

MODULE 11

Preparing Puppies for Their New Homes

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this module, the breeder should understand how to evaluate readiness for placement, prepare puppies for transition, educate new owners, and ensure puppies leave with appropriate documentation and support.

The Breeder's Responsibility

A breeder's responsibility does not end when puppies are weaned. In many ways, preparing puppies for their new homes is among the most important aspects of responsible breeding.

The goal is not simply to place puppies but to set them up for lifelong success.

A well-prepared puppy is more likely to adapt quickly, form strong bonds with its family, and become a stable, confident companion.

Evaluating Readiness

Most puppies are physically capable of leaving for new homes by eight weeks of age. However, readiness involves more than age alone.

Puppies should be:

- Eating independently
- Gaining weight consistently
- Socially confident
- Healthy and active
- Current on preventive care
- Comfortable interacting with people

The breeder should evaluate each puppy individually rather than relying solely on a calendar date.

Matching Puppies to Homes

One of the breeder's most important responsibilities is matching the right puppy to the right family.

Temperament evaluations conducted between seven and eight weeks can provide useful information regarding:

- Confidence
- Sociability
- Energy level
- Recovery from stress
- Curiosity
- Trainability

No puppy is perfect for every family.

The breeder's experience and observations often provide better guidance than formal testing alone.

Preparing Puppies for Separation

Leaving the litter is a major transition. Breeders can help puppies adjust by introducing experiences that encourage independence.

Examples include:

- Short periods away from littermates
- Individual play sessions
- Crate exposure
- Car rides
- One-on-one interactions with people

These experiences help reduce stress when puppies move to their new homes.

Educating New Owners

Even the best puppy can struggle if placed with an unprepared owner.

Breeders should provide written guidance covering:

- Feeding schedules
- House training
- Crate training
- Vaccination schedules
- Socialization recommendations
- Grooming requirements
- Veterinary care

New owners often feel overwhelmed during the first few weeks. Clear instructions help create confidence and reduce mistakes.

Puppy Packets

Each puppy should leave with a comprehensive packet containing:

- Health records
- Vaccination history
- Deworming history
- Feeding instructions
- Registration paperwork
- Sales contract
- Health guarantee
- Breed information
- Emergency contact information

These materials provide continuity during the transition period.

The Importance of Ongoing Support

Responsible breeders remain available after placement.

Questions regarding:

- Training
- Nutrition
- Health concerns
- Grooming
- Behavior

are common and expected.

Many successful breeder-owner relationships continue throughout the life of the dog.

Key Points

- Placement should be based on readiness, not just age.
- Matching temperament to lifestyle improves outcomes.
- Puppies benefit from gradual exposure to independence.
- Owner education is an essential part of responsible breeding.
- Every puppy should leave with complete documentation.
- Breeder support should continue after placement.