

Puppy Vaccine Recommendations

All dogs should be vaccinated; even if you are adopting a dog that you believe has had vaccines, play it safe and vaccinate again. If you are provided with medical records, be sure to present them to the receptionist when you arrive for your appointment. Booster vaccinations will be given 3 to 4 weeks until the puppy is at least 5 months old; vaccination of adult dogs will be discussed with your veterinarian during their annual physical exam.

Distemper

A contagious, viral disease, Distemper affects the respiratory and nervous system of dogs. Distemper does not cause “bad temper”; it is a serious illness that is almost always fatal.

Hepatitis

A viral infectious disease, Hepatitis affects the liver and eyes and can also lead to reproductive problems. It is not contagious to humans.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infectious disease that causes severe liver and kidney damage; it is transmissible to humans.

Parainfluenza

A highly contagious viral respiratory disease, it may spread quickly from dog to dog.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus is one of the most serious contagious diseases for puppies; it causes severe vomiting and diarrhea, while suppressing the immune system and may be fatal. After the initial vaccination series, a blood test can be done to ensure adequate protection. Rottweilers, Doberman pinschers and Pitbulls seem to be more susceptible than other breeds.

Rabies

Rabies is a serious public health risk because the virus is carried by mammals including raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, dogs and cats and can be transmitted to humans. The virus is spread through wounds, via the saliva of a rabid animal, and causes symptoms such as: overly vicious or timid behavior, lack of coordination and difficulty swallowing. Once these symptoms appear, the disease is fatal. While there is an effective post-exposure treatment for humans, there is none for animals.

An unvaccinated animal that is exposed to rabies must be euthanized or quarantined for six months under strict guidelines. A vaccinated dog is well protected from contracting rabies but should be quarantined for a brief time if exposed. Rabies is a vaccine required by law. Puppies should have their first rabies vaccine at 3 to 4 months of age, with boosters 9 to 12 months later and then every year or 3 years as required by law. Consult your veterinarian for the requirements in your state.

Bordetella

Bordetella is one of the bacterial causes of “Kennel Cough”. If your pet boards frequently, or visits the groomer, dog park or any other environment with a multitude of dogs, they should be vaccinated. Most grooming and boarding facilities require this vaccine.

Canine Influenza

Canine Influenza is a respiratory virus that is spread in high populations (kennels, groomer, dog park, veterinary hospital, ect) of dogs to and from each other. Consult your boarding facility, groomer or veterinarian if this vaccine is required for your pet to stay with them. Canine Influenza only affects dogs.

PARASITE CONTROL

Fleas, ticks, heartworms and intestinal worms are the primary parasites we as pet owners battle over with our pets. They drive your pet crazy and pose a health risk to other pets and people.

Intestinal Parasites

Dogs are victims of a variety of intestinal worms such as: coccidia, roundworms, hookworms, giardia, and tapeworms. Each can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and anemia. A simple fecal exam can rule out intestinal parasite infection.

Fleas

Fleas are a common enemy of cats, dogs, and people. Not only are the bites bothersome, but animals may be allergic to the fleas; even a small infestation can lead to severe dermatitis. Putting your pet on a flea prevention, or better yet a heartworm/flea/intestinal parasite protection product is beneficial.

Ticks

Ticks are usually found in thick wooded areas and will latch on to an animal when in need of a blood meal. Ticks are sources of a variety of illnesses, so it is imperative that you routinely check your pet for ticks if they spend a lot of time outdoors or like to romp in the wooded areas.

Heartworms

Heartworms pose a huge threat to all dogs. It is important to keep your pet, whether he is indoor mostly or outdoor, on heartworm prevention. Dogs can not give each other heartworms directly; a mosquito bites an infected dog, the heartworm larvae (microfilaria) mature and when that mosquito bites a different dog, the microfilaria are transmitted through the bite wound. They enter the blood stream and eventually travel to the heart where they remain as adults. Left untreated, heartworm disease will lead to respiratory complications, heart disease, liver and kidney failure and even death. The most effective means of keeping your pet protected is keeping him on heartworm prevention.

Intestinal parasites can be prevented by putting your pet on a heartworm prevention plan, as discussed with a veterinarian. By putting your pet on heartworm prevention, not only are they protected against heartworm disease, they are also prevented from being infected with the many types of intestinal worms. Some heartworm preventions do not include flea control, so ask your veterinarian which product is right for you. There are other products that are primarily flea preventions and flea/tick combination prevention products.

Heartworm and Flea Preventatives at Dutch Fork Animal Hospital

Dogs have been diagnosed with heartworm disease in all 50 states. Heartworms are spread from infected other dogs to your pet by mosquitoes. Nearly 250,000 dogs are reported as testing positive each year.

Intestinal parasites are also a concern for pet owners as many can infect people. Heartworm preventatives include medication to prevent infection of the most significant intestinal parasites. Roundworms (the most common internal parasite of domestic animals-90% of puppies under 3 months of age) and hookworms (20% of dogs) can be dangerous for both our pets and our families. Whipworms can be devastating as well due to the severity of illness and ability for whipworm eggs to last in the environment for very long periods of time.

With such staggering figures, we at Dutch Fork Animal Hospital and The American Heartworm Society and Companion Animal Parasite Council recommend year round administration of heartworm preventative products.

It is our goal to offer the best preventatives available to our patients.

At Dutch Fork Animal Hospital our primary recommendation is:

Canine: Simparica Trio

Simparica Trio provides the best heartworm, flea, and tick prevention and is labeled to treat roundworms, hookworms and whipworms as well.

*For clients with a major infestation of adult fleas we recommend temporarily using an adulticide such as Capstar in addition to your monthly prevention.

*For patients that will not eat an oral preventative we will continue to carry Canine Advantage Multi. Care must be taken for those patients that swim or are frequently bathed.

*Once your puppy is old enough, we also offer an injectable heartworm prevention, ProHeart. This can be used in conjunction with Bravecto, which is a 3 month flea and tick preventative.

*And for those patients who are heartworm positive or recovering from recent heartworm infection treatment we carry TriHeart. This is a generic version of Heartgard that offers the same protection at a significantly reduced cost.

If you have ANY questions please feel free to discuss these products with our staff and doctors.

TRAINING YOUR PET

Even the youngest new puppy can learn to “sit”, “lie down”, “stay”, and “come” when asked. But looking at your innocent new puppy, it’s hard to imagine that training would be necessary at all. Of course, it always is. During training, we should view our pets as companions who both understand and respond to us. Training should be considered as a means of teaching pets good manners so that, as our puppies mature into adult dogs, they’ll be welcome both in our homes and outdoors in public. For practical purposes, training should be initiated as early as possible

Reward System

Puppies learn best when they receive exciting rewards for their efforts. Even the youngest and tiniest puppy will be enthusiastic about food treats and will be eager to work with you. Experiment to find your pet’s favorite rewards, whether it’s food, a tossed toy or a warm word of praise. Only positive, gentle methods should be used – punishment is likely to harm your pet’s confidence and has no place in good training. Puppies, like children and even adults, learn best when they enjoy the learning process and receive something in return. In the home or in the park, differences are usually very obvious between reward-trained dogs and those trained by force.

Command System

Training should utilize word cues – “commands” – that will be of practical use to you as your pup’s human companion. The most helpful tools are “sit”, “lay down”, “stay”, and “come”. It’s also important to teach your pet to walk on a leash without tugging. If you have intentions of enrolling your pet in obedience competition, you will need to train a formal “heel” but this can wait until your pet is older. For future obedience competition candidates, enrolling your pup in puppy training class is highly advisable.

Lure System

The most effective teaching method, using “sit” as an example, is to allow your pet to engage in the behavior on her own rather than pushing her into position. Small bits of food (even your pet’s regular kibble) can be used as a “lure” after offering a few “free” pieces first. With food in hand, present your hand to the puppy’s nose and then slowly raise it toward the top of her head, so that her mouth and head are directed upward. In most cases, when the nose points up, the tail end goes down and your pet’s sitting! The food should then be immediately be relinquished and the exercise repeated.

Lures can be used effectively to train “down” by having your pet sit facing you, then drawing the lure from her nose to the floor and then back toward you. When your pet’s sitting or lying down reliably each time you offer the lure, you can introduce the words – sit or down—along with the lure.

Finally, when she’s responding like a pro, the rewards should be cut back and given only every other time, then every third time, and finally, only randomly.

Obedience Classes

Lures, rewards, timing and other aspects of positive training are best demonstrated, and then guided by experienced trainers. If you have resources in your city or town, consider enrolling your young (and vaccinated) puppy in a “kindergarten” training class designed specifically for the young pet. Puppy kindergartens usually include basic, reward based training, along with plenty of playtime and discussions about care and behavior. Obedience centers also offer puppy or pre-novice training sessions designed to teach on a slightly more serious level. Many dog owners will proceed from one level to the next – first with a puppy, then with an adolescent and later with their young adult dog—who by now is proficient at basic obedience commands. Training should be fun for you and your pet .

A lifetime of good manners can start with training the youngest of puppies. If she's old enough to be away from her mother and littermates, she's old enough to learn simple commands. The result isn't just a well behaved and welcome canine companion but one whose quality of life is enhanced in the long run. She'll be more likely to accompany you on trips, on visits to friends' houses and, because she'll have learned to come when called, she'll be ready for that great day when she first runs free on a sandy beach.

HOW TO TEACH YOUR PET TO WALK ON A LEASH

Pulling is not a good thing

All dogs – whether they trot along Manhattan's Upper East Side or run free in the countryside—should know how to walk on a leash.

There are several ways to train a puppy to walk without pulling, but the common denominator is simple: Appropriate behavior is rewarded while inappropriate behavior isn't. In this case, walking without tugging is appropriate and pulling on the lead isn't. The reward for walking properly is praise and the walk itself. The "punishment" for pulling, is to stop in your tracks and don't resume walking until the lead slacks. Then, praise and walk on. If he persists, you should tell him "no" but not making a fuss. Most young puppies resist leashes by rolling, scratching and collapsing. But don't give up. Don't pick up your pup and carry him, and don't let him just stroll along beside you without the leash. If you do, you'll soon have an uncontrollable dog.

Stepping out

Buy a lightweight, flat nylon or leather buckle-style collar and a four or six-foot lead of the same material (chain leashes are generally a bad idea because of their weight).

Put the collar on the puppy, praising for any sign of acceptance and ignoring efforts to get out of it. Attach the lead and allow the puppy to drag it along, discourage him if he starts to chew on it. Finally, pick up your end of the lead and allow your pet to explore.

Training collars are better for teaching older puppies and adult dogs. The most efficient and humane passive training device is the head collar or head halter. In contrast, "choke chains" are intended to constrict around the dog's neck when tightened. Choke-type collars are frequently misused and work on the punishment principle. Most of the time, dogs learn to live with the uncomfortable collar and the owner ends up with a dog that will continue to tug, choke and drag them around. They should never be used on puppies or dogs with tracheal or other neck problems.

CRATE TRAINING YOUR PET

Crates can be a "safe place" for puppies

Crates are often looked at as "prison cells" because they are made of open wire, fiberglass, or plastic. Despite their appearance, crates can be a home-away-from-home or a comfortable retreat. Crates are great tools with house training. For car travel, inside a crate is probably the safest place for a puppy to ride and for pups to have to fly cargo, crates provide a touch of the familiar while on the plane.

Making pups comfortable with the crate

Don't isolate your pup while he's in his crate. Buy two crates – one for the bedroom and the other for the living room. Line it with a soft blanket, put in some small treats and show the puppy how to get in. Once your pet is accommodated with going in and out of his crate, you can add a cue word such as "kennel" as he moves toward the crate and give him a treat as soon as he enters. Repeat this several times at different intervals until he goes in when he's told to. At this point, you can shut the door for short periods. Ignore your pup while opening or shutting the door. Once your pup is satisfied, make the length of time he is in the crate longer and at different times of the day, while you are home. The more random and persistent you are, the less likely the dog is to worry that you have to leave him.

Learning to love the lockup

Don't call him and then lock him up, instead use a command like "go to your crate". Lure him in with a little food and hand it over as soon as he enters. The minute he ventures out, cut off the praise and the treats. Put a few pieces of kibble in the crate to entice him so he will develop a habit of going in by himself and praise him each time. Do not use the crate as "time out" for misbehaving; using a crate this way will render it aversive and therefore less useful as a behavioral management tool.

The crate and house-training

To confine an untrained dog in a crate is asking for disaster because he will be forced to soil in his crate, and it will no longer be useful to hinder any accidents. Start by teaching him to eliminate in one place outdoors. During the training period, set limits. Don't allow them to rule the roost. Most puppies can't control their urine and feces for extended periods and the most important part of house-breaking is setting up and sticking with a schedule. Feed him at a consistent time and watch his natural schedule. Puppies usually need to eliminate shortly after waking up, eating, and playing. Young puppies may need to urinate every two to four hours.

When your pup eliminates in a designated area, praise him immediately. Do not wait until you are back indoors; you are praising him for coming in side, not eliminating outdoors. If your pup is repeatedly messing in his crate, talk to your veterinarian to rule out intestinal parasites and urinary-tract diseases. If you need to be away from home for a few hours, hire a pet-sitter to take the puppy out or enclose your pup in a large pen to provide him with an opportunity to eliminate away from his resting spot.

Punishment after the fact doesn't work; if an accident happens, clean it up with a good enzymatic cleaner and blame yourself: you're the one who wasn't supervising the pup at the time of the "accident". If you catch him in the act, make a loud noise to distract him and immediately take him outside. Dogs with separation anxiety will often urinate, defecate, or bark when confined. In fact, some dogs become so anxious when confined that they destroy their crates and hurt themselves; these dogs do better when confined in a larger area, but if the problem persists, consult your veterinarian. A comfortable crate should be twice the size of your pup.

HOW TO HOUSE-TRAIN YOUR PET

With patience, it's possible

By using a puppy crate or confined area, you can successfully train your pet to go outdoors. It is often the first hurdle encountered; however a general rule of thumb is that a pup will not soil in a place he sleeps or eats.

How long can she "hold it"?

Even young puppies can be expected to hold it for at least a short period of time. As a general rule, they can hold it for as many hours as months they are old. Because pups sleep most of the time, they usually stay dry during the night. If you need to leave her for extended periods of time, opt to get a pet-sitter or confining the

puppy to a laundry room/bathroom instead of a crate. To ease clean-up or train your pup to soil on a specific spot, place newspaper over the spots previously soiled on. Paper-training can be avoided all together if you routinely take him outside.

Your time—your responsibility

The best situation is to be at home with your pet most of the time; he should be taken out every few hours but if you take him too often, they may become confused about the purpose behind the visits. Once they urinate or defecate outdoors, reward them. If they don't want to go, take them back inside (on a leash) and wait a few more minutes and try again.

Punishing your pet isn't necessary; simply make a loud noise to distract him and take him outside. Reward for appropriate behavior and you can introduce a cue once your pet is eliminating reliably.

NIPPING AND MOUTHING

Puppies spend a great deal of time playing, chewing and investigating objects. All of these normal activities involve puppies using their mouths and their needle-sharp teeth. When puppies play with people, they often bite, chew and mouth on people's hands, limbs and clothing. This kind of behavior may seem cute when your pet is seven weeks old, but it's not nearly so endearing when he's three or four months old—and getting bigger by the day!

What to Do About Puppy Mouthing

It's important to help your pet learn to curb his mouthy behavior. There are various ways, some better than others, to teach this lesson. The ultimate goal is to train your pet to stop mouthing and biting people altogether. However, the first and most important objective is to teach him that people have very sensitive skin, so he must be very gentle when using his mouth.

Bite Inhibition: Teach your pet to Be Gentle

Bite inhibition refers to a dog's ability to control the force of his mouthing. A puppy or dog who hasn't learned bite inhibition with people doesn't recognize the sensitivity of human skin, and so he bites too hard, even in play. Some behaviorists and trainers believe that a dog who has learned to use his mouth gently when interacting with people will be less likely to bite hard and break skin if he ever bites someone in a situation apart from play—like when he's afraid or in pain.

Puppies usually learn bite inhibition during play with other puppies. If you watch a group of puppies playing, you'll see plenty of chasing, pouncing and wrestling. Puppies also bite each other all over. Every now and then, a pup will bite his playmate too hard. The victim of the painful bite yelps and usually stops playing. The offender is often taken aback by the yelp and also stops playing for a moment. However, pretty soon, both playmates are back in the game. Through this kind of interaction, puppies learn to control the intensity of their bites so that no one gets hurt and the play can continue without interruption. If puppies can learn how to be gentle from each other, they can also learn the same lesson from people.

What to Do Next: Teach Your Puppy That Teeth Don't Belong on Human Skin

Substitute a toy or chew bone when your puppy tries to gnaw on fingers or toes.

Puppies often mouth on people's hands when stroked, patted and scratched (unless they're sleepy or distracted). If your puppy gets all riled up when you pet him, distract him by feeding him small treats from your other hand. This will help your puppy get used to being touched without mouthing.

Encourage non-contact forms of play, such as fetch and tug-of-war, rather than wrestling and rough play with your hands.

If your puppy bites at your feet and ankles, carry his favorite tug toy in your pocket. Whenever he ambushes you, instantly stop moving your feet. Take out the tug toy and wave it enticingly. When your puppy grabs the

toy, start moving again. If you don't happen to have the toy available, just freeze and wait for your puppy to stop mouthing you. The second he stops, praise and get a toy to reward him. Repeat these steps until your puppy gets used to watching you move around without going after your feet or ankles.

Provide plenty of interesting and new toys so that your puppy will play with them instead of gnawing on you or your clothing.

Provide plenty of opportunities for your puppy to play with other puppies and with friendly, vaccinated adult dogs. Playing and socializing with dog buddies is important for your puppy's development—and if he expends a lot of his energy playing with other puppies, he'll feel less motivated to play roughly with you. Consider enrolling your puppy in a good puppy class, where he can have supervised playtime with other puppies and learn some important new skills! Please see our article, [Finding Professional Help](#), to locate a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT) in your area who offers puppy classes.

Use a time-out procedure, just like the one described above—but change the rules a little. Instead of giving your puppy time-outs for hard biting, start to give him time-outs every time you feel his teeth touch your skin. The instant you feel your puppy's teeth touch you, give a high-pitched yelp. Then immediately walk away from him. Ignore him for 30 to 60 seconds. If your puppy follows you or continues to bite and nip at you, leave the room for 30 to 60 seconds. (Be sure that the room is "puppy-proofed" before you leave your puppy alone in it. Don't leave him in an area with things he might destroy or things that might hurt him.) After the brief time-out, return to the room and calmly resume whatever you were doing with your puppy.

Alternatively, you can keep a leash attached to your puppy during time-out training and let it drag on the floor when you're there to supervise him. Then, instead of leaving the room when your puppy mouths you, you can take hold of his leash and lead him to a quiet area, tether him, and turn your back to him for the brief time-out. Then untie him and resume whatever you were doing.

If a time-out isn't viable or effective, consider using a taste deterrent, such as Grannick's Bitter Apple®. Spray areas of your body and clothing that your puppy likes to mouth before you start interacting with him. If he mouths you or your clothing, stop moving and wait for him to react to the bad taste of the deterrent. Praise him lavishly when he lets go of you. Apply the bad taste to your body and clothes for at least two weeks. After two weeks of being punished by the bitter taste every time he mouths you, your puppy will likely learn to inhibit his mouthy behavior.

Be patient and understanding. Playful mouthing is normal behavior for a puppy or young dog.

Because mouthing issues can be challenging to work with, don't hesitate to enlist the help of a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT). A CPDT will offer group or private classes that can give you and your dog lots of assistance with mouthing.

General Precautions

Avoid waving your fingers or toes in your puppy's face or slapping the sides of his face to entice him to play. Doing these things can actually encourage your puppy to bite your hands and feet.

Do not discourage your puppy from playing with you in general. Play builds a strong bond between a dog and his human family. You want to teach your puppy to play gently, rather than not at all.

Avoid jerking your hands or feet away from your puppy when he mouths. This will encourage him to jump forward and grab at you. It's much more effective to let your hands or feet go limp so that they aren't much fun to play with.

Slapping or hitting puppies for playful mouthing can cause them to bite harder. They usually react by playing more aggressively. Physical punishment can also make your puppy afraid of you—and it can even cause real aggression. Avoid scruff shaking, whacking your puppy on the nose, sticking your fingers down his throat and all other punishments that might hurt or scare him.

When Does Mouthing Become Aggression?

Most puppy mouthing is normal behavior. However, some puppies bite out of fear or frustration, and this type of biting can signal problems with future aggression.

Puppy “Temper Tantrums”

Puppies

sometimes have temper tantrums. Usually tantrums happen when you’re making a puppy do something he doesn’t like. Something as benign as simply holding your puppy still or handling his body might upset him. Tantrums can also happen when play escalates. (Even human “puppies” can have tantrums during play when they get overexcited or upset!) A puppy temper tantrum is more serious than playful mouthing, but it isn’t always easy to tell the difference between the two. In most cases, a playful puppy will have a relaxed body and face. His muzzle might look wrinkled, but you won’t see a lot of tension in his facial muscles. If your puppy has a temper tantrum, his body might look very stiff or frozen. He might pull his lips back to expose his teeth or growl. Almost always, his bites will be much more painful than normal mouthing during play.

If you’re holding or handling your puppy and he starts to throw a temper tantrum, avoid yelping like you’re hurt. Doing that might actually cause your puppy to continue or intensify his aggressive behavior. Instead, be very calm and unemotional. Don’t hurt your puppy, but continue to hold him firmly without constriction, if possible, until he stops struggling. After he’s quieted down for just a second or two, let him go. Then make plans to contact a qualified professional for help. Repeated bouts of biting in frustration are not something that the puppy will simply grow out of, so your puppy’s behavior should be assessed and resolved as soon as possible.

When and Where to Get Help

A

trained professional can help you determine whether or not your puppy’s mouthing is normal, and she or he can guide you through an effective treatment plan. If you suspect that your puppy’s biting fits the description of aggressive or fearful behavior, please seek consultation with a qualified professional, such as a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB or ACAAB) or a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behavior (Dip ACVB). If you can’t find a behaviorist in your area, you can seek help from a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT)—but be sure to determine whether she or he has professional training and experience in successfully treating fear and aggression problems, as this expertise isn’t required for CPDT certification.

Adult nipping and mouthiness

Adults that exhibit grabby oral behaviors are most likely those who have not been properly trained. They may nip to indicate wishes. Avoid circumstances that can lead to nipping. Do not shout, pull your arm away or wave your arms. Instead, “turn to stone” and reward the dog when he lets go and stops nipping. Another approach is to get a clicker and food treats; ignore him when he engages in any rude nipping behavior. The clicker is clicked and the food treat is given when the nipping ceases. This should be relatively immediately after the dog lets go.

If you do wave your arms around or yell, the dog may just think you’re playing with him. If you reach for his collar and he bites, then you let go, the behavior is rewarded and will be repeated. The only way to avoid scenarios like this is to set certain limits and become your dog’s unequivocal leader.

Puppy Hazards

Dangers for puppies

Puppies are cute and loveable, but can get into all kinds of trouble. Puppies tend to explore their world with their mouths. Exposed electric cords can be quite tempting and chewing through these cords can result in serious, or even fatal, injury. Puppies don’t understand that safe play area ends at the street. Puppies can run into the road, so it is important to restrain your puppy to avoid automobile injuries.

They often ingest table scraps, trash, foreign objects or toxins—these all can result in illness. Other popular items are fishhooks, human medications and plants. Common toxins are also a danger and can poison your

pet . (ie: ethylene glycol (Anti-freeze) and rodenticide). Certain toads are toxic and various species of snakes are venomous and even a couple of spider species can cause serious sickness. (Black Widow spiders, Brown Recluse spiders, Pit Vipers, and Coral Snakes are among many examples).

Pools are fun in the summer, but be careful with your puppy around them. Drinking chlorinated water can make your puppy ill and they can risk drowning themselves. Lawn and garden supplies must be kept secured and many products used to keep your lawn looking beautiful are toxic to your puppies. Insecticides are very dangerous and exposure can cause significant illness. If you use insecticides such as organophosphates or carbamates, be very careful to keep them safely locked away. Make sure that your puppy stays safe around the holidays, as well! Decorations, ornaments and foods are not always their best friend.

CANINE FIRST AID

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Emergencies come in all forms, automobile accidents, hit-by-car injuries, bite wounds, burns, heatstroke, poisoning, seizures, and more.

For a general overview of what constitutes an emergency, refer to our fact sheet on Canine Emergencies.

What is first aid?

First aid is initial treatment given in a medical emergency. The purpose is:

To preserve life

To reduce pain and discomfort

To minimize any risk of permanent disability or disfigurement

Priorities

Keep calm and try not to panic.

If possible, get help so that you can aid your pet while someone helps with restraint, transportation, etc.

Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

If there are suspected internal or limb injuries, keep your pet as still as possible.

Try to keep your pet warm, wrap it in a coat or even a newspaper. Shock often follows most emergencies.

Take your pet to the veterinary hospital as soon as possible.

Drive carefully and observe the speed limit.

What is shock?

Shock is a complex condition often following an acute injury or emergency. A life-threatening fall in blood pressure is a dangerous part of shock.

What are the signs of shock?

Clinical signs of systemic shock include rapid breathing and elevated heart rate with pale mucous membranes: gums, lips or under the eyelids. The feet or ears may feel cold and your pet may vomit and shiver. Most pets become quiet and unresponsive.

What should I do?

Keep the pet as quiet as possible and try to conserve heat by covering it with bedding or newspapers. If necessary, apply the A, B, C of first aid:

A: Airway

B: Breathing

C: Cardiac function

Airway – Anything that obstructs the airway prevents oxygen entering the lungs. Do your best to clear the mouth and throat of any obstruction such as vomitus, saliva or foreign bodies such as grass, sticks or balls. Be careful; your pet may bite you in panic.

Breathing – If your pet is unconscious and does not appear to be breathing, try gently pumping the chest with the palm of your hand, at the same time feeling just behind the elbow to detect a heart beat or pulse. Close the muzzle with your hand and blow into the nostrils. This is best accomplished by covering the pet's nose with your mouth. Be careful!. Injured pets may bite you out of fear. If you are unsure about the health or vaccination status of the injured pet, avoid contact with bodily fluids and blood.

Cardiac function – If you are unable to detect a heartbeat or pulse or if it appears weak and slow, try pressing on the chest with your palm. Five (5) rapid chest compressions followed by one to two (1-2) deep breaths is a simple form of animal cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Specific first aid:

Blood loss

Once you have checked A, B, C above and if the bleeding is severe, try to stop it. If bleeding is from a cut pad or paw, apply a dressing using a piece of bandage or clothing. If the bleeding persists and is soaking through the bandage, don't waste any more time, since this is a medical emergency. Most bleeding wounds will require medical or surgical treatment. If the wounds are treated within four (4) hours, they can often be sutured. Deep cuts treated after four hours have increased risk of infection and complication.

Burns and scalds

Cool the burned area with cold water as quickly as possible. Cover the burned area with damp towels. If the injury is due to a caustic substance, rinse with cold water for fifteen (15) minutes and contact your veterinarian for further advice.

Eye injuries

Injuries to the eye are always very painful. If a foreign body (grass awn, stick, etc.) can be seen, it may be possible to remove it by gently rinsing the eye with eye wash or contact lens saline solution. Seek veterinary advice as soon as possible.

Seizures

Seizures can be due to many causes. These range from eclampsia (milk fever) to epilepsy. If due to eclampsia, remove the puppies from the mother immediately. All dogs that are seizing or have had a recent seizure should be kept in a dark, quiet, confined area until medical help can be sought. Contact your veterinarian immediately.

Heat stroke

This most commonly occurs in hot weather when dogs are left in cars without adequate ventilation. Body temperature rises dramatically. Clinical signs are excessive panting and obvious distress quickly followed by coma and death. Reduce the pet's body temperature as quickly as possible using cool water and keep the dog wet during transport to the veterinarian. Keep the car windows open. Evaporation will help reduce body

temperature. Avoid using ice or ice water because this may drop the temperature too quickly and cause additional complications.

Remember to remain calm and be wary around injured animals as they are more likely to respond with aggression.

Your poison control number:

1-888-426-4435

South Carolina Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Care

Address: 3924 Fernandina Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 - open 24 hours

Well Pets Veterinary Clinic and After Hours Urgent Care

7400 Carlisle St, Irmo, SC 29063 - open until 10pm

CVETS - Columbia Veterinary Emergency Trauma and Specialty

1321 Oakcrest Dr, Columbia, SC 29223 - open 24 hours

Socialization Scavenger Hunt!

Having a new puppy is a big responsibility! One of the first and biggest challenges you will face as the proud owner of a new puppy is to socialize it properly so that he or she will have the best chance at becoming a well-adjusted and friendly adult dog. The experiences your puppy has during the first four months of life will dramatically influence their adult personality. So making sure they have frequent positive experiences with every new person, animal, and situation they come upon is very important! Puppies that are insufficiently socialized during this time can potentially develop irreversible fears, timidity, and aggression.

To help you on your quest, we have developed a 'scavenger hunt' for you! Your goal is to check off all the items on the list within the next few months, and perhaps even add a few of your own. Remember, if your puppy has not completed its full set of vaccinations, please use caution when taking your puppy anywhere other dogs may be or have been. Keeping your puppy safe and healthy is most important! And remember, the socialization process doesn't end at 4 months—young dogs up to two years of age are still highly receptive to socialization.

Mission #1: Meet New People

Guidelines: Encourage each new person who meets your puppy to give them a treat they enjoy. Have these new people encourage your puppy to sit, or at least have all four feet on the floor before giving the treat. This is most effective when done outside of your home or yard. The goal is to expose your puppy to both men and women of all ages and appearances!

The mail carrier. Veterinary Hospital staff. A person in a wheel chair. A man with a beard. A mother with a child in a stroller. People with hats on. Someone on crutches. A jogger. A very tall person. Someone wearing work boots. Someone on roller skates. Someone on a skate board. At least one very calm child. At least one very hyper child. A group of older children. A teenager. An elderly person. A man with a deep voice. A woman in high heels. Groups of people. A crying baby.

Mission #2: Go New Places and Experience New Things

Guidelines: Exposing your puppy to new places, noises, and experiences is just as important as meeting new people (and can happen at the same time!). It's important not to scold your puppy for being anxious in new settings, but it's just as important not to comfort them excessively and pick them up every time they are scared. The best way to deal with an anxious puppy is to bring a toy along and

get them to play. This way a scary situation becomes fun playtime! If your pet is extremely anxious in any situation, go slow and try not to force them into any situation they aren't ready for.

Places: (both on foot and riding in the car!) The park. The bank. The grocery store. A child's sporting event. The gas station. The vet's office (just for a treat and not to stay!). Elevator rides. Riding in a boat. Riding in a wagon. A neighbor's house.

Experiences: Vacuum cleaners. Hair dryers. Nail clippers. Combs and brushes. The lift table at the vet. A friendly cat. Walking on all types of surfaces (slipper, grated, carpet, stone, etc). Loud traffic. Flapping blankets and trash bags. Stairs. Ceiling fans. Doorbells. Door knocking. Broom and mops. Rakes. Lawnmowers. Leaf blowers. Blowing bubbles.

HEALTHY "PEOPLE FOOD" FOR YOUR PET

Our pets don't think twice about stealing some of our foods as a mid-day snack, but we certainly should. Not all "people food" is safe to give our pets. When you're reaching in the cupboard or refrigerator for a tantalizing goody to give your pet consider these healthy and safe options, and be aware of the unsafe goodies.

Healthy Table Food Unhealthy Table Food

Carrots Apple seeds

Green Beans Almonds

Peas Avocados

Lettuce Cherries

Strawberries Chocolate - all types

Blueberries Anything containing sugar or caffeine

Apples - the SEEDS are dangerous, please remove these Bones - they splinter easily and may cause internal damage

Kiwi Mushrooms

Blackberries Nutmeg

Bananas Onion
Pumpkin/Squash Grapes, raisins, and prunes
Broccoli * Salt
Cucumber Raw egg
Celery * Raw meat
Kale * "Sugar free" anything
Spinach * Garlic
Black eyed peas Red meat
Asparagus -- cooked Pork - including ham, bacon, sausage and hotdogs
1% fat cottage cheese Macadamia nuts
Bread Lima beans
Plain white rice Rhubarb
Potato - unseasoned Mustard
Boiled chicken - unseasoned Pineapple
Rice cakes Apricots
Cheerios - great as a low-calorie alternative to milk bones Peaches
Plain pasta
Tomato - the fruit only; the stem and leaves are toxic

If you are ever concerned about a food that your pet may have eaten or you were considering giving your pet that is not on this list, discuss it with your veterinarian!

BOARDING YOUR PETS

Did you know that Dutch Fork Animal Hospital provides boarding for your beloved pets? We have separate areas for dogs and cats, and we even offer luxury runs for the most pampered members of your family. All dogs that are kept with us are walked at least three times a day in a fenced grassy area. They are walked individually and are always supervised. We provide science diet maintenance and prescription food for your pet at no additional charge, but feel free to bring your own food if your pet requires a special diet. We will gladly administer any medications your pet may require, but we do ask that you supply the medications. Our veterinarians are available to take care of any health problems that may arise.

All of our boarding patients are required to be up to date on all of their vaccines. This ensures the safety of all the pets staying with us. Dogs are required to be current on DHLPP, Rabies, Bordetella (kennel cough), and Canine Influenza. We require Bordetella to be given every 6 months. Cats are required to have a negative Feline Leukemia/FIV test and must be current on their FVRCP and Rabies vaccinations. If your pet is in need of any of these vaccines, we will be happy to update them during their stay with us.

Our luxury boarding area offers spacious rooms for the special dogs in your life. They are located in a quieter section of the hospital, offer cable TV, beds, raised feeders, and a scenic view on one wall of the room.

In our regular boarding section of the hospital, we have several sized runs to choose from. Our highly trained kennel staff is constantly with all of our boarders, and can determine which size is best suited for your pet. You don't have to worry about bringing any bedding for your pet. We have cots and lots of blankets for your pet to have a comfy place to rest, ensuring that your items are not lost or damaged. We also offer large family runs for those families with more than one dog who wish to stay together. For an additional fee, we will happily bathe your pet prior to departure. The bath includes shampoo, blow dry, brush out, nail trim, anal gland expression, and cleaning of the ears.

Cats have their own special room which is away from the dog section. There are cat condos available for families who would like to board more than one cat together. We also have a wonderful suite for the cats complete with perches, a window view, and all those fun little toys cats love.

What to Expect After Your Pet's Vaccination

Congratulations. By vaccinating your pet, you have taken an important step toward protecting your pet and your family. Vaccination is the most common veterinary preventive measure in history. It's a safe and effective way to protect pets and people from serious disease.

It's common for your pet to experience mild side effects from vaccination. Typically starting within hours of vaccination, any symptoms are typically mild and usually do not persist for more than a few days. This is a normal response by your pet's immune system during the process of developing protective immunity.

Common symptoms your pet may experience:

Mild fever

Decrease in social behavior

Diminished appetite or activity

Sneezing or other respiratory signs with intranasal vaccines

Discomfort or mild swelling at injection site

Rare side effects, such as allergic reaction may occur. your pet may experience symptoms of a more serious reaction to the vaccine within minutes or hours of vaccination.

Rare symptoms could include:

Swelling to face and head

Repeated vomiting and diarrhea

Whole body itching

Difficulty breathing

Collapse

If your pet experiences any of these rare symptoms, you should contact your veterinarian immediately, as your pet may require additional medical treatment.

In case of emergency:

Your poison control number:

1-888-426-4435

South Carolina Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Care

Address: 3924 Fernandina Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 - open 24 hours

Well Pets Veterinary Clinic and After Hours Urgent Care

7400 Carlisle St, Irmo, SC 29063 - open until 10pm

CVETS - Columbia Veterinary Emergency Trauma and Specialty

1321 Oakcrest Dr, Columbia, SC 29223 - open 24 hours

Pet Insurance

Pet insurance works well in cases of injury and illness. Pet insurance premiums are typically paid on a monthly basis and can be used to offset some of your pet's treatment costs.

When using pet insurance, payment is typically due when services are rendered and then your insurance company will reimburse you if applicable.

If you're looking for a pet insurance provider, we suggest checking out Pawlicy Advisor at pawlicy.com. There is a link on our website under Insurance & Payments. This is a tool that will help you compare plans to find what works best for you.