

INTRODUCTION



A Letter to Our Clients

ANIMALS ENRICH OUR LIVES

People who own pets live longer, happier, fuller lives. Our pets remind us of what it is to be wild, to be gentle, to be loyal, to trust, to flourish, to slow with age, to die. They connect us to something fundamental in our beings. We are the caretakers of that connection. For all that our pets teach us, for all the love and joy they bring to our lives, they deserve good care - and they rely on us to give it.

WHY LIFETIME VETERINARY CARE MATTERS

The average lifespan of dogs and cats in the United States is 7.4 years. The POTENTIAL lifespan of the average dog or cat in the United States is 15 years. Comprehensive medical care, good nutrition and proper training allow pets to live up to their potential as long term family members. In other words, the care you give your pet throughout its life will determine how long he or she will remain a happy, healthy member of your family.

Our goal is to maximize the lifespan and the health of your dog or cat through preventative medical care and nutritional and behavioral counseling. We are advocates for your pet - our job is to advise you as to the best care options available for you and your pet.

Working together as a team we hope to help our patients and their families spend many happy years together.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer Bloss



Dr. Denise Follett



Dr. Nicole Mueller



Dr. April Wittenburg



Dr. Molly Lien

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WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY



Please do not hesitate to call with your questions or concerns. We would rather you call early than have your pet suffer needlessly or worsen overnight. Often we can advise you on what to do or what medications to give at home to keep your pet comfortable until our office is open. Please **do not give human medications to your pet** without checking with us first. Many human drugs are toxic to pets or are dosed very differently in animals. For instance, Tylenol and Advil are toxic to dogs and cats, and even a small amount of aspirin or Tylenol can be fatal for your cat.



FIRST AID TIPS

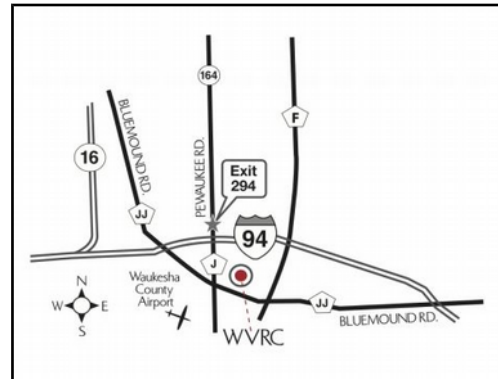
See Pet Emergency Care Booklet – for specific information dealing with...

- **Basic 1st Aide & CPR**
- **How to approach an injured animal**
- **Abdominal Pain**
- **Allergic Reaction**
- **Bite Wounds / Lacerations**
- **Burns**
- **Cardiac Emergencies**
- **Cold / Heat Emergencies**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Ear Emergencies**
- **Eye Emergencies**
- **Fractures**
- **Insect bites / Tick removal / Skunk recipe**
- **Neurologic Emergencies**
- **Poisoning / Common Household toxin**
- **Respiratory Emergencies**
- **Seizures**

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY



If you have an emergency on a weekend, holiday, or week night after 5 p.m. We recommend that you use the services of one of our local emergency clinics:



Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center (WVRC)
 360 Bluemound Road
 Waukesha, WI 53188
 (866) 542-3241 | www.wvrc.com



Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists
 2100 W. Silver Spring Drive
 Glendale, WI 53209
 (414) 540-6710 | www.lakeshorevetspecialists.com

A dog that is relaxed and confident in any situation is an ideal pet, and an ideal veterinary patient as well. We hope this handout will start us off on the right foot!

BASIC PUPPY CARE



FIRST AND FOREMOST: VACCINATIONS

Many common diseases, including Distemper, are deadly to your dog. During the initial day of nursing, puppies receive **antibodies**, proteins, against certain diseases from their mother's milk. These protecting antibodies are gradually lost between 6 and 16 weeks of age. This "passive" immunity protects the puppy during its first few weeks of life, while its immune system is maturing, but, at some point, this immunity fails and the puppy must produce its own, longer-lasting "active" immunity. Vaccinations are used for this purpose. A series of vaccinations are given during this period to stimulate your puppies immune system to produce its own antibodies. As long as the mother's antibodies are present, they will cause interference and prevent the immune system from responding completely to the vaccines. Vaccination of your new puppy should begin at about 6-8 weeks of age and continue every 3-4 weeks until your puppy reaches **16 weeks of age**.

The CORE vaccines that all puppies need to receive are **DHPP, Lepto** and **Rabies**. The **DHPP** vaccine protects your puppy against a number of viral infections that cause serious threats to your puppies health, including, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza and Parvo virus. In general, your puppy will receive 3 of these vaccines his/her first year of life. Recent studies have shown that for maximum protection, particularly from the Parvo virus the last "Puppy vaccination" should not be before your puppy is 16 weeks of age. Your puppy will receive a booster vaccination in 1 year and then it the vaccine is given every 3 years thereafter.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that not only causes serious disease in your pet, but can also infect humans as well. Your pet is at risk with one of these organisms when it comes in contact with the urine of wild animals. Every animal that goes outdoors is at risk!! There are many strains of Leptospira. We currently vaccinate against all 4 strains for which a vaccine is available. This is included with in the second and third DHPP vaccine your puppy receives his/her first year of life. It is the given annually thereafter.

The final core vaccine that your puppy needs to receive is **Rabies**. A rabies vaccine will be given to your puppy, generally, at the time he/she receives its last set of vaccinations at 16 weeks of age. A booster vaccine is given in 1 year and then every 3 years thereafter.

OPTIONAL vaccinations that you may wish your puppy to receive are **Bordatella (Kennel Cough)** and **Lyme**.

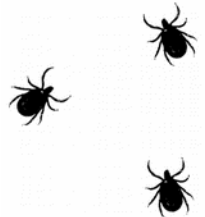
Bordatella vaccination protects your puppy against a respiratory disease commonly called Kennel cough. This is an infection of the large airways in the lungs resulting in a dry gag-like cough. Your puppy is at risk of this disease when it is around other dogs in close confinement. If your puppy goes to a boarding facility, Doggie-Day-Care, training classes or grooming facilities your puppy should be protected with Bordatella vaccination. This can be given as a "nasal spray" every 6-12 months or as a series of 2 Subcutaneous injections given 2-4 weeks apart and then given annually thereafter. If this vaccine is deemed necessary for your pet, the decision as to which vaccine to be used on your puppy will be discussed with you by a veterinarian or staff member administering it.

Lastly, **Lyme** vaccination is available to protect your puppy from Lyme disease, a serious bacterial infection that they can get from ticks. So if you will be taking your puppy into the woods, hunting or camping or if you live in a heavily wooded area or deer are known to be in your yard your puppy should be protected with the Lyme vaccination. Your puppy must be 9 weeks of age or older and will receive 2 vaccines the first year, about 2-4 weeks apart the first year. It is given annually thereafter.

WHAT IS LYME DISEASE ANYWAY?



Lyme disease is an infection caused by a type of bacteria called a spirochete. Although originally discovered in the city of Lyme, Connecticut. Lyme disease has now been reported in most states. The disease is more properly called Borreliosis, after the bacterial species that causes it - *Borrelia burgdorferi*.



**Deer Tick
 Actual Size**

Lyme Disease is a serious and life threatening disease. It can cause an array of symptoms, including kidney, heart, skin and neurological disease, abortion, and infertility. The most common signs in dogs are low grade fever (103-104° F), weight loss, and lameness or joint pain, which may shift from leg to leg. Symptoms may occur as soon as 4 days after exposure to an infected tick, or as long as 1 year later. The average incubation period is 1 month.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

The deer tick is the most common carrier of Lyme disease in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the eastern coastal states. Recently, other species of ticks such as the lone star tick, the wood tick and insects such as deer flies, horseflies and mosquitoes have been found to carry the disease. Currently these insects are not felt to be important carriers of the disease.

Deer are not the only animals that harbor deer ticks, so pets can pick up Lyme disease whether or not they are in deer-populated areas. The larval deer ticks prefer to feed on small rodents (field mice) that live in grassy or brushy areas, often around the fringes of woods or fields.

The deer tick lives a rather complex life cycle. It develops from an egg to a larvae, larva to a nymph, and finally from nymph to an adult. The deer ticks are among the first ticks to become active in the spring, and they remain active in various stages until the first snows in the fall. All three life cycle stages of ticks can transmit Lyme disease, and all three are very small and difficult to find. They are active almost all year 'round.

CAN LYME DISEASE BE TREATED?

Yes. The bacterium that causes the disease is sensitive to several antibiotics. Doxycycline is the one most commonly used to treat the disease in animals. The length of time needed to treat the disease varies, but three weeks is usually the minimum amount. Prolonged treatment may be necessary, and relapses and reinfection are common. The earlier the diagnosis of the disease is made, the more successful treatment is likely to be. Even with prompt treatment, however, there can be permanent damage, especially if the infection involved the brain, kidneys or heart. Preventing the disease altogether is a much better alternative than waiting for your pet to pick up the disease.

SHOULD I VACCINATE?

We recommend vaccination for Lyme disease if you take your dog hunting, hiking, camping or running in fields or woods. We also recommend it if you can see deer or have mice near your house or yard. If you live in a town, city or suburb with no woods or fields nearby, and you don't travel with your dog, vaccination is probably not necessary.

We also advise the use of tick control products on your pet if he or she has tick exposure. Even if you vaccinate your dog, ticks can carry other serious diseases besides Lyme disease, such as Ehrlichia and Anaplasmosis. Their bites can also become irritated or infected. Prompt removal of any ticks you do find on your dog is also recommended to help prevent exposure to disease.



LYME DISEASE AFFECTS PEOPLE TOO!

Conduct thorough tick checks on yourself, your children and your pets after spending time out-doors. This includes time in your own backyard or garden, as well as when

camping or hiking in wooded areas. Avoid grassy and marshy woodland areas, and don't walk barefoot in grassy areas. Wear light colored clothing. This makes ticks easier to find. Tuck pants into boots or socks and wear long sleeved shirts, buttoned at the cuffs.

Ticks do not fly or jump onto their hosts. They wait atop grasses and other vegetation until an animal brushes against them. Then they cling to skin, fur or clothing and will crawl for a time on their host before they embed and feed.

Ticks must be embedded and engorged (not flat) before they transmit the Lyme disease bacteria. Therefore it is important to look for and remove any ticks as soon as possible in order to prevent infection.

Protect yourself and your pets with insect/tick repellants. We have several good, long lasting products available to help you to safely protect your dog or cat from Lyme disease, such as Vectra 3D and Preventic collars.



CAN I GET LYME DISEASE FROM MY PET?

It is not known at this time whether Lyme disease can be spread directly from animals to humans. *Borrelia burgdorferi* organisms have been found in the urine of infected animals, however, and it is speculated that urine and feces from birds and rodents may be contributing to the spread of the disease. Certainly infected ticks can carry the disease from animals to people in close proximity. At this time we don't believe that animal-human transmission is a significant factor in the disease, but caution is advised if you are exposed to an animal which has the disease. Use insect repellents conscientiously, and wash your hands or wear gloves

when handling animal wastes or deer carcasses.

VACCINATING FOR KENNEL COUGH



Kennel Cough is the common name for a group of diseases similar to the human cold or flu. Symptoms are fever, swollen tonsils or lymph nodes and a deep, "honking," keep-you-and-the-dog-up-all-night cough that can take weeks to go away. Although rarely fatal, it can lead to pneumonia in puppies, geriatric pets or those already ill with another disease.

There are several different bacteria and viruses that can cause Kennel Cough. All are very contagious, especially when multiple dogs are in the same room together. When a sick dog coughs or sneezes it sprays the infectious virus or bacteria particles into the air, where they float around and are inhaled by another dog across the room or in the cage next door. It can also be spread by touching noses, sharing food or water bowls, or sniffing around where a sick dog has been.

The most common cause of Kennel Cough is a bacteria named **Bordetella bronchiseptica**. The vaccine for Bordetella is a nasalgen, or nose drops, and it gives quick and effective immunity for 6-12 months. Parainfluenza is a viral cause of Kennel Cough. There are two strains of parainfluenza vaccine contained in the DHLPP vaccine that most dogs receive annually. Some Bordetella vaccines contain extra parainfluenza vaccine as well.

There are also some less common viral causes of Kennel Cough for which we have no vaccine, so even a vaccinated dog can occasionally contract the disease.

All boarding kennels require that dogs be vaccinated against Kennel Cough. Some require Bordetella vaccination be given within the previous 6 months to keep immunity high. Many veterinary clinics require vaccination before elective surgeries to prevent the spread of disease in the hospital. The last thing your pet needs after major surgery is a fever and a cough!



Most groomers do not require Bordetella vaccination, but they should. Multiple dogs in and out of one room are the ideal breeding ground for infection. Your pet should also be vaccinated if your dog goes to obedience or training classes. Even sitting in the waiting room of the veterinary clinic, or entering the clinic for dentistry, x-rays or other procedures, puts the pet at risk for contracting this annoying disease. Only pets confined to their own house or yard have no risk of catching Kennel Cough.

As with most diseases, prevention is easy and cost effective. Be sure your pet is vaccinated!

ADVERSE REACTIONS TO VACCINATIONS



Adverse reactions to vaccination have been recognized for years, and were commonly seen in several human vaccines including polio and smallpox vaccines. Adverse reactions to vaccines also occur in dogs and cats. However, compared to the risks of not vaccinating dogs and cats, the risks associated with vaccinations are very small in comparison. Adverse effects from vaccinations can vary with the type of vaccine used, and the age and breed of animal vaccinated. Anaphylaxis and the development of a fibrosarcoma are the most serious reactions to vaccines. Some of the more common (but still rare) risks are discussed below.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a rare, life-threatening, immediate allergic reaction to something ingested or injected. If untreated, it results in shock, [respiratory](#) and cardiac failure, and death. An anaphylactic reaction can occur as a result of vaccination. The reaction usually occurs within minutes to hours (less than 24) of the vaccination. Dr. Ronald Schultz of the University of Wisconsin College of Veterinary Medicine estimates that about one case of anaphylaxis occurs for every 15,000 doses of vaccine administered.

The most common symptoms of anaphylaxis are the sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, [coma](#), and death. The animals' gums will be very pale, and the limbs will feel cold. The heart rate is generally very fast, but the pulse is weak. There can be facial swelling and hives.

Anaphylaxis is an extreme emergency. If you think your dog is having an anaphylactic reaction, seek emergency veterinary assistance immediately. Epinephrine should be given as soon as possible - we are talking within a few minutes. IV fluids, oxygen, and other medications are given as needed.

Anaphylactic reactions are more commonly associated with the use of [killed vaccines](#) such as [rabies](#), [canine coronavirus](#), and [leptospirosis](#). Killed vaccines have more [virus](#) or bacterial particles per dose and have added chemicals (adjuvants) to improve the dog's immune response. These characteristics also increase the risk of an allergic reaction to the vaccine.

If your dog has ever had a reaction to a vaccine, subsequent vaccinations should be given by your veterinarian. In some cases, certain vaccines may be excluded from your dog's vaccination regimen, a different type of vaccine will be used, or certain drugs, including antihistamines, may be given prior to vaccination. The veterinarian may place a catheter in the dog's vein so if a reaction does occur, medications and fluids can be given immediately. Depending on the situation, your dog may need to remain in the veterinarian's office for a period of 30 minutes to several hours. Once home, the dog should be kept under observation for several additional hours. Even with these precautions, life-threatening reactions could still occur.

Worsening of allergies

Some studies have shown that dogs with [atopy](#) who are vaccinated at the height of the allergic season, may have an increased risk of developing more severe allergy signs. It is suggested that dogs with seasonal allergies be vaccinated during the 'non-allergy' season.

Neurologic and eye disease

Neurologic symptoms are the most common vaccine reaction seen in dogs. Canine [distemper](#) vaccination is the most common cause of neurologic disease, and can cause an [inflammation](#) of the brain. Measles vaccine in puppies has been reported to rarely cause damage to the nervous system. Cerebellar disease has been reported in puppies and kittens less than 5 weeks of age who were vaccinated with a [modified live vaccine](#).

Canine adenovirus-1 is known to cause an allergic uveitis (inflammation of the eye), often called '[blue eye](#).' Most vaccines now contain canine adenovirus-2 instead of adenovirus-1, almost eliminating the chance of blue eye occurring today.

Discomfort and swelling at the injection site

Pain, swelling, redness, and irritation can occur at the injection site. These effects generally occur within 30 minutes to 1 week of the vaccination. If the signs persist, or are severe, contact your veterinarian. Occasionally, abscesses can form at the injection site. These abscesses are generally not caused by infection, but by the body's over-reaction to the vaccine.

Mild fever, decreased appetite and activity

Mild fever, decreased appetite, and depression may be observed for 1-2 days following vaccination, most commonly when modified live vaccines are used. Generally, no treatment is warranted.

Severe illness can occur if vaccines designed for [intranasal](#) use are accidentally injected. Severe reactions can also occur if any of a vaccine made for injection accidentally enters an animal's eyes, nose, or mouth.

Respiratory signs after intranasal vaccines

Dogs vaccinated with the intranasal [Bordetella](#) and/or parainfluenza vaccine may develop a mild cough and sneezing, which generally does not require treatment. They may spread the vaccine-form of the virus to other animals through their coughing.

Lameness

Rarely, lameness can result from several different vaccinations.

Immune-mediated polyarthritis in Akitas: Certain lines of Akitas may have [immunodeficiencies](#) which make them prone to adverse reactions following vaccination.

They may develop an immune-mediated arthritis in one or more joints, which is often progressive and relapses commonly occur. Dogs with this immune disorder generally have short life spans due to other complications.

Hypertrophic osteodystrophy: Certain lines of Weimaraners, and some other large-breed dogs, may develop [hypertrophic osteodystrophy](#) following canine distemper vaccinations given between 2 and 5 months of age. They may also develop respiratory signs, enlarged [lymph nodes](#), and diarrhea. The hypertrophic osteodystrophy is treated with [glucocorticoids](#) and the signs of the disease usually resolve.

Shedding of vaccine agent

Vaccine virus may be found in the nasal secretions of dogs vaccinated intranasally. In addition, vaccine parvovirus is shed in the feces of vaccinated dogs, canine adenovirus-1 can be shed in the urine, and canine adenovirus-2 can be found in nasal secretions. These viruses are the vaccine forms of the virus; they do NOT revert back to the disease-causing strains.

Birth defects or infections

The vaccination of pregnant animals with a modified live vaccine can result in birth defects or abortions. It is recommended that modified live vaccines NEVER be given to pregnant animals. In addition, vaccinating puppies and kittens less than 4-5 weeks of age, can actually result in them becoming infected and developing disease from modified live vaccines.

Summary

As with any medical procedure, there are always risks of adverse reactions or side effects. These risks must be compared to the benefits of the procedure. Many of the

diseases against which we vaccinate can be serious and even lethal. In almost all cases, the risks associated with vaccination are very small compared to the risk of developing disease. As new vaccines and methods of administration become available, the adverse risks of vaccination should be reduced even more,



INTESTINAL PARASITES



95% of puppies are born with intestinal worms! These parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, stunted growth and even death. Some kinds are also transmissible to humans. This is especially important with regards to children who may be out barefoot in the yard, or toddlers who may put soiled fingers in their mouths. **Over 10,000 cases of animal roundworms cause illness in children every year in the United States.**

Internal parasites are diagnosed by having a fresh stool sample examined under a microscope by one of our Certified Veterinary Technicians here at the veterinary hospital. This should be done as part of a health exam when you obtain a new puppy or dog, and on a yearly basis as part of your dog's annual health exam and vaccinations.

Stool samples should be collected when they are fresh and stored in the refrigerator until they can be brought to the hospital. DO NOT freeze them. A teaspoon or two of stool is all that is necessary.

So that you may better understand the problems internal parasites can cause and what signs to look for, we have included a short description of the most common types of intestinal parasites.

ROUNDWORMS . . .

are the most common type of intestinal worm. They are 2-4 inches long and resemble strands of spaghetti. They live in the small intestine, and may cause vomiting, diarrhea or weight loss. Larval worms also damage the liver and lungs while migrating through these organs on their way to the small intestine. Roundworms are transmitted via stools of other infected dogs or cats, or through the uterus of the mother dog to her unborn pups. Entire worms can sometimes be seen in the stools or vomitus of infested animals. They are long and skinny and about the size of angel-hair pasta.

HOOKWORMS . . .

are small, about once half inch long, worms that attach to the lining of the small intestine, causing blood loss and diarrhea. Puppies can become infected through the mother's uterus before birth, or via her milk after birth. Older animals acquire hookworms through skin



contact with the stools of other dogs. These worms can infect animals and people through the skin surface, such as the soles of the feet.

WHIPWORMS . . .

live in the large intestine. They are not as common as the other intestinal parasites but the disease they cause can be very serious. Bloody diarrhea and weight loss are the symptoms seen.

These worms are transmitted by ingestion of the stools of infested animals.

They are much more difficult to eliminate than other worms, requiring deworming initially, in three weeks, and again in three months. Additionally, it is recommended that they be placed on Interceptor as their monthly heartworm prevention. Interceptor helps prevent whipworms.

TAPEWORMS . . .

live in the small intestine, where the head attaches to the intestinal wall and produces a chain of segments. Mature segments containing eggs are passed with the stool, or may be seen around the rectum. They resemble small grains of rice. They may be acquired by the ingestion of raw meat, rodents or birds or, most commonly, through the ingestion of fleas. Flea control is essential to control tapeworm infestation.

COCCIDIA . . .

are microscopic, one celled protozoal parasites, more like bacteria rather than "worms". Puppies can pick these up from their mother and they can also be acquired by eating rabbit or other wildlife droppings. They are treated with antibiotics.

GIARDIA . . .

are also protozoans. They are very difficult to pick up on a regular stool check. Antibiotics or special de-wormers kill them but they are difficult to eradicate completely and often flare up with stress or other intestinal problems. They are contagious to humans and cause vomiting and diarrhea in both people and pets.

If a stool sample is positive for parasites, your veterinarian will prescribe an effective dewormer and set up an appropriate deworming schedule for you to follow to ensure eradication of all parasites. We usually recommend deworming twice, two weeks apart,

however, this will vary with the type of parasite found. Please weigh your animal before picking up any wormer, to ensure that the proper dose is given. A stool sample should be checked again 4 to 8 weeks later, and again possibly 3 months later to ensure that your pet is not being reinfested by his or her environment.

Even if fecal testing does not detect intestinal parasites, because intestinal parasites are common in young kitten and puppies and there is the potential for human consequences, the Center for Disease Control recommends deworming of all puppies and kittens at least two times.

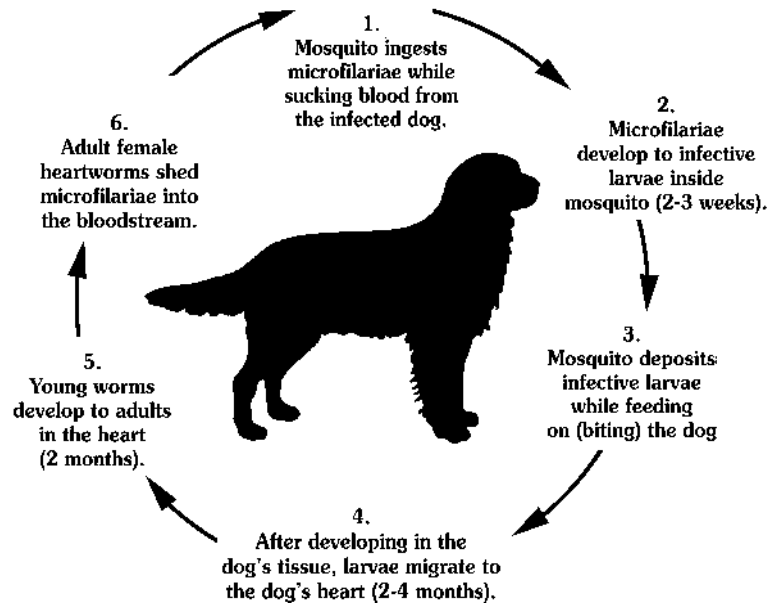
CANINE HEARTWORM DISEASE

CANINE HEARTWORM DISEASE . . .

is a serious, deadly disease wherever mosquitoes are present. Each year thousands of dogs become permanently debilitated or die from lung, heart or kidney problems caused by heartworms. Your dog can have heartworms for many months before symptoms are obvious. By then the disease may be difficult or impossible to treat successfully, therefore annual blood testing and monthly prevention are recommended for all dogs.

SYMPTOMS . . .

An infected dog becomes less active and tires easily. Coughing, weight loss, chronic fatigue and fainting may appear in advanced disease stages. Adult heartworms are found in the heart, lungs and major blood vessels. Heartworms can grow from 5 to 14 inches long. In severe cases, a hundred or more worms have been found in a single heart. Additionally, problems in the liver and a rapidly progressive fatal form of kidney disease may result.



Heartworm Life Cycle

TESTING . . .

FOR DOGS WITH NO HISTORY OF TICK EXPOSURE:

Standard Antigen Test: Detects the presence of adult heartworms.

FOR DOGS WITH HISTORY OF EXPOSURE TO TICKS:

SNAP 4 Test: Detects the presence of adult heartworms AND exposure to 3 common tick-borne diseases seen in the Mid-West. (Will not detect antibodies from vaccination).

LYME DISEASE --- Animals show signs of fever, lack of energy and appetite, lameness, swollen lymph glands and occasionally, fatal kidney disease. Many dogs are sub clinically infected and show no signs of disease.

EHRlichia CANIS INFECTION AND ANAPLASMOSIS INFECTION --- Animals show signs of lethargy, depression, lack of appetite, fever, spontaneous bleeding (bloody nose), respiratory distress, eye inflammation and gait abnormalities.

If your dog is positive for Lyme Disease, your doctor will recommend a confirmatory titer and blood work be done to assess your dog's risk of disease. If your dog is positive for Ehrlichia or Anaplasmosis, your doctor will recommend some additional blood work to check to see if your pet is showing any blood or chemical abnormalities --- and then appropriate therapy can be instituted as needed.

PREVENTION . . .

Puppies < 9 months of age do not need to be blood tested for heartworms. They should begin taking heartworm prevention as soon as they are eight weeks of age. Annual testing is required for puppies over 9 months of age and all dogs, even with year-round use of the medication. No medication is 100% and clinical signs are only seen very late in the course of the disease. Make sure your pet is tested and protected. Don't gamble with your pet's life!

TREATMENT . . .

is costly, and can be life threatening in and of itself. Successful treatment depends on early detection and close veterinary supervision. If permanent damage has occurred, prognosis is very poor. We are happy to say that most of our clients who own dogs do have them tested for heartworms and put them on monthly preventative medication annually. The preventative medications usually cost from \$3 to \$10 per month, depending on the size of the dog.

Heartworm preventatives come in both chewable beef flavored form or in non-chewables.

There is also a topical form of preventative that will also control fleas and one type of tick. Which kind you choose depends on what is easier for you to give your puppy /dog.

Why risk problems for your pet or for your family?

Not only are heartworm medications reasonably priced but many of them now prevent roundworms, whipworms and hookworms as well. **That is why we recommend that you keep your dog on heartworm preventative year round.** – In order to keep your dog and family free from risk of one of these parasitic infections.

We recommend having a stool sample checked for intestinal parasites at the time the heartworm test is done. If the stool sample is positive for intestinal parasites, your pet will need deworming to kill adult intestinal worms. The heartworm preventatives given after that will prevent your dog from becoming reinfested with the intestinal parasites. Eggs of intestinal parasites survive on grass for long periods of time, so without the heartworm medication, it is very common for dogs to pick up intestinal parasites repeatedly from their yard.

Untreated animals spread disease. Please don't let yours be one!

Unfortunately, heartworm disease is here to stay, as there will always be dog owners who do not choose to put their pets on a heartworm prevention program and there are wild dogs in our area, such as coyotes. These unprotected animals serve as a reservoir, spreading the disease to other dogs. Please don't let your dog become a victim of this deadly disease.

FACT... All dogs, regardless of age, sex, size or breed, are at risk wherever mosquitoes are present. It takes only ONE infected mosquito to infect your dog.

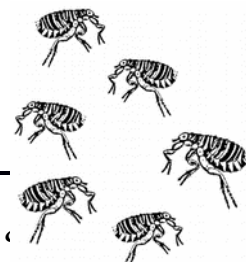
FACT... Heartworm Disease can kill your dog.

FACT... Effective, easy-to-use preventive medication can save your dog's life!

PREVENTING FLEAS AND TICKS



FLEAS



Fleas are among the most common health problems of dogs and cats. In the long run, it is much easier and more cost-effective to prevent fleas on your pets than to have to treat a major infestation of fleas in your house. Regular use of flea products will take care of the occasional flea your pets may encounter in the yard and should prevent you from having to spend large sums of money on foggers and exterminators. Treating a bad flea infestation in your house usually costs upwards of \$150.

Fleas will bite your pets, causing an itchy allergic reaction, which can become quite severe. They carry viral and bacterial diseases. In small animals, especially kittens, the anemia they cause from feeding on the animal's blood can be fatal. They also carry tapeworms. Tapeworm segments appear on the stool or around the rectal area and look like small grains of rice. If your dog has fleas, chances are good he has tapeworms - and vice versa. Therefore, if your dog has fleas, we will deworm your dog for tapeworms along with beginning flea control measures.

Wildlife, as well as other cats and dogs, bring fleas into your yard. Pets and people can then bring the fleas into the house. Birds nesting in the attic or mice seeking shelter can also bring fleas into your home. Fleas also travel on their own, as much as a mile an hour. They will hop inside through an open door or window and are often small enough to come through a window screen. Once inside your home there is no place a flea cannot get to. Adult fleas spend most of their time on your pet, but the remainder of the time they are roaming your house and laying eggs – thousands of them!

If you've never been lucky enough to see a flea, they are about 1/8 inch long, reddish brown and shaped like a sesame seed with legs. They are usually found on your pet's head, belly or lower back. If you ripple the hair backwards and look at the skin they can be seen scurrying through the base of the hair coat. It is often difficult to find fleas on pets until they are infested heavily. This is especially true with dogs who are meticulous groomers. It is more common to see the droppings they leave behind after feeding. They look like grains of pepper. If you place some of these on white paper toweling, wet it and mush it around it



will turn the towel red. This is because flea droppings contain digested blood. Plain dirt stays black or gray when wet.

Flea Prevention



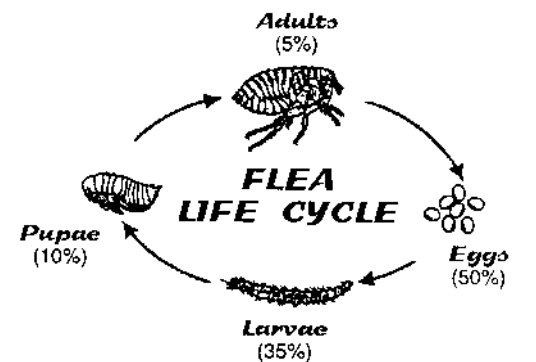
Fleas can usually be prevented by treating all pets that go outdoors so they don't bring reproducing fleas into the house. If you had fleas in previous years it is wise to spray some insecticide in the house as well, especially on the ground floor near doors and windows. This will kill the occasional flea that hops in on its own.

Many flea products sold in grocery and discount stores are wasting your time and money. Some are even harmful to pets. Most compounds strong enough to be effective are sold only through licensed veterinarians and exterminators, who are properly trained in their use, and are regulated by the state and the EPA. Insecticides should be used only according to label directions. Care is needed to ensure that toxicity does not develop due to the concurrent use of other drugs, pesticides or chemicals, or because the compound used was not safe for a particular age or type of animal. Some flea products used for dogs are deadly to cats.

READ LABELS CAREFULLY!!!

Most of our clients choose a long lasting topical flea control product (Vectra 3D, Frontline Plus or Revolution) to use on their pet to control fleas. These products are applied to a small area of skin and spread over the whole pet within 24 hours of application. These contain modern polymers enabling them to be effective for as long as 60 days. If your dog goes outdoors we recommend it be used monthly. Vectra 3D and Frontline are even effective if the dog becomes wet or is bathed. Because these products require the oils in the animals fur to spread, it is best to apply it several days prior to bathing your dog for maximum effect.

Many insecticidal flea collars available in stores are not very effective and often cause a painful irritation to the skin on the pet's neck. Flea shampoos and soaps are great for cleaning your dog with fleas but they have no residual effect. They only kill fleas present on the pet at the time the bath is given. As soon as the animal dries off, fleas will hop right back on. For long-term control you need a product that safely stays in or on the body for days or weeks at a time.



Only 5% of the fleas in your house are adults; the rest are other stages that you can't see.

PRODUCTS:

VECTRA 3D: Kills fleas, flea eggs and larvae AND kills all stages of 4 different ticks including the deer tick. Also helps control chewing lice and sarcoptic mange. It is very water-resistant. Used once monthly.

REVOLUTION: Kills fleas and prevents flea eggs from hatching. Controls the brown dog tick and prevents heartworms. Used once monthly.

PREVENTIC COLLARS: Kills ticks -- all kinds. Recommended to be used with Frontline Plus for dogs who frequent heavily tick infested areas. Good for 3 months.
Does not control fleas.

TICKS



Most flea products kill or repel ticks but ticks are tougher than fleas. They require higher levels of insecticides to kill them, so flea products usually have to be applied more often to control ticks.

The easiest longest lasting tick control is a product called the Preventic® collar. The Preventic® collar contains a different chemical than the ones in standard flea products, and it only kills ticks – it won't work at all against fleas. It is compatible for use along with other flea control products, however. Unlike most collars, the active ingredient is in a form that spreads over your entire dog in the oils on his skin within 48 hours of applying the collar. It doesn't repel ticks but it keeps them from attaching and kills them slowly in about 24 hours. We highly recommend these collars for outdoor or hunting dogs with high tick exposure.

If you are considering beginning a flea or tick control program for your pets, please consult with us. There are so many products on the market nowadays that it's tough to decide which ones are right for you. We are more than happy to help!



ELECTIVE SURGERIES



NEUTERING / SPAYING

The average lifespan of a neutered pet is 40% longer than an unneutered one. Almost all unspayed female dogs will eventually develop either mammary tumors (breast cancer) or a severe uterine infection called pyometra, by the time they are 8-10 years old. Female dogs also go through a heat cycle about two times each year. During this time, they will have a bloody tinged vaginal discharge that can be quite messy.

Male dogs commonly develop prostate disease, perianal tumors and testicular tumors in their old age. Even more sadly, the most common reason for euthanasia of pets in the U.S. is behavior problems. These are usually aggression, running away or urinating in the house by unneutered male dogs. Intact males also have more tendencies to roam, which leads to automobile related injuries, dogfights and exposure to contagious diseases.

Keep in mind also that millions of puppies are put to death in the United States each year because there are not enough homes for them all. Spaying and neutering is the responsible things to do.

If cost is a concern for having surgery, just \$5-10 per week saved from the time you get your puppy until he or she is 6 months old will be more than enough to cover the surgery.

We recommend spaying (surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus) of female dogs and castration (surgical removal of the testicles) of males, for all dogs that will not be used for purebred breeding. This should be done when your animal reaches 6 months of age. Your animal will be a healthier, happier pet, and you will have done your part to reduce the pet overpopulation problem.

While your pet is anesthetized for surgery, we can also remove any retained baby teeth, and implant a microchip ID.

MICROCHIPPING

THE LATEST IN PET IDENTIFICATION AND RETRIEVAL IS MICROCHIPPING. THIS TINY DEVICE IS IMPLANTED WITH A NEEDLE SO THE PROCESS IS MUCH LIKE GETTING AN INJECTION. VETERINARY HOSPITALS, HUMANE SOCIETIES AND ANIMAL SHELTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE MICROCHIP SCANNERS USED TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF A MICROCHIP AND YOUR DOG'S UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION. A NATIONAL REGISTRY ASSISTS IN THE RETURN OF MICROCHIPPED PETS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL PETS BE MICROCHIPPED.

BEFORE YOUR DOG'S UPCOMING SURGERY



Many people have questions about various aspects of their pet's surgery and we hope this handout will help. It also explains the decisions you will need to make before your pet's upcoming surgery.

Feeding Prior to Surgery?

It is important that surgery be done on an empty stomach, to reduce the risk of vomiting during and after the anesthesia. You will need to withhold food for at least 8 hours before surgery. Water can be left out until the morning of surgery.

Is The Anesthetic Safe?

Today's modern anesthetics and anesthetic monitors have made surgery much safer than in the past. We do a thorough physical exam on your pet before administering anesthetics to ensure that a fever or other illness won't be a problem. We also adjust the amount and type of anesthetic used depending on the health of your pet. The enclosed handout on anesthesia explains this in greater detail.

Preanesthetic blood testing . . .

is important in reducing the risk of anesthesia. Every pet needs blood testing before surgery to ensure that their liver and kidneys are functioning normally and can handle the elimination of the anesthetic agents given. We check a blood sugar to ensure normal metabolism by the brain, and that the pet is hydrated and has enough red blood

cells to carry oxygen to their tissues. The blood is also checked for evidence of infection or inflammation. Even apparently healthy animals can have serious organ system problems that cannot be detected without blood testing. If there is a problem it is much better to find it before it causes anesthetic or surgical complications! In animals that have minor dysfunctions anesthesia may be able to be performed by altering amounts and the type of drugs used. If serious problems are detected, surgery will be postponed until the problem is identified and corrected. We include preanesthetic blood testing with every spay and neuter surgery. The cost is included in the price of the surgery.

Will My Dog Have Stitches?

Not usually. For most surgeries we use absorbable sutures underneath the skin. These will dissolve on their own and do not need to be removed later. You will, however, need to keep an eye on the incision for swelling, redness and discharge.

Most dogs do not lick excessively or chew at their incisions, but this is an occasional problem that you will need to watch for. If you notice your pet licking at his or her incision call the hospital immediately for instructions. You may need to bring your pet into the hospital to be fitted for a collar to prevent infection. You will also need to limit your pet's activity level for a time, and no baths are allowed for 14 days after surgery.

Will My Dog Be In Pain?



Anything that causes pain in people can be expected to cause pain in animals. Dogs may not show the same symptoms of pain as people do - they don't usually whine or cry - but you can be sure they feel it. We take pain control for our patients very seriously! **No pet should be in pain!** It is a well known medical fact that when pain is controlled pets recover faster. Prior to surgery, your pet will receive pain medications, as well as after surgery, as needed. Additionally, pain medications will be dispensed for your pet and should be continued for two to five days after the surgery.

What Other Decisions Do I Need To Make?

While your pet is under anesthesia this is the ideal time to perform other minor procedures which are more easily accomplished when your pet is sleeping. Routinely, your dogs nails will be trimmed at no charge. You may request that one or more of the following additional procedures be preformed.

* Cleaning ears / plucking hair from ear canals

- * Removal of retained baby teeth
- * Implantation of AVID microchip for identification
- * X-rays of hips on large breed puppies

Charges for these services can be discussed when you schedule your pet's surgery, or at the time of drop-off.

The morning of surgery, you will need to have your pet here between 7:30 am – 7:50 am. It will take about 5-10 minutes of time to fill out paperwork and then you will meet briefly with the doctor. We will need a phone number that you can be reached at during that day. When you pick up your pet after surgery you can also plan to spend about 10 minutes with the Certified Veterinary Technician to go over your dog's home care needs.

We will call you the night before your scheduled surgery appointment to confirm the time you will be dropping your pet off and to answer any questions you might have. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call us with any questions about your pet's health or surgery!

ANESTHESIA AND YOUR PET



Many pet owners worry unnecessarily about anesthesia in their pets. Although anesthesia can never be completely free of risk, today's modern anesthetics make that risk very small.

The same anesthetics that allow complicated surgeries such as heart and kidney transplants to be done on humans are used in pets as well. Even very frail animals can usually be anesthetized safely. In general, the risks from NOT performing a needed procedure, such as dental cleaning or tumor removal, are much higher than the risk from the anesthesia.

We use pre-operative blood tests and occasionally other tests such as radiographs (X-rays) to help us determine whether a procedure will be safe for your pet before it is performed. We require pre-operative blood work including a complete blood count, blood chemistries, and total T4 thyroid level for all pets over the age of seven years before anesthesia is administered. Chest X-rays are taken if there is any suspicion of heart

or lung disease, or if certain types of cancer have been diagnosed to check for the spread of the disease.

Anesthesia is **always and only** administered by certified and licensed veterinary technicians or doctors to ensure safety and proper dosing. An IV catheter will be placed prior to surgery. Your pet will receive drugs and fluids through this route. Throughout anesthesia your pet will be monitored closely by a certified veterinary technician. Blood oxygen and CO2 levels, heart and respiratory rate, body temperature, blood pressure, and heart rhythm (ECG) are monitored every five minutes throughout the surgery.

With proper care and monitoring, your pet should go home after anesthesia just as perky and healthy as when he arrived at the hospital, whether he or she is 16 months or 16 years of age.

If you have further concerns about anesthesia in your pet, we would be happy to discuss the risks and benefits of any procedure with you and explain the exact protocol that will be used. Please let us know!



HOW TO CHOOSE A PET FOOD



One of the most common questions we are asked is "What should I feed my pet?" Since the most important contribution you can make to your pet's health and well being is his or her daily diet, it's a question that deserves a good answer.

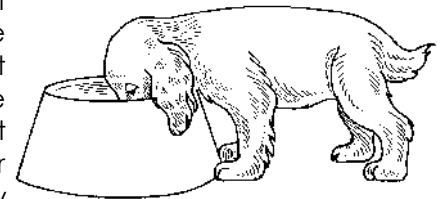
Think quality! Don't switch foods!



Diet is extremely important for growth. There are two important criteria that should be met in selecting food for your puppy. We recommend a **NAME-BRAND FOOD** made by a national dog food company (not a generic brand), and a form of food **MADE FOR PUPPIES**. We recommend that you only buy food that has been certified by an independent organization as complete and balanced. In the United States, you should look for food that has been certified by AAFCO, an independent organization that oversees the entire pet food industry. It does not endorse any particular food, but it will certify that the food has met the minimum requirements for nutrition. In Canada, look for foods approved by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA).

Dog foods are available in dry, canned, and semi-moist formulations. Any of these formulations is acceptable, as long as the label states that the food is intended for growth (or is a puppy food), and is "complete and balanced". This means that the food is nutritionally complete to meet the needs of growth and development. Foods stating they are they maybe fed for all stages of life are **not appropriate** for growth. For dogs that will be 50lb or more at their adult weight, you will need to choose a 'large breed' puppy or growth formula food. These diets are formulated to optimize nutrition for large breed dogs but minimize the deleterious effects rapid growth on musculo-skeletal growth. Growth formula or puppy food should be fed until your puppy is about twelve months of age; (eighteen months of age if large breed). Each of the types of food has advantages and disadvantages.

Dry food is definitely the most inexpensive and a convenient option. The good brands of dry food are just as nutritious as the other forms. It can be left in the dog's bowl at all times. However, it is recommended to meal feed your puppy. Offer two to three meals per day. Place a measured amount of dry food in a bowl at the same time each day. Allow the puppy access to the food for up to 20 minutes, and then pick up the bowl. Puppies instinctively desire to eliminate after eating. Meal feeding is very helpful for housebreaking.



Semi-moist foods may be acceptable, depending on their quality. The texture may be more appealing to some dogs, and they often have a stronger odor and flavor.

However, semi-moist foods are usually high in sugar, and if they are fed exclusively, can cause the dog to develop a very finicky appetite.

Canned foods are a good choice to feed your puppy, but are considerably more expensive than either of the other forms of food. Canned foods contain a high percentage of water, and their texture, odor and taste are very appealing to most puppies. However, canned food will dry out or spoil if left out for prolonged periods of time; it is more suitable for meal feeding rather than free choice feeding.

Table foods are not recommended. Because they are generally very tasty, dogs will often begin to hold out for these and not eat their well-balanced dog food. If you choose to give your puppy table food, be sure that at least 90% of its diet is good quality commercial puppy food.

We enjoy a variety of things to eat in our diet. However, most dogs actually prefer not to change from one food to another unless they are trained to do so by the way you feed them. Do not feel guilty if your dog is happy to just eat one food day after day, week after week.

We do not recommend raw food diets. These diets are often very high in protein and fat while deficient in calcium, other trace minerals and vitamins. Additionally, they pose risks to the animals and humans with regard to bacterial diseases such as Salmonella and E coli 0151 as well as parasitic diseases like toxoplasmosis, trichinosis, and tapeworms.

Home cooked diets are generally not popular with owners as they require a lot of work. They also require a lot of nutritional knowledge to formulate an appropriate diet meeting all of the pet's nutritional requirements. They are mainly used as trial diets for food intolerance or allergy diagnosis.

WHAT ABOUT TREATS?



Most dog owners feed treats to their dogs, as well as their regular food. Treats are rarely "complete and balanced", and are often loaded with salt, fat, artificial colorings and preservatives, all of which comprise "junk food" for animals. Some biscuits every day will not harm your pet unless it has a diet related disease, but it's best to give these items in moderation. Stick with a crunchy biscuit type of treat for your dog. Some of them are better than others. **Read labels before you buy.** Some biscuits help slow the build up of dental tartar, but they cannot remove tartar once it is present. Your pet will still need dental care even if you feed him this type of snack. Check rawhide treat labels, and stay away from brands not made in the USA. Foreign manufacturers are allowed to use formalin as a preservative in these chews, which is harmful to pets.



Supplements & Calories & Frequency



Do not give any vitamin or mineral supplements to your dog without your veterinarian's advice. These types of supplements can easily cause harmful nutrient excesses.

Puppies need lots of calories to grow on, and plenty of fresh water. Until they are about 3 months old, feed three meals a day, giving as much as the animal will consume in a ten to fifteen minute feeding. It is much easier to housebreak a puppy if you feed him or her at set times every day. Puppies will then have regular, predictable potty times as well.

Once your young dog is 3 months old, you can cut back to two meals per day. Continue to feed a diet made for puppies until your dog is 1 year old.

The most important daily contribution you will make to your pet's health is his or her diet. So choose wisely, and feel free to consult with us about any nutritional questions you may have.

DENTISTRY FOR YOUR PET



All of us know about the benefits of routine dental care for ourselves. Daily brushing and flossing, and regular visits to the dentist, keep our teeth and gums healthy and comfortable. Unfortunately, routine dental care is still an often neglected item of dog and cat general health care. Your pets, as well as yourselves, deserve regular dental care.

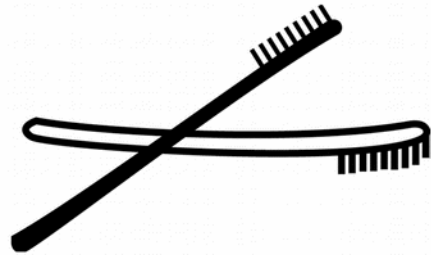
After your pet reaches a few years of age, plaque begins to build up at the junction of the gums and teeth. With time this plaque hardens into tartar. If this tartar is not removed, it increases causing inflammation to the adjacent gum or gingivitis, that can result in loss of gum tissue. This allows bacteria to come into contact with the underlying tissues and eventual destruction of bone. We call this process periodontal disease. If this situation is not soon remedied, severe gum infections, abscessed teeth and cheek ulcers and eventually loss of the tooth will occur. You may become aware of this problem by noting that your dog has a bad odor to his or her breath, is not eating food as well as previously, or is experiencing weight loss.

Chronic infections of the teeth and gums can also result in problems elsewhere in the body.

Bacteria enter the bloodstream from infected gum tissue and can cause infection in

organs such as the liver, the kidneys, the heart and the joints. Good dental care lengthens pets' lives an average of 10 - 20% through the prevention of these secondary problems.

Miniature and toy breeds of dogs exhibit dental problems more frequently and much earlier in life than do the larger breeds. As a result of mouth pain dogs may stop eating and show weight loss and nutritional disturbances.



You can help prevent dental problems in your pets by feeding a dry dog food. Daily or even weekly brushing of your dog's teeth with a toothpaste made for pets will also help prevent tartar buildup. Dog treats, rawhide chew toys and some especially designed rubber toys are all on the market to assist in this as well. A new dental vaccine is now available for dogs.

Just as with people your dog will still require regular dental exams and cleanings (prophylaxis).

Under general anesthesia the teeth are examined and probed for gum loss and pockets. Dental radiographs of individual teeth or the entire mouth may be required to further assess the degree of periodontal disease. The teeth are cleaned of tartar by use of an ultrasonic dental scaler (uses water and rapid sound waves) much like the one your own dentist uses, and then the teeth are polished. Polishing smoothes the surface of the teeth to help discourage future tartar formation. Your pet will also receive an antibacterial rinse.

Other more advanced procedures such as root canal work, restorations and even braces are also available should your dog ever need them by Board Certified Veterinary Dentists. We encourage you to be concerned about your pet's oral health, and to keep in mind the availability of effective treatments for dental problems in your dog. Make dentistry apart of your pet's total health care plan, for a longer and happier life.

HOW TO AVOID AND TREAT BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS



Dogs and people have lived together for thousands of years, but that doesn't mean we always understand each other. Living with pets can sometimes be as frustrating and confusing as living with people! The following program will help you make the most of your relationship with your dog.

Dogs are pack animals - they are social and like to interact with people and other dogs. You can use this sociality to your benefit; your dog will do what you want if it earns him praise or petting AND he considers you a leader in his pack. This is a key point. All dog packs have a leader dog that makes decisions for the rest of the group. Other dogs are subordinate to the leader. Your dog should never think he is the leader in your house. You are the one who should decide when to eat, when to go out, when to go to the veterinarian for a check-up or when to get a nail trim. As with children, dogs that have rules to follow and respect for their parents are well behaved. Many behavior problems arise as a direct result of lack of leadership on the part of their owners.

Dogs behave as though they prefer knowing that you are in charge, and often seem much happier when they understand that you have taken charge. Following the advice below may be harder on you than on your dog! It's lonely at the top, so give your dog a break and take over. He'll love you just as much.

Also keep in mind that dogs are very sensitive to body language and visual cues. Behaviors that you don't think much about may have meaning to your dog, in a way that may not be what you intended to say! For instance, two people talking face-to-face is confrontational in a dog's body language. Standing side by side is not. You can learn to take advantage of nonverbal cues.

The following suggestions are an effective and humane way to let your dog know that he or she is safe, well loved and NOT the leader of the pack. Keep in mind that love is not related to social status, and that most dogs live in relaxed harmony when the social hierarchy is clear, no matter where they stand in it.



These are not practices that you must follow every minute of the day. Who wants a dog if you can't ever pet it just for fun? But it's not good to cater to your dog. Your dog's behavior should drive your decisions on how to treat him or her. If your dog has always been a perfect gentleman you may not need to change a thing you're doing. But if your dog gives you problems, follow all these "social distance" suggestions.

If Spot just bit you, totally ignore him for two days to notify him there's been a change in the household. Don't speak to him or look at him, even while feeding or letting out. Then follow this program to the letter for at least a month before giving him any slack. If Ginger ignored a command at the park today, adopt these tips for a few days. Applying "social distance" when your dog is misbehaving and rewarding with praise and attention only when he is good is the key to good behavior. Reward the behavior you want to continue to see!

SO HERE'S HOW:

1) PETTING

- Pet only as a reward for obedience (come, sit, down, stay, shake, etc.). Reward obeying commands with attention.
- Keep petting brief (don't indulge your dog).
- If your dog demands petting, either: look away (fold arms, turn head up and away from the dog) or ask for a sit or down and then pet when he obeys.
- If you want to pet your dog, call him to you, don't go to him.

2) PRACTICE LOOK AWAYS

Don't let your dog demand play, food or petting. If your dog gets pushy, simply cross your arms, turn your head upward and to the side away from your dog. (This is an example of the body language mentioned earlier) If your dog counters by moving to your other side, turn your head the other way.

This is good practice to do any time your dog approaches you if he is very dominant and pushy. It is especially important if your dog has been aggressive towards you.

3) TEACH LIE DOWN AND STAY

A good, solid down and stay is one of the best learning tools. It teaches your dog to be patient and to wait for your command. You can practice while watching television. Start with one-second stays for the first few days, and work up to longer and longer ones. After three weeks most dogs can handle a half hour down stay during a quiet time of day.

Correct breaks with a body block (act like a traffic cop), or a downward leash correction - not by simply repeating "down" and "stay" over and over again. If your dog gets up 25 times, then correct him or her 25 times with the same actions and tone of voice. Do NOT include anger in your correction. Be very matter of fact.

4) WAIT AT THE DOOR

Alpha (pack leader) dogs have priority access to limited resources, which means they get to push out the door first to get something they want. This is why a lot of dogfights occur at doorways over who gets to go out first.



Control the space in front of the dog and you control the dog - use body blocks again to herd him away from the door. Or head toward a door or doorway and then suddenly turn and go the other way if your dog tries to get ahead of you. This puts you back in the lead. Praise and pet your dog when he starts to turn around after you and keep moving until he reaches you. Practice this as you move around the house until your dog is content to stay behind you and follow your lead.

5) FOUR ON THE FLOOR

Dogs interpret an increase in height as an increase in status. Dogs that sleep up on the bed are especially impressed with themselves. Keep dominant dogs on the floor, not up on chairs, couches or beds. If you want to cuddle, get down on the floor, ask for obedience and then pet when your dog complies.

6) TEACH HEEL

Leaders are in the lead. Teach your dog to stay at your side while you initiate pace and direction.

This basic 6-part obedience program should make treating any other behavioral problems easier, if there are any. A dog that looks to you for direction can be taught almost anything. He will be happy to work for what he wants and it helps keep his mind occupied constructively. Integrate this training into your day by asking your pet to perform some action whenever it wants to go outside, get dinner, play ball, etc. Letting you be in charge will soon become second nature to your dog.



Much progress has been made in the past few years in understanding how dogs think and learn. We are able to deal with problem behaviors much more effectively when we understand how a dog's mind processes signals and information. Most problem behaviors are NORMAL dog behaviors that are simply unacceptable to the humans they live with. Redirecting and

retraining can make our canine companions better and happier pets.

Problem behaviors which we can help you deal with via proper training include:

- Barking
- Aggression
- House soiling, submissive urination
- Separation anxiety
- Digging
- Running away, boundary training
- Fearfulness

Here are a few more tips to make training more effective:

Do your homework! There are reams of books available to assist in training. Be cautious, as some are better than others. Outdated or cruel methodologies are still widely available in print. Read more than one and pick the methods that seem to make the most sense to you.

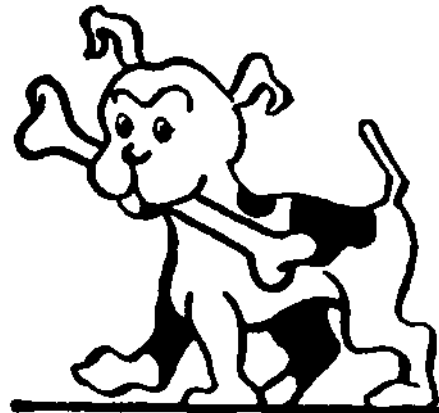
Consult with us, a good dog trainer, or a behavioral specialist. What works for one dog may not work for another. The experience and training of those educated in the field of canine behavior and training is invaluable.

Consider using a Promise™ halter. This is a different style of training collar, which takes advantage of the dog's natural response to pressure over the muzzle and behind the ears (points dogs use to signal each other about status and control), rather than a choke collar. Promise™ halters are more humane and more effective and can aid in solving several behavior problems.

Using food as a reward for learning new a command is fine but don't give a food reward every time they do the behavior thereafter. Giving food intermittently means your dog will perform commands for you even when you don't have food, and also prevents weight gain.

Keep all training positive and consistent. There is no need to scold or punish your dog if you tap your dog's inborn need to follow a leader and respond eagerly.

Please call us any time you have questions or problems with your dog's behavior. We have information on most problems and can refer you to a trainer or specialist if we can't help you ourselves.



SOCIALIZATION AND FEAR PREVENTION IN PUPPIES



What is socialization?

Socialization is the process during which the puppy develops relationships with other living beings in its environment. While socialization takes place throughout the first year of life, the first 12-16 weeks seem to be the most important time for young puppies to learn about their environment. Two other important terms in a pup's development are "habituation" and "localization".

What is habituation?

As all animals develop there are numerous stimuli (sounds, smells, sights and events) that when unfamiliar can lead to fear and anxiety. Habituation is the process whereby dogs get used to repeated stimuli, and stop reacting to them provided that there are no untoward consequences.

What is localization?

Localization is the process by which the puppy develops attachment to particular places.

Why are these terms important?

To reduce the possibility of fearful responses as a puppy grows and matures, it is essential to expose young puppies to many stimuli (people, places and things) when they can most effectively socialize, localize, and habituate to these stimuli. Early handling and events that occur during the first 2 to 4 months of life, are critical factors in the social development of the dog. Dogs that receive insufficient exposure to people, other animals and new environments during this time may develop irreversible fears, leading to timidity and/or aggression.



What can I do to improve my chances of having a social, non-fearful dog?

a) Puppy Selection

The genetics of the breed and of the parents in particular play an important role in how sociable, playful, fearful, excitable, or domineering a puppy becomes. Choose a breed and parents (both male and female) that have the type of behavior that you would like the puppy to have. Of course, there is a great deal of variability between individuals, so

that breed and parental behavior will not always be indicative of what the puppy will be like. If the parents have been previously bred, the behavior and health of these siblings from previous litters may provide additional insight into how your dog might grow and develop.

b) Puppy assessment

Avoid selecting puppies that are shy, withdrawn or fearful. But selecting a friendly and non-fearful puppy does not ensure that this behavior will persist into adulthood. In fact, little or no predictive value has been found in assessing puppies under 3 months of age, since these puppies are still developing their social skills and many problem behaviors do not begin to emerge until sexual or social maturity. However, as puppies age these criteria do begin to become more reliable.

c) Early handling

Puppies that are stimulated and handled from birth to five weeks of age are more confident, social, exploratory, faster maturing and better able to handle stress as they develop. Puppies obtained from a breeder or home where they have had frequent contact and interaction with people are likely to be more social and less fearful as they develop. Puppies who have spent large amount of time in pet stores or confined in cages may not have had the environmental stimulation needed to easily transition to a new home.

d) Primary socialization

There is a sensitive period in the development of most species when they develop social attachments with their own and other species, independent of punishment and rewards. In fact, both positive and negative events seem to accelerate socialization. The events that occur during this socialization period determine the puppy's future social partners, as well as the species with which it feels comfortable. By recognizing the critical time frame in which canine socialization develops, you can help to ensure a healthy social attachment to people and other animals, including other dogs.

The primary socialization period for dogs begins at 3 weeks of age and is diminishing by 12 weeks. Peak sensitivity is at 6 - 8 weeks. Fears begin to emerge around at 8 weeks of age, so that beyond 12 weeks of age fearfulness may surpass sociability. Although there is a great deal of variability between breeds and individuals, dogs should be socialized to as many people, animals and situations as possible before the sensitive socialization period begins to wane. However, regular social interactions should continue through adulthood so that puppies do not regress and become more fearful as they grow and develop. The 6-8 month period appears to be another important time where social contact should be maintained or social skills may diminish and fear may escalate.

To help a healthy social relationship with other dogs throughout life, dogs should maintain their social contacts with their mother and littermates until 6 - 8 weeks of age.

What is the best age to obtain my new puppy?

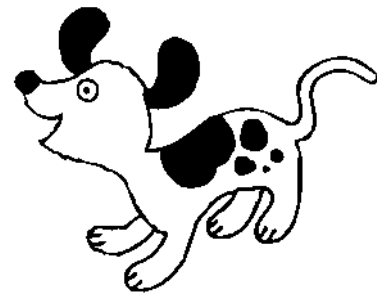
Since it is critical for the puppy's development to interact, observe, play and learn with members of its own species, the puppy should remain with its mother and littermates until about 7 weeks of age. Then when placed in the new home, social contacts can be expanded to new people and species while still in their primary socialization period. Also by this time puppies will begin to develop preferences for elimination sites, so that this is a good age at which to begin house-training. See our handout on housetraining puppies.

What can I do to assist my puppy in its social development?

Generally, there should be little problem with a puppy that is less than 12 weeks of age developing healthy and lasting attachments to the people, sights and sounds in its new home. Your puppy is most likely to become fearful of stimuli that are not found in its day-to-day routine. Make a conscious effort to identify those people and situations to which the puppy is not regularly exposed. For example, if there are no children in the home, you might arrange regular play sessions with children. If you live in the country, make a few trips into the city, so that the puppy can be taken for walks on city streets, or through neighborhood plazas.

Conversely, a puppy that grows up in the city might become fearful or aggressive toward farm animals that it was not exposed to during its early development.

Introduce your puppy to as many new people and situations as possible, beginning in its first three months of development. People in uniforms, babies, toddlers, the elderly, and the physically challenged are just a few examples that might lead to fear and anxiety, unless there is sufficient early exposure. Similarly, car rides, elevators, stairs, or the noises of cars, trains, airplanes, or hot air balloons are some examples of events and experiences to which the puppy might be usefully exposed.



One way to facilitate the introduction of the puppy to new situations and people is to provide a reward such as a favorite toy or biscuit each time it is exposed to a new stimulus. Having a stranger offer a biscuit to the puppy will teach it to look forward to meeting people and discourage hand-shyness since the puppy will learn to associate new friends and an outstretched hand with something positive. Once the puppy has learned to 'sit' on command, have each new friend ask it to 'sit' before giving the biscuit. This teaches a proper greeting and will make the puppy less likely to jump up on people.

Be certain that the puppy has the opportunity to meet and receive treats from a wide variety of people of all ages, races, appearance and both sexes during the formative months and well into the first year of life. There will of course, be times when your puppy is in a new situation and you do not have treats. Be sure then to use a happy tone of voice and encourage your puppy.

If your puppy seems to panic, back off a little and try again later, rather than aggravating the fear. Be sure to identify any emerging fear and work to revisit the situation slowly and gradually using favored rewards to turn the situation into one that is positive.

Is it healthy to take my puppy out in public at such a young age?

There is always a concern about the risks of taking the puppy out of its home before it is fully vaccinated because it may be exposed to infection before the vaccines have had time to become protective. However benefits gained from these new and early public appearances can be enormous and without them the risk of the puppy developing permanent fears or anxiety is a serious concern.

One solution is to have people and healthy vaccinated animals visit the puppy in its own home, until it is sufficiently vaccinated to be taken out. A compromise is to take the puppy out to meet people and other pets in low risk environments. As long as vaccines are up-to-date, taking the puppy for walks along the sidewalk and avoiding neighborhood parks where stools and urine might accumulate is generally safe.

Another valuable aid is to enroll the puppy in puppy socialization classes. If these classes are held indoors in a room that can be cleaned and disinfected, and all puppies are screened for vaccination and health prior to each class, then these classes provide good exposure to people and other dogs, in a low risk environment. In addition to insuring that vaccine s are up-to-date and each puppy is parasite free, perhaps the best way to reduce disease risk in a puppy class is to insure that the owner has owned the pet for at least 10 days before enrolling in the class (beyond the incubation period for most of the serious contagious diseases). Not only do these classes offer an opportunity for play and socialization with a variety of people and dogs, they also help guide the owners into proper training techniques from the outset.



PUPPIES – GETTING STARTED OFF RIGHT



GETTING STARTED OFF RIGHT

When you bring a new puppy into your home there will be a period of adjustment. Your goals are to help your puppy to quickly bond to its new family, and to minimize the stress associated with leaving its mother, littermates, and former home. If there are already dogs in the new home the transition may be a little easier as the puppy is able to identify with its own kind. Obtaining two puppies would be another option. However, most puppies, especially those obtained before 12 weeks of age, will form attachments almost immediately to the people and any other pets in the new home, provided that there are no unpleasant consequences associated with each new person and experience.

Dogs are a highly social “grouping-living” species that in the wild is often referred to as a pack. Packs have a leader that the other members follow and look to for “direction.” In fact, each individual in the pack generally develops a relationship with each other pack member. When puppies enter our homes the family becomes the new social group. It is essential that all owners take a leadership role over the puppy and gain a position of leadership in the family pack. Allowing behaviors that are pushy, disobedient or inappropriate may lead to problems that become increasingly difficult to correct. Control must be achieved by the proper use and timing of rewards and by directing the puppy to display appropriate responses rather than through physical techniques that can lead to fear and anxiety.

When is the best time to begin training my puppy?

Formal dog training has traditionally been delayed until 6 months of age. Actually, this juvenile stage is a poor time to begin training. The dog is beginning to solidify adult behavioral patterns, challenge behavior is emerging, and behaviors that they have learned in puppyhood may need to be changed. Therefore, it is best to begin teaching puppies from the time they are obtained. One important task to begin early is to establish you as the leader. This can be done by rewarding desirable responses, training the dog to obey commands, avoiding the reinforcement of behaviors that are initiated by your dog and training the dog to accept some simple body handling techniques.

Are physical exercises necessary for gaining control?

Although there are many physical techniques that have been advocated for gaining control, it is the owners' attitudes, actions, and responses to the new puppy (along with

the puppy's genetics) that are most important in the puppy becoming either well-mannered and responsive, or assertive, stubborn, disobedient and "domineering".

Dog training literature has often discussed using scruff shakes and rollover techniques to discipline puppies. However, these physical techniques do not mimic how dogs would communicate with each other and such handling by a human could lead to fear, anxiety and even retaliation. Training is intended to teach the dog what you want, rather than discipline what you don't want. This makes a positive learning environment for the puppy to grow up in. There may be a number of advantages to teaching your puppy to assume subordinate postures (on their side, on their back, hands on neck, hand stroking the top of the head, hand grasping muzzle) but this does not mean that they teach your dog to be subordinate in its relationship to you. Having an obedient, well behaved dog that enjoys handling and accepts restraint should be a focus of puppy training, but needs to be accomplished through reward based training, avoiding punishment and confrontational based training techniques and gradually accustoming your dog to enjoy handling. (See new puppy handling).

How can I gain control without physical exercises?

The best way for each family member to take control is to teach your puppy that each reward must be earned. This is also the best way to insure that undesirable puppy behaviors are not inadvertently reinforced. The puppy should learn to display subordinate, deferential postures through reward training, rather than through any type of force. Begin with some basic obedience training, teaching the puppy to 'sit', 'stay' and 'lie down' for rewards. Practice short sessions, multiple times each day. Whenever the puppy is to receive anything of value (affection, attention, food, play and walks) the puppy should first be taught to earn its reward by performing a simple obedience task such as 'sit' or 'stay'. Teach the puppy that rewards of any sort will never be given on demand. This is also known as 'nothing in life is free', a term coined by veterinary behaviorist, Victoria Voith, or "learn to earn" as described by William Campbell. The puppy must be taught that vocalization, nipping, mouthing, overly rambunctious, or demanding behaviors of any sort will never earn rewards. In fact, these behaviors should be met by inattention, by confining the puppy for a few minutes until it settles down, or with training devices and commands that get the puppy to exhibit the desired response. Another option is to immediately control and calm the puppy with a head collar (See our handout on Biting – play biting and mouthing in puppies for details). Rewards should be given as soon as the puppy is performing an appropriate response (See handout on puppy training sit and down).

Set limits on the puppy so that it does not learn that it can control you. Having the puppy sleep in its own bed or own cage rather than on your bed or couch, helps to prevent the dog from gaining control or becoming possessive of your resources. When the puppy is taken for walks it should be taught to follow. This should begin at the front door where the puppy should be taught to sit, wait, and follow, and never allowed to lead or pull you through the doorway.

How do I prevent my puppy from doing damage or getting into mischief?

The rule of thumb for dog training is "set the dog up for success". Supervise the puppy at all times until it has learned what it is allowed to chew, and where it is supposed to eliminate. Keeping the puppy on a 10-foot remote leash is an excellent way to keep it in sight, and to train it not to wander off. This is particularly helpful with a highly investigative puppy or for a very busy household.

At any time that the puppy cannot be supervised, such as throughout the night or when you need to go out, house it in a secure area. An escape-proof crate, a dog run, or collapsible pen are simple, highly effective, and most important, safe. The puppy could also be confined to a room that has been carefully dog-proofed. When selecting your dog's confinement area it is useful to consider a number of factors. The dog will adapt fastest to the new area if it is associated with rewards. Have the puppy enter the area for all its treats, toys, and perhaps food and water. The area should have some warm, dry, comfortable bedding, and should never be used for punishment (although it can, and should, be used to prevent problems). Housing the puppy in isolated areas where there is minimal human contact, such as in a laundry room or basement, should be avoided. In fact, often the best area is a kitchen (so that this can also be the dog's feeding area) or a bedroom (so that it becomes the dog's sleeping area). Each time the puppy needs to be confined, it should first be well exercised and given an opportunity to eliminate. Another consideration in selecting the type of confinement area is how long you may need to leave the dog alone. You must provide an area for elimination anytime the puppy will be left alone for longer than it can control its elimination. A room or collapsible pen with a paper-covered area would be needed. A cage or crate could be used for owners that do not have to leave their puppies confined for longer than 3 or 4 hours (See crate training handout for instructions on crate training your puppy).

What is the best way to punish my puppy for misbehavior?

Every effort should be made to avoid punishment for new puppies as it is generally unnecessary and can lead to avoidance of family members, at a time when bonding and attachment is critical. By preventing problems through confinement or supervision, providing for all of the puppy's needs, and setting up the environment for success, little or no punishment should ever be required. If a reprimand is needed, a verbal "no" or a loud noise is usually sufficient to distract a puppy so that you can then redirect the puppy to the correct behavior. Puppies that are supervised with a remote leash can be immediately interrupted with a pull on the leash. (See our handout on 'Punishment' for further details).

What should I do if my puppy misbehaves?

Undesirable misbehavior must be prevented, or corrected in the act. Allowing the puppy, even once to perform an undesirable behavior such as entering a restricted room, jumping up, mounting or jumping onto the couch will serve to reward and encourage the repetition of the behavior.

There will be times when your new puppy misbehaves. How you respond to the puppy will often influence later interactions. Young puppies are very impressionable. Harsh physical reprimands are contraindicated. They only serve to frighten the puppy and perhaps make them hand shy. Unfortunately, animals can learn in one trial if something is aversive enough. We want young puppies to look toward a human hand as something pleasant that brings comfort, food and affection. Most puppies can be easily interrupted with vocal intonation and loud noises. What is equally important is to redirect the puppy to the correct behavior after you interrupt what you do not like. **Remember that punishment must take place while the behavior is occurring, not after.**

If you catch your puppy misbehaving, try a loud noise such as clapping your hands or a loud “uh-uh”. Remember, reprimands need to occur while the behavior is happening, preferably just as it begins, and never after. Often puppies will be startled when they hear these noises and temporarily stop the behavior. At that time you should redirect the puppy to a more appropriate task and reinforce with an immediate and positive ‘good dog’.

Another way to interrupt your puppy is with various types of noise devices. One such device is a “shake can”. This is an empty soda can that has a few pennies inside and then is taped shut. When given a vigorous shake it makes a loud noise, which will interrupt the puppy’s behavior. Ultrasonic and sonic dog-training devices are also available (See our handout on ‘Behavior management products’).



The most important thing that you can do to avoid undesirable behavior is to supervise your puppy. Unsupervised puppies will chew and destroy objects as part of their natural curiosity and play. Rather than finding yourself with the need to reprimand your puppy, keep your puppy on a leash to avoid bad behaviors. Always provide suitable play objects designed to entertain your puppy so that it will not want to destroy your possessions (See our handout on ‘Destructiveness – chewing’ for ideas). Most importantly, if you find something that your puppy has destroyed but you did not catch him in the act, just clean it up and vow to supervise your puppy better in the future. Do not go get your puppy and bring him over to the mess and yell and physically discipline him. Remember that you need to punish the behavior you wish to change at the time it occurs. If you did not see your puppy chew up the object, all you are doing is disciplining your puppy for being present at a mess on the floor. Since that makes no sense to your puppy, your reprimands could create fear and anxiety, which could lead to aggression and owner avoidance.

How can I prevent problems?

Supervise the puppy at all times that it is not confined to ensure that the puppy does not get itself into mischief, or cause damage to itself or the home. Leaving a remote leash attached is all that is usually needed to prevent or interrupt inappropriate behavior such as garbage raiding, chewing on household items, house-soiling, or wandering off into rooms or areas that are out of bounds. If the leash is attached to a head halter you can quickly correct other problems that might arise, such as nipping, play biting, and jumping up. When the puppy cannot be supervised, confinement (discussed above) will be necessary. See our handout on housetraining for guidance in training your puppy to eliminate in the proper location.

What can be done for the particularly stubborn, disobedient, or headstrong puppy?

Puppies that are particularly headstrong and stubborn might need some fairly stringent rules. Tug-of-war games should only be allowed if the owner initiates the game, and can successfully call an end to the game, with an 'out', or 'give' command when it is time to call it quits (See our handout on 'Controlling stealing and teaching give'). Rough play must not escalate to uncontrollable play biting that cannot be controlled by the owner.

One of the best management tools for gaining safe and effective control at all times is a head collar. The puppy can be supervised and controlled from a distance by leaving a long line or leash attached to the head halter. The principle of halter training is to gain control over the dog with as much natural communication as possible and without the use of punishment. Positive reinforcement is used to encourage proper behavior. A pull on the leash is used to disrupt misbehavior. Since the halter is attached to the dog's muzzle, common behavior problems (nipping, barking, jumping up, pulling, stealing food, etc.) can immediately be interrupted without fear or pain by pulling on the leash. The halter places pressure around the muzzle and behind the neck. This simulates the muzzle and neck restraint that a leader or mother dog might apply to a subordinate, and therefore is a highly effective and natural form of control (See our handout on 'Management devices in dog training').

What must I do to provide for my puppy's needs?

Chewing, play, exercise, exploration, feeding, social contact and elimination are basic requirements of all puppies. By providing appropriate outlets for each of these needs, few problems are likely to emerge. Puppies should be given chew toys that interest them and occupy their time. When supervised, the owner can allow the puppy to investigate and explore its new environment and can direct the puppy to the



appropriate chew toys (and away from inappropriate areas). Play, exercise, affection, training, and handling must all be part of the daily routine. New tasks, new routines, new people and new forms of handling can be associated with rewards to ensure success. And, of course, the puppy will need to be provided with an acceptable area for elimination, and will need guidance until it learns to use this area.

THE ADVANTAGES TO KENNEL TRAINING YOUR PUPPY



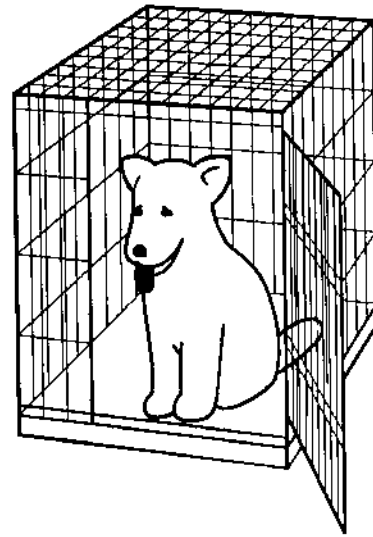
There are many advantages to kennel training your puppy. For instance, housebreaking is accomplished much faster with a minimum of hassle for you and your puppy. Generally a puppy does not want to mess in the area in which he sleeps and eats. If you follow the general guidelines of housebreaking, your puppy should be housebroken within a week or less, with a minimum of cleanups for you. If you are a working pet owner, the job of housebreaking your puppy is more difficult, but not impossible. It will take longer to accomplish housebreaking your pup because essentially you will have to wait until the puppy gets a little older and can hold his bladder and bowels for extended periods of time. However, the advantage to the kennel in this situation is the fact that all you have to clean up upon returning home is the kennel pan instead of the entire kitchen floor. Also, your furnishings, woodwork and belongings are still in one piece! The kennel provides a safe, secure area for your puppy, away from household hazards and prohibits the puppy from destroying woodwork, wallboard, furniture, etc. You can return home relaxed, knowing your puppy is safe and so are your possessions. The advantages of the kennel trained dog are many, as you will experience as time goes by.

When training a new puppy to "kennel", you may want to line the bottom of the kennel pan with newspapers until he is housebroken. However, do provide a large towel or small blanket that you can place in one corner of the kennel for the puppy to use as a bedding area. If the puppy shreds the towel or blanket, remove it until he accepts the idea that chewing his bedding is unacceptable. To prevent boredom, provide the puppy with a chew rope or rawhide bone or other sturdy toy in his pen. This should help to prevent the chewing and shredding of his bedding.

If you are only gone for short periods of time there is no reason to leave food and water bowls in your puppy's cage. If you will be gone more than 8 hours during the day you will need to keep water in the crate. Fasten the bowl to the side of the cage or use a non-spill bowl to prevent messes. It is best to not feed your puppy in its crate, as they usually have a bowel movement after eating. Meals should be fed only when you are home and can take your pup outside afterwards.

Find a location in your home where the kennel is out of the way yet not totally secluded from household activities. Never use the kennel as punishment. Do not banish the puppy to the kennel for improper behavior. The kennel should always be associated with happy, comfortable, secure feelings for the puppy. Once you put the puppy in the kennel, do not take him out if he starts to whine and cry. If you are sure that he doesn't have to go outside, allow him to have his tantrum. Eventually, he will lie down and sleep. Once you start to take the puppy out of the kennel because of his insistence, he will insist louder and longer each time. As your puppy grows older, you will notice that the kennel becomes his private retreat, a place to sleep, relax or eat his meals in a place that he actually likes to be.

When purchasing a kennel for your puppy, determine the puppy's height and weight when full grown, and then purchase the size kennel that will provide your dog with the most comfortable amount of space, yet not oversized. Kennels are available through catalogs, most pet stores, retail stores, and can sometimes be rented from your local humane society. Renting is a good option if your pup will have free run of the house once he is grown.



PUPPY HOUSE TRAINING GUIDE



How long will it take to housetrain my puppy?

All it requires are a few basic rules to house-train puppies within a short amount of time, sometimes only a few days to a few weeks. This does not mean that the puppy will be able to be trusted to wander throughout the home without eliminating. What the puppy should quickly learn is where it should eliminate, and the consequences of eliminating indoors when the owner is supervising. However, anytime your puppy is unsupervised and eliminates indoors, this can further delay successful housetraining since the puppy will have learned that there are alternate indoor elimination areas that can be used without untoward consequence. The goal of housetraining is to encourage and reinforce desirable elimination. Do not focus on trying to teach your puppy where it is not allowed to eliminate, as there are literally hundreds of locations in your home where your puppy might have to be deterred.

What site should I choose?

It is advisable to select a site that has an easy access to a direct route to the outdoors. Puppies may more easily learn where to eliminate if a single location is used. Over time, the location, the substrate and the small amounts of residual odor help to establish a more regular habit of returning to the area. If you do not have immediate access to the outdoors (e.g. high rise living) or your schedule requires that you leave your pet longer than it can control itself, you can follow the same procedures outlined below, but will instead take your pet to its litter area, rather than to the outdoors. Paper training, discussed below, is another option. However, it may be more difficult to train your pet to eliminate at one site (e.g. indoor litter) and also expect it to eliminate in other sites (e.g. outdoors).

How do I housetrain my puppy?

- A. Puppies have a strong urge to eliminate after sleeping, playing, feeding and drinking. Take your puppy to its selected elimination area within 30 minutes of each of these activities. In addition, although some puppies can control themselves through the entire night, most puppies need to eliminate every 3 to 4 hours during the daytime. With each passing month, you can expect your puppy to control itself a little longer between elimination times. The puppy should be taken to its elimination area, given a word or two of verbal encouragement (e.g. 'Hurry up') and as soon as elimination is completed, lavishly praised and patted. A few tasty food treats can also be given the first few times the puppy eliminates in the right spot, and then intermittently thereafter. This teaches the puppy the proper place to eliminate, and that elimination in that location is associated with

- rewards. Some puppies may learn to eliminate when they hear the cue words ('Hurry up').
- B. If you take your puppy to the elimination site and your puppy is only interested in playing and investigating the environment, after about 10 minutes take the puppy indoors and strictly supervise until you can try again approximately each
 - C. half hour. Always accompany your puppy outdoors, so that you can be certain that it has eliminated. Be certain to reward elimination immediately upon completion and not when the puppy comes back indoors.
 - D. When indoors, your puppy must be supervised so that you can see when it needs to eliminate and immediately take it outdoors to its elimination area. One of the best techniques is to leave a remote lead attached. Should pre-elimination signs (circling, squatting, sneaking-off, heading to the door) occur, immediately take the dog to its elimination site, give the cue words, and reward the puppy when it eliminates. If the puppy begins to eliminate indoors you must be supervising so that you can immediately interrupt the behavior, such as with a verbal reprimand or shaker can. Then take the puppy outdoors to complete elimination at the proper site. Rather than use punishment to deter undesirable elimination, the goal is to train the puppy where to eliminate through supervision and rewards. Watch the puppy closely for signs it needs to eliminate and soon the puppy will learn to exhibit these signs to get your attention that it needs to go outdoors.
 - E. When you are not available to supervise, the puppy should be confined to its confinement area (see our handout on 'Crate training'). Be certain that your puppy has eliminated, and has had sufficient play and exercise before any lengthy confinement. If the confinement area is small enough, such as a pen or crate, many puppies will have sufficient control to keep this area clean. This means that when you come to release the puppy from confinement, it must be taken directly to its elimination area. Puppies will generally avoid soiling their crate if they are used to their crates as a sleeping or play area. However, puppies that are anxious or distressed about being confined to the crate are likely to soil. In addition, if the area is too large the puppy may soil in a portion of the confinement area. If the puppy needs to be left for longer than it can control itself, it should be confined to a small room or pen where paper is spread over the floor for elimination except for a corner in with the puppy's bed and feeding area. Once the puppy starts to limit its elimination to some selected areas of the paper, unused areas can be taken up. For owners that intend to continue to use paper for training, the puppy should be supervised when released from confinement, and returned to the paper (and reinforced) for elimination.

Why does my puppy refuse to eliminate in my presence, even when outdoors?

Puppies that are disciplined and punished for indoor elimination rather than reinforced for outdoor elimination may soon begin to fear to eliminate whenever you are present, regardless of the location. These puppies do not associate the punishment with indoor elimination; they associate the punishment with the presence of the owners. For some puppies, standing quietly off to the side may allow them time to eliminate. It is best if you can be close by, but each puppy is an individual and some may need more space than others before feeling comfortable enough to eliminate.

What do I do if I find some stool or urine in an inappropriate spot?

There is no point in punishing or even pointing out the problem to the puppy. Only if the puppy is in the act of elimination will it understand the consequences (rewards or punishment). In fact, it is not the puppy that has erred; it is the owner who has erred by not properly supervising. Put the puppy elsewhere, clean up the mess and vow to supervise the puppy more closely in the future.

How can I teach my puppy to signal that it needs to go out to eliminate?

By regularly taking the dog outdoors, through the same door, to the same site, and providing rewards for proper elimination, the puppy should soon learn to head for the door each time it has to eliminate. If you recognize the signs of impending elimination and praise the puppy whenever it heads for the doorway, the behavior can be further encouraged. Puppies that have been interrupted or reprimanded on one or more occasions as they begin to eliminate indoors, may begin to try to sneak away, whine or show some form of anxiety when they feel the urge to eliminate, but cannot escape from the owner's sight. If you can pick up on these cues, and take the puppy directly to the outdoors for elimination and reward, the puppy may consistently begin to show these signals when he or she needs to eliminate, and may even begin to take you to the exit door. Further into the process, some puppies can be taught to ring a bell prior or bark to let you know it needs to go outside to eliminate. For either of these to be effective, you first must constantly supervise your puppy so you can see the signs of a full bladder or bowel (restlessness, agitation) and quickly take them to the exit location, ring the bell or get them to bark and go outside. Over time the puppy should learn that the signal would get the door open. However, do not rely on signaling until it reliably happens or the puppy will end up eliminating indoors instead.

When will I be able to trust my puppy to wander loose throughout the home?

Generally you will want your dog to have been error free around the house for about a month before you can begin to decrease your confinement and supervision. The first time you leave the puppy unsupervised should be just after taking the dog outdoors for elimination. Gradually increase the length of time that your dog is allowed to roam through the home without supervision while you are home. If the dog has been able to

go unsupervised for a couple of hours without an "accident", it might then be possible to begin going out for short periods of time. Of course, if the dog still investigates and chews, then confinement and supervision may still be necessary.

HOW TO CHOOSE A CHEW TOY

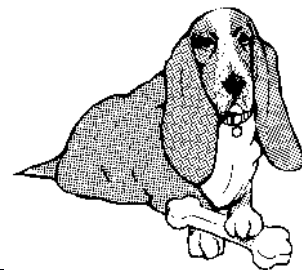


Dogs love to chew! Giving your dog appropriate things to chew on is good for their teeth and gums, keeps them occupied, and decreases the tendency to chew on things they shouldn't. But did you know that some chews you can buy for your pet are actually harmful? Unlike toys for children, there are no rules or regulations regarding toys or treats for pets. Just because you can buy an item in a store does not mean it's good for your pet! So what should you watch for and what should you avoid?

Toys with small parts that your dog could swallow or choke on are common. Avoid any toy for dogs or cats that has strings, googly eyes, feathers, or any other part that could come off.

Avoid items that are too hard. The most common items on which dogs break their teeth are cow hooves/chew hooves, ice cubes and bones. Biting down just right on an object that is too hard causes a flake of the tooth to shear off. If the tooth breaks such that the tooth root is exposed, the tooth will be very painful and will subsequently become infected and require surgical removal. Because this usually happens to the large back premolar that is difficult to see, your dog may be in pain for many months before you even know there is a problem. Do not give your dog chew hooves – period. It does not matter how big your dog is. If your dog likes ice cubes, switch to shaved ice instead.

Another popular item is the rawhide chew. Rawhides come in all different sizes and shapes and sometimes even in flavors. Unfortunately, many of them are preserved in formalin or formaldehyde, which are carcinogens and can also be toxic to the liver. Most of the rawhides that contain these toxic preservatives are from foreign countries. Their use is restricted in the U.S. so rawhides made here in the states are usually safe. Keep searching until you find the ones made here and don't buy any made in other countries. If your dog swallows large pieces of rawhide that could cause choking, switch to a smaller or larger form that prevents this. Do not give your dog rawhides if it gives him diarrhea or an upset stomach.



Beef bones are only safe if they are boiled and softened. Raw meat or bones are not safe for dogs or people. Not only can uncooked bones break teeth but they can also give your dog Salmonella, Toxoplasmosis, E. coli or other food poisoning. Chicken, turkey or other small bones can splinter and cause punctures in the mouth, esophagus or intestines so these also should never be fed to pets.

Pieces of rope with a knot at each end are popular now. These are a good choice as they are soft and gentle on teeth and gums.

Throw them away when they start to unravel. Soft p

lush toys usually don't last long and if the stuffing is swallowed it can cause an intestinal blockage. Take these away as soon as they start to come apart, for in large dogs that may be in a matter of minutes.

Nylabones, Gumabones and other nylon bones are also good, although some of these are hard enough to fracture teeth. Pick one on the softer side. If your puppy is teething, try placing a nylon toy in the freezer for a few hours. A chilled one helps numb the gums. Squeaky toys are also good as long as the squeaker can't come loose and be swallowed and there are no parts that can be chewed off. Make sure any plastic or vinyl toys you choose are sturdy, heavyweight, and large enough that the pet can't choke on it. The same goes for balls. Balls should be larger than the dog can fit in the back of his mouth.

Kong toys are highly recommended. They are heavy-weight, come in several sizes and have a hollow center into which you can stuff a little peanut butter, cream cheese, liver sausage or other food treat. Your dog will spend hours working at getting the food out with his tongue. A dog thus occupied is much less likely to be getting into trouble chewing on other things, especially if the Kong toy is brought out only as a special treat whenever you leave the house.

Old, well washed and rinsed plastic milk or soda bottles make good chew toys. Frisbees are always popular and another good choice, especially for large dogs. Old socks and shoes are NOT good choices - your dog can't be expected to understand the difference between old shoes and your best shoes.

Whatever toys you choose, use common sense and look for tough, long-lasting and durable choices. If your dog likes what you've chosen, he'll be sure to put it to the test!

In Summary:



Starting on an obedience program early is the quickest way toward a lifetime of pleasure with a happy, well-behaved pet. Integrate obedience into your dog's day, such that it

becomes part of life to him. Simply ask the puppy or dog to perform some action whenever it wants something (to open the door, play ball, get dinner, etc.) Dogs will work to get something they want, which keeps you in charge and your dog interested and occupied constructively.

We want to encourage you to devote the necessary time and energy to this project while your puppy is still young, to ensure that you have many wonderful, problem free years with your pet. A good trainer and a good training program will solve, or avoid altogether, the many behaviors that fill our nation's humane societies and shelters with unwanted pets. Your dog needs your help to learn to become a good canine citizen!



TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET



Traveling with pets can be traumatic for all concerned, especially if preparations are not made beforehand. Here are a few suggestions for a safe and comfortable journey.

If you are flying with your pet . . . contact the airline and us ahead of time. Most airlines have special rules and regulations for pets and you will need health papers filled out ahead of time. If you are traveling or moving overseas, contact us at least 6 months ahead. The paperwork often is very involved and can be a nightmare.

If you are crossing state lines . . . whether you are traveling by air or car, you will need a health certificate from us filled out no more than 10 days prior to your trip. Health certificates are required by law to help stop the spread of rabies and other diseases from state to state. Different states have different rules about the frequency of rabies vaccine administration, so your pet may need a booster shot before you leave. You should also carry a copy of your pet's rabies certificate with you. Without these papers, if you are stopped by police during your trip, you can be fined and your animal quarantined for 10 to 14 days at your expense.

Be sure your pet is wearing a collar with ID tags while traveling, in case he or she gets lost. An extra tag with the name and phone number of a friend or relative is also a good idea - remember, you won't be home to take the call if your pet is found again. Consider having a microchip or tattoo applied for permanent identification.

Always leash your pet when he is not in the car. Do not let your dog become a pest or a hazard at gas stations or rest stops. Unless you are on private property and have

permission to let your dog run loose, leash him at all times at motels and campgrounds as well.



Take along plastic bags to clean up messes, and some towels in case your pet has an accident or illness in the car. Also bring your pet's bowls and its own supply of regular food and drinking water. Sudden changes of

food and water, coupled with the stress of traveling, frequently lead to diarrhea. Pack a few favorite toys and a brush as well, and plenty of kitty litter for cats.

A crate is the best investment you can make for safe traveling. Ask us how to accustom your pet to the crate ahead of time if your pet hasn't used one before. (If you have recently acquired a puppy or puppy and plan to travel later on, now is the time to introduce traveling in a crate!) In a crate, your pet can relax and nap without being a nuisance, and he will be more protected in case of an accident.

You can also keep your pet crated at motels and hotels that allow pets.

Be sure your pet's crate is big enough for him to stand up, turn around and lay stretched out comfortably. Keeping your dog or cat confined to a tiny cage for hours on end is cruel. Cats need enough room for a litter pan and water bowl, as well as space to lay comfortably. Bed the cage with towels so your pet isn't sliding around on bare plastic. Your pet will need to get out and stretch his legs occasionally - every 3-4 hours for dogs and every 6-8 for cats. Be sure the leash is on before you open the car door!

NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET UNATTENDED in the car for long. Heat and cold can kill an animal left alone. Don't park in direct sunlight. If you are traveling in the summer and your car is not air conditioned, think twice before taking your pet along. Health problems or fear of strangers and unfamiliar things may also be a reason to leave your pet at home. Pug nosed breeds such as Pekingese, chow chows, Boston terriers and Persian cats are especially prone to heat stroke and suffocation while traveling.

It's best to feed your pet lightly, or not at all, before traveling. Feed your pet once you arrive at your destination or stop for the night. It's better to eat lightly for a day or two than to spend the trip carsick!

Your pet may need vaccines or medications at your destination that he doesn't need at home. For instance, fleas and heartworms are year round problems in the south, not just in the summer. If you will be hiking in the woods with your dog you may need Lyme disease vaccinations. Some pets also require sedatives or anti-nausea medications to travel comfortably. Check with us well ahead of time about these requirements.



Any more questions about traveling with your pets? Call us!

WHAT'S NEXT?



Congratulations! Your puppy has completed his or her vaccination series and well-puppy exams. We hope that your pet is well on its way to a long and happy life as a member of your family. To keep your puppy healthy for a lifetime will require on-going care. The following list should help you to understand what health care needs your pet will have in the years to come.

1. The vaccines your puppy has received will provide immunity against disease for about one year. Annual boosters are needed to keep his level of immunity high enough to protect him from illness. You will receive reminders in the mail next year when his annual vaccinations are due.
2. Your pet will also receive an annual physical examination with his yearly booster vaccinations. By the time we see your pet again next year he will have grown through the equivalent of his teenage years and will be a young adult. Because a pet's lifespan is compressed into a shorter amount of time than that of a human, many changes can occur in your pet's body in the course of a year. The annual physical exam is very important to detect physical problems before they become serious. Once your pet reaches the age of seven to nine years, annual blood and urine testing are also recommended to detect the onset of age-related illnesses such as kidney and liver disease.
3. At the time of this annual visit, a blood sample will be drawn for a heartworm blood test. For dogs with exposure to ticks we recommend a SNAP 4 test be run. This test also detects if your pet has been exposed to three serious tick-borne diseases that are common in our area: Lyme disease, Ehrlichia canis and Anaplasmosis. You will receive heartworm and flea and tick preventative medications as required for the upcoming year. Remember, heartworm is a deadly parasite, which is easily prevented with a monthly pill.



4. We will also be asking you to bring in a sample of your dog's stool each spring, to test for intestinal parasites which may have been picked up over the course of the year. Heartworm preventative medication can mask some types of intestinal parasites, so it is best to check for these before starting on heartworm medication. We need about 1 teaspoon of feces. A fresh sample will keep about 24 hours if refrigerated.

5. Your puppy should be fed a puppy food until he or she is about 12 months old. Then switch gradually to an adult food by mixing the old and new foods together for about two weeks. This helps avoid intestinal upset from changing foods. Your pet will have a longer, healthier life on a good quality diet, such as Science Diet, Iams or Eukanuba. Dry food is better for the prevention of dental disease. Too many treats and snacks lead to fussy eating habits, obesity and digestive upsets. Give your pet praise and affection for rewards, not food! He'll love you just as much.

6. Spay or neuter your pet at six months of age. Altered pets live longer, are healthier in their old age, have fewer behavior problems and don't contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.

7. If you haven't yet begun an obedience program with your pet, now is a good time to start. Pets that are well trained are much nicer to have around. You can train your pet yourself if you have some training experience but we highly recommend a professional trainer. Obedience classes are a lot of fun and you'll learn a lot of helpful tips for making the most out of your relationship with your pet.

8. Your puppy will soon have a full set of adult teeth. Good dental care is essential to your pet's well being. Regular brushing will slow plaque and tartar build-up as your dog gets older. By the time he is two to five years old, however, he will probably have enough tartar build-up to begin needing annual dental cleanings here at the veterinary clinic. A dog that gets good dental care throughout its life will live an average of 15-20% longer than one that doesn't. He will also have fresher breath, less pain from periodontal disease and be healthier and more energetic.

9. Please call us with any questions or problems with your pet. Most medical problems are less costly to your pet's well being and to your pocketbook if they are dealt with early.

10. The same is true of behavioral problems. The earlier you contact us or your trainer regarding a problem behavior, the sooner you can solve it. Behaviors such as barking, digging, running away, chewing, and over-aggression can almost always be changed but you have to ask for help.

11. Enjoy! Your puppy's boundless joy, love and energy are a precious thing to have.