



Congratulations on Your New Puppy!

The Basics

Your puppy's temperament and behavior are developed within the first 16 weeks of life. The more time your dog spends around people and other dogs, the less aggressive or excessively submissive instincts will be.

Watch your puppy's stool. Yes, it's not very pleasant, but it could save their life. If you notice any diarrhea or blood, please contact our office. It could be a sign of parasites, or other common yet serious diseases that affect puppies who have not been sufficiently vaccinated. ALL puppies need to be immunized and dewormed to protect them from disease.

Female dogs typically begin their first heat cycle between 6 and 12 months of age which can produce vaginal swelling and discharge. It is important to spay your dog around this time before their first cycle to reduce the risk of reproductive cancers, cyst and mass developments of the reproductive organs, and potential serious and life-threatening infections as they age. Hormones produced during these heat cycles affect the behavior and attitude of female dogs.

Male dogs also become reproductively mature around 6 months of age. We recommend neutering between 6 and 18 months of age depending on the breed and size of your dog. Unneutered male dogs are more susceptible to prostate cancer, prostate infections, and cancer in the male reproductive system. Hormones produced from unneutered males also affect the behavior and attitude.

Canine Vaccinations

Rabies: A viral disease of the nervous system that is BOTH fatal and transmissible to humans. Early stages of rabies can easily be confused with other diseases. A rabies diagnosis must be verified with laboratory tests and the animal must be euthanized. This vaccine is required by law and must be given by a licensed veterinary hospital.

DHPP Combo

Distemper: A viral infection that can affect several body systems, including the respiratory and nervous system. It is characterized by fever, loss of white blood cells, and inflammation of the lungs and brain. Most cases can develop after an animal breathes in the virus from an infected animal.

Hepatitis/Adenovirus 2: A respiratory virus that is spread by bodily fluids including nasal discharge and urine. Initially, the virus affects the tonsils and the larynx causing a sore throat, cough and occasionally pneumonia. As it progresses, it can affect the kidneys, eyes & liver.

Parainfluenza: A respiratory virus that causes mild respiratory tract infections and is transmitted via contact with the nasal fluids of infected dogs.

Parvovirus: A potentially fatal viral disease that most often affects puppies or unvaccinated adult dogs. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with the infected dog as well as indirect transmission such as contaminated objects by feces. Some signs symptoms may include: sudden lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, vomiting, and diarrhea.

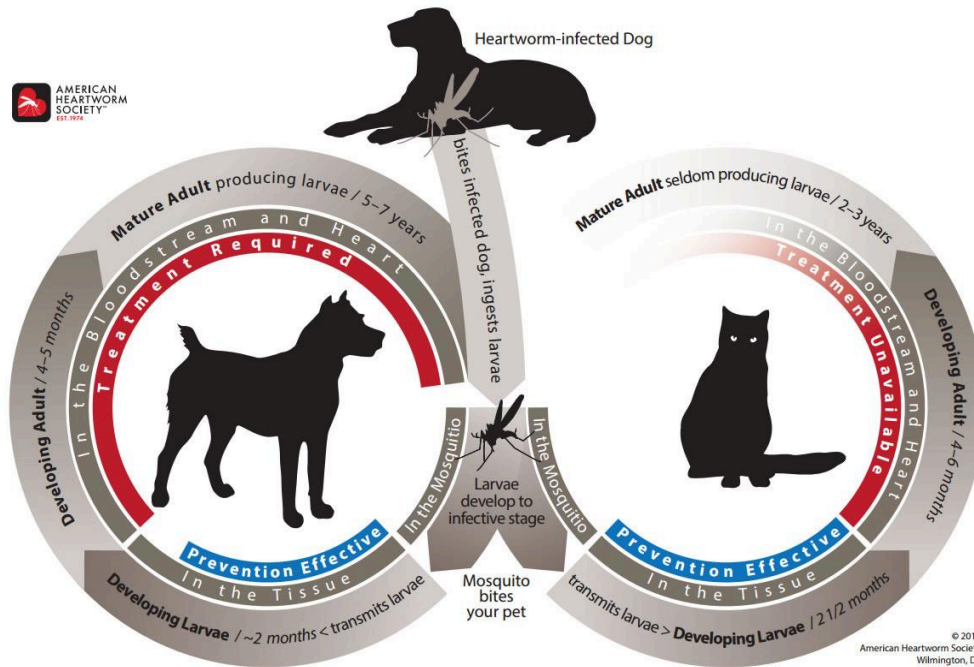
Leptospirosis: A bacterial infection of the urinary tract. This zoonotic disease enters the bloodstream via infected urine and can cause kidney failure, liver failure and death. Some signs/symptoms can include: fever, joint pain, nausea, low platelet count (excessive bleeding), depression and loss of appetite.

Lyme: Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that can affect many body systems, especially the joints. This disease is caused by a bacteria & transmitted through the bite of an infected tick to animals and humans. The most common signs (if any) can include: fever, loss of appetite, painful or swollen joints, lameness that progresses from mild to severe, swollen lymph nodes, and lethargy. If left untreated, it can lead to damage of the kidneys, nervous system, and heart.

Bordetella: A bacterial component of kennel cough. This disease is highly contagious. The most common signs are harsh, dry coughing, which may be followed by retching & gagging. Dogs that are housed in close confinement with other dogs (boarding, grooming, daycare) should be vaccinated. Boosters should be administered biannually or annually, depending on risk and veterinarian's advice. Can be given intranasally, orally, or by injection.

Definitions obtained from Merck/Merial Manual for Pet Health

Heartworm Disease



Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets, but heartworms also live in other mammal species, including wolves, coyotes, foxes, sea lions and—in rare instances—humans. Because wild species such as foxes and coyotes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease.

The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.

Heartworm disease is a serious, progressive disease. The earlier it is detected, the better the chances the pet will recover. There are few, if any, early signs of disease when a dog or cat is infected with heartworms, so detecting their presence with a heartworm test administered by a veterinarian is important. The test requires just a small blood sample from your pet, and it works by detecting the presence of heartworm proteins. Some veterinarians process heartworm tests right in their hospitals while others send the

samples to a diagnostic laboratory. In either case, results are obtained quickly. If your pet tests positive, further tests may be ordered.

How is heartworm disease transmitted from one pet to another?

The mosquito plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. Adult female heartworms living in an infected dog, fox, coyote, or wolf produce microscopic baby worms called microfilaria that circulate in the bloodstream. When a mosquito bites and takes a blood meal from an infected animal, it picks up these baby worms, which develop and mature into “infective stage” larvae over a period of 10 to 14 days. Then, when the infected mosquito bites another dog, cat, or susceptible wild animal, the infective larvae are deposited onto the surface of the animal's skin and enter the new host through the mosquito's bite wound. Once inside a new host, it takes approximately 6 months for the larvae to mature into adult heartworms. Once mature, heartworms can live for 5 to 7 years in dogs and up to 2 or 3 years in cats. Because of the longevity of these worms, each mosquito season can lead to an increasing number of worms in an infected pet. It is important to note that infected mosquitoes can come inside, both outdoor and indoor pets are at risk.

For that reason, the American Heartworm Society recommends that you “Think 12” (1) get your pet tested every 12 months for heartworm and (2) give your pet heartworm prevention 12 months a year.

When should my dog be tested?

All dogs should be tested annually for heartworm infection, and this can usually be done during a routine visit for preventive care. Following are guidelines on testing and timing:

- Puppies under 7 months of age can be started on heartworm prevention without a heartworm test (it takes at least 6 months for a dog to test positive after it has been infected), but should be tested at 6 months old to be sure they are negative.
- Adult dogs over 7 months of age and previously not on a preventive need to be tested prior to starting heartworm prevention. They, too, need to be tested 6 months and 12 months later and annually after that.
- If there has been a lapse in prevention (one or more late or missed doses), dogs should be tested immediately, then tested again six months later and annually after that.

Annual testing is necessary, even when dogs are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective, but dogs can still become infected. If you miss just one dose of a monthly medication—or give it late—it can leave your dog unprotected. Even if you give the medication as recommended, your dog may spit out or vomit a heartworm pill—or rub off

a topical medication. Heartworm preventives are highly effective, but not 100 percent effective. If you don't get your dog tested, you won't know your dog needs treatment.

Information obtained from the American Heartworm Society

Parasites & Deworming

Intestinal parasites are different and unrelated to heartworm disease. They are more common, especially in puppies, and often more easily treatable. Dogs are known to sniff, slurp, lick, and gobble anything in their paths, including dirt, trash, and other animal feces. They can also obtain them from drinking lake or river water, as well as stagnant puddles. All the things they do with their mouths -- groom, kiss, wrestle, and other social habits -- can pass along unwanted guests to playmates and companions, canine and human alike.

Parasites worm their way into most dogs' lives at one time or another. Some signs of intestinal parasites include if your dog has diarrhea or is vomiting, coughing, chewing or licking under his tail, short of breath, or losing weight. The symptoms and treatments depend on the type of worm and where it's living in your dog's body.

Fleas

It would be a grave mistake to think of the flea as simply a nuisance. A heavy flea burden is lethal, especially to smaller or younger animals. Fleas are adaptive and their life cycle is always active: eggs are laid, larvae are developing, pupae are growing, etc.

- Fleas thrive particularly well in the well-regulated temperatures in the home.
- Fleas are mobile and opportunistic. They are able to jump great distances to explore new hosts. Exposure can happen merely passing an infected animal within range on the street, or in your apartment complex in the moments while you are coming in the door and your dog is there to greet you.
- Fleas love to develop in the cracks between the boards of hard wood floors. They are not merely prone to harboring in carpets or soft material surfaces.
- You cannot expect to see fleas as many animals are adept at licking them away. Sometimes all that is seen is the characteristic skin irritation or disease.
- The presence of tapeworm in your dog's stool is also an indication that fleas are evident. When flea eggs are ingested, they complete their lifecycle in a dog's GI tract, presenting in the stool as tapeworms.

Ticks

Ticks are parasites who feed on blood and transmit disease. While they are more prevalent in wooded areas of the country, they find their way to urban areas as hitchhikers aboard wildlife and domestic animals alike.

- Ticks carry diseases that both humans and animals are affected by. Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichia, and Lyme disease are the most common, and cause a variety of symptoms including fever, lethargy, and lameness or soreness of the limbs. We test for these diseases using a small blood sample sent out to a lab, which is included when testing for Heartworm disease.
- Tick borne diseases are typically transmitted after a tick has been attached for more than 48 hours.
- If you don't feel comfortable safely removing the embedded tick or confident in removing the entire "head," please contact us for assistance.

Puppy Training

Getting a new puppy is such an exciting adventure. One very important training hurdle is potty training. Every puppy is different in their cues and bladder/bowel movement needs. Working with your puppy to create routines and identify their cues will be key in building a positive home environment.

Some initial recommendation we will suggest at first puppy visits include:

1. Monitoring water intake: How often is your puppy drinking water? How much? How soon after drinking are they asking to go outside (or having an accident in the house)? These do not need to be exact numbers or timing, but getting a baseline is the first step in knowing when to have them go outside moving forward.
2. Take them outside approximately 20-30 minutes after drinking water: Routines are extremely important for initial training with puppies. Their bladders are small, and a trip outside will often eventually result in at least one squat or leg lift to complete the task desired. It is then advised to implement recommendation #3.....
3. Excessive praise: When they go where you would like them to, this is like they've 'just won gold at the puppy olympics!' They are 'such a good puppy' and 'so good to go potty outside' with lots of associated pets and head rubs. This can also be a great time to introduce a cue word or phrase (while they are completing the task), such as 'go potty'. As they get older, this may help to indicate a desired task (going to the bathroom outside) when you are away from the home but need them to go potty before getting in a car for a long trip or going into a friend or family member's house (where cues may not be monitored as closely).

4. If they do not go potty outside, it is recommended to place them into a small area (kennel or puppy play pen area) that they should have intrinsic desire to not soil. They try to take them outside 5-10 min later again. Once they successfully "go potty" outside they can return to more freedom within the house again.

5. Do not discourage or reprimand for indoor accidents: From many training resources, it has been advised that puppies do not often recognize a specific act as the cause for scolding. They may react in a regretful manner, but this is often due to them recognizing a change in tone of your voice, versus the specific act that was a problem. Praise for a job well done outside will go much further with training, than reacting poorly to an indoor accident.

Additionally, we have looked for some resources that may be helpful for other training tricks and recommendations. Visit our website for more potty training tools and tips: vetcarecreekside.com/new-puppy#potty-training

Nipping/Teething

Inhibit the biting

When puppies play, they mouth each other, which is totally normal. However, the mouthing can turn into a bite. When it does, the puppy on the receiving end will yelp, and this sound startles the puppy doing the biting, making them release.

Humans can exploit this behavior to teach a puppy to inhibit the bite and learn how much is too much. When a puppy latches onto your hand or finger too hard, let your hand go limp and imitate that yelping sound. When the puppy releases, ignore her for ten to twenty seconds, then resume play.

It's important to remember, though, not to pull away from the bite. This can trigger your puppy's chase instinct and make the problem worse. And if the yelp doesn't work or you'd prefer not to make that sound, you can substitute a loud, "Ow!" or other verbal deterrent.

Don't repeat the limp and yelp process more than three times in fifteen minutes — when you get to that point, it's time for a puppy time out.

The goal here is to teach the puppy that gentle play continues; rough play stops. Once you've inhibited the hard bites, repeat this teaching process with more moderate bites. Eventually, you should be able to teach her that mouthing without biting down is okay, but anything more than that is not.

Redirect

To teach your puppy that his mouth on human skin is not okay at all, use redirection. When the puppy tries to mouth you, pull your hand away before contact, then provide a treat or wave around a chewy toy until he bites that.

You can also satisfy your puppy's urge to mouth things with non-contact games, like fetch or tug-of-war. However, remember to never let the tugging become too aggressive, and teach your puppy "let go" or "leave it" command, so that you can always remove something from his mouth without an aggressive response.

Distraction

In addition to mouthing people, puppies will also mouth things in their environment, mostly out of curiosity. In addition to puppy-proofing your home, provide an assortment of interesting and safe chew toys, chosen for your pup's level of chewing and destructiveness — for example, if she shreds that plush toy in two minutes, you may want to stick with rubber or hard plastic.

"Hide the treat" toys are also great for distracting puppies from nibbling on other things, and these provide mental stimulation as well, since she has to figure out how to get to the reward.

Finally, arrange for playtime with your dog and other puppies or vaccinated adult dogs. This will help to socialize her, and those dogs will also assist in the process of teaching your puppy when a bite is too hard.

Deterrence

There are various products, like Bitter Apple, Bitter Cherry, and YUCK No Chew Spray, that are designed to prevent a dog from licking or chewing by putting an unpleasant taste in their mouth, but there are two important steps involved in using them for training.

The first is to associate the smell and the taste in your dog's mind so that the scent alone will keep him away from unacceptable chewing targets. To do this, put a little bit of the product on a tissue or cotton ball, then put it in your pup's mouth. He should spit it out right away. When he does spit it out, let him smell it so he makes the association.

The second step comes in when you're actively using the product for training — make sure your dog doesn't have access to water for up to an hour (but not longer) after contact with the product. This may sound cruel, but if your dog learns that he can just run to his bowl and get rid of the taste, the deterrent will become ineffective.

When training, place the product on any objects you don't want him to lick or bite once a day for two to four weeks.

Ankle biters

Many dogs become fascinated with nipping at people's feet or ankles when they walk. This is particularly true of herding breeds. To stop your puppy from nipping at your heels, keep a favorite toy in your pocket. When she does bite, stop moving, then wave the toy around to distract her until she latches onto it.

If you don't happen to have the toy handy, stop moving when she bites and then, when she releases on her own, offer her the toy or a treat, and praise. The idea is to teach your dog that good things happen when bad behavior stops.

Mouthing and nipping are natural behaviors for puppies but unwanted in dogs. Remember, a large majority of dogs surrendered to shelters by their owners are between eighteen months and two years of age — the point at which “cute” puppy behavior becomes frustrating to the owner. Taking these few simple steps now will help prevent that bad behavior down the line, and help you to have a stress-free, life-long relationship when that little bundle of fur grows up.

When will it end??

When your puppy is about three to four months old, his baby teeth will start shedding, making room for about 42 adult teeth to come in. This process is very uncomfortable for the puppy—his gums will be sore as his adult teeth break through, and he'll want to chew anything—everything—that will soothe the pain.

Your job as a responsible owner is to give your puppy something he can chew on to help make this process a little more comfortable. And by doing so, you'll be preventing your puppy from finding something on his own to chew, be it your husband's favorite pair of shoes, your new couch, or your children's toys.

The best toys to offer teething puppies are made of hard nylon or hard rubber (like a Kong), especially ones that can be filled with water and frozen, which will feel nice and cool on your puppy's sore gums.

Fortunately, this process doesn't last too long. By six months of age, your puppy's teeth should have all come in. If you see a baby tooth still in his mouth at this age, let your veterinarian know—it might need to be removed.

Now the bad news: This age is also the time your puppy will start to go through some hormonal changes that may cause him to act out and chew more often than usual. Make sure you provide him with plenty of toys and teach him, through positive reinforcement, that he's only allowed to chew his own toys.

Dog Trainers in the Greater Madison Area

Dog's Best Friend Training: 608-218-5073

Creature Counseling: 608-835-5104

Naughty Paws Dog Training: 608-443-9645

Smart Puppy Co.: 608-234-8529



***Scan the QR Code
for more Puppy
Training Resources***

Vaccine Reactions

It is common for pets to experience some or all of the following mild side effects after receiving a vaccine, usually starting within hours of the vaccination. If these side effects last for more than a day or two, or cause your pet significant discomfort, it is important for you to contact your veterinarian:

- Discomfort and local swelling at the vaccination site
- Mild fever
- Decreased appetite and activity
- Sneezing, mild coughing, "snotty nose" or other respiratory signs may occur 2-5 days after your pet receives an intranasal vaccine

More serious, but less common side effects, such as allergic reactions, 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:

- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Itchy skin that may seem bumpy ("hives")
- Swelling of the muzzle and around the face, neck, or eyes
- Severe coughing or difficulty breathing
- Collapse

A small, firm swelling under the skin may develop at the site of a recent vaccination. It should start to disappear within a couple weeks. If it persists more than three weeks, or seems to be getting larger, you should contact your veterinarian.

Always inform your veterinarian if your pet has had prior reactions to any vaccine or medication. If in doubt, wait for 30-60 minutes following vaccination before taking your pet home.

Information obtained from American Veterinary Medicine Association

Pet Poison Control

The following foods may be dangerous for your pet to ingest:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Apple seeds
- Apricot pits
- Avocados
- Cherry pits
- Candy (particularly chocolate and any candy containing the toxic sweetener Xylitol)
- Coffee (grounds, beans, and chocolate-covered espresso beans)
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Gum (can cause blockages and sugar free gums may contain the toxic sweetener Xylitol)
- Hops
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy foods
- Mushroom plants
- Mustard seeds
- Onions and onion powder
- Peach pits
- Potato leaves and stems (green parts)
- Raisins
- Rhubarb leaves
- Salt
- Tea (because it contains caffeine)
- Tomato leaves and stems (green parts)
- Walnuts
- Xylitol (artificial sweetener that is toxic to pets)
- Yeast dough

Any ingestion of human medication, or veterinary medication beyond a prescribed dose should also be treated as a medical emergency. If you suspect your pet has ingested anything dangerous, please contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

Visit their website at

www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control

for additional information on what may be toxic to your pet.



Emergency & Specialty Clinics



VCA (formerly VES)
1612 N High Point Rd
Middleton, WI 53562
Phone: (608) 831-1101

<https://vcahospitals.com/veterinary-specialty-center-middleton>



Madison Veterinary Specialists (MVS)
2704 Royal Ave
Madison, WI 53713
Phone: (608) 274-7772

www.mvsvets.com



Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG)
7456 Mineral Point Rd
Madison, WI 53717
Phone: (608) 716-3255

www.veg.com/locations/wisconsin/madison



UW Veterinary Care
2015 Linden Dr
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 263-7600

<https://uwwveterinarycare.wisc.edu>

Additional Information

For more information for all stages of your puppy's life, such as dental care, feeding, and spay/neutering information, please visit our website at www.vetcarecreekside.com/client-education or scan the QR code:

