**Thinking about adding a new puppy to the household …**

Enough time?

* + Puppies require a considerable amount of time to train.
  + Labradors are demanding dogs who want to share their whole life with you, consider your choice carefully.
  + Labs need exercise to keep their body fit. An overweight dog can develop health problems. Walks, fetch and swimming are some to their favorite activities.

Where to acquire a puppy?

* + - Weather you are looking for a show animal or a companion animal, the safest way to obtain a puppy is from a reputable breeder. Reputable breeders have the expertise to follow AKC guidelines and knowledge of the breed. These breeders do their very best to screen for health concerns, although even with all the best screenings sometimes disease and illness does occur.
    - The breeder should always provide you with AKC registration and vaccination records.
    - Novice or backyard breeders may offer attractive prices and the quality of animal will reflect this.
    - Understand how the puppy will be registered with the AKC. Will the puppy have full or limited registration?
      * *Full registration* give the owner rights to showing and breeding.
      * *Limited registration* means that your puppy is registered but no litters produced by that dog will be eligible for registration. Limited registration continues regardless of change of ownership.

**Now that you have decided to get a new puppy …**

Care:

It is recommended that the puppy be examined by a veterinarian within 72 hours of purchase. The doctor will continue the vaccination schedule.

It is advisable to keep puppy away from public places until 16 weeks of age. At this time they are finished with their puppy vaccines and have built up and immunity to infectious diseases.

Remember that your puppy is young. Allow your puppy to get plenty of rest. Let you puppy lead the way as to how much exercise is needed until age 6 months.

Diet:

It is important to provide your puppy with a quality nutritional diet. Follow guidelines on food label to ensure the correct amount of feed. Labs tend to gain weigh easily, this can cause health issues.