**Important Information about Puppy Coats**

**Appearance and Fit:**

* Do not add any additional patches, name tags or other adornments to the new coats.  Their abbreviated style does not offer room for these and they could become cluttered.  As these coats need to be easily transferred between raisers, please do not write names on them.
* When the belly strap is adjusted to fit the puppy, there will most likely be extra strap material left over.  Please DO NOT cut the extra part of the strap. Just thread the extra strap back through the slider.
* Upon a dog's recall please turn in the coat to your club leader. It will be returned to your club's inventory.
* Return damaged coats to your club leader. They can be returned to GDB for repairs.

**Washing Instructions:**

* Machine wash with regular color load
* Machine dry low heat or line dry.
* No dry-cleaning, ironing or bleaching.
* The new coats are made of durable cordura. Cordura is a high quality material that will wear well if cared for properly.
* Regularly wash your puppy coat to keep it clean. Have a clean and well-groomed puppy. If you coat becomes tattered, contact your leader for a replacement coat.

**Guidelines for Relieving a Puppy when it is wearing a Puppy Coat:**

* Remember to take off the coat before giving the "do your business" command
* If the dog starts to relieve while in coat, do not make a big deal about it. Next time, however, watch more closely so you can take off the coat before he gets to the point where he can't wait any longer.
* Do not attempt to remove the coat or otherwise interrupt the puppy while he is relieving. Graduates often touch their dogs so they can verify that the dog is actually relieving. The training department will work on this procedure when your dog is in formal training.
* Your responsibility is to teach your puppy to relieve comfortably on command on all surfaces.

**PREVENTING LOST PUPPY COATS**
A lost puppy coat is pretty serious business! Besides the cost of replacement, you are, in effect, giving some stranger the opportunity to take his pet dog into public places and pass it off as a puppy in training. That can cause problems for all of us, including folks with working guides. Here are some simple things you can do to prevent lost coats:

* Have a designated place in the house or car where you always store your puppy coat.
* On longer outings or travel, have a "keeper of the coat." When the pup's not wearing his coat, it's their job to keep track of the coat at all times.
* On trips, or if you're puppy sitting, keep the coat in the puppy's overnight bag when not in use.
* When you take the coat off to relieve your puppy, hang it on your shoulder until you need it again. That way you're not tempted to set the coat down where it might be forgotten.
* Don't take the coat off the dog until you're back in the car. That way it will stay in the car and not get left on the hood when you pull out.
* Don't take the coat off until you're back in the house. That way you're sure your coat will get home with you.
* If you do lose a puppy coat, make every effort to retrace your steps and find it again. If the coat is really gone, call your leader right away to report the loss and arrange for a replacement.