

STRONGHOLD GERMAN SHEPHERDS

PUPPY GO-HOME GUIDE

Breeder: Stronghold German Shepherds
Location: Wolcott, Vermont
Phone: 802.672.9934



Welcome to the Stronghold Family!

Your puppy has been raised in the heart of our home — surrounded by children, farm life, gentle hands, and daily love. This guide will help you through the first days, weeks, and months as your new companion settles in a new environment.

1. FIRST 72 HOURS AT HOME

These first days are about bonding, gentleness, and routine.

What your puppy needs:

- *A quiet, safe space to decompress*
- *Predictable feeding and potty times*
- *Soft reassurance, not overstimulation*
- *Slow introductions to new people and pets*
- *Lots of rest — puppies sleep 18–20 hours a day*

Your calm presence is the greatest gift you can give.

2. FEEDING & NUTRITION

Your puppy has been raised on high-quality nutrition, limited vaccines, natural worming, and holistic support.

Food:

Your puppy is currently eating: **Raw meats - beef, chicken, pork, turkey, and some vegetables. Your puppy will go home with a supply of goats milk and eggs to get started.**

Feeding Schedule:

- *Morning at 6am*
- *Midday at 12 pm*
- *Early evening at 6pm*

Supplements:

Your puppy must remain on NuVet nutritional support for the first year of life to support immune strength, growth, and overall wellness.

Water:

Fresh water available at all times. Please do not use treated tap water.

3. POTTY TRAINING

Your puppy has already begun early potty training.

Tips:

- *Take outside immediately after waking, eating, and playing*
- *Praise generously for success*
- *Keep a consistent schedule*
- *Avoid punishment — it slows learning*

Crate training helps build confidence and structure.

4. SLEEP & CRATE COMFORT

To help them settle:

- *Keep the crate near you at night*
- *Use the scent blanket we provided*
- *Offer a soft chew or toy*
- *Keep nighttime calm and quiet*

Expect some whining the first night — it's normal.

5. SOCIALIZATION & CONFIDENCE BUILDING

Your puppy has been exposed to:

- *Children*
- *Household noises*
- *Farm sounds*
- *Gentle handling*
- *New textures and environments*

Continue this slowly and thoughtfully. Confidence is built through safe, positive experiences. Try not to overwhelm your puppy.

6. TRAINING FOUNDATIONS

Your puppy already knows:

- *Name recognition*
- *Early recall*
- *Crate comfort*
- *Gentle handling*
- *Beginning leash awareness*

We recommend:

- *Positive reinforcement*
- *Short, frequent training sessions*
- *Consistency from all family members*
- *Avoiding harsh or fear-based methods*

German Shepherds thrive with structure, clarity, and purpose.

7. VETERINARY CARE

Your puppy has received: a vet check

- *Limited vaccines*
- *Natural worming*
- *A full health record*

Please schedule a wellness exam within 72 hours of going home.

Discuss spay/neuter timing with your vet — we recommend 18 to 24 months for proper growth.

8. SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Your puppy should **never** be:

- *Tied out or chained*
- *Left in unsafe temperatures*
- *Allowed to run loose*
- *Over-exercised during growth*

Avoid:

- *Slippery floors*
- *Jumping off furniture*
- *Long flights of stairs*
- *Dog parks until fully vaccinated*

9. RETURN-TO-BREEDER PROMISE

If at any point you cannot keep your dog — for any reason, at any age — your dog must be returned to Stronghold German Shepherds.

Your puppy will always have a place with us.

10. STAYING CONNECTED

We love updates, photos, questions, and stories. Once you adopt from Stronghold, you are family!

802-673-9934 or Strongholdshepherds@gmail.com