



Your experts in compassionate care, here for you and your pet every step of the way

Congratulations!

Congratulations on your new puppy! This little bundle of joy is going to bring you so much love and happiness. Your puppy is relying on you for love, nutrition, training and care. Your veterinary team is a very important part of your pet's health. We have put together some important information to help you make informed decisions about your puppy, and maximise her/his health. We hope to be an integral part of your puppy's health and wellbeing for years to come.

Vaccination

Protect Your Puppy!

It is vital your puppy receives all of the puppy boosters in a timely manner. This means each booster should be scheduled 4 weeks apart. With each booster, the body will develop a greater response and provide better protection against infection.

If more than 4 weeks lapse between vaccinations, your puppy may be at risk of contracting an infection.

Avoid going to parks, pet stores and high-density dog areas until your puppy has had all 3 puppy boosters, with the last one being at or after 16 weeks of age. Walks around your neighborhood are fine, and exposure to healthy dogs that have been vaccinated and dewormed is encouraged and important for early socialization.

For more information on vaccinations and Gateway Pet Hospital's vaccination protocol, please see the Vaccination Tab.

GPH Position Statement on Vaccination

Gateway Pet Hospital supports the use of vaccination against infectious disease in dogs and cats. Our vaccination protocols are designed based on latest information about local disease risk. We design our protocols using the most recent professional guidelines and duration of immunity studies. We tailor our protocols to each pet based on the needs of the pet and the pet's family.

Key Points:

- Vaccines play an important role in the health and welfare of pets and humans.
- Vaccines registered for use in Canada have been tested for safety and efficacy
- The vaccination needs of every patient is assessed regularly and adjusted as needed

Resources:

<https://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/vaccination-canine-configuration/vaccination-canine/>

Vaccination 101

How do vaccinations work?

-Vaccinations contain very small amounts of virus or bacteria that have been modified so that they can not cause disease. They stimulate the body's immune system to develop protection against that disease. If the body is later exposed to that disease, it will quickly be able to respond and destroy that disease-causing virus or bacteria.

How often are vaccines necessary?

-Research is always ongoing to study duration of immunity to vaccinations. Re-vaccination intervals are currently set to ensure that populations of pets remain protected against life threatening diseases. Blood tests called titres can be used to determine antibody levels in your pet and help guide vaccination intervals. However, titre levels do not always accurately reflect the pet's immunity and can be expensive. Talk to your veterinarian about your pet's vaccine intervals.

What vaccines are given to my dog?

-Vaccinations are often written in a short form that uses 1 or 2 letters to represent one of the antigens.

Below is a list of the most common canine vaccinations.

R- Rabies

Rabies is required by Law in Ontario, and proof of up-to-date Rabies vaccination is required for boarder crossings, dog licencing and most training, daycare, boarding or grooming facilities.

D- Distemper

A2 (sometimes H)- Adenovirus (Hepatitis)

P- Parainfluenza

P- Parvovirus

DA2PP are consider "Core" vaccines in all of North America, meaning they are recommended for ALL DOGS.

L- Leptospirosis

-Leptospirosis is recommended in locations where this bacterium exists. Leptospirosis is present in Kitchener/waterloo/Cambridge and is spread in the urine of skunks and racoons. It is a deadly disease, and so in our area, it is recommended that all dogs receive Leptospirosis vaccination.

B -Bordetella (usually given Intranasally (IN) but can be given by injection if needed)

-Often referred to as "kennel cough", Bordetella is a bacterium

Lyme – Lyme disease

GPH Canine Vaccination Protocol

Puppies < 16 weeks of age:

-DA2PPL every 4 weeks for a minimum of 2 vaccinations with the last vaccination given at or after 16 weeks of age (**Note this means some puppies may get a total of 4 shots if the first puppy shot is given at < 8 weeks of age).

Typical vaccination protocol:

8 weeks: DA2PP

12 weeks: DA2PPL +/- Bord Intranasal

16 weeks: DA2PPL + Rabies

-Note that very small puppies (< 2 kg) or dogs with known sensitives to vaccination may have an altered vaccine protocol that "splits out" the leptospirosis vaccination and the Rabies vaccination (i.e. they are typically given 3 weeks later) to reduce the risk of reactions.

If 16-18 weeks at the time of presentation, DA2PP + L will still be boosted once.

Puppies/Dogs >= 18 weeks of age:

DA2PP and Rabies only require 1 injection, but leptospirosis must be boosted 2-4 weeks later.

Typical Protocol

Initial: DA2PP + Rabies +/- Bordetella intranasal with doctor.
Booster 3-4 weeks later: leptospirosis with technician

1 year booster

Regardless of age, all INITIAL vaccination series must be followed by a booster 1 year later

Typical Protocol

DA2PP + Rabies +/- Bordetella

> 2 years of age (1 year after the 1-year booster)

Leptospirosis and Bordetella are done yearly.
DA2PP and Rabies are given every 3rd year.

Parasites

Intestinal Parasites

Most puppies are born with intestinal parasites, even if their mother was treated with deworming medications! Some may be *zoonotic*, meaning they can cause infection in people. Children, seniors, & immunocompromised individuals are at higher risk.

Your puppy will be dewormed every 2 weeks until they reach 12 weeks of age, then once monthly until 6 months of age. Thereafter, year-round deworming is strongly recommended with a prescription antiparasitic medication. This is not only done to deworm your puppy but to protect you and your family.

Submitting a fecal when you first get your puppy will help us determine if any special dewormers are required.

In accordance with CAPC (Companion Animal Parasite Council) recommendations, a fecal should be performed 2-4 times in a puppy's first year. Testing thereafter is recommended 1-2 times a year.

Heartworm Prevention

Heartworms are parasites that are transmitted between dogs by mosquitos. Larvae are injected by infected mosquitos into the muscle tissue of dogs, making their way into blood vessels. Heartworm larvae mature into adults in the large blood vessels of the lungs and in the heart. Mature worms reproduce in the dog and the offspring (microfilariae) will be picked up by mosquitos and transmitted to other dogs. Heartworm infections can lead to heart failure and the adults interfere with circulation in the dog's heart and lungs. Although this seems very scary the good news is there are heartworm preventive medications available to help protect your puppy. In Ontario our **heartworm season is from early spring until late fall**. During these months your dog should be taking a heartworm preventive medication. **A blood test is done each year prior to starting your dog on a heartworm preventive to ensure that they have not been exposed to heartworm**, because most preventative medications are not safe to give if your dog has heartworm disease. Our staff can help you to

determine which Heartworm preventive is best suited for your pet. Some medications come with the added bonus of flea prevention.

Fleas

Fleas are the most common external parasite of pets. Your puppy can be exposed to fleas when they come into close proximity with an infested animal or by just going out into the neighborhood or yard. One adult flea may lay thousands of eggs which can quickly lead to an infestation in your home. Fleas bite and feed on your puppy's blood causing itching and irritation. This can lead to medical problems such as flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), secondary skin infection, tapeworms or even anemia in severe infestations. There are several flea preventive medications available and our staff can help determine which would be best suited for your pet(s).

Ticks can transmit Lyme disease

Lyme disease is spread by ticks. Although the ticks which carry Lyme disease are found in most of Ontario; they are becoming more prevalent in the Waterloo region. We recommend the routine use of tick prevention products from at least March until November, if not year-round. Please talk to us about the Lyme vaccine and other preventable measures for Lyme disease if you will be traveling to high risk areas such as Long Point, Point Pelee National Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Turkey point, Prince Edward Point or the St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

2021 Parasite Season Position Statement

Position Statement on Testing and Prevention of Parasites and Parasite Related diseases.

Deworming

Gateway Pet Hospital supports the routine use of anti-parasitic medication to prevent disease caused by parasites, and to prevent the spread of parasites to other pets and humans. Deworming protocols are based on risk factor that include location, exposure, risk of spread and risk to the pet's family members. We design of deworming protocols based on the recommendation from professional guidelines in North America.

Key Points:

- Puppies and kittens are particularly susceptible to parasites. They can cause serious disease.
- Children and immune compromised adults are at highest risk for contraction parasites from pets.
- Many pets have parasites and shed microscopic parasite eggs without any signs.
- Parasites are usually picked up in the environment, in water or grass, or from direct contact with other dogs' feces.
- Raw meat is also a source of intestinal parasites.

We recommend yearly heartworm and tick-borne disease testing with the Idexx 4DX test for Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis and Heartworm for dogs.

-Even with parasite prevention, transmission of these diseases is possible.

- Ticks have been well documented to occur on warm days in the winter when prevention is not commonly used in most pets.
- Pills given late, skipped or inadvertently spit/vomited up unnoticed by the owner leave the pet exposed to these diseases.

We recommend the use of Advantix or Credelio as a primary method of preventing fleas, lice, and ticks in all dogs. In cats that go outdoors we recommend Bravecto for prevention of fleas, lice, mites and ticks.

- Ticks, fleas and lice are found regularly in urban areas including grass bordering sidewalks and paths, and in back yards.
- For most pets, March to November offers appropriate coverage. However, with milder winters, we encourage owners to consider year-round tick prevention, especially in dogs that are active outdoors in the winter.
- Prevention is much safer, easier and less costly than treatment

At this time in our area, we recommend tick prevention with Advantix and Credelio as our primary prevention for tick borne disease, including Lyme disease, in all dogs during the highest risk months of March to November. We encourage owners to consider year-round protection.

- The incidence of tick-borne disease is rapidly increasing in our area. Diagnosis and treatment of these diseases can be difficult and costly.
- Ticks have been found in our area 12 months of the year, appearing in colder months if daily temperatures exceed 4 degrees even for a short period of time.
- This is the timeline that has been determined as the risk period for animals to contract heartworm disease, and thus we base our yearly prevention programs around these dates.
- Year-round treatment is recommended for pets in the home with young children, pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals.
- Year-round treatment is recommended for dogs that roam freely off leash and may have access to rodents, or the feces of other dogs or wild canids (coyotes, foxes).

We recommend regular deworming of all cats with Milbemax or Advantage Multi, on a schedule determined by your veterinary team depending on risk

- Monthly treatment with Advantage Multi + Milbemax or Every 2nd month treatment with Bravecto + monthly Milbemax for all outdoor cats or cats that might be hunting indoors.
- Monthly treatment with Advantage Multi + every 3rd month treatment with Milbemax for indoor cats in the household with dogs or that go out on a leash.
- Every 3-month treatment with Milbemax for indoor only cats.

We recommend the use of Interceptor Plus monthly as a means of preventing the spread of a new and emerging tapeworm in Ontario that poses a serious risk to human health, Echinococcus multilocularis.

- This risk is of particular concern to dogs that have access to wild canid feces (coyote or wolf), or that have access to rodents.

*****Other products are available and can be ordered on an individual basis if needed*****

Resources:

Companion Animal Parasite Council: <https://www.petsandparasites.org/resources/capc-guidelines>

Canadian Parasitology Panel (CPEP): <https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/files/2008/03/CPEP-guidelines-ENGLISH1.pdf>

Spaying and Neutering

What is Spaying?

Spaying a female dog involves the removal of both the uterus and ovaries. It is a major surgery but commonly performed. We recommend that your puppy is spayed by 6 months of age before she reaches sexual maturity and comes into "heat".

Benefits of Spaying:

1. Decreased risk of Mammary Cancer - A female dog spayed before her first heat will have a near zero chance of developing mammary cancer. After the first heat this risk climbs to 7% and after the second heat the risk rises to 25% (1 in 4!). It is easy to see that an early spay can completely prevent what is frequently a very difficult and potentially fatal form of cancer.
2. Pyometra Prevention – Pyometra is a life-threatening infection of the uterus that generally occurs in middle-aged to older female dogs but can occur any time after the first heat cycle. The hormone progesterone, which primes the uterus for potential pregnancy, does so by causing proliferation of the blood-filled uterine lining and suppressing uterine immune function. It is thus easy during a heat cycle for bacteria from the vagina to infect the uterus. The uterus with pyometra swells dramatically and is filled with pus, bacteria, dying tissues, and toxins. ***Without treatment pyometra is fatal. Treatment for pyometra involves surgery on a potentially unstable patient and can be risky and very expensive.***
3. Convenience – Female dogs come in to heat about every 8 months or so. There is bloody vaginal discharge and local male dogs are attracted. Spaying will help to prevent unwanted puppies.
4. Pregnancy complications – Although it may seem fun to consider having a litter of puppies, it is important to remember the toll that pregnancy can take on your dog. Pregnancy complications are common, especially in certain breeds, and can be risky and expensive especially if your dog requires an emergency caesarian section surgery (which can cost more than \$2000). Pregnancy will permanently change the appearance of your dog, with enlarged mammary glands and vulva.
5. Population control – Humane societies, pounds and rescues are overpopulated with dogs that can not find homes. It is incredibly important to animal welfare to reduce the pressures of overpopulation by avoiding casual breeding.

What is Neutering?

Neutering a male dog involves the removal of both testicles through an incision made just in front of the scrotum. We recommend neutering small breed dogs at around 6 months of age. However, in large and giant breed dogs, it may be appropriate to wait until they are fully developed, around 12-14 months of age, until they are neutered. Please talk to your veterinarian to decide when is the optimal time to neuter your puppy.

Benefits of Neutering:

1. Prevention of prostatitis and enlargement of the prostate gland - Under the influence of testosterone the prostate gland will gradually enlarge over the course of a dog's life. With age it is likely to become uncomfortable, possibly becoming large enough to interfere with defecation. The prostate under the influence of testosterone is also predisposed to infection, which is almost impossible to clear up without neutering. Neutering causes the prostate to shrink, preventing both prostatitis and prostate enlargement.
2. Preventing unwanted Behaviours – Intact (unneutered) male dogs experience a huge increase in testosterone during adolescence. Increased testosterone may fuel hormone-related behaviours including urine marking in your house, aggression toward other male dogs, territorial aggression and escape-oriented behaviour in order to roam and find a female. If testosterone-induced

behaviours are a concern, it may be best to neuter male dogs before they are one year old. Once a hormone triggered behaviour has continued long enough, you can be dealing with a firmly entrenched habit that will not fade even after neutering. However, even neutering of an older dog will often result in improved behaviour.

What is involved in a Spay or Neuter?

When you trust your precious family members to Gateway Pet Hospital for a surgery or procedure, we will treat them as if they are our own.

Every hospital has different equipment, staff and protocols. A surgery performed at one hospital can be very different than the same surgery performed at a different hospital. As a pet owner, it is extremely important for you to be comfortable with your pet hospital and your pet's medical team. This may be the only time your pet has to go under a general anesthesia for surgery, so ensuring that your hospital is held to the highest standards of care is important.

The Gateway Pet Hospital Experience

We are very proud of the fact that anesthesia and surgery at Gateway Pet Hospital is remarkably similar to that in human medicine. We are thrilled to explain to you what we do to ensure your pet is safe and comfortable.

- Approximately 1 week before surgery, we like to see your pet for a pre-surgical examination by a Registered Veterinary Technician (a veterinary nurse). There are several important reasons for this.
 - We assess his/her mouth to see if all of their adult teeth came in properly, and look for any baby teeth that have not fallen out as expected.
 - We get an updated weight and ensure they have a healthy body condition.
 - We take pre-surgical bloodwork if you have elected to do so. This ensures we have this important information in advance of the surgery so that we can deal with any concerns and make an anesthetic plan in advance.
 - We discuss the surgery with you in detail, including all the options, and answer any questions so that decisions can be made thoughtfully and involve the entire family. This is usually easier to do in advance of the surgery as morning drop-offs can be rushed and sometimes emotional.
 - We talk about post-surgical instructions and medications. This is something that will be discussed again when you pick up your pet, but hearing it in advance can be helpful so that you know what to expect. You may be so excited to see your pet at the end of his/her surgery day that you might not retain everything we have to tell you!
 - We will go over the pre-operative instructions including when to withhold food on the day before surgery. This information will be repeated when we call you the day before surgery to remind you of your appointment.
 - We will go over the estimate and the costs prior to surgery, and book you a drop off time for the morning of surgery.
- On the morning of your pet's surgery, at your drop-off appointment, a Registered Veterinary Technician will take you and your pet into a quiet exam room. At this time, we will go over any last-minute questions about the surgery, options or estimate. You will be asked to sign a surgery consent form and the estimate. We will ask that you provide us with a phone number where we can reach you, or somebody authorized to make all medical decisions about your pet while they are in hospital.
- Your pet will be taken back to our Treatment Area, and a Veterinarian will perform a pre-anesthetic examination. He/she will be assigned a cozy cage or run in our treatment area where we can closely observe him/her all day.
- The Veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Technician team will come up with a customized anesthetic and surgery plan based on your pet's size, age, breed, temperament and any pre-existing conditions.
- Your pet will be given an injection called a "premedication". This usually contains a sedative agent and a painkiller. The sedation is meant to reduce any stress or anxiety that your pet may feel moving forward. The painkiller is given now as treating pain BEFORE it happens will reduce post-operative

pain. After the injection, we will pre-emptively ensure that your pet is kept warm and cozy with a little sweater or blankets that have been warmed as sedation can lead to drop in body temperature.

- Once the premedication has had time to reach its full effect, usually 10-15 minutes, we will place an IV (intravenous) catheter. This is a small flexible tube that is inserted into the pet's vein to ensure that we can inject fluids and medication right into his/her bloodstream. Your pet is usually very sleepy by this time, and this simple procedure is usually very well tolerated. A small area of fur will need to be shaved usually on one of his/her front legs. The IV catheter is gently bandaged onto the arm and hooked up to a bag of IV fluids.
- IV fluids are an important part of our anesthetic plan and at Gateway we do not offer them as an option with general anesthesia with the exception of cat neuters (which is a very short procedure). IV fluids help to maintain and adjust optimal blood pressure under anesthesia and allow access to the bloodstream in case any intraoperative medications are needed. We always use an IV fluid pump attached to the fluid lines to ensure an accurate rate of fluids can be administered. This ensures they receive appropriate doses of fluids to maintain blood pressure during surgery, but also that they do not receive too much fluid which can result in serious problems.
 - Note: In animals that are older, or have underlying health conditions, IV catheter placement and IV fluids may actually be started prior to the premedication to ensure that we have IV access and several hours of hydration with IV fluids prior to their procedure.
- The Veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Technician team will then work together to place your pet under general anesthesia. An anesthetic drug is injected into their IV line in increments to ensure just the right dose is given for the pet to become anesthetized safely. A laryngoscope is used and a breathing tube of appropriate size is placed into the pet's trachea with care and secured in place. The team works together to gently inflate a small balloon-like cuff near the tip of the tube to ensure a snug fit so that no fluids can get into their lungs, and ensure all the oxygen and anesthetic gases get where they need to go. The breathing tube is attached to an anesthetic machine with a long tube. The anesthetic machine delivers oxygen and an anesthetic gas called isoflurane to keep your pet under anesthesia. This is the same agent used in most human surgeries.
- A Registered Veterinary Technician, with the help of a Veterinary Assistant, will then apply an impressive array of anesthetic monitors to ensure all aspects of your pet's health will be carefully monitored under anesthesia. However, we do not rely fully on machines, so a Registered Veterinary Technician will also be manually monitoring your pet throughout the entire procedure. Gateway Pet Hospital uses the following important monitoring equipment:
 - Pulse oximetry to monitor blood oxygen levels.
 - Capnography to monitor expired carbon dioxide levels.
 - Electrocardiography (ECG) to monitor heart rate and rhythm
 - Blood pressure
 - Constant temperature measurement
 - IV fluid pump rates
- Once your pet is determined to be stable under anesthesia, and monitoring equipment has been attached, his/her surgery site will be clipped and cleaned to make it sterile for surgery. This is all done in our treatment room to ensure no hair or dirt contaminates our sterile surgery suite. When this stage is complete, your pet is carefully moved into our surgery suite.
- Local anesthetics are a very important part of our surgical protocol. We use local anesthetics (freezing) in almost all of our surgeries. We also give pain medications regularly before, during and after surgery. Freezing the surgery sites and managing pain before it starts, even though the pet is under general anesthesia, helps reduce surgical stimulation and allow us to keep your pet's anesthetic doses low. This results in improved blood pressure and other vital signs, and a safer anesthetic.
- Temperature regulation is extremely important when your pet is under anesthesia. Hypothermia (low body temperature) is very common with anesthesia and leads to anesthetic complications. This is especially true in our smaller patients. We use a circulating warm water blanket on our surgery table, a special warming blanket that blows warm air, and even little socks to place on your pet's feet during surgery to ensure they stay toasty.
- Sterile surgery drapes are placed around the surgery site, and the doctor wears a surgery cap and mask, performs a sterile scrub of their hands and arms, and then puts on a sterile surgery gown and gloves.

- The surgery is performed by the doctor while your pet remains under careful observation by the RVT. Adjustments are made regularly to your pet's pain medications, anesthetic doses and fluid rates to ensure all of his/her vitals stay within optimal levels.
- After surgery, the RVT monitors your pet as it recovers from the anesthesia. They remain intubated and on 100% oxygen until they begin to wake up. The breathing tube is removed when they are awake enough to have a swallow reflex. They are transferred to a prewarmed kennel with warmed blankets and remain under careful observation for the remainder of the day. When they are awake enough to eat, we will provide them with a small meal.

Surgery Options:

• Presurgical Bloodwork:

- We strongly recommend performing pre-anesthetic blood tests for any pet undergoing an anesthetic procedure.
- Pre-anesthetic blood work gives the doctor an inside look at your pet's vital organs and allows detection of organ dysfunction which was previously unknown.
- Certain breeds of dogs have a higher likelihood of congenital health concerns, meaning health problems they have since birth. For example, a liver condition called a portosystemic shunt is more common in small and toy breed dogs including Yorkshire Terrier, Havanese, Maltese, Pug, and Miniature Schnauzer but other types of liver shunts are found in large breed dogs.
- We are especially concerned with the health of the liver and kidneys as these organs help the body eliminate medications used during anesthesia.
- Low or high blood sugar can also have an effect on your pet's response to anesthesia and recovery from surgery.
- Pre-anesthetic blood work also evaluates for anemia and dehydration.
- If there are any abnormalities on this panel of tests, we will call to inform you – possibly postponing surgery if need be. Certain abnormalities may warrant further diagnostic tests.
- In addition, consenting to pre-anesthetic blood work will provide us with normal values for your pet. Since normal blood values vary between individual animals it is beneficial to know what is normal for your pet, so we can use these values as a baseline against which to compare future results should your pet become ill.

• Microchip

- Implanting a microchip in your pet is perhaps the most reliable means of identification to date.
- A microchip is placed underneath your pet's skin (usually between the shoulders) and allows anyone with a microchip scanner to identify your pet easily and safely.

• Retained Deciduous Teeth

- Puppies normally have 28 deciduous (baby) teeth that erupt during the first few months of life.
- Adult dogs have 42 permanent teeth.
- Normally, the roots of the deciduous teeth resorb (essentially disappear) in order for the teeth to become loose and fall out. This allows the permanent teeth to erupt normally.
- When deciduous teeth don't fall out, they are referred to as *retained deciduous teeth*.
- Retained deciduous teeth should be extracted soon after they are discovered because they will cause dental problems such as overcrowding, plaque buildup, malocclusion or periodontal disease.
- In addition, the deciduous teeth can prevent normal development of the adult tooth and eventually erode gum support around the adult tooth.
- If your pet has any retained baby teeth they can be removed at the same time as the dog's spay or neuter. We will assess your pet's mouth carefully during the presurgical visit, and again on the day of his/her surgery and inform you if we detect any retained deciduous teeth.

GPH Position Statement on Spaying and Neutering

Gateway Pet Hospital recommends spaying and neutering of dogs that are not intended for breeding. This recommendation is based on preventing health problems associated with aging intact animals, as well as preventing accidental breedings that contribute to pet overpopulation. We are dedicated to staying current with developing and evolving research that evaluates the risks and benefits of spaying and neutering. Every individual pet will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and a plan will be formulated with the pet's family.

It is important to remember that the below recommendations are guidelines only. Timing of your pet's spay or neuter is an important item for you discuss with your veterinary team.

Canine Patients:

We currently recommend that all female dogs are spayed at 6 months of age, regardless of breed or size. This decision is based on a review of current literature and research available covering suspected benefits and risks of spaying before or after estrus (heat).

We recommend neutering most large and giant breed male dogs at 12-14 months of age, and small and medium breed dogs at 6-10 months of age. This decision is based on a review of current literature and research available that investigates the effects of hormones on bone and muscle development in growing dogs.

Dental Care

Your puppy will soon be losing baby teeth and erupting 42 permanent, or adult teeth. Just like humans your dog only has one set of adult teeth; if a tooth is lost it will not re-grow. Therefore, it is very important to start taking care of your pet's teeth now.

85% of pets have periodontal disease by the age of 3 years

What is Periodontal Disease?

Periodontal disease is disease around the outside of the tooth. There is little difference physically between the dog or cat's tooth and the human tooth. We all have a set of baby teeth that come in and fall out to make way for adult teeth. We all have nerves and blood vessels in our teeth surrounded by dentin, which is surrounded in turn by a hard coat of enamel. The enamel is bathed in saliva and quickly is covered by plaque (bacteria mixed with saliva). If we do not regularly disinfect our mouths and brush away the plaque, the plaque will mineralize into tartar (also called calculus – gritty material that the dental hygienist scrapes away). Tartar blocks oxygen from getting to the tooth surface, resulting in changes in the population of the bacteria that can live around the tooth. The bacteria that can withstand the oxygen-poor environment (anaerobic bacteria) are more harmful to the bone and tissues of the gum. After a while, the periodontal ligament becomes damaged, the bone around the tooth is literally eaten away, and the gums become sensitive. Eventually the tooth is lost and, if the bone damage is severe enough, the jaw can actually break. Worse still, the bacteria of the mouth can seed other areas in the body leading to infection in the heart, liver, kidney or virtually anywhere the bloodstream carries them.

How can I prevent Periodontal Disease?

Toothpaste and Brushing

Just as with your own teeth, nothing beats brushing. The fibers of the toothbrush are able to reach between teeth and under gums to pick out tiny deposits of food. A toothbrush acts as a tiny scrub brush for the closest possible cleaning. Notice the shape of the canine and feline brushes and how they conform to a pet's mouth. You can use a soft human toothbrush, often a child's toothbrush is the most appropriate size. Never use a human toothpaste for a pet as these contain sudsing agents and fluoride that are not meant to be swallowed in quantity. Animal toothpastes come in pet-preferred flavours (chicken, seafood, and malt) in addition to the more human-appreciated mint and all are expected to be swallowed. Finger brushes are available and are smaller for puppies and kittens, but sticking with bristles instead of rubber nubs is recommended as they are much better at cleaning below the gumline. *Studies have shown that brushing three times a week was adequate to maintain healthy teeth and gums but daily brushing was needed to control existing gingivitis. Check out our handouts on how to brush! Remember, start SLOW and make it a positive bonding experience for your pet.*

Dental Diets – Once your puppy is 1 year of age

A common misconception is that feeding a kibble diet will protect teeth from dental disease. Consider what it would be like to attempt to replace brushing your own teeth with eating crunchy foods and it is easy to see how ineffective this method would be. When it comes to pet foods, much of the kibble is swallowed whole and not chewed at all. Clearly, there must be more to a dental diet than simple kibbling and in fact there is. Dental diets on the market today use several techniques to help reduce plaque. The first is that the kibbles are very large, which means the pet must chew them before swallowing them. These diets are high in fiber, which means the kibbles do not shatter when chewed but instead the tooth sinks into the kibble allowing plaque to be essentially scrubbed away. The large kibbles may pose an acceptance problem for the pet, leading the owner to use them as treats or mixed with other kibbles. The smaller the percentage of the diet these kibbles represent, the less benefit will be reaped.

Nutrition

How do I choose the right puppy food?

Pet nutrition is a subject that seems to evoke passionate opinions and there is a plethora of misinformation available. The best source of information regarding nutrition is your veterinary team. We deal with nutrition with almost every patient, every day and base our recommendations on sound scientific evidence.

During the 1st year of life your puppy will be growing rapidly and require a balanced diet to promote healthy skin, coat, muscles and bones.

Not every puppy is the same, and not every puppy food is the same. Small breed puppies require different food than large breed puppies. With so many commercial dog foods out there, choosing a diet can be overwhelming. We carry veterinary puppy diets, none of which are marketed with cute packaging... reason being – it is what is inside that counts. We will make a recommendation based on your individual puppy.

Veterinary exclusive puppy diets are palatability guaranteed. If your puppy won't eat it, simply return it for full refund. Years of research, intense quality control and feeding trials have been done to support the nutritional claims on our diets.

Puppies should be fed measured amounts of food 2-3 times per day. Very young and/or very small puppies can become hypoglycemic (low blood glucose) if they are not eating properly. This is potentially fatal; contact us immediately if you have any concerns. Measuring is important so you can gauge if your puppy is eating enough and also so that they are not eating too much. Puppies that are overfed early on are likely to be overweight or even obese as adults. Factor in that you will be using treats for training and that means extra calories. You may need to hold back a 1/8th of a cup of their puppy diet to allow for those treats when training. Remember to continually reassess the amount of food you are feeding as your puppy grows, starting with following the guidelines on the side of the bag. Further adjustments can be made based on your puppy's "body condition score" at his/her puppy appointment.

Your puppy should be fed puppy food until they reach maturity. For small breeds this will be approximately 1 year and larger breed 1 – 1.5 years of age. You should learn to assess your dog's body score and assess him/her regularly starting around 7-8 months. It is important to note your puppy may have 3-4 food switches in their lifetime based on their life stage. Transitioning from one food to another should gradually be done over 7-10 days by mixing the foods.

Please see our Nutrition Tab for some excellent resources on reading pet food labels, and choosing a pet food.

Coming in to weigh your puppy regularly on our scale costs nothing. We would be happy to help you keep him/her at an optimal healthy weight.

Behaviour

Socializing

Socializing your puppy to many different people (adults and kids) and vaccinated pets is **very important for their development**. Exposing them to different situations (car rides, loud noises, bicycles) that you don't want them to be afraid of as an adult should also be done early on. It is important to teach them not to bite, and watch for any signs of aggression or anxiety so these issues can be addressed with your trainer or veterinarian early on. These are all aspects of how they need to learn to socialize with you and others in the community. Play with their feet, ears and face on a daily basis. This will help get them ready for grooming and being handled by the veterinary team.

It's also important to know that a puppy experiences its first 'fear period' somewhere between 8 and 12 weeks of age. Your pup may show fear or apprehension about people, places or things that he was previously unafraid of. It's important to continue with socialization in a positive way, as negative or fearful experiences can have a lasting impact. If your puppy is showing signs of fear, please contact us for information on how to help him/her get through this phase.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of enrolling in a puppy kindergarten class.

Puppy training

Joining a puppy class is a great idea. The instructor can help you each week to advise or correct any issues you may be having. Going to someone who is trained and knowledgeable is important. Invest your money wisely. We will be happy to recommend training in your area.

The effort you put into your puppy now will dictate what kind of adult dog you will be living with for the rest of their life. Learning the basic training commands, how to settle, gain confidence and develop manners will make for an enjoyable friendship. Training classes are also important to for socialization with other puppies and learning training techniques in the face of distraction. So many pets each year are taken to the Humane Society for unwanted behavior issues that could have been prevented.

Please ask us to demonstrate grooming techniques you can do at home. Getting your puppy used to a brush and nail trimming early on will help you keep them looking their best!

Crate Training

Choose a crate that will be big enough to fit your puppy when they are full grown. You should then section the crate off to only allow your puppy to stand up, turn around and lay down. Some crates come with separators for this purpose. The reason we want decreased space in the crate is because dogs do not like to go to bathroom where they sleep, and so they will learn to hold their urinations and defecations while in the crate. If the crate is too large your puppy may use “the bathroom” at one end and sleep at the other without learning anything. Putting safe blankets and toys in, as well as feeding your dog in the crate will help your dog get used to the crate. We recommend choosing a “special treat” that they get only when they go into their crate, such as a Kong stuffed with treats or peanut butter. Remember dogs are den animals by nature and will find security in the crate, and for this reason we recommend that you do NOT use the crate for discipline. However, it is appropriate to use it as a happy/safe place to stay when company is over. Your puppy should go into the crate during the night, and any time you leave the home or are unable to properly supervise him/her. A very general rule of thumb that has been suggested for determining how many hours a puppy should be able to spend in the crate without urinating, is to take their age in months and add one. For example, a 3 month old puppy should be able to be left in the crate for 4 hours. The maximum time we recommend leaving a dog in a crate during the day is 8 hours.

House Training

Supervising your puppy at all times helps you pick up on cues that they need to go outside. You may even want to consider keeping you puppy on a leash in the house! If you are not able to keep them with you, they should go in the crate. Once your dog is fully house trained, they can then have more freedom around the house. Be sure to take your dog outside after meals, playtime and when they wake up from sleeping as this is when they are most likely to go to the bathroom. Smaller breed dogs may need to go out more often than larger breeds. If your puppy has an accident in the house, do not scold them unless you catch them “in the act”. **The correction for any “no-no” needs to be given within 2 seconds of the behavior.** If you do catch him/her “in the act” you can make a loud noise (i.e. clap your hands) to startle them, use a simple “no” command or something similar, pick them up and immediately take them outside. Hopefully, they can finish their “business” outside.

Don't forget lots of praise when your puppy does go to the bathroom outside or is behaving well. Sometimes we are so busy correcting them that we forget to praise them. Puppies respond to your tone of voice and body language. Make sure it reflects what you are trying to teach.

Some people choose to use puppy training pads indoors. There are pros and cons to considering this approach. Although “potty pads” can be weather friendly, and convenient, for example if you live on the upper

floor of an apartment building, they may lead to confusion when teaching your puppy to go outside. In most cases, getting your puppy outdoors right from the beginning is the most efficient approach to house training.

Biting

Although often thought to be a teething behavior, nipping, mouthing and biting in young dogs is generally a form of social play. It is a normal behavior in puppies! Puppies need to learn how much pressure from their jaws causes pain. This is called *bite inhibition*. This is something they start to learn while living with their littermates. When puppies play with each other, if one puppy bites too hard, the bitten puppy will yelp, and may also stop playing and leave. This sends the message to the puppy that its bites were too hard and if it wishes to continue to play it needs to be gentle.

The message you should send to your puppy is that mouthing and chewing on hands or feet is painful. A sharp “ouch” or “yip” followed by ceasing all play activity sends the message to the puppy that the bites are painful and that biting will cause play to be terminated. Your puppy is constantly reading your body language – show them it hurts. In most cases they are not intentionally trying to hurt you.

Simple steps to discourage biting:

1. Make a sharp noise when your puppy bites, and immediately cease playing temporarily.
2. Redirect your puppy's biting behavior by providing them with an appropriate chew toy.
3. Reward appropriate play and give positive reinforcement of this behavior by continuing the play session!

Remember that **all family members must consistently follow the rules** for the puppy to understand and learn what is considered desirable behavior and what is not. Avoid scolding or punishing your puppy (such as tapping the nose, holding the mouth closed, or yanking the leash). This behavior cannot be disciplined out! It will eventually subside with consistent training as recommended above.

Chewing

It is natural at this age for your puppy to want to chew. Puppies use their mouths to explore and investigate new objects. They may be starting to get some adult teeth coming through by about 10-12 weeks of age. Chewing will also help to keep your puppy's teeth clean. This does not mean that you have to let your puppy chew your furniture and all your belongings! You will need to teach your puppy what they can and cannot chew.

To set your puppy up for success, you should *puppy-proof* your home. Put away things you do not want them to ruin. You will need to provide your dog with appropriate items to chew. It is good to have a few chew toys with a variety of different tastes, odors and textures to determine what appeals to your pet. Some dogs are also more aggressive chewers than others and may need more durable toys. It is always best to watch your dog when you first give them a new toy and inspect their toys regularly to make sure they are not able to break large pieces off that they could choke on or swallow. You also want to make sure that what your dog chews are not so hard that it wears down your dog's teeth or breaks them. The exact type of chew toy that is appropriate for your puppy will depend on their chewing behavior. Aggressive and destructive chewers will need different toys than dogs that tend to be nibblers. Rubber Kong toys are appropriate in almost all types of chewers, but make sure the size of the Kong is appropriate for your puppy. Other rubber puppy toys, plush toys and rope toys may also be appropriate but your puppy should be supervised when playing with them. Please see our Nutrition Tab for the section on “safe chews”.

If you *catch your puppy in the act* of chewing on something they are not supposed to, you can distract your puppy with a firm “NO” and then redirect your puppy to an appropriate chew toy. Remember to only correct your puppy if you catch them in the act, **within 2 seconds of the unwanted behavior**. In order to prevent your puppy from chewing inappropriate items when you are not home it is best to put them in their crate. You can include safe chew toys inside the crate until they have learned what they can and cannot chew, being very careful that the toys you choose to leave in the crate cannot be ripped apart and swallowed. Remember to praise them when chewing on toys!

Behaviour Links:

North Toronto Veterinary Behaviour Specialty Clinic Resources page:

<https://www.northtorontovets.com/behaviour-links.pml>

Pet Safety Tips

Travelling with your pet

Travelling with a pet can be stressful for both you and your pet, but planning ahead can help make the experience better.

If possible, it's best to leave your pet at home with a person you trust or at a reputable kennel. When that's not an option, the first step is to take your pet to the veterinarian to make sure that it's healthy enough to travel and up to date on necessary vaccines. If your pet requires medication, make sure you have enough to last the length of the trip, as well as any flea, tick and heartworm prevention products. Some regions have a higher risk of certain parasites, so talk to your veterinarian about the risks associated with where you're going.

Car travel

- Keep your pet in a secure, well-ventilated crate or carrier to keep the animal and passengers safe.
- On a hot day, a car can quickly become an oven—even if the windows are open—and lead to heat stroke or death. Never leave an animal alone in a parked vehicle.
- Bring plenty of water for your pet to drink.
- Some places require documentation, like proof of rabies vaccination. Check ahead and make sure you bring the right paperwork.
- Make sure your pet has a proper identification tag in case your pet gets loose.
- Talk to us if your cat becomes stressed during travel. There are several useful training programs that can be used to get him/her more comfortable with car travel.
- Some pets get nauseous during travel. In these pets, a prescription travel sickness medication may be appropriate.
- We recommend the use of Adaptil sprays or collars for pets that get stressed during travel. This pheromone helps reduce anxiety and keep your pet more comfortable. For pets with extreme anxiety, prescription anxiety medications may be considered. Talk to your veterinary team if you are concerned about your pet's travel anxiety.

Air travel

The danger of air travel is not in the flying, but the loading, unloading or waiting in an unsheltered area exposed to the elements.

Delays can result in time spent on the runway before take-off or after landing, when the plane's cargo areas aren't pressurized. During that time, your pet is confined in the cargo hold without fresh air, and temperatures can fluctuate from hot to cold in short periods of time.

Due to the uncertainty of departure times and weather conditions, unless it is absolutely necessary for your pet to travel by air, we recommend that you leave him/her at home with a trusted friend or family member or at a reputable boarding kennel. To avoid exposure to extreme temperatures, some airlines won't permit pets to fly at certain times of the year.

If you do decide to transport your pet by air, the following guidelines may help to make them safer.

- Buy an approved carrier from an airline, pet store, or veterinary hospital weeks before your trip and allow your animal to get familiar with it.
- Make sure all screws on the carrier are present and tight. You don't want your pet getting loose in the cargo hold. Most pet travel accidents are a result of poorly constructed carriers.
- Don't lock the door in case of emergency, but consider adding a snap closure for security.
- A familiar blanket or toy in the carrier might make your pet more comfortable and less afraid.
- A container for water should be secured to the inside of the carrier and put where it can be filled without opening the cage. A drip bottle is better than an open bowl, but your pet needs to be trained to use this type of bottle before the flight.
- Carriers must be clearly marked "LIVE ANIMALS" and "THIS END UP" in letters at least one inch high. The animal's name and destination, as well as the owner's identification and address, should also be secured to the carrier.
- Travel at off-peak hours. Try to book non-stop flights. If you're taking multiple flights, make sure that your pet has been transferred by confirming this with your flight attendant.
- Sedate your pet only on the advice of your veterinarian. Sedation may lead to serious complications, including inhibiting your pet's ability to regulate body temperature or breathing problems.
- Inform flight attendants that you have a pet on board, especially if your flight is delayed. If your pet is small enough, carry it on board. Many airlines will allow this if the pet carrier fits under the seat in front of you. Check with your airline.
- Make sure your pet has received the appropriate vaccinations for the country you're visiting and that the necessary veterinarian-certified papers are with the pet. Consult the customs/immigration department for local vaccination requirements.

Bringing a pet to Canada

Importation of pets into Canada is regulated by the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

Under the National Animal Health Program, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency establishes import requirements for all animals and animal products entering Canada-including domestic pets. **The Agency can refuse entry to any animal presented for importation.**

Pets and heat stroke

During the hot summer months, it's important to remember that your furry friend has a limited capacity to deal with the heat, and can easily become overwhelmed, leading to heat stroke.

What is heat stroke?

Heat stroke happens when your pet's body isn't able to cope with the external heat, leading to illness, organ failure and even death. Humans sweat to help regulate their body temperature, but dogs don't have prominent sweat glands, so they rely on panting to cool off. Cats will sometimes groom themselves as a cooling

mechanism, but may also pant. Due to this limited ability to cope, dogs and cats can be overwhelmed by the heat, especially when left in a hot car, but even just through physical activity.

How can I prevent heat stroke?

- **Never leave your pet alone in the car.** Temperatures in a car can skyrocket in a short period of time, even with the windows rolled down.
- Be aware that certain dogs are more susceptible to the heat than others, including overweight pets and those with long hair, thick coats or short faces. English and French bulldogs are more likely to suffer from heat stroke than the average dog.
- Keep plenty of fresh water available. If the water bowl is outside, make sure it's in the shade to keep it cool.
- Keep your dog inside on the hottest days of summer. When outside, keep your dog on the grass, since pavement can reach temperatures high enough to burn your pet's foot pads.
- Use air conditioning, fans, cooling pads or a kiddie pool.
- Plan walks and exercise for the morning or evening hours, when it's cooler and the sun isn't as strong.
- Take breaks while exercising and be aware of your pet's breathing. If your pet is panting hard or making strange sounds, take a break. You might have to shorten exercise trips, especially with snub-nose dogs.
- While dogs are at greatest risk, cats and other small pets can also suffer from heat stroke if left in the sun or in a confined, hot space.

What are the signs and symptoms of heat stroke?

- Excessive panting
- Muscle twitching
- Anxious or dazed look
- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Increased drooling
- Diarrhea

What should I do if I think my pet has heat stroke?

If you believe your pet has heat stroke, take them out of the sun and heat and try to lower their body temperature with cool (but not cold) water and damp towels. Allow your pet to drink if they're able. A pet suffering from heat stroke needs to be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible, as the condition can cause organ damage or death.

Pets and cannabis

What is cannabis?

Recreational and most medical cannabis products are prepared using the Cannabis sativa L plant, usually by drying its flowers and leaves. More than 100 chemicals, known as cannabinoids, come from the cannabis plant. Cannabis is also called marijuana.

Recreational cannabis, which is smoked, vaporized or baked into oral preparations for humans, contains high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which causes psychoactive effects on the mind. This class of cannabis has the highest risk for pet toxicity.

Medical cannabis contains moderate to high levels of cannabidiol (CBD), a non-psychoactive cannabinoid compound, and lower levels of THC. These medicinal products may be prescribed to human patients for anti-nausea, pain relief and other medical reasons. Some of these products contain enough THC to produce toxicity in pets.

Hemp is cannabis that contains very low levels (less than 0.3 per cent) of THC in its flowers and leaves. This tends to be most used for “medicinal” purposes for pets, with products including hemp oil, tincture or hemp powder. Effective and safe dosages of hemp products have not been studied.

Can veterinarians prescribe cannabis products or medical cannabis to pets?

No. Veterinarians are not allowed to prescribe any of these products to pets. In addition, there are currently no CBD products approved by Health Canada and therefore no legal pathway for veterinarians to obtain these products.

Is cannabis safe for pets?

The safety and efficacy of these products is unknown. There's also limited research on the use of these types of products in animals. Studies show that dogs have a higher sensitivity to cannabinoids than people, which puts them at risk. Cannabis of any type is not approved for use in animals, and giving products to your pet may have unknown side effects, unproven effectiveness and could result in a medical crisis.

What are the signs of cannabis toxicity in pets?

- Lack of balance and coordination, fatigue or weakness
- Excessive salivation
- Vomiting
- Dilated pupils
- Tremors or seizures or disorientation
- Slow heart rate
- Change in body temperature
- Sensitivity to light and sound
- Urinary incontinence

What should I do if I think my pet has ingested cannabis?

Take your pet to a veterinary hospital immediately. Don't be afraid to tell the veterinarian that your pet has accidentally ingested cannabis products—symptoms are varied and omitting this information can make managing your pet's case difficult. Remember, your veterinarian only has your pet's health in mind.

With information from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

Holiday hazards

Chocolate – That box of chocolates wrapped and trimmed under your tree may satisfy your sweet tooth, but it's poisonous for your dog. Make sure all food-related gifts are tucked away safely.

Turkey – Turkey is delicious, but its bones and fat are too much for your pet's stomach and can cause severe upset. Make sure carcass leftovers are secured away from your pet.

Bones – Bones are never a good choice for a snack, as they may become lodged or splinter in the digestive system. Ask your veterinarian for a recommendation on appropriate treats.

Tinsel – Pets, particularly cats, love to chew and play with glittery tinsel. Unfortunately, they can't resist eating it, and tinsel can become entangled in the intestinal tract. Often, it must be surgically removed.

Stress – You may love company during the holidays, but consider whether your pet does, too. The presence of many visitors unknown to your pet can cause unnecessary stress for him/her. If you're planning a party, provide your pet with a quiet, secure place to settle in while you party.

Gifting pets – If you're thinking of giving a new pet as a holiday gift, think again. The holidays can be a hectic and stressful time, particularly for a new pet, and the recipient may be unprepared for the responsibility.

Electrical cords and decorations – These can pose potential hazards for your pets. Avoid leaving your furry friend unsupervised around these tempting items. Try to segregate your pet from holiday trimmings when you're not home.

Holiday plants – A **variety of plants** can be toxic to your house pet. Check to see if a plant is safe before bringing it into your home.

Over feeding – You might overeat during the holidays, but don't increase the treats for your pet. Obesity is one of the major causes of long-term ill health in pets. Maintain your animal's regular diet and keep plenty of fresh water available at all times.

If your pet becomes ill as a result of coming into contact with any of these holiday hazards, contact your veterinarian immediately for advice on first aid and further treatment.

Pets and poisons

Follow these guidelines to protect your pets from being exposed.

- Be aware of the **plants** you have in your home and yard. Eating some plants can be fatal to a pet.
- Never allow your pets to have access to the areas where **cleaning products** are being used or stored. Some cleaning products might only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause bad burns to the tongue, mouth and stomach.
- When using **pest bait or traps**, put them in areas that aren't accessible to your pets. Most bait contains sweet smelling inert ingredients, like jelly, peanut butter or sugar, which can also attract your pets.
- Never give your companion animal **medication** unless directed by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals. For example, one 500 milligram acetaminophen tablet can kill a cat weighing seven pounds.
- Keep all **prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pet's reach**, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills can be lethal to animals, even in small doses. For example, one 200 milligram ibuprofen tablet can cause stomach ulcers in a dog weighing 10 pounds.
- Never leave **chocolate** in reach. Even small amounts can cause problems.
- Many common household items can be lethal to animals. **Mothballs, potpourri oils, coffee grounds, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, batteries, cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and hand and foot warmers** are all highly toxic, even in small amounts.
- Automotive products such as **gasoline, oil and antifreeze** should be stored in areas that aren't accessible to your pet. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat weighing seven pounds; less than one tablespoon can be lethal to a dog weighing 20 pounds.
- Before buying a **flea product** for use on your pet, ask your veterinarian for a recommendation.
- Read all of the information on labels before using a product on your pet or in your home. Always follow the directions.
- If a product is for use only on dogs, it should never be used on cats; if a product is for use only on cats, it should never be used on dogs.
- Make sure your companion animals don't enter areas where **foggers or house sprays** have been used for the period of time written on the label.

- Make sure your pets don't go on **lawns or in gardens treated with fertilizers, herbicides or insecticides** until they have dried completely. Always store these products in areas that aren't accessible to your pets.

If you're uncertain about the use of any product, ask the manufacturer and/or your veterinarian for instructions.

Provided by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. For more information, visit www.asPCA.org.

Potentially poisonous plants

- Aloe Vera, Amaryllis, Apple (seeds), Apple Leaf Croton, Apricot (pit), Asparagus Fern, Autumn Crocus, Azalea
- Baby's Breath, Bird of Paradise, Branching Ivy, Buckeye, Buddhist Pine
- Caladium, Calla Lily, Castor Bean, Ceriman, Charming Dieffenbachia, Cherry (seeds and wilting leaves), Chinese Evergreen, Christmas Rose, Cineraria, Clematis, Cordatum, Corn Plant, Cornstalk Plant, Croton, Cuban Laurel, Cutleaf Philodendron, Cycads, Cyclamen
- Daffodil, Devil's Ivy, Dieffenbachia, Dracaena Palm, Dragon Tree, Dumb Cane
- Easter Lily (especially in cats!!!!), Elaine, Elephant Ears, Emerald Feather, English Ivy, Eucalyptus
- Fiddle-leaf fig, Florida Beauty, Floxglove, Fruit Salad Plant
- Geranium, German Ivy, Giant Dumb Cane, Glacier Ivy, Gold Dust Dracaena, Golden Pothos
- Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy, Heartland Philodendron, Hurricane Plant
- Indian Rubber Plant
- Janet Craig Dracaena, Japanese Show Lily (especially in cats!!!), Jerusalem Cherry
- Kalanchoe (Panda bear Plant)
- Lace Tree Philodendron, Lily of the Valley
- Madagascar Dragon Tree, Marble Queen, Marijuana, Mexican Breadfruit, Miniature Croton, Mistletoe, Morning Glory, Mother-in Law's Tongue
- Narcissus, Needlepoint Ivy, Nephthytis, Nightshade
- Oleander, Onions, Oriental Lily (especially in cats!!!)
- Peace Lily, Peach (wilting leaves and pits), Pencil Cactus, Plumosa Fern, Poinsettia (low toxicity), Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Pothos, Precatory Bean, Primrose
- Red Emerald, Red Princess, Red-Margined Dracaena, Rhododendron, Ribbon Plant
- Saddle Leaf Philodendron, Sago Palm, Satin Pothos, Schefflera, Silver Pothos, Spotted Dumb Cane, String of Pearls, Striped Dracaena, Sweetheart Ivy, Swiss Cheese Plant
- Taro Vine, Tiger Lily (especially cats!!!), Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem and leaves), Tree Philodendron, Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia
- Weeping Fig
- Yew

Provided by Dr. Jill Richardson, Veterinary Poison Information Specialist, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, www.asPCA.org.

