

Your New Puppy

Congratulations on obtaining your new puppy! Owning a puppy can be a very rewarding experience and a large responsibility. We hope that this puppy package will aid in starting your puppy off on the right paw. We are very grateful that you have chosen us to help in your puppy's health care. If you have any questions or concerns on any subject, please don't hesitate to give us a call at the clinic.

First Appointment (6-9 weeks of age)

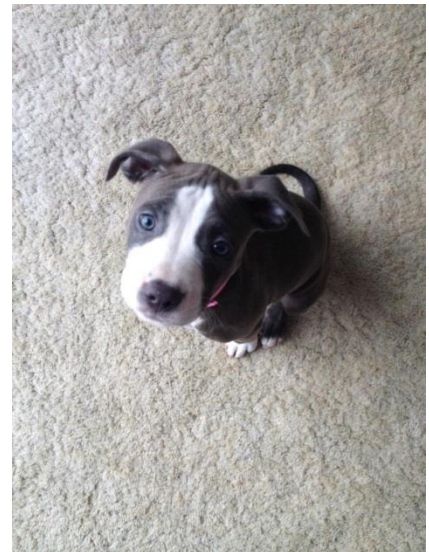
- Physical examination
- First set of vaccines consisting of canine Distemper, Adenovirus (type 2), Parainfluenza and Parvovirus (DA2PP), Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
- Heartworm preventive medication during heartworm season
- Fecal sample to test for intestinal parasites
- Deworming program in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Discuss puppy behaviour and house training
- Discuss microchipping and pet health insurance
- Parasite control including fleas and ticks (depending on time of year)

Second Appointment (10-13 weeks of age)

- Physical examination
- Booster vaccines (DA2PP) and Leptospirosis (L) vaccine
- Heartworm preventive medication during heartworm season
- Discuss any current puppy behaviour or medical problem
- Parasite control including fleas and ticks (depending on time of year)

Third Appointment (16 weeks of age)

- Physical examination
- Booster vaccines (DA2PP + L) and Rabies (R) vaccine
- Heartworm preventive medication during heartworm season
- Discuss preanaesthetic blood testing prior to neuter
- Parasite control including fleas and ticks (depending on time of year)



* ***A fourth appointment is recommended for all small breed dogs. This allows us to spread out the number of vaccines given at previous appointments, greatly reducing the risk of vaccine related reactions.***

** ***The above protocol may be modified to address the specific needs or concerns of an individual pet***



Spaying and Neutering

We recommend spaying or neutering your puppy. The traditional age for this is 6 months of age. There is emerging information that delaying this may be appropriate (we can discuss this with you). A pre-anesthetic blood profile performed a few days prior to or the morning of the surgery is recommended prior to administering anesthetics. Puppies are fasted (no food after 8:00 PM) the night before surgery. DO NOT withhold water. Your puppy will be admitted between 7:00 AM and 8:30 AM the day of the surgery and will go home the same evening.

Heartworm

Heartworm is a serious but preventable disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Heartworm medicine is administered monthly starting June 1st and continues through to November 1st. If your pet was born prior to last November a Heartworm test will first be performed. This monthly Heartworm prevention also prevents flea infestations and controls common intestinal parasites.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is an up and coming problem in Ontario, which is transferred by the bite of a tick. It can be a serious but preventable disease. If your dog frequents areas of large grass or forests, it is a good idea to check them over to see if a tick has found a home on your dog. If left to latch on, it will take a blood meal and potentially transfer Lyme to your pet. There is a medicine that can be given to help prevent ticks from attaching to your dog.

Kennel Cough (Bordetella)

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection in dogs. Dogs that will be groomed, boarded, live a social lifestyle at dog parks or if they interact with other dogs in the neighbourhood should all have their Bordetella (Kennel Cough) vaccine.

Annual Visit

- Physical examination allows us to address any medical or behavioral concerns
- Update necessary vaccines
- Fecal sample to test for internal parasites
- Annual bloodwork helps in the early detection of disease and establishes individual baselines for future reference



12 Tips For Training Dogs

1. Make learning fun for both you and your dog. Training sessions should be **5-10 mins** up to 3 times a day. Make sure to separate by 4 hours to maximize learning. Dogs of any age can learn if you use patience, praise and rewards
2. Train your dog with *positive reinforcement* using praise, food rewards and also clicker training. When done right, this can be an excellent tool in teaching your dog good behaviour. For further details on Clicker Training, please refer to [Clicker Training Tips](#) later on in this puppy guide.
3. Start training in a quiet area with few distractions, when your pet is in a calm state. Once your dog is able to predictably perform behaviours, you can move to a more distracting environment. You may start in the basement, move to the kitchen, backyard, street, plaza, etc...
4. The 5 foundation behaviours are: Come, sit, stay, down and leave it. These behaviours are a good stepping stone to teaching your dog other tricks. If your dog fails at any stage, stop, don't reward, and start again at a simpler command. You might find that your dog's motivation to perform decreases as the complexity of the task increases. **Make learning as fun as possible to avoid this.**
5. Training on an empty stomach keeps your puppy motivated for treats and excited to learn
6. Only add verbal cues when your dog predictably does the behaviour. Say your verbal cue as your dog is about to do the behaviour you asked. Keep commands to one or two words so it does not confuse your dog.
7. Your dog will learn quickly if every desirable response is rewarded. However; **once the behaviour is established, start rewarding intermittently** to help prevent a "food focused" dog. By rewarding occasionally it keeps the dog guessing when he will receive the treat. This in the end reinforces and strengthens the behaviour
8. Use high valued rewards. Find out what your dog values the most (food, touch, voice, praise) and use that reward most frequently. As training progresses, try varying the type of reward given.
9. Once your dog has learned the commands from one person, have other members of the family train him/her to respond to them.





10. How quickly and enthusiastically your dog responds is a good indication of the intensity of the training. If your dog responds only when they want to, start training again from the start.
11. The longer an unwanted learned behaviour has been performed, the longer it takes to recondition it.
12. **Punishment does not work!** The opposite of a reward is no reward, not punishment. It creates fear and anxiety and works against everything that you have just taught your dog. Just be patient and persistent and you'll have a well behaved puppy in no time!



Crate Training

Confinement training is used as a safe and comfortable area for your dog. It helps to restrict access to areas where they might house soil, do harm to themselves or even cause damage to your home.

You can compare crate training for your puppy with placing a young child in a playpen or crib at playtime or for sleeping. Other alternatives include: dog proofed room, pen, and a dog run.

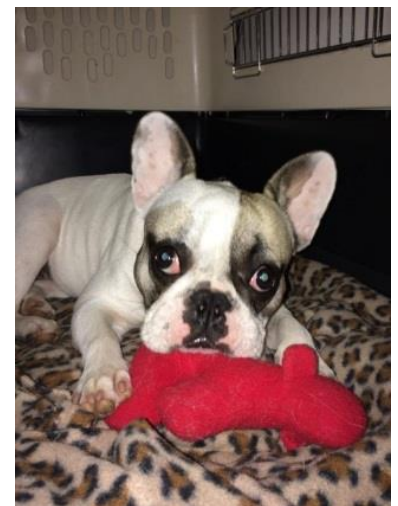
Reasons to crate train:

You never know when your dog might need to be confined to a crate later in life. It is easiest to teach them while they are puppies so that they have a long lasting appreciation for their crate. Here are a couple of reasons why you should teach your dog to stay calm in a crate:

- **Safety:** Some dogs are more mischievous than others! When left on their own, they might get into and ingest things they are not supposed to. This can result in a surgery for your pooch.
- **Damage:** few people can afford the damage a dog can do when left free inside a home during their destructive chewing stage.
- **Veterinary Hospital:** If your dog has to stay at the hospital for any reason, whether they are sick or in for a spay/neuter, they will most likely be staying in a cage for the day.
- **Traveling:** when traveling by airplane, your dog is required to be confined in a small crate. This is already a very stressful time for your pet! If they are trained to stay calm in their crate, they may feel safer and less stressed during the flight.
- **Emergency Situation:** a natural disaster may arise and your dog might need to be confined

How to crate train:

1. Place the crate in a room that your puppy most frequents and keep the doors open to allow your puppy to go freely in and out at any time.
2. Place a variety of treats and toys in the crate to create a safe fun environment that they will enjoy going into.
3. Designating the crate as a feeding area, will teach your puppy that it is a safe environment and will look forward to going into their crate
4. Throw some treats into the crate and allow your puppy to enter on their own. Once they are in the crate, praise them with another treat and call them out.
5. Repeat #4 several times until the puppy willingly goes in the crate and waits for a treat.





6. At this point you can try closing the door. Start feeding a couple of treats through the bars right away, and then quickly open the door while feeding the treats. Then allow your dog to come out, and repeat. Slowly increase the amount of time that the door is closed.
7. Your puppy may try to vocalize to get out. If this happens, **wait your puppy out**. The second they stop vocalizing, reward by giving a treat through the bars and then open the cage.
8. Once your dog is used to the door being closed, you can increase the time between each treat and eventually give the treats intermittently.
9. After sufficient exercise and after they have eliminated, nap time can be the best time to introduce staying in the crate. Once they begin showing signs of being sleepy, show them to their crate and allow them to fall asleep. Stay in the room the first couple of times to keep an eye on them. Once they wake up, reward them and let them out of their crate.
10. If when they wake up and begin to vocalize because the door is shut, it is important to wait until they stop. Then reward them through the bars as soon as they stop vocalizing, then let them out.

Crate Training Problems:

If your dog is anxious or eliminates in the crate, it is a good indication that some part of the crate training needs to be revisited

- Your dog may have been left in its crate longer than they can control elimination.
- If the crate is too large, then it gives your dog a spot to sleep **and** to eliminate. Control this by using the separator that your crate comes with to make it smaller. A dog will not normally eliminate where it sleeps, unless it has severe anxiety.
- If your dog is anxious and tries to escape its crate, then they might not have been accustomed to the crate in a gradual and positive manner. Review the steps above to ensure that the crate feels like a safe haven for your dog.
- **NEVER use the crate as a punishment!!** The crate is supposed to be used as a safe haven for your dog. When punished you are taking 5 steps backwards instead of going forward in training.
- If your dog is unable to stay in a crate after every attempt to try to make it positive, then try putting your dog in a room that is dog proofed so that they cannot get into mischief.
- A dog that has previously been okay with a crate may in the future develop fear and anxiety for various reasons that sometimes we don't understand. Try keeping the crate a happy fun place for your dog to help prevent this.





Microchip Identification

Is your pet microchipped?

Why Not?



6 reasons to microchip your pet with M4S ID:

1. Permanent, positive identification
2. North American Pet Recovery Team
3. Stainless Steel collar tag with database phone number and individual tag number
4. No maintenance fees, no address or ownership change fees.
5. Database accessible 24/7 across North America
6. Prevent against theft. An ownership change can only be made after we have written confirmation from the previous owner.

"Tags may be lost,
and tattoos may wear,
but a microchip
is always there"



Ask your veterinarian for more information today!



Canine House Training Guide

When not engaged in any activity, a puppy can hold their bladder for **1 hour plus their age in months**. For example: a 3 month old pup should be able to hold their bladder for 4 hours while not active. Full bladder control can take up to 4-5 months. **Maximum urine control should not exceed 8 hours**. House training will vary with each individual puppy.

Choosing a desired location

- Area should be easily accessible and a direct route to outside
- Keep the spot outside to a single location (keep it consistent) until your pup learns to go out on its own
- Go out with your puppy every time and praise elimination **enthusiastically** every time. You may give your puppy a treat right after elimination to help encourage it to happen again.
- Don't have immediate access to outdoors? See Pee pad training at the end of this guide



Maintain consistent schedules

- Puppies have a strong urge to eliminate after playing, eating, drinking and waking up.
- 20-30 minutes after these activities is usually when they start showing signs that they are looking for a place to go to the washroom.
- If you keep their schedule consistent, it will be easier to predict when they need to use the washroom
- Puppies are able to control their bladder for only short periods of time. As they grow older, the time between eliminations becomes longer.
- Take up the water dish 1-2 hours prior to bedtime. This helps prevent any bathroom breaks during the night.

Confinement/Supervision

- Until your puppy has completed 4 consecutive weeks without soiling in the house, they should be within eyesight at all times to avoid any accidents.
- A crate can be used for confinement. It is intended as a safe environment, comfortable bed, playpen, or den for your pup. The crate should be small enough for them to be able to get up and turn around. If the crate is too big, they will choose one site to eliminate in.
- They should not be confined to their crate until they have had sufficient exercise and social interaction. They also should not be confined for longer than they are able to control their urine or bowel movements.
- Puppies can only control elimination for a couple of hours. If you are unable to let your puppy out within this time frame, then they should be left to a larger crate with a pee pad, or in a small room with a pee pad.



How to Train to Eliminate outside

- Set your puppy up for success by anticipating when they need to go to the bathroom
- Supervise your puppy and watch for signs of elimination:
 - Sneaking off
 - Sniffing around
 - Circling
 - Squating
 - Running to the door
- When signs are seen, immediately bring your puppy outside to eliminate
- If they do their business, then praise and reward them right away.
- If your pup is not ready to eliminate and is just playing around, then bring them back inside and try again in 5 minutes. Repeat until they eliminate. Then reward!
- When your puppy's behaviour is predictable, begin adding a verbal cue such as "Outside?"
- As your puppy is about to squat or leg lift to pee, add a verbal cue such as "Go Pee". You may even say "Go Poo" before they have a bowel movement.
- Bring your puppy outside as often as possible during the day while you are at home. This will give your puppy ample time to learn to go potty outside, and sets them up for success. Be sure to monitor your puppy and praise and reward if they eliminate outside.

Pee Pad/Paper Training

- While it is best to skip pee pad training, if you are in an apartment, it can be difficult to get them outside right away.
- This is the same as outdoor training; however, you are bringing them to a pee pad instead.
- Pee pads can be used also when you have to leave your puppy for longer periods.
- To wean them off pee pad training, take them outside with the pee pad when they are showing signs of wanting to eliminate. Place the pee pad on the grass and over the next couple of times decrease the size of the pee pad. You may even take grass clippings and put it on the pee pad in order to get them used to eliminating on grass.



Oopsy!

- Accidents happen! **Never discipline** your puppy for having an accident in the house. As tempting as it might be, it will create fear and anxiety and it teaches your puppy to not eliminate while you are around. Instead, make it a positive and fun for your puppy and teach them where **it is ok** to eliminate.
- If you find a spot on the floor, clean it up with a non-ammonia product and an odor control product to get rid of the smell. Ammonia products should not be used as they smell like urine to dogs.
- Keep a closer eye on your puppy, as they can sneak away very fast to go to the bathroom. Just remember that for them it is a natural thing. They don't know that going in the house is bad. If you yell at them while they are in the kitchen and peeing, then to them, that one spot in the



- kitchen is bad. They will think that the 2 feet to the left in the kitchen, living room, basement, bedroom, etc... is still okay.
- If you catch them in the act, try to distract them by clapping your hands. Pick them up and run them outside immediately. After they are done, praise and reward them.

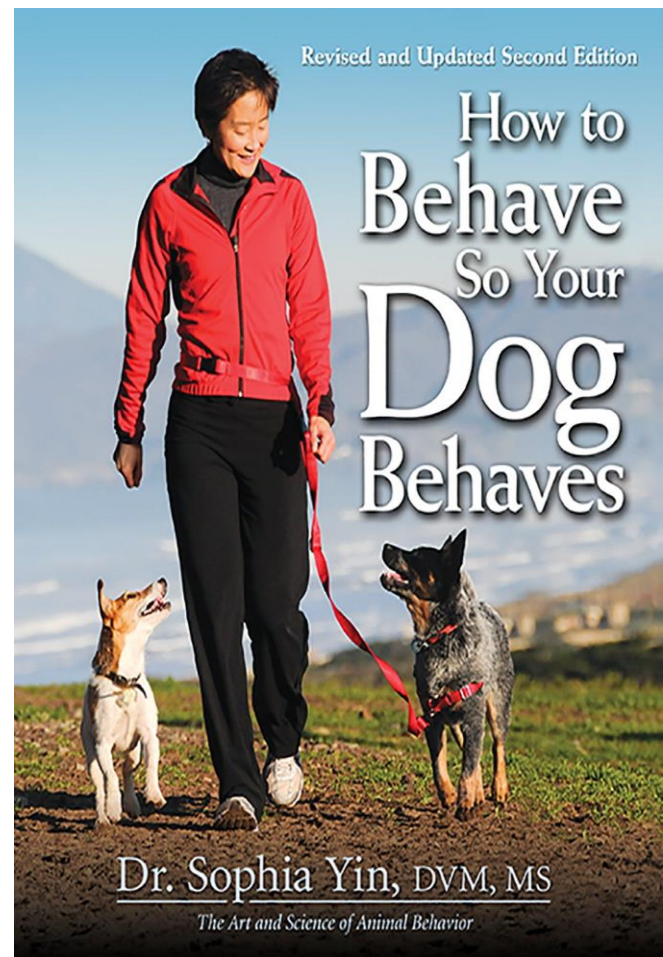
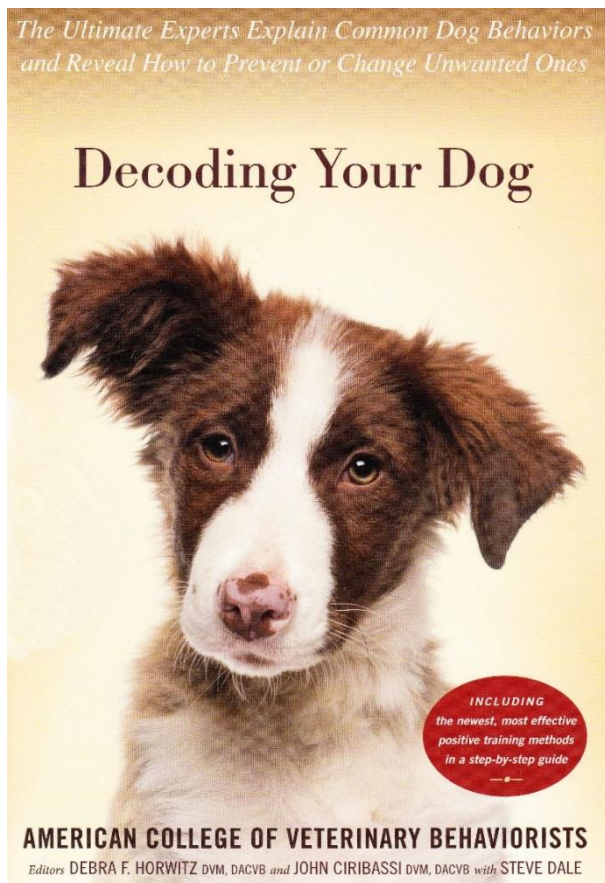
Reward, Reward, Reward!

- By rewarding your puppy, it will help them to understand that eliminating outdoors is a good thing. It also helps with the human animal bond too!
- **Never discipline during this process!! It will cause anxiety in your puppy, and might even lead to them not wanting to urinate or defecate around you**
- Do not focus on teaching your puppy where not to pee, as there are hundreds of places that they can go! Instead focus on where they are allowed to, and they will quickly learn that going outside gets them lots of praise and treats
- If you have a puppy that is nervous when you are around to pee, try standing quietly off to the side and not staring at them
- You can eventually phase out the rewards





Recommended Reading



Clicker Training Tips

Click first, then give the treat. If you accidentally click, reward no matter if they didn't do what was asked.

Always reward, even if you click accidentally.

Keep your treat hand still until after the click.

Use the clicker to teach new behaviors. Once the behavior is on cue, the clicker can be faded.

Keep sessions short (two to five minutes). Several short sessions will be far more productive than one long session. Puppies have very short attention spans!

End training sessions on a "good paw" with the puppy still wanting to continue training. Don't wait until they fill up on treats or get tired.

Set the puppy up to succeed. The more often dogs get it right, the better they learn. If the puppy is not successful, you are asking for too much, too soon. This can quickly get frustrating for both you and the puppy. Remember that training should be a fun game!

Work on only one new behavior (that is not yet on cue) during each training session.

Train the puppy in a quiet environment that is free of distractions.

Reward every desired response. The puppy will learn faster that way.

Avoid punishment (including verbal reprimands) as it reduces the ability to learn. Think of the opposite of a reward as no reward.

Click = treat.

No click = try again.





HOW TO GREET A DOG (AND WHAT TO AVOID)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

Human to Human INCORRECT



Avoid reaching into their safety zone.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interactions without asking.



Avoid staring at people. This is scary.



Avoid looming over.



Avoid reaching into personal space.



Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.



Avoid touching inappropriately.

Human to Dog INCORRECT



Avoid reaching in or towards the dog's car.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.



Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.



Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.



Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.



Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.



Avoid hugging, kissing, and patting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.

Human to Dog CORRECT



Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.



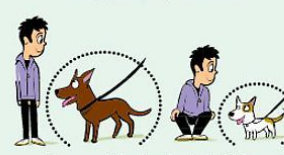
Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).



Ask if you can interact first.



Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.



Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.



Let the dog approach at his own rate.



It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by rubbing against you.



Pet gently.



Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



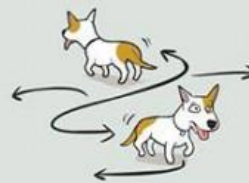
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

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Socialization

- Socialization is the process during which puppies develop positive relationships with humans, animals and objects. The most optimal period for socialization is 8 to 16 weeks. The experiences that this pet has during this time will have a major influence on its developing personality and how well it gets along with people and other animals later on in life.
- It is very important for puppies to be introduced to as many **positive** social experiences during these early months to help prevent asocial behaviours such as fear biting.
- When introducing to other dogs, we recommend that they be fully vaccinated.
- Puppies that are inadequately socialized can develop irreversible fears that can lead to timidity or aggression later on in life. Continuing socialization for your dog can help maintain respectful social skills.
- Puppies that are well socialized during this optimal period grow up to be social animals and have the confidence to handle any new experience. When they are not adequately socialized at this age, they often grow up to be dogs with behavioural problems. It's a lot easier to prevent a behaviour problem than it is to treat them!



List of a few things to introduce your puppy to:

People

- Men
- Women
- Children
- Racially diverse people
- People wearing hats
- People wearing sunglasses
- People opening/using umbrellas
- People on bikes
- People on skateboards
- Loud voices
- Deep voices
- Wheechairs, walkers, canes, crutches
- People swimming/splashing
- People dancing
- Tall people
- Short people
- Large people
- Various hairstyles and colours

Other Animals

- Cats
 - Birds
 - Livestock
 - Ferrets, rats, rabbits, etc
- #### Sounds
- Thunderstorms
 - Fireworks
 - Kids laughing/screaming
 - Loud music
 - Car backfiring
 - Vacuum
 - Hair dryer
 - Motorcycle
 - Doorbell/knocking
 - Clapping
 - Fire alarm
 -



Other Dogs

- Puppies
- Dogs with cropped ears
- Dogs with docked tails
- Smaller dogs
- Dogs of similar size
- Larger dogs
- Fluffy dogs
- Black dogs

- Groups of dogs
- Dogs with similar play styles

- Dogs with different play styles

Environments

- Rural
- Urban
- Suburban
- Riding in the car
- Swimming in pond or creek
- Being crated
- Dog training classroom
- Other people's houses
- Public park
- Boarding kennel
- Vet's office
- Grooming salon
- Pet store
- Ex-pen
- Dog shows
- Dog sporting events
- Camping (in tent or RV)
- Hotel room
- Outdoor café

Household Exposures

- Vacuuming
- Raking
- Mowing the lawn
- Sprinklers
- Sweeping and mopping
- Carrying grocery bags
- Visitors (two and four legged)
- Maintenance workers
- Mail delivery person
- Neighbours at fence
- Neighboring dogs

Health and Grooming

- Teeth brushing
- Nail clipping
- Ear cleaning
- Eye cleaning/examination
- Brushing/combing
- Bathing
- Having temperature taken
- Allowing someone to look in/feel mouth
- Lying on back
- Wearing a leash, collar/harness, jacket, or backpack

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Surfaces

- Puddle
- Creek
- Grass
- Blacktop
- Tunnel
- Sidewalk/road drains
- Stairs
- Crawl under chair/table/legs

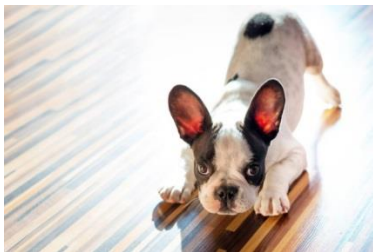
Weather

- Rain
- Snow
- Sleet
- Hail
- Thunder
- Lightening
- Muddy yard
- Wind



Proper Play behaviour:

Play Bow



Loose Tail Wag



Open Mouth







C Shaped Body





Signs your puppy does not like play:

There are several signs that your puppy will exhibit if they are not enjoying playtime. Easiest way to figure out if your puppy is enjoying play or not, is to remove the puppy that is playing with them. If they run away, they did not enjoy it. If they stay and try to chase after the puppy, let them play! Here are a couple of signs that you can look for to see if your puppy is not enjoying playtime:

<p style="text-align: center;">Whale Eyes</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Showing Teeth</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Tail Between Legs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hackles Up (Can be a sign of overstimulation at first)</p>
 <p><small>©Warren Photographic</small></p>	



Puppy Training Basics

At what age can I start training my new puppy?

The day you bring your puppy home is the day you start training. Puppies start learning from birth. A good breeder will encourage handling and socialization from birth. Young puppies have short attention spans, but expect them to learn simple obedience commands by 7 to 8 weeks.

My puppy bites me, what does this mean?

Since puppies experience life through their mouths, it is natural for your puppy to bite or nip on things to test it out. They are not trying to dominate you in any way; it is just simply a fun and playful behaviour that if they are not taught not to do, will continue on into adulthood. Because of this it is important to teach your puppy "bite inhibition", which is essentially teaching them a "soft mouth". This is done in two stages:

Stage 1 – Decrease the pressure of the bite.

Make sure your puppy is in a **calm state**. Put time aside to work on training for bite inhibition. Interact with your puppy and when your puppy starts biting you and it is too hard let out a high pitched "yelp". This will tell your puppy that they bit you too hard. Once your puppy stops, immediately reward your puppy with praise or a food treat. Continue to interact with your puppy and be consistent. If you yelp and your puppy does not stop and only continues to bite harder, then stop immediately and wait for another time. Your puppy may be too overstimulated to learn.

Stage 2 – Redirect away from biting. If your puppy is now great about not biting hard, but continues to try to nip a lot at you, the best way to get them to stop is to redirect their attention to something else. When they continue to nip and you are done playing, grab a toy and redirect their energy to that toy. If your puppy is not interested in the toy and only your hands or feet to nip at, then fill a Kong with some treats or peanut butter and give that to them. You may think you are rewarding them for nipping, but in fact you are rewarding them for stopping.

What is food lure training?

A small piece of food or favoured toy can be used to motivate your puppy to perform certain tasks. As long as this reward is high value to your puppy, you should get the desired response.

By using the food to move your puppy to get the desired response, you can teach them almost anything. For example: To get your dog to sit, put the food about 1-2 inches in front of your dog's nose and slowly move it up and over their head. Your puppy will try to follow it with their head, and will eventually sit down. The second they sit down, use your clicker and click, then give them their treat. Once the behaviour is predictable, add in a cue word like "sit".

How should I phase out the lure food rewards?

At first showing the puppy the food lure to help guide them to position is important. Once the action is predictable, you add in a verbal cue and then a hand signal. Soon the puppy will come to expect the treat each time they perform the task asked of them. Signal and give the command, but when they perform the task, reward only with praise and give your puppy an affectionate pat.



Next, you can begin to vary the frequency, giving praise with “good dog” and perhaps patting each time. Give the food perhaps every 3-4 times, and slowly increasing over time. Over time the words “good dog” or the affectionate pat become secondary reinforcers. Because they have been paired with food in the past, your puppy remembers that food can also mean affection.

Do all puppies have worms?

- Intestinal parasites are very common in puppies. They can become infected before they are born through their mother’s milk and later on as well. We recommend bringing in a fecal sample to determine microscopically if your puppy has any worms. Your puppy will receive a deworming pill during their first visit. Dogs remain susceptible to re-infection with hookworms and roundworms.
- Tapeworms are one of the most common parasites. Puppies become infected by ingesting fleas. Tapeworm infections can occur in as little as two weeks. You may see small tapeworm segments that look like a grain of rice in your dog’s feces or in their hair. They are not passed in every stool sample; inspection of several bowel movements may be needed to find them.

What should I feed my puppy?

- Diet is extremely important during growing months.
- A veterinary recommended name-brand food made by a national dog food company (not a generic or local brand) is the best option for your puppy. This diet must be made for puppies!
- Puppy food should be fed until 12 to 18 months of age depending on breed and size.
- Table foods are not usually recommended. Your puppy will begin to hold out for yummy human food and not eat their well-balanced dog food. If you choose to give your dog table foods, make sure that their diet is 90% of their dog food. Good options for table foods are: cucumbers, zucchini, celery, and carrots.
- When choosing a diet for your pet, be sure to watch for misleading labels that promote a dog food for TASTE. Nutrition is rarely mentioned in these marketing ploys. A bag of dog food should say “complete and balanced”. If you have any questions come visit our boutique and we can explain dog food labels to you.

How often should I feed my puppy?

- Meal feeding is the best option to help your puppy maintain a healthy weight. This means that you feed your puppy at specific times of the day. A measured amount can be offered 4 times a day for five to twelve week old puppies. Remove the food if not eaten in 30 minutes.
- If your puppy eats the food within 3-4 minutes then the quantity might not be sufficient.
- Over the next 3-4 months, your puppy may start to ignore mid-day meals. These can be discontinued and redistributed to the other meals of the day. Eventually feeding them 2 times a day is ideal.
- “Free Choice feeding” means having the food available at all times. This is not always a good idea for all dogs, as some dogs will continuously eat and become obese. If there is weight gain during free choice feeding, this method should be discontinued and meal feeding should start.

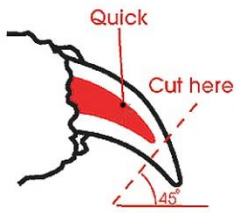


My puppy hiccups, is this normal?

Yes. Many puppies can experience episodes of hiccupping that may last several minutes. These episodes might last a few weeks or months.

Can I trim my puppy's toe nails?

Nail cross section



Puppies have very sharp toenails. Trimming their nails is essential to a grooming routine. Untrimmed nails can leave dogs vulnerable to painful broken nails as well as ingrown nails. The nail has a blood vessel (the 'quick') that runs down the middle of the nail. If this quick is cut, it will continue to bleed until a styptic powder is used.

It is important to play with your puppies paws every day and reward them for it. Introduce the clippers with positive reinforcement (treats) slowly, and you will have a puppy that will enjoy getting their nails trimmed.

If your dog has black nails, you will be unable to see the quick. Only cut off the tip that appears thinner than the rest of the nail.

Always cut with sharp clippers! If they are dull, it will tend to crush the nail and cause pain even if you have not cut the quick. You should always have styptic powder available to help stop the bleed if you accidentally cut the quick.

During your puppy appointment, we can have a technician show you how to cut nails in a positive manner.

Ear Cleaning

Ear cleaning on a regular basis can be helpful in maintaining healthy ears for your dog. Clean, odour-free, pale pink colour and minimal accumulation of wax are indications of healthy ears. We recommend cleaning your dogs ears 1-2 times a week for maintenance.

Dogs commonly get ear infections that can be very painful. This is not the best time to introduce cleaning your dogs ears. If introduced before any infections, it will help to alleviate the stress. Some breeds get ear infections more than others.

Ear mites are tiny parasites that live in the ear canal that can appear as black material in the ear canal. These ear mites are best diagnosed by taking a swab and looking at them under the microscope.

Why should I spay my female dog?

Spaying is the removal of the uterus and ovaries. Heat periods result in 2 or 3 weeks of vaginal bleeding, which when spayed will no longer occur. Spaying also prevents unplanned puppies.

It has been proven that when a female dog gets older, there is a significant incidence of breast cancer and uterine infections if she is not spayed.



Why should I neuter my male dog?

Neutering offers several advantages:

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

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

If you plan on breeding your female dog, we recommend that she should have at least one or two heat periods first. She will then be more physically mature to allowing her to be a better mother. We don't recommend breeding after 5 years old. This increases the risk of complications during pregnancy or delivery.

What are heartworms?

Heartworms are a parasite that are transferred by the bite of mosquitos and live in your dog's bloodstream. If left untreated they cause major damage to the heart and lungs. There are heartworm preventative drugs that can be given to keep your dog safe. They are given once a month from May-October, and are dosed by your dog's weight. As your dog's weight increases, so will their dose.

My puppy seems to be constantly chewing. Why does this occur?

Chewing is a very normal puppy behaviour. By four weeks old, your puppy will have 28 baby teeth. These baby teeth begin to fall out at 4 months of age and are then replaced with 42 permanent adult teeth by 6 months of age.

It is important that you direct your puppy's chewing toward acceptable objects. Provide puppy safe items such as a kong (sized appropriately). Stay away from hard plastics that have no give when your puppy bites into them. A good test is by hitting the toy on your knee. If it hurts, then it is not safe for your puppy's teeth. These toys can break their teeth.

Can you recommend something for pet identification?

The most widely recommended pet identification device is the microchip. This tiny device is implanted with a needle. A special scanner can detect these chips; veterinary hospitals, humane societies, and animal shelters across the country have these scanners. A national registry assists in the identification and return of microchipped pets. We **strongly recommend** microchipping!

Are there any emergency tips that I should know?

There are several emergency situations that can arise. The following information is not a substitute for veterinary care, but can be used as a way to help stabilize your dog before bringing them in to be checked by a veterinarian.



In any emergency situation, keep calm and try to keep your pet as quiet as possible. Conserve heat by covering with blankets. If necessary, apply the A, B, C's of CPR:



- 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 vomit, saliva or foreign bodies such as grass, sticks or balls. **Be careful; your pet may bite you in panic.**

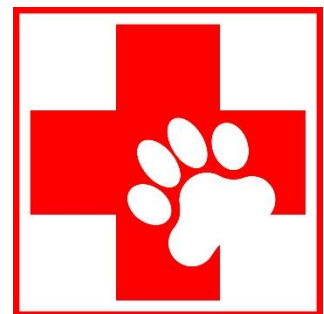
Breathing – If your dog is unconscious and does not appear to be breathing, feel just behind the elbow to detect a heart beat or pulse. Close the muzzle with your hand and blow into the nostrils. This is best accomplished by covering the pet's nose with your mouth. Be careful. Injured pets may bite you 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 appears weak and slow, try pressing on the chest with your palm. If you have a small dog or cat, to do compressions you must do it with your thumb on one side, and the rest of your fingers on the others side of the chest. Five (5) 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, 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.

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 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 transport the dog to the veterinarian while it is still wet. 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.

Visit us at www.orleansvet.ca

For more information on Heartworm check out our resources page <http://www.orleansvet.ca/pet-ed/>

Our most up to date information will be on Facebook and Twitter