



GUIDE TO YOUR NEW PUPPY

Congratulations on your new puppy! We hope you are enjoying the recent addition to your family. This guide is a brief overview of puppy behavior basics. Behavior problems are the number one reason owners give their dogs to animal shelters. Fortunately, most behavior problems can be prevented through proper training and socialization as a puppy. For a more in-depth understanding of dog behavior, we recommend the readings at the end of this brochure.

BASIC POTTY TRAINING

- It is important to implement a potty training protocol as soon as your new puppy arrives
 - House soiling is one of the top complaints of pet owners
- Puppies can “hold it” for no longer than one hour for each month of age, up to about 10 hours’ maximum
 - 3 months = 3 hours

HERE ARE THREE BASIC RULES FOR YOUR POTTY TRAINING REGIMEN

WHEN YOU ARE HOME

- Never leave your puppy unsupervised during the training period, if you cannot give full attention
 - Place your puppy in their crate/confinement area with a delicious treat
 - Tether your puppy in the kitchen
 - Take your puppy with you
- Stop your puppy’s attempt to eliminate in the house by immediately leading your puppy outside
 - If you aren’t right there, your puppy will have eliminated before you have had a chance to prevent it
- Every mistake is a step back—help your puppy by always keeping an eye on her
- Once an hour
 - Accompany your puppy outside to the toilet area
 - Consistently give your “potty” command and 2-3 minutes to eliminate
 - Reward your puppy after elimination enthusiastically with yummy treats and verbal praise

WHEN YOU ARE NOT AT HOME

- Never leave a non-potty-trained dog loose in your house during the training period
 - This can cause inappropriate elimination while you are out
 - The crate should only be large enough for her to sit, stand, and turn around
 - Too much space can lead to elimination in one corner and sleeping in another
- In situations where you are away from home for longer than your pup is capable of preventing elimination
 - It may be helpful to have a designated “toilet” mat: an absorbent pad or newspaper outside of the crate
 - The crate door can be left open if it is enclosed within a small room or penned off
- Remember, mistakes happen, DO NOT punish your puppy after the fact
 - She does not associate your punishment with her inappropriate elimination.
 - The “guilty” look puppies may display after urinating in the house is really just a scared look as they can read your anger and anticipate that something bad is going to happen
 - Some dogs that are punished for eliminating in the house and in front of the owner, will learn to eliminate in an area out of the owner’s view (basement or behind the couch)
 - Strive for: “pee outside = good things happen = food!

CRATE TRAINING

- Crate training is beneficial to a puppy’s life in that it provides a safe means to
 - Prevent inappropriate elimination in the house
 - Prevent destructive and potentially dangerous behaviors in the house when you are away
 - Provide an escape from stressors
 - Teach independence by preparing the puppy to be calm when left alone
 - This independence is essential in the prevention of separation anxiety



PICKING A CRATE

- The dimensions should be large enough for your puppy to sit, stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably
- There should not be enough room for your puppy to eliminate in one corner and rest in another
- For larger breed puppies, there are crates with sections that can be added to provide a crate to “grow into”

MAKE IT A HAPPY PLACE

- Put the crate in an area of the house where your family spends a lot of time
- Allow the puppy to go into the crate on her own, leave treats and toys inside to make the crate more inviting
- Let her walk in and out with the door open several times with treats, before you leave her inside with the door closed
- You can also start feeding her inside her crate, eventually closing the door when she is eating comfortably

GRADUALLY INCREASE THE TIME PERIODS

- Have your dog start spending more time in the crate with food, or a chew toy that takes longer to eat
- Be sure your dog is relaxed and calm and begin to leave the room for short periods of time while she is eating in her crate
- As long as she remains calm, you may keep increasing the time she spends in the crate, until she is able to remain comfortably in her crate while you leave for longer periods of time

DO NOT RESPOND TO CRIES OR WHINES IN THE CRATE

- If you experience, the training may be going too quickly for your pup
 - Slow down the training and start at a comfortable level for your pup
- The most successful training is that which is stress free
 - Monitor for signs of anxiety during training, such as panting, yawning, and salivation
 - **YOU MAY NEED TO**
 - Start from the beginning at another time at a comfortable level for your pup
 - Consult a behaviorist should these problems arise; This could be early signs of separation anxiety
- At the time that your puppy does vocalize in the crate, you should not let her out or punish her for this behavior
 - If you let her out when she cries, she will learn that crying gets her what she wants, and she will cry every time
- Walk away and wait until she is quiet before letting her out
 - This process may take a long time and the behavior may become worse before it gets better
- The key is consistency and making the crate a positive experience. NEVER use the crate as a punishment.

SOCIALIZATION

- Proper handling of puppies during their critical socialization period is essential to the prevention of behavior problems
 - Depending on the breed, the critical socialization period is between the ages of 3 weeks continuing to 12-16 weeks
- Appropriate socialization involves exposing your puppy to a variety of people, animals, places, and situations
 - Early socialization allows for healthy social behavior development
 - Helps prevent acts of aggression based on fear of other dogs, people or new environments
- Veterinary behaviorist, Dr. Ian Dunbar, recommends that your puppy meet and have positive interactions with 100 people before she is 16 weeks old!
 - The effects of improper puppy socialization can be devastating, leading to fear-based aggression towards people and/or other dogs, plus extreme shyness and anxiety
- An easy and effective means to socialize your pup is to enroll her in a puppy socialization class
 - This provides puppies the ability to form social relationships with other animals and people in a safe, controlled environment
 - Recent studies show puppies that participated in socialization classes were more likely to be retained in their homes than puppies that did not

THE MOUTHY PUP

- Mouthiness in puppies is a normal, natural behavior
- Puppies use their mouths to gather information about their environment
 - Some use of the mouth for exploration is acceptable in puppies less than 4 months of age
 - Biting that is excessive or the least bit painful should not be rewarded



- **HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR DISCOURAGING INAPPROPRIATE MOUTHINESS**
- Avoid aggressive play
 - Especially interactions which involve a puppy's mouth and your hands
- **PROVIDE APPROPRIATE CHEW TOYS**
- Kongs, Nyla-bones or durable stuffed toys
- These toys can be used to redirect your puppy's urge to chew away from your hands or feet
- You can even smear peanut butter on your pet's toys to make them more appealing
- **PRACTICE A HIGH-PITCHED "OUCH"**
- This yelp will startle a pup and cause her to stop biting
 - At this point, you can redirect the pup to a more appropriate chew toy
- As some puppies develop, they may learn that biting gets them attention.
- Be careful this "ouch" is not interpreted as attention if so, avoid this practice.
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- **STOP GIVING ATTENTION TO THE PUPPY WHEN SHE BECOMES MOUTHY**
- Attention can include petting, yelling, speaking, pushing, playing, and even eye contact
- Look away from your puppy, GET UP, and walk away until the puppy moves on to another activity
- A puppy that is desperate for attention will soon make the association that biting leads to being ignored
- **TEACH YOUR PUP HOW TO "SIT" AND REWARD WITH ATTENTION**
- Once your puppy learns that sitting—not mouthing or jumping—earns your praise, she will be sitting at your feet in no time!

ADOLESCENCE

- Depending on the breed adolescence period is between the ages of 6 months and 2 ½ years of age
- This period of time is notably the most frustrating for pet owners
- Adolescent dogs become less dependent on their owners for guidance as they begin to explore other dogs, scents, and environments
- Energy levels, especially for larger breed dogs, are at a peak during this time, making exercise requirements much higher than they were during puppyhood
- Some breeds, such as Border collie, Labrador retrievers and Cattle dogs, require more exercise than others
- The rule of thumb for any breed is that the more energy a dog spends on exercise, the less energy she will spend on unruly behaviors
- As dogs grow larger, many behaviors that may have been cute and loveable as a puppy, such as jumping up, sitting on laps, licking faces etc., are no longer acceptable, especially for small children or guests who visit your house
 - Start young and reward your pet for sitting
 - Do not allow people to give her attention when she jumps up on them
 - Yelling or punishing her for jumping up may give her a negative association with you, your family members, or guests, causing her to be anxious, fearful, and even aggressive
- All your hard work in socialization and teaching good manners can go to waste quite rapidly during this time period if you do not make an appropriate effort to maintain it
 - It is pertinent that you continue to expose your dog to other people and animals through her adolescence
 - Positive reinforcement obedience classes should begin just after age 12 weeks—before your dog has a chance to develop and strengthen undesirable behaviors
- Clicker training is a fun and effective method of teaching your dog both basic and advanced obedience skills
- The use of a head collar, such as the Gentle Leader, can be a helpful aid in managing your overactive adolescent during training and even on walks
- AVOID training classes that utilize choke chains, shock collars, pronged pinch collars, or any other painful punishment.
 - Scientific studies have shown that pain can create a negative association with you, induce fear, inhibit learning, and, at times, cause aggression
- Make sure the class you choose is a positive experience for both you and your dog!



COMFORTABLE VET VISITS

OUR GOAL IS THAT YOUR PUPPY WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AND WILL BE HAPPY TO COME TO SEE US!

Feel free to stop in on any day just for a "happy visit". Our staff can say hello and give a treat to help the puppy learn that our office is a happy and fear free practice.

These are some helpful tips to help make the puppy vaccination and exam series comfortable for all involved:

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL PATIENTS IN OUR CARE, PLEASE KEEP YOUR PUPPY

- On a leash
 - We do not recommend retractable leads
 - Due to the extended length between you and your dog, you will not have the time or strength to pull your dog away from a dangerous situation and prevent an injury
 - Injuries
 - Friction burns/lacerations to other dog's or people's limbs
 - Neck trauma
 - May not be seen by pedestrians/cyclists, causing falls
 - Tangles
 - May cause pulling with some dogs
 - The lead can break if pulled on hard enough
 - Malfunctions over time
- In a carrier
 - This will also keep your dog safe during the car rides as well
- Wrapped in a blanket
 - This can be soothing
- Please do not let your puppy socialize with other dogs and cats in the waiting room
 - Your puppy is not vaccinated and may come in contact with a sick patient
- If your puppy is nervous, we can show you and your puppy to an available exam room to wait for your appointment
- If possible, try to bring a hungry puppy to the appointments
 - You can bring a special treat/small amount of food to distract your puppy during the exam and vaccinations
 - Our staff also uses treats to distract your puppy during vaccinations and nail trims
- Keep your puppy busy during the visit
 - Practice known tricks and commands
 - Bring a toy to play with



CANINE VACCINATION PROTECTION

CANINE DISTEMPER

- Highly contagious, potentially fatal virus that affects the gastrointestinal and nervous systems
- Spread by discharge from the nose and eyes of affected dogs
- Signs include fever, runny nose, and watery eyes, and may progress to muscle twitching, seizures, or paralysis
- Distemper is often fatal or may leave a dog with permanent neurological damage
- Our DA2P vaccine boosts suppression of this virus

CANINE ADENOVIRUS (INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS)

- Contagious virus that affects the liver, kidneys, respiratory system, and eyes
- Adenovirus is spread through secretions (saliva, urine, feces) of affected dogs and can be shed by an infected dog for up to six months
- Signs of disease range from thirst and fever to bleeding and respiratory disease
- Severity of disease can range from mild to fatal
- Our DA2P vaccine provides immunity against this virus

PARVOVIRUS

- A very contagious virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract and occasionally the heart muscles
- Transmitted by contact with other affected animals or their feces, parvovirus can live in the environment for months
- Young and elderly dogs most commonly affected
- Parvovirus can be fatal and is resistant to many disinfectants
- Our DA2P vaccine provides immunity against this virus

RABIES VIRUS

- Incurable central nervous system disease that can infect ALL mammals
- Transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal
- Signs include any sudden, significant changes in behavior or unexplained paralysis
- Fatal prognosis
- Vaccination is required by law

LEPTOSPIROSIS

- A bacterial infection that most commonly affects the kidneys and liver, most commonly
- Transmission occurs through contact with an infected animal's urine (ie. outdoor water source)
- Nonspecific early signs include fever, lethargy, and loss of appetite
- Treatment includes antibiotics and aggressive fluid therapy
- Our leptospirosis vaccine provides immunity for the four most common strains of this bacteria

BORRELIA BURGDORFERI (LYME DISEASE)

- A bacterial infection acquired by a bite from an infected tick, most common in the northeast United States
- This bacterial infection commonly affects the kidneys, joints, and other tissues
- Treatment is antibiotics, though low-grade infection is thought to persist indeterminately
- Our Lyme disease vaccination, along with monthly tick prevention, provides protection against this bacterial infection

BORDATELLA BRONCHISEPTICA (KENNEL COUGH)

- The most common bacteria contributing to canine infectious tracheobronchitis, an upper respiratory infection accompanied by a persistent, dry, harsh cough
- Highly contagious, spread through airborne droplets from infected dogs
- Infection is usually self-limiting over a course of 2 weeks but can lead to bronchopneumonia
- Recommended for dogs who are boarded, groomed regularly, attend obedience classes, or frequent dog parks or dog shows



CANINE VACCINE SCHEDULE

CORE VACCINES

- These diseases involved have significant morbidity/mortality rates and are widely distributed throughout the population
- Vaccination results in relatively good protection from diseases

DISTEMPER/PARVO

UNDER THE AGE OF 16 WEEKS

- Between the ages of 6 weeks and 16 weeks of age the puppy will receive a vaccine every 3 weeks
- Puppies presented at the age of 16 weeks should receive two vaccines three weeks apart
- Puppies that are in a high-risk environment should have their final vaccine between the ages of 18 and 20 weeks
- High-risk environments include
- High occurrence of distemper and parvo positive cases in the population
- Puppies with significant exposure to other dogs or contaminated environments

16 TO 20-WEEKS OLD

- Two vaccines three weeks apart

OVER THE AGE OF 20 WEEKS

- One vaccine

BOOSTERS

- All dogs will need a booster in one year
- This vaccine will provide 3 years of protection

RABIES

- One vaccine for all puppies no earlier than 12-weeks old

BOOSTERS

- A second dose is required within a year of the initial vaccine
- When this vaccine is given before the previous vaccination date it will be good for three years
- In order for each following vaccine to be continued at three year intervals it must be boosted before the previous vaccine date

KENNEL COUGH

- As early as 3 weeks of age all dogs should receive one intranasal vaccine
- Booster annually

NON-CORE VACCINES

- Optional vaccines that should be considered in light of the exposure risk and the lifestyle of the pet

LEPTOSPIROSIS

- As early as eight weeks old all dogs can receive two vaccines three weeks apart
- Booster annually

LYME

- As early as eight weeks old all dogs can receive two vaccines three weeks apart
- Booster annually

CANINE FLU

- As early as six weeks all dogs can receive two vaccines three weeks apart
- This vaccine should be started 4-6 weeks before needed to allow immune response
- Booster annually



POST-VACCINATION INFORMATION

When foreign invaders such as bacteria or viruses enter the body, immune cells called lymphocytes respond by producing protein molecules called, antibodies.

These antibodies' jobs are to eliminate the germs and to protect from future infections. They remain in your bloodstream, and if the same germs ever try to infect your pet again, the antibodies will come to your defense. This is immunity.

Vaccines prepare the immune system to fight disease without exposing it to disease symptoms. Vaccines are made from the same germs that cause the disease; for example, rabies vaccine is made from the rabies virus. The germs in vaccines are either killed or weakened so they will not make you sick.

Vaccines containing these weakened or killed germs are introduced into your pet's system. The immune system reacts to the vaccine in a similar way that it would if it were being invaded by the disease germs, by making antibodies. The antibodies destroy the vaccine germs just as they would the disease germs.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

- Usually starts within hours of the vaccination
- Usually last for a day or two
- Discomfort and local swelling at the vaccination site
- Mild fever
- Decreased appetite and activity
- Sneezing
- Mild coughing
- Runny nose
- Other respiratory signs may occur 2-5 days after an intranasal vaccine

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS

- May occur within minutes to hours after vaccination
- These reactions can be life-threatening and are medical emergencies

SEEK VETERINARY CARE IMMEDIATELY IF ANY OF THESE SIGNS DEVELOP

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Itchy skin with hives
- Swelling of the
- Eyes
- Face
- Neck
- Muzzle
- Pale gums
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Collapse

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Never hesitate to call our office if any side effects listed are noted BUT

- Call our office IMMEDIATELY if any serious side effects are noted: **401-943-0500**
- If our office is closed, please call Ocean State Veterinary Specialists: **401-886-6787 (24 hours)**



PARASITES: RISK AND PREVENTION

Here is a brief listing of some of the parasites and diseases that can affect you and your family, and how they can be prevented.

INTESTINAL PARASITES:

- Dogs and cats are frequently exposed to intestinal parasite eggs and must be on either a monthly preventative or a routine deworming schedule
 - Going outside
 - Sniffing/eating dirt
 - Licking paws

INTESTINAL PARASITES CAUSE:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dull coat and skin
- Failure to thrive

This category of parasites includes:

- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Whipworms
- Coccidia
- Giardia

Roundworms and hookworms are a public health concern, because they can cause serious diseases in children, including permanent blindness. Decreasing the population of roundworms and hookworms in our pets will also decrease the parasite population in the environment.

HEARTWORM DISEASE:

- Heartworms are tiny worm-like parasites that are transmitted by mosquitoes, travel through the bloodstream, and lodge themselves in the heart and lungs
- They cause clinical signs in dogs that include coughing, lethargy, breathing problems, and heart failure
- Symptoms in the cat can be very vague and may include vomiting, coughing or even sudden death
- Surprisingly, about 25% of the cats that are diagnosed with heartworm are indoor only!
- There are two ways of preventing heartworm disease in dogs and cats.
- One is to give them a monthly heartworm preventative by mouth.
- The other is to apply a topical liquid to their skin once a month.

FLEAS:

- Fleas are often found on dogs and cats, even if they are indoors the majority of the day
- Fleas are brought in by a friend's dog, a person's shoes or even left on the doormat by a stray cat in the neighborhood
- Once in your house, fleas must be effectively treated on all of your pets and in the environment, prevention is often easier and more economical than treatment
- One effective preventative measure is to use a routine flea-control treatment
- *** Never use a dog flea preventative on a cat. Toxicity occurs very quickly, and can cause seizures and death. We strongly recommend discussing any other flea prevention options with us before use ***

TICKS:

- Ticks are a common problem here in New England.
- They are known to carry and transmit lyme disease, anaplasma, ehrlichia and other diseases.
- Annual blood tests can detect exposure to some of these parasites, but prevention of tick bites is key.
- Ticks pose a potential health risk to you, if they are being carried into your house by your dog or cat.
- One effective preventative measure is to use a routine tick-control treatment



ZOONOTIC DISEASES OF DOGS

Diseases transmitted from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases usually live out their complex life cycles in animals, but sometimes cross into human bodies. Zoonosis may be bacterial, viral, or parasitic. Humans are not likely to catch a disease through their pets, but in very rare cases it can happen. Fortunately, most of these diseases are mild and can be easily treated. Others, like toxoplasmosis, can be far more serious.

Pet-owning households with young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems need to be aware that their animals can play host to disease-causing microorganisms. Usually contracting a pet-borne disease requires very close contact with animals or their excretions, so zoonotic diseases can be avoided with cleanliness, regular pet examinations and vaccinations.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON PET-BORNE ILLNESSES THAT CAN MAKE PEOPLE SICK

RABIES

- This is perhaps the most serious of all zoonotic diseases
- Rabies vaccination of dogs and cats is required by state and federal laws
- Rabies is endemic to the United States and is still an active problem in Rhode Island
- Two of the most common species to carry rabies on the East Coast are raccoons and bats
- Feral cats are becoming a particularly notable problem in Rhode Island
- It is transmitted by the saliva of a rabid animal, usually through a bite
- Indoor cats also need to be vaccinated for rabies
 - If a bat came into your house, your cat would be the first one to go after it
- Any dog or cat that is not up-to-date on rabies vaccinations and is bitten by a suspected rabid animal will need to go through quarantine
- Any dog or cat that is not up-to-date on rabies vaccination and bites a person or other animal may need to be euthanized and tested for rabies

LEPTOSPIROSIS

- This is a bacterial infection that can affect both the liver and kidneys
- It is shed in the urine of many mammals including
 - Dogs
 - Rats
 - Raccoons
 - Opossums
 - Deer
 - Cattle

INTESTINAL PARASITES:

- Intestinal parasites can cause serious, sometimes life-threatening illness in people, especially children
 - Children often put their hands in their mouths, providing an easy route for germs/parasite eggs to travel into their bodies
- It is our responsibility to decrease the intestinal parasite population by regularly deworming our pets
- Please see our, Parasite: Risk and Prevention hand-out for more information



SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PET

We know that your pet is companion, a friend, and in a real sense a member of your family. In order to reduce the number of animals ending up in shelters or being euthanized, we recommend all cats and dogs be spayed or neutered.

FEMALE DOGS AND CATS ARE MATURE ENOUGH TO REPRODUCE STARTING AT THE AGE OF SIX TO NINE MONTHS

DOGS

- Go through an estrus (heat cycle) every six months
- This is accompanied by a bleeding cycle (proestrus) prior to the true heat cycle in which she is very receptive to the advances of males
- This heat cycle may last from several days to four weeks
- Often female dogs will experience some personality changes during heat cycles
- Short-tempered
- Anxious

CATS

- Go through heat every three to four weeks during certain times of the year
- Many female cats will become nervous during these heat cycles and exhibit unusual behaviors such as rolling on the floor, furtively hiding, or wanting constant attention.
- Female cats often become quite vocal, too, meowing plaintively throughout their cycle.

Surgical neutering (spay or ovariectomy) of female dogs and cats, completely eliminates all heat cycles and the accompanying unwanted bleeding cycle, nervousness, and desire to mate. Neutering your female dog or cat will also protect your pet from uterine infections and other diseases as well as difficult or dangerous pregnancies. Studies show that by neutering your female dog before her first heat cycle, you can greatly reduce her chances of developing mammary cancer later in life. The surgery involves the removal of the ovaries and uterus.

Most male dogs and cats are ready and willing to reproduce by the time they are six to 12 months of age. They are able to breed consistently throughout the year. Both male dogs and cats are prone to wander in search of romance and find themselves exposed to dog/cat fights. In addition, male cats are well-known to mark their territories by spraying odorous urine on furniture, walls, shrubs, etc. Male dogs are sometimes equally anxious to mark their territories.

Surgical neutering (castration or orchiectomy) of male dogs and cats, eliminates any reproductive behavior and reduces urine odor and the desire to spray. Your male dog or cat will continue to have his own unique personality. He will be less likely to roam and enjoy staying at home more. The surgery removes the testicles.

Deciding when the best time to neuter your pet is a decision you should discuss with your veterinarian. We typically recommend neutering between 4 and 6 months of age or about 2 weeks after the last of the puppy vaccinations.

Both male and female dogs and cats are mature enough to reproduce starting at the age of six to nine months. Therefore, we recommend neutering between 4 and 6 months of age.



ACCEPTABLE ORAL HEALTH CHEWS AND TOYS



Look for this sign of approval on all oral care products

Please visit VOHC.ORG for more information

Oaklawn Animal Hospital will not be held responsible.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

All toys and chews should always be given with supervision.

Any toy or chew can potentially become a choking or obstruction hazard



RAWHIDE STICKS



BULLY STICKS



PIG EARS



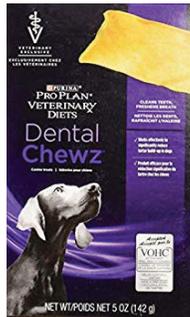
RAWHIDE CHEWS



SWIZZLES



ALL VARIETIES OF THE
CET LINE



PURINA DENTAL CHEWZ



GREENIES



RUBBER BALLS



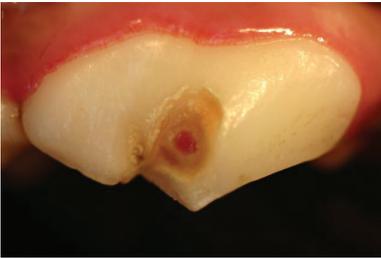
KONG TOYS



AVOID THESE CHEWS/TOYS/FOODS

Any object that cannot be bent or indented with a fingernail is too hard for our pets to chew

EXAMPLES



FRACTURED



CAVITY



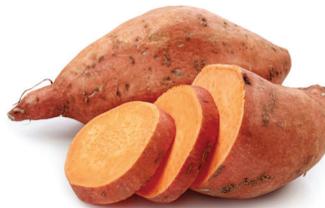
WORN



**TENNIS BALLS
WORN TEETH**



**BANANAS
CAVITIES**



**SWEET POTATOES
CAVITIES**



**KNUCKLE BONE
FRACTURES TEETH**



**BONE MARROW BONES
FRACTURES TEETH**



**REAL BONES
FRACTURES TEETH**



**ANTLERS
FRACTURES TEETH**



**COW HOOVES
FRACTURES TEETH**



**NYLABONES
FRACTURES TEETH**



**HIMALAYAN CHEWS
FRACTURES TEETH**



**ROCKS
FRACTURES TEETH**



**ICE CUBES
FRACTURES TEETH**



BRUSHING YOUR PET'S TEETH

The baby teeth of puppies erupt as early as two weeks. Adult teeth replace these baby teeth by 6 months of age. Once the adult teeth erupt, they should be brushed daily and this is much easier if your pet is already used to having its mouth and teeth handled.

The best time to brush your pet's teeth is when you are both relaxed. Tooth brushing should be introduced slowly, and may even take several days to weeks for you and your pet to adjust. If your pet resists the brushing or shows any other signs of aggression during tooth brushing, stop immediately. Try the brushing process again tomorrow. Please call us for any other pointers we may have.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS IN ORDER, MOVING ON AS YOUR PET ACCEPTS EACH STEP.



1. Gently position your pet in a corner (of a sofa, chair or room) so that he/she will be secure, comfortable and more easily handled. Carefully lift the lips to expose his/her teeth



2. Rub your finger over your pet's teeth and gums for about 15 seconds to get your pet used to having something in his/her mouth. It might be necessary to do this a couple of times before the next step.



3. Put a small amount of pet toothpaste on your finger, and allow the pet to taste it. Only use a pet toothpaste.



4. Place a small amount of pet toothpaste on a finger, brush or piece of gauze over the index finger. Gently rub the brush on the outside of your pet's teeth and gums. Repeat this process for the next few brushing sessions. As soon as your pet begins to accept this, transition to a regular dog or cat toothbrush.

5. Apply a small amount of pet toothpaste to a bristle toothbrush specially designed for pets. Place the brush bristles at a 45-degree angle to the gum line. Move the brush gently in circular patterns over your pet's teeth. Start by brushing a few teeth. As brushing sessions continue, slowly include more teeth. Build up to about 30 seconds on each side of the dog's mouth. Remember to brush both upper and lower teeth.

BRUSHING YOUR PET'S TEETH IS THE GOLD STANDARD IN PREVENTING DENTAL DISEASE.



TRIMMING YOUR DOG'S NAILS

Trimming your dog's nails is not just a part of grooming; it's important for your pet's health as well. Untrimmed nails can cause a variety of problems including broken nails, which are painful and can bleed profusely.

While some dogs don't seem to mind when you're trimming their nails, others just plain don't like it. Make trimming time fun and not a struggle. The earlier you start clipping your puppy's nails, the better they will tolerate it in the future. Frequent happy trims when your dog is young will help diminish any fear. If your pet is older and is not used to having their nails trimmed, start slowly and work up to it gradually.

FOLLOWING THESE SUGGESTIONS FOR A PROPER NAIL TRIM MIGHT HELP YOU GIVE YOUR DOG A MORE PLEASANT PEDICURE

LEARN THE ANATOMY

- Within the center of each nail is the blood and nerve supply for the nail called the "quick"
 - This quick will recede if the nails are trimmed regularly
- In white nails the quick is the pinkish area in the middle of the nail
- In black nails the quick is unable to be visualized

THE PROPER INSTRUMENTS

- Nail trimmers that are designed for dogs
 - There are a variety of nail trimmers available pet stores
- Styptic powder
 - Stops bleeding if the quick is cut
- Treats
 - Helps to make the process a happy one
- An extra person
 - Helps distract and offer treats



PROCEDURES

- **CLIPPERS**
 - Determine how much needs to be trimmed
 - The nail should be even with the paw pad
 - Trim nails so that when the animal steps down, nails do not touch the floor
 - Don't forget to trim the dewclaw as well
- **WHITE NAILS**
 - Find the quick and trim to within a few millimeters from it
 - Cut the nail below the quick on a 45-degree angle





- **BLACK NAILS**
 - Make several small nips with the clippers instead of one larger one
- OR
 - Trim very thin slices off the end of the nail until you see a black dot appear towards the center when you look at it head on
 - This is the start of the quick that you want to avoid
- **NAIL GRINDER**
 - Basically a “dremel” tool that grinds your dogs nail to its desired length
 - The amount you take off the nail is similar to the above
- Cutting into the quick will cause the nail to bleed a small amount
 - Applying styptic power/flour/cornstarch to the quick will stop the bleeding
 - Applying a light bandage for about 15 minutes will stop the bleeding
 - If the bleeding continues, give us a call





QUESTIONS FOR CHOOSING AN INSURANCE PROVIDER

ABOUT THE COMPANY

- How long has the company been in operation?
- Is the coverage provided where I live?
- Is the coverage provided if I travel with my pet?
- Can we utilize any veterinarian hospital?
- Do you offer multi-pet discounts?
- What are your customer service hours?

ABOUT THE POLICIES

- What are the coverage plan options?
- What are the deductible options?
- How much will my premium increase each year?
- Is it possible to lock in the premium rates so that it doesn't increase?
- Will there be a penalty if I change my plan or deductible?
- Is preapproval of medical services ever required?
- What are the policy limits?
- Is there an annual or lifetime limit for a particular medical problem?
- Will I be able to find out the amount of insurance reimbursement before authorizing my veterinarian to proceed with recommended tests and treatments?
- Is the reimbursement amount for a particular service always the same or does it vary based on the veterinarian's fee?
- Can my pet be dropped from coverage? If so what are the criteria for doing so?

ABOUT CLAIMS

- What is the process for filing a claim?
- How are claims handled when there is no diagnosis either because tests were not performed or the results are inconclusive?
- How long does it take to receive payment on a claim?
- How are claim disputes handled?
- What is the specific formula for calculating reimbursement claims?
- Is there a benefits schedule or is it based on a percentage of the cost?
- Is there a maximum amount paid per medical event?
- Is there a maximum amount of reimbursement per calendar year?
- Is there a maximum amount of reimbursement per disease?

WHAT'S INCLUDED AND WHAT'S NOT

- May I see the list of diseases excluded from coverage?
- May I see the list of breed-specific diseases excluded from coverage?
- How much time must pass before a pre-existing condition is finally covered?
- Are complementary and alternative medicine services covered?
- Homeopathy
- Acupuncture
- Acupressure
- Massage therapy
- Chinese herb therapy
- Chiropractic
- Are services associated with breeding, pregnancy, cesarean sections and newborn care covered?
- Are consultations with specialists covered?
- Are second and third opinions covered?
- Is after-hours emergency care covered?
- Are costs associated with treating behavioral issues covered?
- Are costs associated with wellness care and preventative care covered?
- Vaccinations
- Heartworm testing and prevention
- Spaying/ Neutering
- Oral care procedures
- Geriatrics screening
- Tick and Flea prevention
- Microchip implantation
- Deworming