that in mind. Obedience can help you reduce unwanted behavior, but it is not the only way you must approach it.

Dogs don't like to work for free, so please don't expect your dog to listen, when there is no consistent reward. Commands without reward come much later when the command has been conditioned.

Dogs learn by Association, Classical and Operant Conditioning. We recommend that you really study this well until you know it without a second thought.

Dogs are always going through phases. What your puppy is like at 12 weeks will be different than what he is like at 12 months. Don't become discouraged, work through the problems with your dog. Sometimes, your dog just needs time to pass through a phase. This is what makes things complicated, because not all rules apply all the time, it is a fluid process. Please reach out to us if you have any problems, we know our puppies and this breed much better than your vet, your friends, or the internet.

### **Things to be aware of:**

**Boredom:** Put a cow hoof, filled bone, or frozen beef bone in the crate when you will be gone for a long period of time. You can get these at any Farm and Ranch or Tractor Supply. Stay away from Gluten, and Rawhide. I like Bully Sticks and Filled Hooves, Water Buffalo Horns, and frozen beef bones. Kongs filled with frozen treats and peanut butter are also great. Frozen beef bones are expensive, but you can constantly refill and freeze them, so the cost balances out.

**Preventing Anxiety:** Don't allow the puppy to follow you around the house, that is how separation anxiety is created. Teach the puppy to **stay** on her bed or put the puppy in her crate/pen when you are not paying attention/training her. Later, when your puppy knows more, you can allow companionship when you're not 100% focused, as long as you can reliably ask the puppy to stay on her bed when you need her to.

**Training and Discipline:** Please, please please, read the book "Don't Shoot the Dog". This book will elevate your ability to see your dog from his/her eyes, and you can enjoy your dog so much more, if you will read this book and apply it.

Don't ever strike the puppy, this breed is very sensitive and its vital you never lose your temper. If you feel frustrated, put the puppy up, and call me. Hano Hounds love to please you and are not intentionally upsetting you, they are not intentionally stubborn. If you are not getting the response you are looking for, evaluate your motivators. Some commands are more expensive than others. If you feel angry at the puppy, remember they only know what we teach them, and they only do what we allow. We are at fault

99.9% of the time, not the pup. I am here to guide you, please use me as a resource, before using the internet, the veterinarian, or friends who may even have experience. No one knows this puppy better than I do.

During training, one person should be speaking at one time, do not overwhelm the puppy by having multiple family members shout commands or her name. All family members must follow the same rules with the puppy, or it will be very unfair to her, and makes it very difficult to train the puppy properly. Consistency is everything. In the first few days, allow your puppy some quiet time to decompress. Do not allow children of any age to overwhelm, hug, or tease the puppy. Children should sit on the floor, and allow the puppy to investigate them. Explain to the children that it is similar to their first day of school, the first time they met Santa Claus, etc., so they understand how the puppy is feeling. Once you have an established routine and a few days have passed, your puppy will become confident. Feed your puppy by hand as often as you can the first two weeks.

**Routine:** Create a routine right away, include 10 minutes of training per day at this stage, split into two training times, hopefully at their meal times. Always keep in mind, when you are not training, your puppy is still learning constantly. Put him away when you are not working with him or her, so the puppy is not constantly getting yelled at for doing things he doesn't know better than to do. Teach your puppy what is ok, and what not ok. Be very Black and White about it. You don't want to have to "Untrain" a bunch of things he was doing when you weren't looking.

**House training** has been well started for you. What goes in, must come out. If you stick to a schedule you will have far better luck. Your puppy has been going in and out of our house to use the bathroom from 8 weeks of age. Prior to that, she was only going to the bathroom in her newspaper pellet bin, and she has been doing that since she was 3-4 weeks old. We are very particular about potty training habits, because we know how important this is in creating a positive experience for everyone.

Do not leave food and water down at all times, feed and water on a schedule, and the poop and pee will also come on schedule. We do not feed after 6pm, so that the puppy is empty before bed time. Your puppy goes to sleep around 8pm, and goes outside at 6am. We usually have a movie playing all night long or anytime she is put up.

If she has an accident, please do NOT scream, yell, or push her nose in it, none of these methods work. You will only damage the relationship with the puppy, and she will not learn to use the potty outside. If you catch her in the act, in the wrong spot, simply carry her (while she is going), place her outside, and pet her. Do NOT yell at her. She will begin to hide from you to use the restroom if you use any negative responses. **There is no carpet or floor that is more important than the trust your puppy has in you, so don't ruin it!**

You MUST clean the area with Nature's Miracle, it is the only product that eliminates the smell that she will look for when it's time to go again. Try to always keep your puppy off carpet until you can trust her (around 9 months usually).

Make sure the same area she goes potty in, is NOT the same area she plays in, so its very clear what you are doing there. Each time she goes potty outside, say "go potty" and praise her heavily. Soon, she will make the connection. If you are angry through this process, you are only lengthening the time it will take.

Don't allow the puppy to wander around the house without full supervision until you are SURE she is going to the door consistently over several months. At 12 weeks old, she should only be capable of finding her potty spot within 8sq feet. If you allow her to roam your home, she will never find the appropriate spot to go, and you will have started a bad habit you have to untrain.

### **Socialization:**

Many people think socializing is forcing your puppy to allow strangers to pet or hold your puppy. That is not true. Your job is to ensure that if she doesn't want to meet someone, you do not force it, but she is not allowed to growl/lunge/bark at people in public. Your job is to protect her, and when she is grown, she will return the favor. At home, you may enjoy that instinct. One thing is for sure, if you have a visitor, your Hano puppy will let you know. What you want to see for successful socialization, is that the pup remains indifferent to other dogs and people it doesn't know.

When you take her in public, make sure you ALWAYS bring your motivator! You don't leave home without a baby bag, diaper and formula for a human infant, so – think the same way. Bring wipes, paper towels, treats, toys, etc. – so that you have an enjoyable way for the pup to learn or get over things it may be suspicious of – for example: if she is afraid of the sliding doors at Petsmart, I take my time and throw her favorite treat in front of her to entice her to enter on her own terms, unforced. As she eats the first piece, I throw another one just within reach, and so on. Don't worry about other people or what they think, and don't be embarrassed. This is natural for any puppy, just be patient and allow her to work through it.

**Jumping** etc: Hano's are notorious Jumpers. If you do not want her jumping on you later, do not allow it at all, ever. If some family members allow it, and some do not, that is a vague message and she will not understand. This goes for every behavior. We wait for the puppy to stop jumping before we pet it, so it always knows what behavior we DO want. If this continues to be a problem, please let us know.

### **Growth/Joints/Exercise:**

Hano's are very thick boned dogs and grow/mature slowly. The Italians say "Hanoverians grow one leg per year" Which means, they don't fully mature until 4 years of age. That could be an exaggeration, but you get the point. Do not ask her to run 3-5 miles + until she is past a year old. If you plan to track wounded game, its important that you get her into the woods twice a week (and with strangers following behind) for exploring and getting to know all the smells/sounds and the big scary trees are not going to jump out and bite her. Feed your puppy a quality food so he has the best chance for growth.