

# PUPPY CARE GUIDE



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[westernvet.com](http://westernvet.com)

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*Congratulations on your new puppy!*

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*We wish you the best with your new puppy.  
We hope to be able to answer any questions  
you have as you start this new venture with a  
new family member.*

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# Care to Share

## Client Referral Program



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*Give a friend a new experience.  
Refer them to Western Veterinary Clinic.*

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Write your name on the back of our business card.  
Give it to a friend or family member.

Your friend gets a 10% discount on their first visit.  
You receive a \$10 coupon at Western Veterinary Clinic  
for each client that you refer to us.

May be applied towards any service except grooming.  
No cash value or refund and non-transferable.

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/westernvet](http://www.facebook.com/westernvet)

# Pet Health Club: The Puppy Club

They go on walks with us, fetch the newspaper, sleep on our beds, and are friends that always listen and never talk back... well mostly! The Pet Health Club<sup>SM</sup> provides your best friend with the love and care they deserve to prolong their quality of life at a discount price.

We realize that you want to provide the best care possible for a new member of your family, and we would like to make that easier.

## **Unlimited Exams<sup>1</sup> and Yearly Vaccines**

The Pet Health Club<sup>SM</sup> includes unlimited exams - so if your puppy needs to be examined by the doctor, call to schedule an appointment, and we will waive the exam fee! We will explain the recommended vaccines along with their timing for your puppy. All necessary vaccines are included in the Puppy Club for your puppy's first year of life.

## **Spay or Neuter**

A professional laser spay or neuter procedures will be scheduled when your puppy is ready. Included with this procedure are IV catheter and fluid therapy, pre-anesthetic blood panel, complete blood count, vital surgical monitoring, and medication to keep your pet comfortable after surgery. Blood testing at this time gives a baseline for your pet and is vital to a safe surgery.

## **Laparoscopic Spay (add-on)**

If your puppy is 15 pounds or more, they could qualify for a laparoscopic spay (additional cost) which will provide them with a surgery that is as painless as possible.

## **Gastropexy (with Lap Spay or Neuter) (add-on)**

To protect a large breed dog from deadly bloat or a twisted stomach emergency, you can add on a laparoscopic gastropexy. We have been providing this surgery for over five years with great success. This preventative surgery is done at additional charge.

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<sup>1</sup> Unlimited Exams do not include an urgent care or emergency fee.

### Services Included in the Puppy Club

- Spay or Neuter + with option for Laparoscopic Spay and/or Gastropexy
  - Pre-Anesthetic Blood Panel
  - Complete Blood Count
  - Pain Medication after Surgery
- Unlimited Exams
- Recommended Vaccines Needed for the First Year
- 3 Fecal Exams to check for Intestinal Parasites
- 3 Dewormings to remove Intestinal Parasites
- Fluoride Treatment (at the time of spay/neuter)
- Biomedical Waste Disposal

### Additional Benefits:

- Puppy Vitamins
- Oral Hygiene kit
- Equalizer Pet Deodorizer
- A Kong Toy
- AVID Microchip
- 1 Month of Heartworm Preventative



As your dog gets older we offer **Silver**, **Gold**, or **Platinum** clubs designed specifically to meet adult pet needs. These clubs include doctor examinations, vaccinations, heartworm checks, blood screens, urinalysis, and several other valuable services depending on which plan suits your family best.

### Unlimited Exams and Yearly Vaccines

Just like the Puppy Club, adult dogs also get unlimited exams as long as they are enrolled in the Pet Health Club<sup>SM</sup>. We will go over with you which vaccines are recommend and how frequently your pet needs them. All recommended vaccines are included with any of the plans.

### **Laboratory Testing**

The Blood Profile, Complete Blood Count, Fecal Exam, and the Urinalysis are laboratory tests that give the doctor a look at what is going on inside your pet's body.

### **Professional Dental Cleaning**

We do a complete 12 step professional dental cleaning in the Gold and Platinum Plan. If additional dental work, medication, or X-rays are needed, our doctors will discuss and provide you with a treatment plan.

### **Direct Payment Program - Pay Monthly**

We want to make it easy for all of our clients (and their pets) to experience the many membership benefits of the Pet Health Club<sup>SM</sup> at Western Veterinary Clinic. Your monthly payment will be directly taken out of your checking/savings account or credit card on the 20th of each month. There is a minimal enrollment fee for pets.

To learn more about visit [westernvet.com](http://westernvet.com).



# Health & Wellness

## Diet

Diet is extremely important during the growing months of a dog's life. We recommend name brand food made by a national dog food company (not a generic brand) and a diet made just for puppies; for example **Hills, Iams, Science Diet, Royal Canin, or Purina**. This should be fed until your puppy is about 12-14 months of age, depending on its breed and size. When it comes time to switch to an adult food, stay with the same brand and make the change gradual over a week or two.

It is also important that you use a food that is made for the size of puppy your dog will be as an adult. There are small breed and large breed puppy foods. The reason these were developed is that there is some evidence that if you over-supplement a large breed puppy, he may be at a higher risk for orthopedic problems such as hip dysplasia and shoulder lameness. Small breed puppy foods are often made with smaller bites, which may be easier for your little one to handle.

Feeding a dry or canned form of dog food is acceptable. Each has advantages and disadvantages. Dry food is the most inexpensive. It can be left in the dog's bowl without drying. Canned foods are considerably more expensive than dry food. They often are more appealing to the dog's taste; however, sometimes they are not as nutritious. If you feed a very tasty food, you are running the risk of creating a dog with a finicky appetite. As a rule, we will recommend dry food for your puppy.

Table foods are not recommended and highly discouraged. Because they are generally very tasty, dogs will often begin to hold out for these and not eat their well-balanced dog food. Table foods also pose various health concerns.

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 eating the same food day after day, week after week.

We do not encourage feeding gourmet dog foods. Commercial dog food can be very misleading. If you watch carefully, you will notice that commercials often promote dog food on the basis of taste.

Nutrition is rarely mentioned. Most of the "gourmet" foods are marketed to appeal to owners who want the best for their dogs; however, they do not offer the dog any nutritional advantage over a good quality dry food, and they are far more expensive. If your dog eats a gourmet food very long, it will probably not be happy with other foods. If it needs a special diet due to a health problem later in life, it is very unlikely to accept it.

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*We recommend dry food for your puppy.  
Table foods are highly discouraged.*

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### How Much Food and How Often?

We recommend feeding dogs 1 cup of food per 25 pound of body weight per day.

There are several "right" ways to feed puppies. **The most popular method, and the one we recommend, is commonly called "meal feeding."** This means that the puppy is fed at specific times of the day. A measured amount of food should be offered four times per day for 5-12 week old puppies. What is not eaten within 10 minutes is taken up. If the food is eaten within 3-4 minutes, the quantity is probably not sufficient. Puppies fed in this manner generally begin to cut themselves out of one of those meals by 3-4 months of age and perhaps another one later. If a meal is ignored for several days, it should be discontinued.

"Free choice feeding," means that food is available at all times. This works well with dry foods and for some dogs. However, other dogs tend to overeat and become obese. If there is weight gain after the optimal size is reached, this method of feeding should be discontinued. This method also makes house training more difficult as the pup will often have a bowel movement soon after it eats.

### Hiccuping and Puppy Breath

Many puppies experience episodes of hiccuping that may last several minutes. This is normal and will not last but a few weeks or months. All puppies have a characteristic odor to their breath that is commonly called "puppy breath". It is also normal and will last only until the puppy matures.

## Vaccines

There are many fatal diseases of dogs. Fortunately, we have the ability to prevent several of these by vaccinating your pet. In order to be effective, these vaccines must be given as a series of injections. The routine vaccination schedule will protect your puppy from many diseases. **Feel free to ask us any questions you may have on the vaccine schedule or the diseases they protect against.**

A description of the vaccines are described below.

### Vaccination Schedule:

These vaccines are recommended for all dogs and puppies.

- **Law requires rabies vaccination.** The rabies vaccine is given at 12 to 16 weeks of age.
- **Distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, and leptospirosis.** Started at 6-8 weeks of age and repeated every 3 weeks until they are 16 weeks of age, but this schedule may vary depending on several factors.
- **Lyme Vaccine** - given to dogs that are exposed to ticks because Lyme disease is transmitted by ticks.

There are other vaccines available, but may not be necessary for all situations. Please ask any of our staff if any of these vaccines are needed for your puppy.

- **Kennel Cough and Canine Influenza (CIV)** - Your puppy should receive a kennel cough and canine influenza vaccine if your puppy will be boarding, going to a groomer, day care, dog parks, pet stores, or if it will be placed in a puppy training class.

**Why does my puppy need more than one vaccination?**

When the puppy nurses its mother, it receives a temporary form of immunity through its mother's milk. This immunity is in the form of proteins called maternal antibodies. For about 24-48 hours after birth, the puppy's intestine allows absorption of these antibodies directly into the blood stream. This immunity is of benefit during the first few weeks of the puppy's life, but at some point, this immunity fails and the puppy must be able to make its own long-lasting immunity. Vaccinations are used for this purpose. As long as the mother's antibodies are present, vaccinations do not have a chance to stimulate the puppy's immune system. The mother's antibodies interfere by neutralizing the vaccine.

Many factors determine when the puppy will be able to respond to the vaccinations. These include the level of immunity in the mother dog, how much antibody has been absorbed, and the number of vaccines given to the puppy.

A single vaccination will not stimulate the long-term immunity, which is vital to protect against the diseases. This is why puppies need a series of vaccines. Rabies vaccine is an exception to this, since one injection given at the proper time is enough to produce long-term immunity for a year.

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*Rabies vaccine is required by state law and must be administered by a licensed veterinarian.*

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<b>General Veterinary Care for the Puppy's First Year of Life</b>							
<b>Age</b>	<b>8-9 Weeks</b>	<b>11-12 Weeks</b>	<b>14-15 Weeks</b>	<b>17-18 Weeks</b>	<b>5-6 Months</b>	<b>Bi-Annually</b>	<b>Annually</b>
<b>Exam(s) or Procedures</b>	Physical Exam Fecal Exam	Physical Exam	Physical Exam Fecal Exam	Physical Exam	Pre-surgical bloodwork Spay/Neuter Fecal Exam	Physical Exam Fecal Exam	Heartworm Test Bloodwork
<b>Vaccinations</b>	DA2PPC	DHLPP Kennel Cough CIV	DHLPP Rabies Kennel Cough CIV Lyme	DHLPP (+/-) Lyme			Vaccines
<b>Parasite Prevention</b>	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention			Deworming Monthly: Heartworm Flea Prevention

# Why We Vaccinate

## Rabies

### **What is Rabies?**

Rabies is a virus and is one of the most devastating diseases affecting mammals, including dogs and humans.

### **How is rabies transmitted?**

The disease is usually transmitted by the bite of an infected animal. Rabies virus does not survive long outside the body. The infection is transmitted when one infected animal bites another. In North America the skunk, raccoon and bat are the most common carriers.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

Following a bite from a rabid animal, the disease progresses in stages. In the first phase, the dog undergoes a marked change in temperament. Quiet dogs become agitated and active pets become nervous or shy. They proceed to become agitated, nervous, erratic and unpredictable. Excessive drooling and dilated pupils are other signs.

### **Is it possible to survive a bite from a rabid animal?**

There are isolated reports of both dogs and people surviving. The chances of survival are poor without vaccination and rapid post-exposure treatment.

### **What is the treatment?**

There is no treatment for a dog with rabies. If rabies is suspected, keep the dog isolated and contact someone from the local or state/provincial animal control offices.

### **Can I catch rabies?**

Yes, the disease is zoonotic and can be transmitted to humans. The virus is present in the saliva of the infected animal only for a limited time and is only transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal. If any animal that may be suspicious for rabies bites you, immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water, then seek immediate medical assistance.

### **Is it possible to vaccinate my dog?**

Yes! Rabies vaccination is required by law in most states. Puppies should be vaccinated between 12 and 16 weeks of age and boosted one year later, then every 3 years.

*Rabies can be transmitted to humans.*

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## Canine Distemper

### **What is canine distemper and how does it spread?**

Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic dogs. The disease is spread mainly by direct contact between a susceptible dog and a dog showing symptoms. Coughing and sneezing can spread the virus over short distances.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

As with all infectious diseases, clinical signs can vary. The main signs are diarrhea, cough, vomiting, a thick yellow discharge from the eyes and nose, and eventually cause neurological signs such as seizures. Dogs that recover from the disease are often left with persistent nervous muscle twitches and recurrent seizures.

### **What is the treatment?**

As with most viral infections, there is no specific treatment. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, but do help in controlling the secondary bacterial infections that often occur with distemper. The treatment for distemper is aimed at helping reduce the signs and symptoms. This is accomplished with hospitalization providing intravenous fluid therapy and symptomatic treatment for the vomiting, diarrhea, cough, etc.

### **How can I prevent my dog from becoming infected?**

Fortunately we have highly effective vaccines to use. These are given to puppies along with other routine vaccines.

## Canine Hepatitis / Adenovirus

### **What is Canine Hepatitis / Adenovirus?**

It is inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. Because it is a viral disease, there is no known treatment at this time. However, vaccination is very successful in preventing the disease.

### **How does the virus spread?**

The hepatitis virus is present in urine or the nose and eye discharge of infected animals. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with the urine or discharge of infected materials. Young dogs are at highest risk, and signs of disease usually occur within two to five days.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

In the mild form, the dog may have a decreased appetite, appear depressed, and have a fever. Some dogs have respiratory signs such as eye and nose discharge and cough. In severe cases, there is abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, swelling of the head and neck, and possible yellow color to the skin. Such cases are often fatal.

## Canine Leptospirosis

### **What is leptospirosis?**

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease of dogs and other mammals that particularly affects the liver or kidneys. There are many forms of this bacteria.

### **How are dogs infected?**

Leptospira bacteria are carried by seemingly healthy wildlife such as deer, raccoons, rats, and other rodents, but can also affect almost any mammalian species, including people. Ingestion of infected urine, water, and meat is the most common means of transmission. Some forms of the bacteria can penetrate damaged or thin skin. For instance, when dogs swim in contaminated water, they may become infected through their skin.

### **What are the signs of leptospirosis?**

There are three main forms of the disease: hemorrhagic (bleeding), jaundice (liver), and renal (kidney).

In **hemorrhagic** disease there is high fever with lethargy and loss of appetite. Multiple small hemorrhages occur in the mouth and on the whites of the eyes. Bloody diarrhea and vomiting may occur. This form is often fatal.

The **jaundice** form begins much like the hemorrhagic form and many of the signs are the same. It differs in the presence of a yellow color (jaundice or icterus) in the mouth and whites of the eyes. In severe cases the skin will turn yellow.

The **renal** form causes kidney failure. These dogs are very lethargic, decreased appetite, and may vomit. Their breath may have a very offensive odor, and ulcers often develop on the tongue. Other signs include diarrhea, excessive drinking and excessively frequent urination. There may be



red staining of the urine (blood). The dog may be reluctant to move and show abdominal discomfort. Dogs that survive the acute renal form may be left with chronic kidney disease.

### **How is leptospirosis diagnosed?**

Because the clinical signs are variable and easily confused with other diseases, definite diagnosis can be difficult. There are no readily available rapid and definitive laboratory tests. Blood samples are often needed to analyze titers for exposure levels.

### **What is the treatment?**

Antibiotics are reasonably effective if begun early. Most affected dogs require intensive care in the veterinary hospital.

### **How can leptospirosis be prevented?**

There is a vaccine for four strains of leptospirosis. Puppies need at least two vaccines when they are young and then will need boosters every year to maintain the best immunity.

### **What about Human Exposure?**

Leptospirosis can be transmitted to people, so owners of dogs that may have the disease should avoid contact between the owner's bare skin and their dog's urine, and wear rubber gloves when cleaning up any areas the dog may have soiled. Any areas where the dog has urinated should be disinfected. The organism is readily killed by household disinfectants or dilute bleach solution.

## Parvovirus

### **What is Canine "Parvo"?**

Canine parvovirus (CPV) infection is a deadly disease that appeared for the first time in dogs in 1978. Because of the severity of the disease and its rapid spread through the canine population, CPV has aroused a great deal of public interest.

### **How does a dog become infected with parvovirus?**

The main source of the virus is from the feces of infected dogs. The virus is shed during infection for about two weeks. Susceptible dogs become infected by ingesting the virus. Subsequently, the virus is

carried to the intestine where it invades the intestinal wall and causes inflammation. **Unlike most other viruses, CPV is stable in the environment and is resistant to the effects of heat, detergents, alcohol, and many disinfectants.** CPV has been recovered from surfaces contaminated with dog feces even after three months at room temperature. Due to its stability, the virus is easily transmitted via the hair or feet of infected dogs, contaminated shoes, clothes, and other objects or areas contaminated by infected feces. Direct contact between dogs is not required to spread the virus. Dogs that become infected with the virus and show clinical signs will usually become ill within 7 - 10 days of the initial infection.

### **How does this disease affect the dog?**

The clinical signs and symptoms of CPV disease can vary, but generally they include severe vomiting and diarrhea. The diarrhea often has a strong smell, may contain lots of mucus and may or may not contain blood. Additionally, affected dogs often exhibit fever, a lack of appetite, marked listlessness, and depression. It is important to note that many dogs may not show every clinical sign, but vomiting and diarrhea are the most common and consistent signs; vomiting usually begins first. Parvo may affect dogs of all ages, but is most common in dogs less than one year of age. Young puppies less than five months of age are usually the most severely affected, and the most difficult to treat.

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### **How is it diagnosed?**

The clinical signs of CPV infection can mimic many other diseases that cause vomiting and diarrhea; however we use an effective laboratory test to determine infection of the virus.

### **Can parvo be treated successfully?**

There is no treatment to kill the virus once it infects the dog. The virus does not directly cause death, but causes loss of the lining of the intestinal tract and destroys white blood cells (infection fighting cells). The intestinal damage results in severe dehydration (water loss), electrolyte (sodium and potassium) imbalances, and infection in the bloodstream. The first step in treatment is to correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. This requires the administration of intravenous fluids containing electrolytes. Aggressive medical and fluid therapy in the isolation ward of the hospital is the best possible treatment.

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*Aggressive medical and fluid therapy in the isolation ward of the hospital is the best possible treatment.*

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### **What is the survival rate?**

*Most dogs with CPV infection recover if aggressive treatment is used and if therapy is begun before severe septicemia and dehydration occur. For reasons not fully understood, some breeds have a much higher fatality rate than other breeds.*

### **Can it be prevented?**

The best method of protecting your dog against CPV infection is proper vaccination. Puppies receive a parvo vaccination as part of their multiple-agent vaccine. They will need a vaccine starting at the age of 7 to 9 weeks and boosted every 3 weeks until at least 16 weeks old. After the initial series of vaccinations, all dogs should be given a booster vaccination at one year. It is important to remember that CPV can be present in the environment for several months once the area is exposed. Keep your puppy safe by preventing exposure and getting them vaccinated.

### **Is there a way to kill the virus in the environment?**

The stability of the CPV in the environment makes it important to properly disinfect contaminated areas. This is best accomplished by cleaning food bowls, water bowls, and other contaminated items with a solution of **1/2 cup of chlorine bleach in a gallon of water** (133 ml in 4 liters of water). It is important that chlorine bleach be used because most disinfectants, even those claiming to be effective against viruses, will not kill the canine parvovirus. If the mixture is over 24 hours old it will no longer be effective in killing parvovirus.

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*The best method of protecting your dog against canine parvovirus is vaccination.*

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## Canine Kennel Cough

### **What is Kennel Cough?**

Kennel Cough is a broad term covering any infectious or contagious condition of dogs where coughing is a feature. The term tracheobronchitis describes the location of the infection in the windpipe and bronchial tubes.

### **What are the clinical signs, besides coughing?**

Clinical signs are quite variable. It is often a mild disease, but the cough may be chronic. Signs include runny eyes and nose, swollen tonsils, wheezing respiration, lack of appetite and depressed behavior.

### **What is the treatment?**

There is no specific treatment for the viral infections, but many of the more severe signs are due to bacterial involvement, particularly *Bordetella*. Antibiotics are useful against this bacterium, although some antibiotic resistance has been reported. Some cases require prolonged treatment, but most infections resolve within a week, three weeks at most. Mild signs may linger even when the bacteria have been eliminated.

### **How can I prevent my dog from contracting Kennel Cough?**

Most vaccination programs your veterinarian will recommend contain adenovirus and parainfluenza. *Bordetella* vaccination is also highly recommended for those dogs that are routinely around a lot of other dogs, groomed regularly, or frequent boarding facilities.

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*The kennel cough vaccine is highly recommended for those dogs that are routinely around a lot of other dogs, groomed regularly, or are frequently boarding.*

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### **How are the *Bordetella* vaccines delivered?**

*Bordetella* vaccination is performed either by injection, intra-nasal, or oral route.

## Canine Influenza Virus

### **What is canine influenza Virus?**

Canine influenza is a relatively new disease caused by a “flu” virus. It causes respiratory infection and only affects dogs. It spreads quickly and may cause serious illness such as pneumonia. It is very contagious.

### **Is my dog at risk for canine influenza?**

Most dogs, regardless of breed or age, are at risk for canine influenza. However, certain lifestyle activities can raise the risk for your pet. If your dog boards, goes to daycare, attends group training or puppy classes, goes to a groomer, goes to dog parks, enters dog events, goes to a pet store, or travels across state lines, then your dog is at increased risk for canine influenza.

### **How does it spread?**

Canine influenza spreads three ways. Through direct contact between dogs, such as licking or nuzzling. Through the air, by coughing or sneezing. And lastly, from contaminated surfaces, such as a shared toy or when a person picks up the virus on their hands and then pets a dog.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

80% of dogs will show signs of influenza and will have a mild disease. These signs include a lasting cough, low-grade fever, nasal discharge, lack of energy, or loss of appetite. 20% of dogs will develop a more severe disease including pneumonia and high fever.

### **That sounds a lot like Kennel Cough, are they the same?**

No, they are different. It is hard to diagnose canine influenza. It can be confused with Bordetella (Kennel Cough) because the signs are the same. To confirm influenza our veterinarian would need to send out blood or nasal swabs to a laboratory for further testing.

### **What is the treatment?**

There is no treatment specifically for canine influenza. The focus of treatment is to provide supportive care while the infection runs its course. Dogs with mild infection may not need intervention. In more serious cases the treatment of canine influenza can be long and expensive. Hospitalization, intravenous fluids, supplemental feeding, and other supportive measures may be taken. Dogs that develop pneumonia will require antibiotics.

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*20% of dogs will develop a more severe disease including pneumonia and high fever.*

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### **What if I suspect my dogs has canine influenza?**

If you suspect that your dog has canine influenza they should be isolated from other dogs. You should contact our office immediately.

We may ask to perform an exam of your dog at your home or if you are asked to bring your dog to our practice we may ask you to leave your dog in the car until one of our staff can assist you. This is standard precaution to protect other dogs from contracting the virus. Our doctors and staff will give you recommendations for treatment after an examination.

### **How can I prevent my dog from contracting canine influenza?**

Protection from canine influenza is in vaccination. This vaccine protects against the H3N8 strain which has been found in 40 states, including Indiana. There is a second vaccine for the H3N2 strain that was prevalent during the 2015 CIV outbreak. Our doctors recommend vaccination for both H3N8 and H3N2 strains of canine influenza.

### **How are the canine influenza vaccines delivered?**

The initial vaccination is performed by injection. It requires two doses given 2-4 weeks apart, followed by annual revaccination.

## Lyme Disease

### **What is Lyme disease?**

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is transmitted to dogs through the bite of a tick. Once in the blood stream, the Lyme disease organism is carried to many parts of the body and is likely to localize in joints. The most common type of tick to carry Lyme disease is the Deer Tick .

### **Can Lyme disease also affect people?**

Yes, but people do not get it directly from dogs. They get it from being bitten by the same ticks that transmit it to dogs. Therefore, preventing exposure to ticks is important for you and your dog.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

Many dogs affected with Lyme disease are taken to a veterinarian because they seem to be experiencing generalized pain and have stopped eating. Affected dogs have been described as if they were "walking on eggshells." Often these pets have high fevers. Dogs may also begin limping. This painful lameness often appears suddenly and may shift from one leg to another. If untreated, it may eventually disappear, only to recur weeks or months later. Some pets are affected with the Lyme disease organism for over a year before they finally show symptoms. By this time, the disease may be quite widespread in the body.

### **How is Lyme disease diagnosed?**

Dogs with lameness, swollen joints, and fever are suspected of having Lyme disease. However, other diseases may also cause these symptoms. There are blood tests that may be used for confirmation. One test is an antibody test. This test does not detect the actual spirochete in the blood but does detect the presence of antibodies created by exposure to the organism. A test can be falsely negative if the dog is infected but has not yet formed antibodies, or if it never forms enough antibodies to cause a positive reaction. We use a quick blood test in the clinic that will test for heartworms and tick borne illnesses such as Lyme disease.

### **How is Lyme disease treated?**

Because the Lyme spirochete is a bacterium, antibiotics can control it. However, a lengthy course of treatment is necessary to completely eradicate the organism. The initial antibiotic selected to treat an infected pet may not be effective against the disease, especially if the infection is long-standing. In this situation, changing to another antibiotic is often effective. Occasionally, the initial infection will recur, or the pet will become re-infected after being bitten by another infected tick.

### **How can I prevent my dog from getting Lyme disease?**

The key to prevention is keeping your dog from being exposed to ticks. Ticks are found in grassy, wooded, and sandy areas. They find their way onto an animal by climbing to the top of a leaf, blade of grass, or short trees, especially Cedar trees. Keeping animals from thick underbrush reduces their exposure to ticks. Dogs should be kept on trails when walked near wooded or tall grass areas. Our doctors recommend using a tick collar such as the Seresto collar which provides 8 month prevention and treatment of ticks and fleas. They also recommend Bravecto which is a chew that provides 3 months of flea and tick prevention.

### **How do I remove a tick from my dog?**

Check your pet immediately after it has been in a tick-infected area. If you find a tick moving on your pet, the tick has not fed. Remove the tick promptly and place it in rubbing alcohol or crush it between two solid surfaces. If you find a tick attached to your pet, grasp the tick with fine tweezers or your finger nails near the dog's skin and firmly pull it straight out. It is important to make sure that you remove the head of the tick. You may need another person to help restrain your dog. Removing the tick quickly is important since the disease is not transmitted until the tick has fed for approximately 12 hours. If you crush the tick, do not get the tick's contents, including blood, on your skin. The bacterium that causes Lyme disease can pass through a cut in your skin.

**Is there a vaccine that will protect my dog from Lyme disease?**

A vaccine is available for protecting dogs against Lyme disease. This vaccine is initially given twice, at three-week intervals. Annual revaccination is also necessary to maintain immunity. Please speak with one of our staff members if you have any questions about this vaccine.

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*Preventing exposure to ticks is important for  
you and your dog.*

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# Intestinal Parasites

## Do all puppies have worms?

“Worms” or intestinal parasites are common in puppies. Puppies can become infected with parasites before they are born or later through their mother’s milk. The microscopic examination of a stool sample will help us to determine the presence of intestinal parasites. This exam detects the eggs from the worms. We recommend this exam for all puppies; some may need multiple stool samples checked in the first year. Routine stool sample exams are recommended twice yearly throughout your dog’s life.

With puppies, we use a deworming product even if we do not get a positive stool sample. This medication is safe and effective against several of the common worms found in dogs. We use this medication because it has very few, if any, side effects and your puppy does not pass worm eggs every day. Thus, the stool sample may not detect worms that are present.

Additionally, some of these internal parasites can be transmitted to humans. Most puppies are routinely dewormed three to four times. It is important deworming is repeated because the medication only kills the adult worms. Within 3-4 weeks, the larval stages will become adults and need to be treated. Dogs remain susceptible to re-infection with hookworms and roundworms. Periodic deworming throughout the dog's life may be recommended for outdoor dogs.

**There are several types of internal parasites that cause problems in puppies, including:**

- ✓ **Roundworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Hookworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Tapeworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Whipworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Coccidia** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Giardia** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Heartworms** (heart)

**Roundworms** – no intermediate host is required. Nematodes (roundworms) are free-living in the bowel. If a growing puppy is infected with a large number of roundworms, they can stunt growth, cause serious digestive upsets and result in excessive gas formation. These puppies have a characteristic ‘pot bellied’ appearance. Roundworms can be transmitted from dog to dog.

Prevention is possible:

- ✓ New puppies should be dewormed multiple times according to your veterinarian.
- ✓ Routine, bi-yearly, fecal exams should be done.
- ✓ **Strict hygiene for people, especially children.**
- ✓ ***Roundworms can be passed from animals to humans. 14% of people in the US have had roundworms.***
- ✓ As many as 10,000 cases of roundworm infection in humans have been reported in one year in the United States. Children, in particular, are at risk for health problems should they become infected.

**Hookworms** – Hookworms are one of the most pathogenic parasites of the dog. The hookworm is approximately 1/2 to 1” (1-2 cm) long and attaches to the lining of the bowel. Hookworms suck blood that may cause severe anemia.

In addition, the infective larvae can enter the host either by mouth or through the skin, particularly the feet. Eczema and secondary bacterial infection can result due to irritation as they burrow through the skin. **Be cautious if walking barefoot in the sand. 25% of people worldwide have had a hookworm infection.**

**Tapeworms** – Tapeworms are a common intestinal parasites in dogs. Puppies become infected with them when they swallow fleas; the eggs of the tapeworm live inside the flea. When the dog chews or licks its skin as the flea bites him, the flea may be swallowed. Tapeworms can also be transmitted through rodents.

Dogs infected with tapeworms will pass small segments of the worms in their stool. The segments are white in color and look like grains of rice. They are about 1/8 inch (3 mm) long and may be seen crawling on the surface of the stool. Also, they may stick to the hair under the tail. If that occurs, they will dry out, shrink to about half their size, and become golden in color.

Tapeworm segments do not pass every day or in every stool sample; therefore, inspection of several consecutive bowel movements may be needed to find them. We may examine a stool sample in our office and not find them, and then you may find them the next day. If you find them at any time, please notify us so we may provide the appropriate drug for treatment.

**Whipworms** – Whipworms are intestinal parasites which are about 1/4 inch (6 mm) long. They live in the cecum and colon of dogs where they cause severe irritation to the lining of those organs. This results

in watery, bloody diarrhea, weight loss, and general debilitation. They are one of the most pathogenic worms found in dogs.

Whipworms pass microscopic eggs in the stool. The eggs are very resistant to drying and heat, so they can remain viable in the dog's environment for years. They mature and are able to reinfect the dog in 10-60 days. The eggs are swallowed and return to the lower intestinal tract to complete the life cycle.

### **Other Parasites**

There are many other parasites that could infect your puppy. This is why fecal examinations are recommended throughout your dog's life.

### **Protect Your Family from Intestinal Parasites**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends bi-annual (2x a year) fecal exam for all dogs and cats. All puppies should have a fecal exam at every physical examination and vaccine appointment. This helps to reduce human exposure from parasite contamination from our pets. *For more information visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)*

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*The CDC recommends fecal exams on all dogs twice a year to reduce human exposure to parasites.*

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# Heartworms

Heartworms are important parasites, especially in certain climates. Heartworm disease is prevalent in this area all year round. They live in the bloodstream and cause major damage to the heart and lungs.

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. Dogs become infected with heartworms by being bitten by a mosquito that is carrying the microfilaria (baby worms). The mosquito becomes infected by ingesting blood from another infected animal. The infective larvae carried by the mosquito are injected into the dog via the mosquito bite. The infective larvae migrate through the skin and molt. This molting process continues until the larvae make their way into the bloodstream, and into the heart and lungs.

The total process from the initial bite through the development of the adult heartworm takes six months. An adult heartworm can grow as long as 14 inches in the heart. If not removed, they can cause permanent heart and lung damage resulting in death. Often, by the time the debilitating symptoms of heartworm disease are present, treatment of the disease is dangerous.

It should also be mentioned here that once your dog has heartworms, treatment is costly and not without side effects. **Prevention is the key.**

Fortunately, we have medication that will protect your dog from heartworms. These drugs are safe and effective if given regularly. There are oral and topical products available to prevent heartworm disease. While these medications are the best we have to offer, no preventative is guaranteed 100%. There is always the possibility that your dog could vomit its preventative without your knowledge. Consequently, we recommend that all dogs be tested annually for heartworm whether or not they have been on the preventative.

We can help you choose the best product for your pet's needs and lifestyle. Heartworm preventatives are dosed according to your dog's weight. As the weight changes, the dosage should also change. Please note the dosing instructions on the package. **We recommend ProHeart 6, Revolution, Heartgard, and Sentinel Spectrum for heartworm prevention.**

Preventative can be started in puppies as early as eight weeks. All dogs over six months of age should be tested for heartworm before

preventative will be prescribed and then a yearly in-clinic blood test will be done.

Dogs that are heartworm positive and are carrying microfilaria can infect mosquitoes. Infected mosquitoes that bite humans can cause pulmonary granulomas (spot in lungs).

**We recommend that all puppies and dogs be on a heartworm preventative all year round.**

Please talk to any of our doctors or assistants as to which preventative is the best for your puppy.

## Fleas and Ticks

### **What can be done about fleas on my puppy?**

Fleas do not stay on your puppy all of their time; occasionally, they jump off and seek another host. It has been found that for every adult flea you find on your pet, there are 95 eggs and other life stages that are not visible to the naked eye living on your pet or in the environment. Therefore, it is important to kill all life stages of the fleas to affectively control the infection.

### **Many of the over-the-counter flea control products are not safe for puppies.**

We will provide you with age and weight-specific flea control products that are safe for your pet. **We recommend Bravecto (chew, 12 weeks), Seresto (collar, 8 months) Simparica Trio (tablet, 1 month), Revolution (topical, 1 month), Vectra 3D (topical, 1 month) and Sentinel (flavor tab, 1 month) for flea control.**

Please consult any of our staff members as to which type is best for your puppy.

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*For every adult flea you find on your pet, there are 95 eggs.*

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## Spay and Neuter

### **Why should I have my female dog spayed?**

Spaying offers several advantages. The female's heat periods result in about 2-3 weeks of vaginal bleeding. This can be quite annoying if your dog is kept indoors. Intact male dogs are attracted from blocks away and, in fact, seem to come out of the woodwork. Their determination to get to the female in heat will cause them to go over, around, and through many doors or fences. Your dog will have a heat period about every six months.

Spaying is the removal of the uterus and the ovaries. Therefore, heat periods no longer occur. Spaying prevents unplanned litters of puppies. This procedure is done with precision laser or laparoscopic technique and requires an overnight stay at our hospital for observation. After surgery you will need to restrict your pet's activity and walk only on a leash.

It has been proven that as the female dog gets older, there is a significant incidence of breast cancer and uterine infections if she has not been spayed. Spaying before she has any heat periods will virtually eliminate the chance of either. If you do not plan to breed your dog, spay her before her first heat period. This can be done anytime between five and seven months of age, most are done at six months of age.

### **Laparoscopic Spay**

We now offer a less invasive option for spaying female dogs. With the use of a Laparoscope our doctors are able to perform the surgery through a very small incision using a camera inside the pet. This procedure allows for faster healing and reduced pain. Ask any of our staff members if this is an option for your puppy!

### **Why should I have my male dog neutered?**

Neutering offers several advantages. Male dogs are attracted to a female dog in heat and will climb over or go through fences to find her. Male dogs are more aggressive and more likely to fight, especially with other male dogs. As dogs age, the prostate gland frequently enlarges and causes difficulty urinating and defecating. Neutering will solve, or greatly help, all of these problems that come with owning a male dog.

The surgery can be performed any time between five and seven months of age, most are done at six months old. This procedure is

done with precision laser technique. After surgery you will need to restrict your pet's activity and walk only on a leash.

### **If I choose to breed my female dog, how old should she be?**

If you plan to breed your dog, she should be at least 2 years old and have had at least one or two heat periods first. She will then be more physically mature allowing her to be a better mother. We do not recommend breeding after five years of age unless she has been bred prior to that. Having her first litter after five years of age increases the risk of complications during the pregnancy and/or delivery. Once your dog has had her last litter, she should be spayed to prevent the reproductive problems older dogs tend to get.

*We, at Western Veterinary Clinic, have client information that is a "must read" if you are considering this option. As we have domesticated these pets, much of the "naturalness" and ease of delivery has also been bred out, and it is important for the owner to know that they cannot just sit back and let the dog handle it. Delivery problems are expensive and risky to the health of your loved pet. Educate yourself well before breeding your dog!*

## *Pet Identification*

We use the AVID Identification Microchip system. This tiny device is implanted with a needle much like administering an injection. A special scanner can detect these chips; veterinary hospitals, humane societies, and animal shelters across the country have these scanners. A national registry permits the return of microchipped pets throughout the United States and Canada. We strongly recommend microchipping all pets.

AVID microchips can be added to a national database allowing owners to register their information in connection to their pets microchip number so they can be contacted if their pet is found.

An AVID microchip is included in the **Puppy Club**.



## Grooming & Ears

### Does my puppy need to be groomed?

Some dog breeds require more grooming than others. Many need routine brushing and trimming of the hair coat and others only require occasional baths.

**The Grooming Shoppe** at **Western Veterinary Clinic** provides an array of grooming services. We have two professional pet groomers that can provide your pet with a complete makeover. Please feel free to ask us more about these services.

### When can I give my pet a bath?

- ✓ Dogs and cats have only about 1/3 of the amount of oil glands in their skin that people do.
  - They should not be bathed any more than once every four to six weeks.
- ✓ When preparing to bathe your dog, some of the tools you will need are:
  - An appropriate shampoo for your pet & lots of towels
  - An eye lube to protect the eyes from soap & cotton balls for the ears
- ✓ Types of Shampoo:
  - **PearLyt Shampoo** is a soap-free formulation that is excellent for routine cleansing, conditioning, and brightening of the hair coat. In addition, it soothes mild irritation and itching. **Ask us today for a product that will work best for you pet's hair coat.**
  - Alternatives:
    - Baby shampoo is advertised as being mild, but it is actually very hard on the skin as it is pH balanced for the eyes!!
    - A basic human shampoo that is not perfumed is OK for occasional bathing, it may cause irritation to your pet's skin.
    - Over the counter pet shampoos have lots of detergent that may cause itchiness afterwards in your pet.

### How can I control my dog's shedding?

Dogs will shed constantly but will have two to three times during the year of major hair loss. Schnauzers and poodles seem to never lose a hair, while huskies are constantly "blowing coat"!

We can give you advice on the appropriate grooming tool for your dog's coat, and daily or weekly brushing helps tremendously with controlling hair loss. How would your hair look if you never brushed it?

It is critical for dogs with long coats that mat to be totally brushed out before they are bathed. Putting water on a coat that is matted will only make those mats much tighter to the skin and more difficult to remove. We have products that when used regularly, do help with hair loss, by slowing down that shedding cycle.

### **Can my puppy get an ear infection?**

In general, your dog's ears should always be clean. You should routinely inspect your puppy's ears for dirt, odor, any redness or irritation. Also, watch for any head shaking, as this could be a sign of ear problems.

If you are bathing your dog or if your dog goes swimming, you should place cotton balls in the ears before getting your dog wet. In addition, you should clean the ears when finished bathing, with a special ear cleaner. **Please ask us what type of cleaner is best for your pet.** This will help reduce any problems resulting from retained water in the ear canal.

Dogs can get ear infections easily. These infections can often times be prevented. An "ear infection" can consist of a variety of things. The most common problem is from either a yeast or bacterial overgrowth. However, sometimes ear mites are the problem.

In order to diagnose the problem in the ears, we use microscopic cytology (swabs from the ear) and an otoscope. An otoscope is an instrument used for examining the ear canals. It is important to have your dog's ears examined periodically and more frequently if on medication.

## Guide to Nail Trims

Puppies have very sharp toenails. They can be trimmed with your regular fingernail clippers or with nail trimmers made for dogs and cats. If you take too much off the nail, you will cut into the “kwik” and bleeding and pain will occur. If this happens, neither you nor your dog will want to do this again. Therefore, a few points are helpful:

- ✓ If your dog has clear or white nails, you can see the pink of the kwik through the nail. Avoid the pink area, and you should be out of the kwik.
- ✓ If your dog has black nails, you will not be able to see the kwik so only cut  $1/32$ " (1 mm) of the nail at a time until the dog begins to get sensitive. The sensitivity will usually occur before you are into the blood vessel. With black nails, it is likely that you will get too close on at least one nail.
- ✓ If your dog has some clear and some black nails, use the average clear nail as a guide for cutting the black ones.
- ✓ When cutting nails, use sharp trimmers. Dull trimmers tend to crush the nail and cause pain even if you are not in the quick. We recommend **Miller Forge** nail trimmers.
- ✓ You should always have styptic powder available. This powder quickly stops bleeding caused by nail trims.

# Behavior & Training

## What type of playing should I expect from a puppy?

Stimulating play is important during the first week. Stalking and pouncing are important play behaviors in puppies and are necessary for proper muscular development. Your puppy will be less likely to use family members for these activities if you provide adequate puppy-safe toys. The best toys are lightweight and movable. These include wads of paper and rubber balls. Any toy that is small enough to be swallowed should be avoided. We recommend Kong toys. We can help you choose the safest toys for your pet.

## Can I discipline a puppy?

The best way to discipline a pup is to avoid problems. This is done through the use of a crate or exercise pen and constant supervision when the puppy is out. In that method, you can capture and redirect any incidences of chewing and all housebreaking accidents immediately, so that bad habits never start! Old methods that used to be taught of swatting a dog with newspaper or slapping their nose with your hand teach them to be fearful of you and household items, and to simply never do those behaviors when you are in the room! Dogs are unable to “carry over” information from one situation to the next. If you catch them in the act of urinating on the floor and carry them out quickly, but they have urinated on the floor ten other times when you were out of the room, what they believe is that when you are there, it is not OK, but when you are gone, it is. By doing problem prevention with confinement and supervision, we clear up misunderstandings and treat our pets kindly.

## How do I insure that my puppy is well socialized?

The **socialization period** for dogs is between 4 and 16 weeks of age. During that time, the puppy is very impressionable to social influences. If it has good experiences with men, women, children, cats, other dogs, etc., it is likely to accept them throughout life. If the experiences are absent or unpleasant, it may become apprehensive or adverse to any of them. Therefore, during the period of socialization, we encourage you to expose your dog to as many types of social events and influences as possible.

We are also advocates of positive reward based *“Puppy classes”* where pups are exposed to other pups their own age where they can play safely and have fun experiences, and meet new people. Please ask us about local puppy classes that we would recommend for your puppy. These facilities provide positive experiences and

advice for the family. If you have questions about training puppies, please ask us!

### **Why does my puppy seem to be constantly chewing?**

Chewing is a normal puppy characteristic. The puppy's baby teeth are present by about four weeks of age. They begin to fall out at four months of age and are replaced by the adult (permanent) teeth by about six months of age. Therefore, chewing is a puppy characteristic that you can expect until about 6-7 months of age.

It is important that you do what you can to direct your puppy's chewing toward acceptable objects. You should provide puppy-safe items such as nylon chew bones and other chew toys so other objects are spared. Some dogs prefer softer items and some harder nylon toys. Large rope knots, **Kong Toys**, **Busy Buddy Bones**, nylabones, treat balls and things they can roll like racquet balls can all be lots of fun and safe.

**Do not** purchase anything with bells or buttons and take away any toys that the pup is tearing apart.

**Do not** give them anything they can confuse with common household items such as old socks and shoes. Contrary to popular belief, they do NOT know the difference and when their item is lost, they will go find yours and substitute! It is also helpful to rotate toys so they don't get bored.

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*Do not give them anything they can confuse  
with common household items such as old socks  
and shoes.*

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Rawhides may be OK if your dog is not a voracious chewer and should only be left with the dog when supervised so they don't chew off too much. If your dog is protective or growls over any of his toys, take them away and call us as soon as possible to discuss it. This might be an issue that needs attention. Tug toys are also great, but each dog should only have one or two and they should not be left down. They should be used for special times and as a teaching tool for "leave it" and "drop". Ask us to demonstrate these methods for your puppy!

### **How do I housebreak my new puppy?**

Housebreaking should begin as soon as your puppy enters his new home. How long the training must continue depends on both the

puppy and you. Some pups learn sooner than others but a puppy's memory is short, so your patience is important. A home with a poorly trained puppy is not a happy home for you or the puppy. We recommend crate training for your puppy. Below are some guidelines to help you with your puppy.

The puppy's bed may be a box, open at one end and slightly larger than the puppy. If the bed is too large, the puppy may defecate or urinate in a corner rather than go outside. If the bed is smaller, the puppy will do its "business" outside rather than soil its bed. We strongly advocate the use of a crate or kennel, also, for use as the puppy's home. The crate should be the size that can be used for him as an adult and can be closed down to a smaller area if he is having accidents in it. They only need enough room to lie down and turn around in.

If the puppy will be left alone during the day, for over four hours, you may need to provide him with an area to relieve himself. Enclose the bed in a small area, such as a laundry room. Cover a small section of the area with newspapers to be used at night, or when your pup is left unsupervised.

When the pup first wakes up, is taken out of the crate, and after every meal, it should be taken out of the same door to the area you would like it to eliminate in. The smells from prior visits will jog its memory. Someone should always be with it outside, regardless of the weather, to encourage the puppy with excited baby talk and tasty treats IMMEDIATELY after the dog has eliminated. Be aware that a common puppy behavior is to have just spent twenty minutes in the yard and have "done their business," only to come in and urinate on the floor within five minutes. Their bladders are little and if they came in and got a couple of laps of water when they came back in, they may have filled their bladder again! A great rule to follow is to not give them ANY freedom in the house until 30 days past their last accident!! This means they don't have five seconds out of someone's sight. If you follow this rule, your days of housebreaking issues will be much shorter! This routine should be repeated every hour or two throughout the day, especially after meals and naps.

Never play with your pup until after he has been taken out and has eliminated.

There will of course be some "accidents" in the house. Never let one of these slip by unnoticed; punishment one minute after the offense is too late. Scrub the area of mishap thoroughly until all odors are gone. Included in the Puppy Club is an odor neutralizer that is

effective for cleaning up these areas. If you catch the puppy in the act, as you should if they are well supervised, simply call his name and tell him “outside,” a word that you should use every time you approach the door to take him out. Scoop him up, even while he is “in the act” and encourage him to finish outside.

Positive reinforcement of proper urine and bowel habits is critical! When your puppy urinates or defecates in the correct place, spend several minutes stroking and praising him.

# Household Toxins

Animals, Especially puppies and kittens love to chew and tend to get into everything. It is important for you to provide acceptable chewing toys and to make sure that harmful items are kept out of your pet's way until they learn acceptable behavior.

Listed below are some common household poisons that can cause a problem for your pet, Should your pet chew on or swallow them. This is not an all inclusive list.

## A

Acetaminophen  
Alcoholic Beverages  
Amphetamines  
Anti-Depressants  
Antifreeze  
Arsenic  
Aspirin  
Avocado

## B

Bismuth  
Bleach  
Brake Fluid

## C

Caffeine  
Candles  
Carburetor Cleaner  
Chocolate  
Cleaning Fluid  
Coffee  
Cold Medications

## I

Ibuprofen (Advil)  
Ice Melting Products  
Insecticides

## K

Kerosene

## L

## D

Deodorants  
Deodorizers  
Diet Pills  
Disinfectants  
Drain Cleaner  
Dye

## F

Fabric Softener sheets  
Fertilizers  
Fungicides  
Furniture polish

## G

Gasoline  
Grapes

## H

Hair Colorings  
Herbicides

## Paint

Paint Remover  
Permanent Wave Lotion  
Prescription Drugs  
Phenol  
Photo Developer  
Pool Treatment Supplies

## R



Laxatives

Lead

Lye

## **M**

Macadamia Nuts

Marijuana

Matches

Mercury

Metal Polish

Mineral Spirits

Moldy food

Mothballs

## **N**

Naproxen Sodium (Aleve)

Nail Polish Remover

Nicotine

## **O**

Onions

## **P**

Pain Killers

Raisins

Rat poison (Decon)

Rubbing Alcohol

## **S**

Shoe Polish

Sleeping Pills

Snail/Slug Bait

Soaps/Detergents

Suntan Lotion

## **T**

Tar

Thallium

Turpentine

## **V**

Vitamins

## **W**

Windshield Washing Fluid

Wood Preservative

For more information visit [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) and click on animal poison control.

## *Poisonous Plants*

Listed below are some common household poisons that can cause a problem for your pet, should your pet chew on or swallow them. This is not an all inclusive list.

### **A**

Aloe

Amaryllis

Avocado

Azalea

### **B**

Black Locust

Black Walnut

Bleeding Heart

Blue-Green Algae

### **D**

Daffodil

Delphinium

Dienffenbachia

Dracaena

Dutchman's

Breeches

### **E**

Ergot

Evergreens

Bird of Paradise  
 Bittersweet  
 Boxwood  
 Buckeye  
 Bulbs

**C**

Caladium  
 Carnations  
 Castor Bean  
 Cherry  
 Chinaberry Tree  
 Christmas Rose  
 Clematis  
 Clover  
 Cocklebur  
 Cornstalk Plant  
 Crocus  
 Cyclamen  
 Horse chestnut  
 Horsetail  
 Hurricane Plant  
 Hyacinth  
 Hydrangea

**I**

Iris  
 Ivy

**J**

Jack in the Pulpit  
 Jerusalem Cherry  
 Jimsonweed  
 Johnson Grass

**L**

Lantana  
 Larkspur  
 Laurel  
 Lily  
 Lupine

**M**

Macadamia Nut  
 Marigold  
 Marijuana

**F**

Ferns  
 Fescue  
 Flamingo Plant  
 Four O' Clock  
 Foxglove  
 Foxtail Barley  
 Fruit Salad Plant

**G**

Gladiolas  
 Golden Chain  
 Golden Seal

**H**

Heavenly Bamboo  
 Hemlock  
 Holly

**N**

Narcissus  
 Nephthytis  
 Nettle  
 Nightshade

**O**

Oaks  
 Oleander  
 Onion

**P**

Pigweed  
 Pines  
 Poinsettia  
 Poison Ivy  
 Potato  
 Pothos

**R**

Ragwort  
 Red Maple  
 Rhododendron  
 Rhubarb  
 Rosary Pea

**S**

Mexican Breadfruit  
Milkweed  
Mistletoe  
Monkshood  
Morning Glory  
Mother-in-Law  
Mushrooms  
Mustards

St. Johnswort  
Schefflera  
Senecio  
Spurges  
Star of Bethlehem  
Sweet Pea

**T**

Tansy  
Targo Vine  
Tobacco  
Tomato Plant  
Tulip

**W**

White Snakeroot

**Y**

Yellow Jasmine  
Yesterday, Today,  
Tomorrow  
Yew Yucca

For more information visit [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) and click on animal poison control.

# Dental Care

## **Is your pet protected from the “Silent Killer of Pets?”**

More than 80% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of 3 suffer from periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is a serious condition in which the gums and supporting bones of the mouth begin to deteriorate. The tartar buildup on the teeth contains excessive bacteria, which moves into the bloodstream and causes serious health problems. The bacteria leads to heart, kidney and liver damage to name a few, it also causes bad breath.

However, this process can be prevented with the appropriate dental care at home and with your veterinarian. We want to help you provide the best dental care for your pet. Listed below are the recommendations for your pet to help prevent dental disease.

### **Brushing their teeth**

Nothing can replace daily tooth brushing to prevent tartar buildup. The best time to brush a dog's teeth is after the evening meal when both you and your pet are relaxed. If your dog growls, bites, scratches, or shows any other signs of aggression during the procedure, stop immediately and consult your veterinarian for professional advice.

Gently position the dog in a corner (of a sofa, chair, or room) so that he or she will be secure and more easily handled. Carefully lift the dog's lips to expose his teeth.

Rub your finger over the dog's teeth and gums for a minute or so. This will get the dog used to having something in his mouth. It might be necessary to do this a couple of days before going on to the next step. Put a small amount of tooth paste specially formulated for pets on your finger and allow the pet to taste it.

Slide a finger brush onto your index finger and put a small amount of toothpaste on the brush. Gently rub the brush over the dog's teeth and gums. If necessary, repeat this process in the next brushing session. Because finger brushes don't reach the gum line, they should be used for as short of time as necessary.

Apply a small amount of toothpaste to a bristle brush. Place the brush bristles at a 45° angle to the gum line. Move the brush gently in circular patterns over the dog's teeth. Start by brushing a few teeth. As the brushing session continues, slowly include more teeth. Teeth

should be brushed in a back and forth motion. Build up to about 30 seconds on each side of the dog's mouth.

### **Oxyfresh**

Oxyfresh is a tasteless, odorless solution, which promotes healthy gum tissue and improve oral hygiene. Eliminates pet breath and tartar formation. This solution is added to your pet's drinking water or available as a spray mist.

### **Fluoride**

Applied on clean teeth while under sedation or general anesthesia to help strengthen the teeth.

### **T/D Treats**

Part of the Hill's Prescription Diets, T/D is made of a special fiber matrix that scrubs the exposed tooth surface like an edible toothbrush, reducing bacteria laden plaque from building up.

## *The Grooming Shoppe*

Tina Holtsberry, our certified pet groomer, heads the Grooming Shoppe. She has been grooming at Western Veterinary Clinic since 1982. Tracy Chrzan, a certified pet groomer, has been grooming for several years and then joined our grooming team in 2018. These two have made our grooming facilities well known in the community.

**Your pet will receive a complete make over including:**

1. Pre-bath brushings to eliminate tangles
2. Gentle blow-drying of the coat
3. Cleaning excessive hair and wax from the ears
4. Cleaning of the anal glands
5. Bathing, brushing, and combing of the hair
6. Cutting or clipping of the coat (if applicable)
7. Removal of loose or shedding hair
8. Trimming of the nails
9. Bows or bandanas (if applicable)
10. Perfume or cologne

# Canine Bloat

## Condition and Prevention

Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV) or Bloat is a life threatening disorder most commonly seen in large, deep-chested dogs. Occasionally small dogs and cats are affected. It is characterized by a tremendous ballooning (dilatation) of the stomach with gas and frothy material. Dilatation may be followed by twisting of the stomach (volvulus), closing both the inlet and outlet of the stomach.

This is a medical emergency that requires immediate treatment and possibly surgery to correct.

The definite cause is still unknown. The most common history is a large breed dog that eats or drinks rapidly and then exercises. In recent studies, stress was found to be a contributing factor to GDV. Sometimes only simple dilatation (bloat) occurs but in other instances the huge, gas-filled stomach twists upon itself so that both entrance and exit (cardia and pylorus) of the stomach are blocked.

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*GDV is one of the most serious  
non-traumatic conditions.*

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What happens:

- Commonly occurs two hours after eating a large meal.
- Stomach becomes distended and dog appears bloated.
- Enlarged stomach causes pressure and labored breathing.
- The swollen stomach also presses on the larger blood vessels in the abdomen, resulting in shock.
- Ultimately the dog collapses.

Statistically, large deep-chested breeds are more prone to GDV.

German Shepherds  
Rottweilers  
Great Danes  
Saint Bernards  
Weimaraners  
Irish Setters  
Gordon Setters

Standard Poodles  
Basset Hounds  
Doberman Pinschers  
Old English Sheepdogs  
Labradors  
Golden Retrievers  
Any large mixed breed

**These are the signs to look for:**

- ✓ Restlessness

- ✓ Unproductive vomiting
- ✓ Excessive salivation
- ✓ Abdominal pain
- ✓ Abdominal distention (bloat)
- ✓ Weakness or collapse
- ✓ Comatose state

## Treatment and Prevention

Emergency Veterinary Care must be sought. Pressure on the stomach wall and internal organs is reduced as soon as possible. The veterinarian may first attempt to pass a stomach tube. Treatment for shock will begin immediately by administering intravenous fluids and medications. Once the patient has been stabilized, major surgery may be performed. Even with treatment there is a high mortality rate.

### **Prevention is now possible with Gastropexy**

Gastropexy (surgical attachment of stomach to body wall) is the most effective means of prevention. This does not prevent dilatation (bloat) but does prevent twisting (volvulus) in the majority of cases.

This procedure is done best through a laparoscope through a small incision. Your pet would receive an anesthetic and stay one night in the hospital. Your pet needs to be kept calm and would require leash walks only for at least 3 weeks after surgery.

### **Other prevention tips:**

- ✓ Feed smaller meals more frequently over the course of the day.
- ✓ Do not feed from a raised bowl.
- ✓ Avoid the consumption of large volumes of food and water 2 hours before and after exercise.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss any concerns you have regarding this life threatening condition.

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*Join the many pet owners with peace of mind  
after gastropexy.*

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## Emergency Care

### Are there any emergency tips that I should know?

Several types of emergencies are possible when you own a pet. The following recommendations could be valuable for you to know.

**Hit by car** – Let your dog stand up by itself. If it cannot, transfer it to a hard board for transporting. Apply pressure to wounds with soft gauze. Keep your dog warm to prevent shock. An injured dog may bite, even people that it knows very well. Use caution for the safety of both you and your dog. ***Seek medical attention quickly.***

**Overheating** – If you suspect that your dog has collapsed from heat stress, start to cool it down with a cool water bath, fans, cold compresses, or ice packs. ***Seek medical attention immediately.***

**Minor Burns** – Treat with cool water and ***seek medical attention.***

### Emergency Contact Information

#### **Western Veterinary Clinic**

574-234-3098  
25190 State Road 2  
South Bend, IN 46619

#### **Hours:**

Mon: 7:30am to 6pm  
Tue: 7:30am to 6pm  
Wed: 7:30am to 6pm  
Thu: 7:30am to 6pm  
Fri: 7:30am to 6pm  
Sat: 7:30am to 1pm (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> only)

#### **Night Owls Wellness and Urgent Care**

574-259-8387  
Fax: 574-259-3290  
2324 Grape Road  
Mishawaka, IN 46545

#### **Hours:**

Mon: 10am – 10pm  
Tues: 12pm – 8pm  
Wed: 10am – 10pm  
Thurs: 12pm – 8pm  
Fri: 10am – 6pm  
Closed on Sat/Sun

### Other area Emergency Centers:

#### **North Central Veterinary Emergency Centers**

Westville (open 24/7) – 219-785-7300  
Mishawaka (Fri PM – Mon AM) – 574-544-6200

**NIVES** (Fort Wayne, IN) – 260-426-1062

**Purdue University** (West Lafayette, IN) – 765-494-1107