

NORTHWEST LAGOTTO

The First Forty-Eight Hours

The most important forty-eight hours of the placement.

An hour-by-hour reference for the day your puppy comes home —
and the night that follows. What is normal, what is not, and when to
call us.

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FOREWORD

When buyers panic

Almost everything in the first forty-eight hours is normal.

T*his is the document we wrote for the moment when buyers panic. The first forty-eight hours your puppy is home produce more anxious phone calls than the rest of the placement combined, and almost all of them turn out to be normal — the puppy will not eat at first, will cry the first night, will have loose stool from the stress of travel. The point of this reference is to tell you in advance what is normal, what is not, and when our phone is the right one to ring.*

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

An hour-by-hour reference for the day of pickup and the day after. We have broken the forty-eight hours into stages — arrival, first evening, first night, first morning, second day — and described what to expect at each. Read it before pickup. Skim it during. Open it at three in the morning when she will not stop crying.

The closing page is the most important. It is a triage list — what is normal, what is concerning, and what is a genuine emergency. Print that page and put it on the fridge.

REACH US ANYTIME

Tracy and Mark are reachable by phone and email throughout the first week. Our standing rule is that no question is too small for the first forty-eight hours and we would always rather be called for nothing than missed for something. Contact details are on the back page.

If we are unreachable for any reason and the situation is genuinely urgent, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control hotline is available twenty-four hours: (888) 426-4435. Save the number now. A small consultation fee applies; it is worth it.

THE TIMELINE · DAY ONE

Hour by hour

Arrival, evening, the first night.

Each stage below corresponds to a window in the first forty-eight hours. Read each in order. The behaviours described are what we observe across more than a decade of placements — they are typical, not universal. If something falls outside the patterns described, the triage page tells you whether it warrants a call.

ARRIVAL HOME

First two hours

- **Outside first.** Toilet break in the yard before entering the house, even if she went before the drive. New environments trigger urination — give her the chance.
- **One room.** Show her one room — typically the kitchen or living room with the pen set up. The whole house is overwhelming. Confine the world for the first day.
- **Water available, food in two hours.** Offer water immediately. Hold off on a meal for the first hour or two. Many puppies refuse food on arrival; this is travel-stress, not illness.
- **Quiet first.** No children visiting, no introductions to neighbours, no other pets meeting her in the first three hours. The puppy needs to land before she socialises.

FIRST EVENING

Hours two through bedtime

- **Short walk on lead in the yard, not the neighbourhood.** She is not yet fully vaccinated; keep her on your property for the first two weeks regardless.
- **Light meal.** Half her usual portion the first feeding. A small amount of plain rice mixed in if she shows any digestive upset. She has been eating the same food at our place; do not change brands.
- **Evening play, calm.** Floor-level play with one toy. No high-arousal games on day one. Lots of pauses. She will sleep the moment you stop.
- **Last toilet at bedtime.** One final yard trip immediately before crating for the night. Praise the success quietly. Do not extend.

FIRST NIGHT

Crate beside your bed

- **Crate in the bedroom, beside the bed, low to the floor.** She has slept beside her littermates her entire life. Solo sleeping in a separate room is the most common cause of a difficult first night, and it is entirely avoidable. The crate moves to its long-term position after week one.
- **The bedding from her pickup kit goes in the crate.** The scent is the single most effective comfort available to her on night one.
- **Whining is normal for the first thirty to sixty minutes.** Settle her with a calm hand through the bars or a quiet voice — do not lift her out, do not let her into the bed, do not feed at night.
- **One toilet trip is normal.** Around three to four AM most puppies wake to toilet. Take her out on lead, no play, no fuss, straight back to crate. She will fall asleep faster than you do.

THE TIMELINE · DAY TWO

Hour by hour

First morning, the rest of the second day.

FIRST MORNING

From wake to mid-morning

- **Outside immediately on waking.** Before food, before water, before greeting. The bladder is full. Carry her out if she is small and the route is long.
- **Breakfast within thirty minutes of waking.** Same food, same portion as evening. She will eat with more interest than yesterday.
- **Brief play, then back to the pen.** Fifteen to twenty minutes of activity, then settle. Her sleep need at eight weeks is sixteen to eighteen hours per day; do not over-stimulate.
- **The first vet visit can wait until day two or three.** Let her settle before adding another novel environment. Booked-but-not-immediate is the right pattern.

SECOND DAY

Hours twenty-four through forty-eight

- **The settling pattern emerges.** By the second evening she will be more relaxed, eating with normal appetite, and toileting on schedule. Most behavioural concerns from day one resolve by day two without intervention.
- **Begin the absence-training staircase.** Very brief visual separations — the first stage of the absence protocol. Five to ten seconds with a baby gate in place. See the absence protocol document for the full programme.
- **First introductions, careful.** If you have other pets or children not yet introduced, day two is the right time. Brief, supervised, on her terms. End any introduction before she becomes overwhelmed.
- **Vet visit, if scheduled for day two.** Bring her health records (in the pickup kit). The visit is establishment only — your vet meets her, weighs her, sets the next appointment. No vaccines unless your vet has reviewed our records and specifically asked.

TRIAGE

What is normal, what to call about

Print this. Put it on the fridge. Re-read it on day one.

NORMAL — DOES NOT REQUIRE A CALL	CALL US — WITHIN BUSINESS HOURS
Refusing first meal Travel stress. Offer again in two hours; most puppies eat by the second offering.	Refusing all food for over twelve hours We want to know. Bring it up before you reach hour twenty-four.
Loose stool Stress and a new environment commonly produce one or two loose stools in the first day. Plain boiled rice with the next meal usually resolves it.	Multiple loose stools or any blood Persistent diarrhoea or any sign of blood in stool warrants a call to us and likely a vet visit.
Crying the first night Universal. Crate beside the bed, scented bedding, calm voice. Resolves within thirty to sixty minutes.	Vomiting more than once One small vomit is usually stress. Repeated vomiting is not — call us.
One overnight accident Bladder capacity at eight weeks is roughly two to three hours. An accident in the crate overnight is a sign you slept too long, not a behaviour problem.	Lethargy that does not lift after rest A puppy who sleeps through her usual play window and is not bright-eyed when she does wake needs to be evaluated.
Sleeping a great deal Eight-week puppies need sixteen to eighteen hours of sleep per day. Long naps are not lethargy.	Unusual gum colour Pale, blue, or yellow gums are a warning sign. Healthy puppy gums are pink. Call us; this can warrant immediate veterinary attention.
Hiccups, sneezing, mild yawning All normal. Hiccups in particular are extremely common in young puppies and resolve on their own.	Any swelling, especially of the face or limbs Could indicate an allergic reaction or other concern. Photograph and call.

SKIP US — RING AN EMERGENCY VET DIRECTLY

Difficulty breathing or persistent rapid breathing at rest. Suspected ingestion of a toxic substance (houseplant, medication, chocolate, xylitol, grapes, onions). Trauma — fall, bite, struck by object. Seizures of any duration. Repeated vomiting accompanied by a distended abdomen. Bleeding that does not stop with five minutes of gentle pressure. Loss of consciousness. In any of these cases, do not wait for us to return your call — drive directly to your nearest twenty-four-hour emergency vet, ring us from the road, and ring the ASPCA Animal Poison Control hotline if a toxin is involved: (888) 426-4435.

Almost everything in the first forty-eight hours falls in the middle column. We have placed hundreds of puppies and the genuine emergencies are rare. But “rare” is not “never,” and the right document at three in the morning makes the difference.