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**What to Put in a Puppy Pack**

You whelped, weaned and cuddled him. Now it's time to send this puppy on to his new forever home.

You can help give the puppy and his new family the best start to their new relationship by putting together a puppy pack. Puppy packs are a simple yet helpful way to set this puppy up for success with his new family. We've put together a short checklist of useful items many people include in their puppy starter kits.

**Reading Materials** - Even though you may have gone over the ins and outs of puppy ownership with the new family, it always helps to have things written down. Providing reading material such as the My Puppy Guide will ensure the new family knows how to handle housebreaking, chewing and other common puppy behaviors. Make sure the new family is given reading materials that discuss the importance of vaccination before the puppy faces viruses carried by wildlife, feral cats or other dogs. It can also be helpful to send home breed-specific information so they know exactly what to expect from their newest family member. Some breeders put this information on a flash drive to send with the puppy. It helps cut down on paper clutter and has all the information in one place.

**Paperwork** - You've done a great job ensuring the puppy is up-to-date on vaccinations and deworming, so don't let that information fall by the wayside. Use our Health Records to record important health information about the puppy and pass that information on to the new owners. AKC papers and a health schedule are also necessary information for them to have. And don't forget, if you've microchipped the puppy already, make sure the new owners are aware they need to register the microchip in their name.

**Doc Roy's® GI Symbiotics Gel** - Moving to a new home can be stressful for puppies and that added stress can result in diarrhea. GI Symbiotics is a probiotic and prebiotic that helps promote overall digestive health and is recommended to minimize the potential for diarrhea. It works by supporting the growth of good bacteria and helps remove bad bacteria from the GI tract. It also helps strengthen the animal’s immune system.

**Doc Roy's® Forti Cal Gel** - Forti Cal helps prevent hypoglycemia issues and provides extra calories if he doesn’t eat well the first few days in his new home.

**Familiar Toy or Blanket** - A small child has their favorite stuffed animal for comfort and puppies are much the same. Sending a small blanket or familiar toy with the puppy can give that added comfort the puppy needs. It’s also helpful if these items have been around the puppy’s mom, so they have her scent on them as well.

**Current Food** - Sending along a one-week supply of the food you’ve been feeding the puppy is always a good idea. Since he will have so many new things that first week, it will be comforting to have some food he is familiar with. Suggest the new owners mix half of your food with half of the food they intend to use because switching foods too fast can cause digestive upset. It also helps to send along some of your water since the puppy will be used to the taste.

**Healthy Treats or Chews** - If the puppy has a favorite treat you’ve given him, send some samples along!

**Doc Roy's® Healthy Bones** - Puppies don’t stay small very long, so make sure his new family knows what they need to do to help a fast-growing pup. A calcium supplement like Healthy Bones helps provide the nutrients the puppy needs to grow strong and healthy.

**Guarantee** - If you offer a guarantee on your dogs, make sure to have it in writing and include a copy with each puppy pack. Clearly state what could void the guarantee, such as taking them to a dog park too soon or any other stipulations you may have.

**Breeders’ Edge® Foster Care Canine or Feline** - Adding a milk replacer to food helps with diarrhea issues and keeps pups eating through the transition.

**Collar, Leash** - A must-have for any new puppy owner!

**Foldable Food and Water Bowl** - A foldable bowl or a small stainless steel bowl costs very little and is quite useful when traveling around to the vet, park, beach, or anywhere away from home. It’s a cute little addition to your puppy packs that new owners will appreciate because of its usefulness.

**A Personal Note or Card** - Write a short letter to the puppy’s new family letting them know how much you believe in them and why you chose to give a puppy to them to care for.

Let the new family know they aren't alone and if they have any new puppy questions, our Pet Care Pros are always happy to help! Give our Pet Care Pros a call at 800.786.4751.

- The Revival Education Team
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Oftentimes when a dog breeding fails, people tend to overlook the male half of the reproduction equation. In reality, it is best to look first for problems with the male dog, advises Margaret V. “Peggy” Root Kustritz, DVM, PhD, DACT, a board-certified canine reproduction specialist.

“There are several reasons to first evaluate the male and exclude problems with him,” says Dr. Root Kustritz, professor of small animal theriogenology and assistant dean of education at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. “For one thing, males are much easier to evaluate than females, partly because their sexual anatomy is readily accessible. Also, a male breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) is relatively inexpensive. In about one hour, a knowledgeable veterinarian can work through the male half of a breeding pair.”

Owners of stud dogs should consider a BSE every year, especially after the age of 5, to ensure the male is fertile. Puberty occurs between 6 to 12 months, with dogs usually reaching sexual maturity within three months of attaining their mature body weight. Sexual maturity has been known to last until age 12 or longer.

“One might expect a decline in fertility with advancing age, and this decline may occur at an earlier age in larger breeds than in smaller breeds. However, there is great individual variation, and a breeding soundness evaluation should always be done,” says Dr. Root Kustritz.

Breeders should not be misled by past reproductive success. “Past litters are not a guarantee of present fertility,” says Dr. Root Kustritz. “I’ve seen a number of ‘proven’ males suddenly become infertile. One of the ways we discover male infertility is when a bitch is bred to a particular stud a number of times with no success.

“The single greatest mistake people make regarding a male dog is to assume he is fertile. Puppies are the ultimate proof of fertility, and beyond that, a breeding soundness evaluation is the only way to know about the stud dog’s fertility.”

A BSE begins with a veterinarian taking a dog’s complete medical history, including vaccination and veterinary records and the dates of illnesses and injuries. A complete sexual history and thorough physical examination are important, too.

“A dog’s sexual history should include information about his sexual behavior, results of a brucellosis test, which can cause infertility in dogs, and past sperm evaluations,” says Dr. Root Kustritz. “The number of females a dog has successfully bred, the

**STUD DOG TIPS**

- A male dog can be bred on average from 1 to 12 years of age. The more frequently a dog is used at stud, the more proficient he becomes.
- Be a responsible breeder and supervise dogs during mating. You don’t want to risk injury to either dog.
- Make sure any female that you breed with your dog has been tested for brucellosis and genetically inherited and sexually transmitted diseases. Also, make sure your male dog is tested.
- Use a seasoned bitch when breaking in a stud dog. She will be more cooperative and less likely to growl or snap at him than a female being bred for the first time.
- If possible, use the same location for each breeding. This helps a dog associate that place with breeding. It also helps to choose a quiet place where other dogs are not present to prevent distraction.
- Proper conditioning is key to raising a healthy stud dog. Feeding a complete and balanced food such as Purina Pro Plan that provides optimum nutrition for health and vitality is important as well.
frequency of ejaculation and the dates of previous brucellosis tests are helpful. A thorough physical examination helps to determine overall health and how it may affect breeding performance. In addition, semen is collected for evaluation.”

A dog's ejaculate comes in three distinct fractions:
- The first fraction, which is usually clear and virtually sperm free, is released before full erection.
- The second fraction, the richest in sperm, comes during thrusting.
- The third fraction, which is clear with some sperm present, is ejaculated while the dogs are tied, or joined.

“Sometimes a well-meaning breeder will collect the first part of the ejaculate that is released during the thrusting and examine it,” Dr. Root Kustritz says. “There isn’t much, if any, sperm in that fraction, so the dog may mistakenly be determined sterile. The third fraction is prostatic fluid. If it contains blood, especially in older dogs, that may indicate a prostate problem.”

Once semen is collected, a laboratory analysis provides information on color, volume, debris, bacteria, and sperm motility, count and morphology. On some occasions, a semen chemistry is ordered to ensure that the ejaculate was complete or that obstructions near the testicles are not present.

Ideally, a stud dog should produce semen in which 80 percent is normally shaped and actively moving. Decreased sperm counts can occur temporarily in instances such as when a dog is exposed to extreme heat for a number of days.

“We have seen a temporarily decreased sperm count some 70 days after a long bout of hot weather,” Dr. Root Kustritz says. “It takes that long for sperm cells to mature, so dogs exposed to extreme heat may become temporarily less fertile 70 days later.”

As for treating male reproductive disorders, Dr. Root Kustritz says owners may want to reconsider a dog’s purpose. “In many instances of reproductive disorders with stud dogs, one may want to take that dog out of service and enjoy an otherwise healthy male,” she says. “If you want to own a stud dog, it may be best to consider looking for another dog.”
Your dog is a carnivore, a flesh eater. His teeth are not made for grinding as are human teeth, but are chiefly fashioned for tearing and severing. Over a period of years, this fact has led to the erroneous conclusion that the dog must be fed mostly on muscle meat in order to prosper. Wolves, jackals, wild dogs and foxes comprise the family Canidae to which your dog belongs. These wild relatives of the dog stalk and run down their living food in the same manner the dog would employ if he had not become attached to man. The main prey of these predators are the various hoofed herbivorous animals, small mammals and birds of their native habitat. The carnivores consume the entire body of their prey, not just the muscle meat alone. This manner of feeding has led some zoologists to consider the dog family as omnivorous (eater of both plant and animal matter), despite their obvious physical relationship to the carnivores.

You would assume, and rightly so, that the diet which keeps these wild cousins of the dog strong, healthy, and fertile, could be depended upon to do the same for your dog. Of course, in this day and age your dog cannot live off the land. He depends on you for sustenance, and to feed him properly, you must understand what essential food values the wild carnivore derives from his kill, for this is nature’s supreme lesson in nutrition.

The canine hunter first laps the blood of his victim, then tears open the stomach and eats its contents, composed of predigested vegetable matter. He feasts on liver, heart, kidneys, lungs and the fat-encrusted intestines. He crushes and consumes the bones and the marrow they contain, feeds on fatty meat and connective tissue, and finally eats the lean muscle meat. From the blood, bones, marrow, internal organs, and muscle meat he has absorbed minerals and proteins. The stomach and its contents have supplied vitamins and carbohydrates. From the intestines and fatty meat he gets fats, fatty acids, vitamins and carbohydrates. Other proteins come from the ligaments and connective tissue. Hair and some indigestible parts of the intestinal contents provide enough roughage for proper laxation. From the sun he basks in and the water he drinks, he absorbs supplementary vitamins and minerals. From his kill, therefore, the carnivore acquires a well-rounded diet. To supply these same essentials to your dog in a form which you can easily purchase is the answer to his dietary needs.

**BASIC FOODS & SUPPLEMENTS**

From the standpoint of nutrition, any substance may be considered food which can be used by an animal as a body-building material, a source of energy, or a regulator of body activity. From the preceding paragraphs we have learned that muscle meat alone will not fill these needs and that your dog’s diet must be composed of many other food materials to provide elements necessary to his growth and health. Dietary essentials include:

- **Protein**: meat, dairy products, eggs, soybeans.
- **Fat**: butter, cream, oils, fatty meat, milk, cream cheese, suet.
- **Carbohydrates**: cereals, vegetables, confectionary syrups, honey.
- **Vitamin A**: greens, peas, beans, asparagus, broccoli, eggs, milk.
- **Thiamine**: vegetables, legumes, whole grains, eggs, muscle meats, organ meats, milk, yeast.
- **Riboflavin**: green leaves, milk, liver, cottonseed flour or meal, egg yolk, wheat germ, yeast, beef, chicken.
- **Niacin**: milk, lean meats, liver, yeast.
- **Vitamin D**: fish that contains oil (salmon, sardine, herring, cod), fish liver oils, eggs, fortified milk.
- **Absorbic acid**: tomatoes, citrus fruits, raw cabbage
- **Iron, calcium and phosphorus**: milk and milk products, vegetables, eggs, soybeans, bone marrow, blood, liver, oatmeal.

*Continued on pg 12*
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OF THE TOP 100 SHOW DOGS EAT THE SAME BRAND OF FOOD

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Your Pet, Our Passion.

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Water is one of the elementary nutritional essentials. Considering the fact that the dog’s body is approximately 70 percent water, which is distributed in varying percentages throughout the body tissues and organs, including the teeth and bones, it isn’t difficult to realize the importance of this staple to the dog’s well-being. Water flushes the system, stimulates gastric juice activity, brings about better appetite, and acts as a solvent within the body. It is one of the major sources of necessary minerals and helps during the hot weather and to a lesser degree during winter, to regulate the dog’s temperature.

When a dog is kept from water for any appreciable length of time, dehydration occurs. This is a serious condition, a fact which is known to any dog owner whose animal has been affected by diarrhea, continuous nausea or any of the diseases in which this form of body shrinkage occurs. Water is the cheapest part of your dog’s diet, so supply it freely, particularly in warm weather.

Caloric requirements vary with age, temperament, changes in temperature and activity. If your dog is nervous, very active, young and kept out of doors in winter, his caloric intake must be greater than the phlegmatic, underactive, fully grown dog who has his bed in the house. Keep your dog in good flesh, neither too fat nor too thin. You are the best judge of the amount to feed him to keep him in his best condition.

Remember always that feeding ranks next to breeding in the influence it exerts on the growing dog. Knowledgeable breeding can produce genetically fine specimens, selection can improve the strain and the breed, but without full and proper nourishment, particularly over the period of growth, the dog cannot attain to the promise of his heritage. The brusque slogan of a famous cattle breeder might well be adopted by dog breeders. The motto is, “Breed, feed, weed.”

‘Feeding’ from pg 10

The first three listed essentials compliment each other and compose the basic nutritional needs. Proteins build new body tissue and are composed of amino acids, which differ in combination with the different proteins. Carbohydrates furnish the fuel for growth and energy, and fat produces heat which becomes energy and enables the dog to store energy against emergency. Vitamins and minerals, in general, act as regulators of cell activity.

There are various food products on the market packaged specifically for canine consumption. By far the most complete of the manufactured foods are the grain and kibbled foods. In such a highly competitive business as the manufacturing and merchandising of these foods, it is essential for the manufacturer to market a highly palatable and balanced ration. The better grain foods have constantly changing formulas to confirm to the most recent results of dietary research. They are, in most cases, the direct result of controlled generation tests in scientific kennels where their efficacy can be ascertained. A good grain food should not be considered merely a filler; rather it should be employed as the basic diet to which fillers might possibly be added. Since the grain food is bag or box packaged and not hermetically sealed, the fat content is necessarily low. A high degree of fat would produce quick rancidity. Therefore sometimes fat must be added to the dry food.

Just as selection is important in breeding, so is ratio important in feeding. The proper diet must not only provide all the essentials, is must also supply those essentials in the proper proportions. This is what we mean by a balanced diet. It can be dangerous to your dog’s well being if the ratios of any of his dietary essentials are badly unbalanced over a period of time. The effects can be disastrous in the case of puppies. This is the basic reason for putting your faith in a good, scientifically balanced grain dog food.

Gingerbread Men are always a favorite with both dogs and owners alike.

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 cup molasses
- 4 tablespoons honey
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 6 cups all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger or one tsp. of dried powder ginger

**DIRECTIONS:**
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
Combine the molasses, honey, water, and oil in a medium bowl. In a large bowl mix the flour, the baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and ginger. Then you will want to slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Make sure you combine them well. Now, divide this dough in four balls, wrap each ball in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 3 - 5 hours, or you can freeze them for 1 - 2 hours (just don’t let them get solid!) After the dough is cold, lightly flour your surface and roll the dough out into about 1/4” thickness. Remember, the thicker you make it, the longer it will take to cook. Now cut the dough out into fun shapes, such as Gingerbread men, with a cookie cutter. You can also forget about shapes, and use a pizza cutter and make the cookies into squares and strips, depending on what you want to do.

Now for the baking! Bake for around 20 - 25 Minutes, until the cookies start to get brown. You can take one out and break it to see how crunchy it is. If you want it really crunchy, then you will want to bake them longer. Your doggie will love you for it!
Petland wishes you and yours the best this Christmas season and throughout the new year. May your 2019 be filled with wonder and happiness.
Is Neosporin good for Dogs? from AKC.org

Just like their owners, dogs are susceptible to minor injuries and are not immune to getting cuts, scrapes, or burns. But can you use Neosporin on dogs? The answer isn’t completely straightforward. In some instances applying the topical, antibiotic ointment can help heal your dog’s wound, but there are situations when it is not advisable or necessary to use it on your canine companion.

Since most people immediately reach for some type of ointment when an incident occurs, it’s not unusual that your first instinct might be to do the same for your dog. But before you go ahead and start applying Neosporin, there are a few things to take into consideration.

With abrasions (scrapes & scratches), you should first clean and flush the wound with soap and water, then rinse thoroughly and pat dry. Your veterinarian should see all puncture or penetrating wounds, including dog bites, as soon as possible.

Neosporin is comprised of three different antibiotics: bacitracin, neomycin and polymyxin B. Together, they work to kill bacteria on the skin and prevent topical infection. Dr. Rachel Barrack, a licensed veterinarian, certified in both veterinary acupuncture and Chinese herbology with Animal Acupuncture in New York City, points out that Neosporin has been formulated for people and is not necessarily safe for use on dogs.

“Bacitracin has been deemed safe for use on animals, as has polymyxin B. However, neomycin has been linked to loss of hearing,” she says. “This was primarily shown with intravenous use, but it is recommended that you do not administer neomycin topically to your dog without first consulting your vet.”

Because Neosporin is topical and applied directly onto the skin, there’s always a chance that your dog could have an allergic reaction. It’s a good idea to administer a small patch test first. The best way to do this is by picking a small area of skin and applying a tiny dab of Neosporin, then monitor the area to see if your dog develops a mild rash, redness or hives.

“Typically, small amounts of Neosporin are not harmful,” says Dr. Danel Grimmett, a veterinarian with Sunset Veterinary Clinic in Oklahoma. By performing a patch test in advance, you’ll know for certain whether your dog can tolerate this antibacterial cream before he really needs it.

The advantage of using Neosporin is that it kills off any live, existing bacteria and stops them from growing. When applied to the skin, it helps to create a physical barrier against bacteria to prevent them from entering the wound and offers protection against infection. But there are some instances in which applying it to your dog might do more harm than good.

If your dog’s wound is located in a spot that’s easily reachable, he might try licking the Neosporin off, which not only defeats the purpose but also might make your pup sick.

“The main concern regarding ingestions of Neosporin is the potential impact to the GI flora (normal gut bacteria), resulting in GI upset such as vomiting and diarrhea,” explains Dr. Grimmett. “A second potential cause of GI upset would be the lubricant base, which could also give them diarrhea, etc…”

You can try covering the area with a sterile dressing, but Dr. Grimmett points out that not all dogs tolerate bandaging, and the same desire to lick something off their skin will most likely prompt them to chew, as well. “A bandage can act as a tourniquet, reducing adequate blood flow to extremities, if not managed well,” he says. “Great care must be taken to prevent any constriction.”

Other instances when Neosporin would not be beneficial to your dog are if he is bleeding heavily, the wound is deep, or appears to be severe. In these circumstances, it’s important to call your veterinarian or nearest animal hospital immediately for assistance. While using Neosporin to treat a minor injury to your dog may be fine at times, there are several products that are designed specifically for canines and completely safe, even if ingested.

Whatever type of injury your dog sustains, it’s important to first talk with your veterinarian before administering any new medications, especially if they’re made for humans. “Your veterinarian is better equipped to treat your dog’s potential infections than you are at home,” says Dr. Barrack.
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The Chemistry of Catnip

From Pet Poison Helpline; Michelle Willis, CVT

Any cat owner knows that catnip holds some awesome power. It is entertaining for both the cat and owner to watch its effects unfold. Rolling, drooling and face rubbing from Catnip has been reported since the 1700’s. Have you ever wondered why the magical plant does what it does?

The basics: What is catnip?

Catnip is not a weed, like commonly thought. Catnip comes from the mint family and is formally known as Nepeta cataria. As it grows naturally, flowers can be white and finely spotted with pale purple or pink. The plant is reported to be a hearty one; is thought to be deer resistant, as well as able to grow in droughts. The plant is native to Europe, Asia and Africa, but can now be found elsewhere.

How does it work? The nose knows!

The plant Nepeta cataria produces a compound nepetalactone, which causes the reaction in the cat’s brain. The scent of nepetalactone is sensed by the tissues of the nose. There is some protein bonding in there that leads these signals to the parts of the brain in charge of behavioral and emotional responses. This is very similar to a pheromone response from cats in heat, or even cat urine. Originally the process was thought to include the highly sensitive Jacobson’s organ or vomeronasal organ. Located in the roof of the mouth, it contains ducts that lead to the mouth and to the nose. However, this has been disproven.

And then, the fun begins…..

The effects of catnip last around 10-15 minutes. They generally include rolling, face rubbing, chewing, drooling, vocalization and other entertaining actions. Then, your cat will become “immune” for 1-2 hours as the brain sort of “resets”. You may have noticed, also, that catnip is not effective on kittens. This may have something to do with the pheromone-like response…it’s not effective until sexual maturity is reached. It is reported that approximately 70% of adult cats will become affected by the scent of catnip. Heredity plays a role in the response a cat has to catnip. Use caution during your cat’s play with catnip, as it may cause them to playfully bite/scratch more/ differently than normal since their inhibitions are lowered.

It’s not just for housecats.

It’s not just for domesticated cats. Lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars and snow leopards have all been reported to have similar responses to catnip. Many zoos use this and other mint products as part of environmental enrichment programs for their captive guests.

As far as humans, catnip does not produce the same pheromone-like effect that it does in feline, as our brains are wired differently. It has been used in herbal teas, as an ingredient in skin salve and other useful applications such as insecticides. Historically, it was used to treat ailments such as anxiety, cold and other upper respiratory infections, but has since fallen out of fashion as there is not a lot of data to back it up.

From a toxicological standpoint, no significant toxicity is expected in either humans or cats. In humans, catnip abuse may cause vomiting (if large quantities are ingested), headaches and malaise/lethargy.

Coming back to our domesticated cats, it can be used as a training tool and also be used to help alleviate some of the fear in stressful situations such as car rides and visits to the veterinarian. Now that you know a little more of the chemistry of catnip, I encourage you to use it often for your feline friend.
Be sure your puppies are healthy and ready for their new families.

Your puppies will be life-long companions to their new families and you want to be sure they get a healthy start. Vaccination against infectious diseases is one of the most important ways to protect them.

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Some Winter Weather Tips from Dr. Fosters & Smith.

Proper outdoor housing Your dog needs a warm, dry home if she is going to spend any length of time outdoors during winter. Appropriate doghouses are well insulated and just large enough so your dog can stand up, turn around and comfortably lie down. Anything larger is more difficult to keep warm and allows greater loss of body heat.

For additional warmth, use old blankets as bedding material. Blankets are ideal since they’re easy to remove and wash for a clean and dry environment all winter long. Even dogs that are kept partially outdoors in kennels require protection from biting winds. Provide a doghouse or secure a tarp or burlap onto a portion of the kennel to create a windbreak.

Walking in the cold Sidewalk ice melters like salt, magnesium, or calcium chloride can cause irritation to paws and are toxic when ingested causing stomach upsets, and if enough is ingested, nerve damage. To prevent salt from hurting your pet’s feet, we recommend using dog boots and a nontoxic ice melter for your own sidewalk. If your pet has walked on a salty area, wipe off her paws with a moist towel.

1. Snowballs can be fun unless they are between the toes. Snow collecting between the toes of dogs can be very painful, and if large enough, obstruct blood flow to the toes. Help your pet remove these collections of snow while you are out walking. Dog boots will help eliminate this problem. Thin ice on lakes is hazardous for people and animals. Keep your pet away from lakes or other bodies of water which may have thin ice. In the northern United States, remember that snowmobile trails can be dangerous places. Be sure to keep your pets off of the trails. Ice on walks is not only dangerous for us two-legged creatures, but for our four-legged friends as well. Slipping on the ice is of special concern for older dogs who may already be stiff due to arthritis.

2. Keeping warm Indoors Speaking of arthritis, as in people, cold can increase the discomfort of arthritis. Providing an orthopedic bed in a warm part of the house, using a dog sweater, and providing some indoor exercise can help arthritic pets be more comfortable.

During the cold winter months, many people use space heaters and woodburning stoves. Do not allow unsupervised pets in areas with space heaters which could be bumped over by the pet. Placing a Scat mat or X-Mat Training Mat on the floor may also be helpful in keeping pets away from stoves and heaters.

3. Antifreeze Antifreeze should be out of pet’s reach. Antifreeze, which contains ethylene glycol, is extremely poisonous; a few teaspoons can be lethal. Its sweet taste attracts pets and ingesting even a tiny amount causes fatal kidney toxicity. So, when tuning up your car for that holiday trip, make sure your pet does not have access to antifreeze containers and clean up any spills immediately. If you think your pet has consumed antifreeze, contact your veterinarian immediately. Time is of the essence.

4. Nutrition Nutritional needs of your outdoor dog change with the seasons. Outdoor dogs require extra calories to generate enough body heat to keep warm during winter. This increase in calories can be as much as 30%, depending on the pet and housing conditions. Provide more food during winter accordingly. It is also important to provide fresh, unfrozen water at all times. Dogs cannot eat snow as a source of water so water bowls need to be checked regularly or consider a heated water bowl to maintain a source of unfrozen drinking water.

5. Grooming and routine inspections A dog’s coat tends to mat and tangle more during winter. Fur that is matted and ungroomed is less able to retain heat and cannot adequately protect your dog from the elements. Harsh winter conditions can dry your dog’s coat and skin. Premium Plus® Omega-3 Gel Caps or Chews is an excellent supplement, formulated to help build soft coats and healthy skin. Regular brushing also helps stimulate natural oil production to maintain a healthy protective layer.

Be sure to check and clean paws regularly since compacted snow or ice lodged between paw pads can lead to painful sores or frostbite. Perfect Coat Bath Wipes are perfect for between baths or to clean muddy paws. They also come in handy to wipe off salts and other chemical de-icers that burn and irritate paws and gently clean and condition your pet’s skin at the same time.

If you have any doubts whether it is too cold to keep your dog outdoors, err on the side of caution and keep her indoors. Shivering is a clear sign that your dog is too cold and indicates the potential onset of hypothermia. Bring your dog indoors if he is shivering. Pay particular attention to older dogs as well as puppies. Older dogs will have special health considerations to address, especially arthritis. The cold can aggravate arthritic conditions and icy ground poses real dangers. Whenever possible, keep older dogs indoors.

Follow these guidelines, and enjoy a safe and happy winter season with your dog.
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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
A Dog is a Dog….Understanding the Canine Companion series….Final chapter from the Aug/Sept’18 issue..

Chewing

Curiosity: Young puppies are very curious about their environment. Not having hands to feel with, sniffing and chewing are a couple of ways they have of exploring. They have no way of knowing that chewing on the table leg is not acceptable unless you show him. Very young pups should be constantly supervised or confined. When caught chewing on a table leg or couch corner, at first use the “distraction” correction. Give the pup his chew bone when he is distracted and if he persists on chewing on your furniture, give him a ‘scruff shake’ and tell him ‘NO!’ In extreme cases, if he does not keep away from the furniture, you may need to spray something bitter like, Bitter Apple or another product to deter him.

Teething: About the time he figures out that some things are off limits to chew on, the puppy will start teething (just like a baby child). At that time, he will need to chew to help soothe sore gums. Be sure he has his chew bone available and is kept in a “puppy-proofed” area when not being supervised. Puppies teethe between four and six months of age.

Boredom: This is probably the main reason older dogs chew. If you have an active, high energy dog, it will be very important to make sure he gets plenty of HARD exercise. Play retrieving, jogging and runs in the country are all good ways to exercise the dog. These dogs need to be kept busy. Training, either obedience or some other activity, will help. When they are left to their own devices, be sure they have something to chew.

Barking: Barking is one of the hardest behaviors to control. The best you can probably hope for is to be able to teach the dog to be quiet on command. A good time to teach this command is during crate training. If you need to stop barking when he is not in the crate, use the distraction correction using “Quiet” instead of “No”. If the barking is a problem at night, you may have to consider crating the dog at night. Electronic ‘bark collars’ work as long as the collar is on, but are somewhat expensive. There is also the option of surgical de-barking which does not eliminate the barking but does tone down the volume.

Keeping your Dog Healthy

Going to the Veterinarian: Your puppy will need to visit the veterinarian several times before he is six months old. After that, follow your veterinarian’s recommendations on the frequency of check ups and booster shots. Most dogs will need medical attention at some point during their life. Do yourself, the dog and the veterinarian a favor and teach the dog that going to the doctor is pleasant. Teach him that emotional, aggressive, or defensive outbursts will not be tolerated. Here are a few guidelines for taking your dog to the vet:

- Call ahead. Most veterinarians work by appointment only and in any case, you could save yourself a long wait.
- Always keep your dog on a leash. Do not allow him to approach other dogs or be a nuisance by barking or lunging. If you feel your dog is trained and under control without a leash, as a courtesy, have the dog on a leash anyway.
- Watch your dog carefully. Do not allow a male dog to “lift his leg” on the furniture or door frames. If your dog does make a mess, offer to clean it up.
- Do not allow your dog to growl, snap or “throw a fit” when the vet handles him. Even though the dog may perceive the doctor to be a threat, this behavior must not be tolerated. Do NOT sympathize, or in essence reinforce, this very undesirable behavior. Murmuring such things as “you’re ok—it’s alright” in an attempt to reassure the dog will only show him that you are not in control.
Innoculations: Save your vaccination certificates as record of when shots were given. Most boarding kennels and training classes require proof of current vaccination. If your puppy comes with vaccinations already started, get a record of what he had and when. Contact your veterinarian for current vaccination recommendations as soon as you get your puppy.

Most of the diseases included in the vaccination program will require a series of several shots for optimum protection. It is most important to get your puppy on a vaccination program, the most crucial time period being between about 6 and 18 weeks of age. Factors determining the vaccination schedule are the puppy’s age, disease prevalence in your area, and the natural immunity derived by the pup from his mother. Included in this program will be vaccines for distemper, hepatitis, parvo virus, rabies, probably leptospirosis, corona virus and some of the respiratory diseases. Booster immunizations will be needed, usually on a yearly basis. Rabies vaccination requirements may vary depending on local government requirements. Because of the legalities involved with this particular disease, be sure the immunization is given by a veterinarian.

Since the timing of the puppy’s vaccinations happens to coincide with the important period of socialization, there are contrasting opinions on the two processes. Some authorities feel that, since the pup is most vulnerable to many diseases at this stage of life, he should be isolated until immunizations are completed. On the other hand, some authorities feel that, as long as vaccinations are kept current and you avoid obvious exposure to disease situations, the pup should be allowed the advantage of the socialization process. Since both viewpoints have merit, the ultimate decision is yours. Be sure you follow your vet’s recommendations on internal & external parasite control (i.e. worms, ticks, fleas, earmites).

Grooming: Grooming is one way of keeping up with your dog’s health needs. You can catch a flea problem before it becomes insurmountable, or notice a skin problem when it is still easy to cure. There are many, many things that can be caught early, keeping a major problem averted, by sticking to a simple grooming program. Bathing, brushing, cleaning ears and keeping toenails trimmed should all be routine in your care of the dog. Besides, the dog will look and feel better!

In conclusion, when you acquire a dog, you must take on the obvious responsibilities of keeping him healthy and providing shelter and food. But there is more. The responsible owner doesn’t get rid of the dog or banish him to the backyard when he goes from ‘cute puppy’ to ‘obnoxious adolescent’. Responsible dog ownership requires an expenditure of money and time.
Brucellosis and Your Dogs

As a dog breeder, you are responsible for the welfare of your dogs. This includes protecting their health and making sure they are free of contagious diseases like brucellosis.

Canine brucellosis can devastate your dogs’ health and your kennel business. It causes major reproductive problems in dogs, including infertility, stillbirths, and early abortions. The disease can also lead to a host of other damaging health issues. If your dogs are infected with brucellosis, the earlier you find out and the quicker you act, the sooner you’ll have a brucellosis-free kennel again.

Your efforts not only keep your animals safe, but also protect the families they will go to—and your reputation as a breeder.

Know the Facts

- Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria (Brucella) that live mainly inside the cells of reproductive organs.
- There are various types of Brucella—found throughout the United States—that can infect dogs, pigs, cattle, deer, elk, sheep, goats, and other mammals.
- People can become infected by all of these types, including the one associated with dogs (called Brucella canis).
- Puppies born from infected mothers are often infected. This is a serious problem, since these animals may go into homes with children and others vulnerable to disease.
- Because the bacteria live inside cells, there is no cure for brucellosis in dogs. Even after months of antibiotic treatment, dogs can still remain infected and spread the disease to other dogs and people.
- Prevention is key—practice good biosecurity and test all dogs in your kennel for brucellosis.
- Infected dogs should be removed from your kennel.
- Many dogs never show signs of the disease. Testing is often the only way to detect it.

How It Spreads

Canine brucellosis can spread by direct contact with tissues or fluids from infected dogs. These include, among others: saliva, blood, urine, feces, vaginal discharge, semen, milk, or an aborted fetus. The disease can also spread in aerosolized form, such as when high-pressure sprayers are used to clean kennels or when contaminated dust and dirt is inhaled.

Puppies born from infected mothers are often infected. This poses a health threat for the families they go to, especially those with children.
What To Watch For

Dogs with brucellosis may show any of the following signs:

- Abortions (most at 45–55 days of pregnancy)
- Puppies born dead or very weak
- Male infertility
- Swollen testicles and/or epididymitis
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Lameness and lethargy

Be aware that these signs can mimic other diseases, and many infected dogs show no signs. As a result, it can be difficult to tell if a dog has brucellosis based on outward appearance alone. Testing done by a veterinarian is the best way to know if your animals are infected.

Human Health Risks

People can get brucellosis from dogs, but because the disease is hard to diagnose in humans, the true number of these cases is unknown. Those who work in close contact with dogs are most at risk for infection. Children, pregnant women, and those with compromised immune systems are also vulnerable. Symptoms may include flu-like signs (fever, headache, night sweats, chills, and generalized aches), recurring fevers, enlarged lymph nodes, arthritis, chronic fatigue, and swollen testicles. If you see any of these symptoms in yourself or others, contact a medical doctor.

For more information on brucellosis and human health concerns, go to [http://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/veterinarians/dogs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/veterinarians/dogs.html).

Biosecurity Tips

- Take care of brucellosis-negative dogs first, before attending to quarantined or brucellosis-suspect dogs. Wash your hands, and change clothing and footwear before attending to brucellosis-negative dogs.
- Use gloves, wear a face mask, and change boots when entering an area with infected dogs.
- Take special precautions when handling and removing fetuses, placenta, and fetal fluids, especially after an abortion or stillbirth.
- Clean and disinfect the kennel regularly. Avoid direct contact with urine or feces—consider using a degreaser or detergent to break down the organic film before using your disinfectant.
- Keep other dogs, people who own dogs, and wildlife (including pests) from entering your kennel.

What You Can Do: Prevention and Control

Unfortunately, there are no vaccines available for brucellosis. The best way to keep the disease out of your kennel is to make sure you test all new dogs before they enter your property. If a new dog cannot be tested before coming onto your property, quarantine the dog in another building furthest away from your kennel until proper testing is done. Never use untested dogs for breeding, and always practice good biosecurity at your facility.
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Humaniacs, Part 4: Activist Slammed for Criticizing Guide Dogs

On a morning show in the UK, an animal rights activist railed against the use of seeing-eye dogs. Activist Wendy Turner Webster, who has been affiliated with PETA, told Good Morning Britain’s Piers Morgan that she was uncomfortable with the dogs not being able to consent to their work.

Technically, pets never “consented” to be adopted by their owners—but they’re all happy for a warm home, free care, and a bowl of food. The idea of “consent” is something uniquely human.

Host Piers Morgan quickly took her to task:

‘You know what Wendy,’ Piers said. ‘Why don’t we just let guide dogs do their fabulous work for people who are blind and rely on them and can then get out and about because of their guide dogs.

‘The guide dogs always look happy to me and the people they’re helping look happy to me. Why don’t you just continue riding your horse without its consent, telling your dog what to do without its consent and lead people who are blind to have the dogs who help them.’

Users on Twitter were also not buying Webster’s argument.

One Twitter user named Jess, the owner of 2018 Guide Dog of the Year Stanley, found this shocking.

She said: “I completely disagree with this woman that technology could replace our dogs. Stanley is a life changer and gave me the ability to go back to work as a maths teacher.”

Webster isn’t alone—PETA is against guide dogs, too. In a New Yorker profile of Ingrid Newkirk, the publication noted, “[Newkirk] regards the use of Seeing Eye dogs as an abdication of human responsibility and, because they live as ‘servants’ and are denied the companionship of other dogs, she is wholly opposed to their use.”

Who the heck views working dogs as slaves?

Guide dogs are treasured by their owners, not just as pets but as companions. These animals serve a vital role that technology will never be able to replace. Most people understand this, but radical activists seem to have drank too much of PETA’s Kool-Aid.
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