

Kuba GSD

The First-Month GSD Starter Guide

A practical 4-week roadmap for new German Shepherd owners: crate setup, biting, leash basics, feeding, and calm-down cues.

Week 1: Settle the chaos

Routine, crate, and sleep.

- Same wake, feed, walk, and bed times every day — GSDs thrive on predictability.
- Make the crate cozy and near you at night; it is not a punishment.
- Expect 2–3 potty breaks overnight. It gets better fast.

Week 2: Survive the shark phase

Biting, chewing, and redirecting energy.

- When teeth hit skin, the game ends immediately. Offer a toy instead.
- Frozen carrots and rubber toys save furniture and fingers.
- Short training sessions beat long ones — 5 minutes, 3 times a day.

Week 3: Walk without pulling

Leash manners start here.

- Stop the second the leash goes tight. Wait for slack, then move forward.
- A front-clip harness helps while you teach the habit.
- Reward position, not just the absence of pulling.

Week 4: Build calm indoors

An off-switch for a working breed.

- Reward settled behavior with quiet praise or a treat.
- Mental exercise tires them more than endless running.
- Start a 'place' cue and use it daily.

Five things that save your sanity

Crate setup

Pick a size he can stand, turn, and lie down in. Use a divider if he is still growing. The crate belongs in the family space, not isolation.

Biting phase

It peaks around 8–12 weeks. Stay consistent: redirect, then remove attention. It feels endless, but it passes.

Leash basics

Teach him that tension stops the walk. Be patient — pulling is self-rewarding, so consistency matters more than speed.

Feeding routine

Three meals a day until around 6 months. Pick a high-quality large-breed puppy food and measure portions.

Calm-down cue

Capture calm moments. When he lies down quietly, mark it and reward. Calmness is a skill, not a personality.