

"Surprise - Surprise," or What You Might Not Have Expected When Buying a Sighthound Puppy



Your long-awaited dream has come true! Finally, the little one is at your home! It's a sighthound! Your heart and soul are singing! Whether it crossed the border to reach you or you picked it up from a breeder in a neighboring city doesn't matter. You have already studied everything about it, read all the possible internet resources, visited friends with the same wonderful creature countless times. You've chosen the best bed, lots of toys, bought the trendiest food, and yes, the bowls are in the right place. Your mind continuously chants the mantra: FINALLY, IT'S MINE! FINALLY, I HAVE A SIGHTHOUND!

It's perfect, endlessly adorable, such a licker, loves everyone so much! Yes, that's all true. A sighthound puppy is an incredibly cute being, leaving no one indifferent, not just dog lovers but even the most skeptical people.

This is all wonderful, but then comes morning, evening, night, and morning again... You start to feel like something is changing. It's still as adorable, loves everyone just as much, but it seems like something is off, or you missed something!

In the best case, you call or write to the breeder about your concerns:

- It doesn't seem to be using the pee pad...
- Eats chicken instead of the food we keep giving it to make it love us more...
- Doesn't like walking, either dashing off on the leash or standing still (underline as needed)
- Doesn't play with its toys but finds some trash under the table and chews on it...
- Doesn't come when called but runs away...
- Doesn't sleep in its comfortable bed but asks to sleep in the bed all night...

We hope you have a wise and patient breeder who left their contact information and is ready to help you day and night with advice.

We want to reassure everyone who might find themselves or has already found themselves in such a situation. You have a perfectly normal and typical sighthound puppy. You didn't miss anything. This is a usual situation, believe us! And not just with a sighthound puppy, but with any puppy, whether purebred or not.

Sighthounds are a bit different, and that's true.

First, in temperament and type of psyche! A sighthound puppy can move around the house at the speed of a little fury. You would make a big mistake by starting to chase it, hoping to take away a toy or a forbidden slipper. What should you do? Attract its attention and... run in the opposite direction! It will surely turn and run after you, accepting the rules of the new game.

Let's pause for a moment on this word - **GAME!** Everything we do around the puppy is a game for it, where initially its rules apply. Your patience and creativity should gradually shift the balance in your favor. Here's a new key word - **CREATIVITY!**

The best thing you can do when raising a sighthound puppy is to act creatively. If there are young moms or dads among the readers, we're on the same page! Everything is like with kids! Another little child has come into the house. But you don't need to change its diapers, feed it much less often, and it will grow up much faster.

A sighthound puppy can become spoiled in just one week - it sits on your head and imagines itself as the boss, which can lead to long-term problems. The best thing to do is to immediately apply certain boundaries to this little eared troublemaker.

Allow it to play, sleep, and eat at the appropriate time and in the right place.

Food means food! Sometimes it's reasonable to give the puppy cottage cheese or porridge with meat, or just meat. Food is not the only thing that's beneficial. The question is what nourishes and promotes growth better.

Toys are toys, but socks and slippers lying around the apartment are better kept higher. This way, the puppy subtly encourages the owners to keep the apartment tidy.

If you are determined to train the puppy to use the pee pad or go outside, follow a regular and clear program. There's a great article about this on our website.

A dog at any age understands everything in a system. Specifically, a system is a set of well-defined actions, reasonably repeated at specific intervals. Want to raise a well-behaved dog? Follow a system. Well, if you can't figure out when and what to do, how can the little puppy understand where, when, and what it can do. Improve yourself!

Feeding is easier than maintaining order.

Walk actively and a lot, then eat! Not the other way around! And you'll be happy. Don't try to force-feed the puppy. If it doesn't want to eat, remove the food altogether, make it look like it's already eaten everything. Or just go for a walk with it. For a dog, it's not critical to not eat even for a day. If the puppy is healthy, it will definitely get hungry. Give the puppy enough movement first, and everything will fall into place.

Let's touch on a separate topic when people buy a sighthound puppy girl because THEY ARE CALMER, after all, THEY ARE GIRLS! Then, amidst the ruins of a destroyed apartment, they ask questions - what's the matter? So, dear reader, they are not calmer; it all depends on the specific character of each puppy. Untrained sighthound girls, when they grow up, mark the house even more than sighthound boys.

THE MORAL HERE!

When choosing a puppy, evaluate your chances based on the puppy's character for calmness, confidence, and agreeableness. If you are determined to have a cheerful companion, an unstoppable and romantic sanguine, a patient and loving friend with an easily readable character - that's all about a sighthound boy. Boys start marking the house when there's someone to mark their territory from! That is, either in the presence of a girl or the appearance of a second, younger or just later boy. All this is easily managed, if necessary, and controlled.

If you are ready to deal with a willful lady, slightly capricious and picky with a touch of dominance as she matures, then you can risk getting a sighthound girl. Heat cycles typically occur twice a year, averaging 20-25 days, during which you will need to protect your darling from other suitors. But not all girls handle empty cycles painlessly. If your dog is purchased as a "non-breeding" pet, it is better to spay her before her first heat. Why and what are the pros and cons - we'll tell you in another article.

Now literally a few words about teeth and the constant chewing of everything around.

Usually, the puppy arrives to you at about three months, sometimes four. This is the age when its coat changes to adult and the process of changing milk teeth begins. The breeder or the internet will tell you the physiological details, but here's what happens behind the scenes. The puppy strives to try everything with its teeth day and night. This can be quite exhausting, especially if the furniture is gnawed and family members are bitten. We advise not to lose a minute and get to work immediately. Remember - the dog understands calm actions in a system! If you've decided that no one should be bitten, patiently let the puppy understand this. What can be done? What will work?

If you had the chance to observe puppies in a nest, between a month and a half old, you might have heard crazy sounds! They test each other "by the teeth," literally! In response, the siblings emit a loud and sharp squeal. And it works! So here's the first advice: if your puppy bites you, make a loud, sharp sound that will slightly scare it and let it understand that it hurts.

What does the dog mom do if the puppy bites her? She nips its nose or scruff! This is a dominance gesture, and the puppy immediately understands its limits. You don't need to chew the puppy's nose and bite its neck day and night, but occasionally nipping it during play is just right. You'll see the effect very soon. If biting continues, you can gently hold the little gangster by the long nose in a fist, holding it until the first sound. Carefully, not to the point of pain, but to discomfort.

If furniture is gnawed and hard to remove, you can advise smearing particularly tasty corners with a few drops of tea tree or lemon oil. In extreme cases, use an alcohol solution of levomycetin. This is harmless, just very bitter.

In the fourth month of your sighthound puppy, you may be surprised by its ears! They become unruly and start "wandering" in all directions, sometimes drooping, sometimes sticking up. What to do? Blame the age of tooth change and the cartilage that supports the ear. The stiffness of the cartilage is genetically determined in the puppy. At a tender age, even an experienced breeder can hardly say how stiff the ear cartilage will be. But this process will definitely end in due time. Here we can only advise not to feed the puppy trendy supplements for joint strengthening, various gelatinous chews, and cartilage. Microelements of such nature will give the cartilage additional stiffness and the ear setting process may drag on. Just wait, time will pass, and the ears will settle.

A surprise may await you when you start walking. A sighthound is a special dog, it's crucial to understand it. The puppy may be shy, scared of noise, and feel uncomfortable in clothes and a collar worn for the first time. Be patient. If there's an elevator in your building and the puppy is afraid to enter it, just carry it in your arms. Next time, calmly place it on the elevator floor and sit next to it. Stay positive. Don't show discontent or anxiety. THIS IS NORMAL. THIS IS A PROCESS. The main thing is not to drag the puppy by

the collar or harness. Everything will come, slowly, step by step. Today it just stood still, tomorrow it stood still again, but seeing there's no danger, it will step into the elevator and out of it after you as if nothing happened. The same goes for the walking area. Everything gradually, without stress, but at the same time don't overdo it by overprotecting the puppy. Each day - a small step! Think as the dog thinks. And the dog understands systematic actions! Patience and love!

Remember, the puppy's psyche is very flexible; the more opportunities and reasonable stressors you offer, the stronger it will form.

Good luck!

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