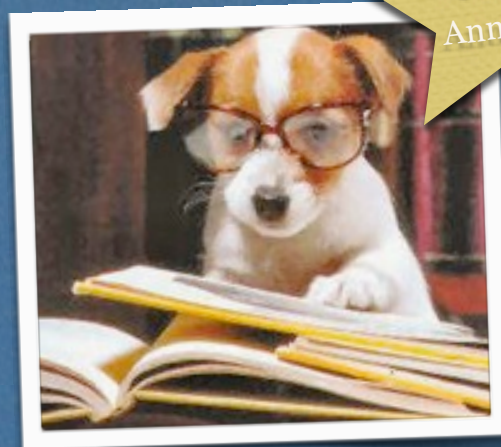




New Jersey State 4-H DOG BOWL

All NJ State 4-H Dog Project Members &
4-H Seeing Eye Dog Club Members
are invited to attend!

*Dog Bowl Competition open to:
NJ 4-H Dog Project Members
in Grades 4-13*



First
Annual



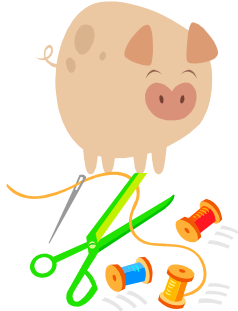
Save the Date!

Sunday, February 7, 2010

In conjunction with the NJ State 4-H Skillathon.
*Burlington County Human Services Building
795 Woodlane Road, Westampton, NJ 08060*

More information to come!

Questions? Contact Dottie Allen at (856) 234 - 6117.



NJ 4-H

SKILL-A-THON

Multi-Project

ADVENTURE

Where: Burlington County Human Services Building, Westampton, NJ

When: Sunday, February 7, 2010
Snowdate – February 21, 2010

Time: 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: It's FREE!

So what is a Skill-a-thon Multi Project Adventure? At the event there will be a large room filled with activity stations. Each station will test your knowledge on topic related to a 4-H project. So you may have chance to identify various breeds of sheep. At another station you may have to identify the tools in a sewing box. The stations will represent a wide range of 4-H projects. There will be something to pique everyone's interest and knowledge. You can even bring your own station to challenge the group. More details about that will come out soon.

This year the State 4-H Dog Bowl will be held in conjunction with the Skill-a-thon.

At the end of the day, you will have met 4-H members from across New Jersey and learned a lot more about what 4-H has to offer.

Sponsored by: NJ 4-H APAC

Please RSVP
By **January 15, 2010**
With the number of people attending
To: Annette Devitt, Salem County 4-H Agent
RCE of Salem County
51 Cheney Rd., Suite 1, Woodstown, NJ 08090
Phone: 856-769-0090 Email: devitt@njaes.rutgers.edu

This will help us plan the amount of food and number of freebies to have.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

2010 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl

STUDY GUIDE

Because the Dog Bowl Committee and the contestants are under such time constraints in preparation for the First Annual NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl competition, the committee decided to limit the study sources to just this packet of information. All the questions in the 2010 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl will be taken from the information in this packet. Links are provided in some cases to allow you further research areas of interest. However you will only be responsible for information in this packet

It is the plan that in future years we will have a more extensive list of sources that will include several reference books, some web sites, and other information.

It is also our intention to keep the questions less difficult to encourage participation by all eligible 4-H members. There will be ribbons for all participants and some free give aways for participants in the dog bowl and / or the skillathon that will be held the same day at the same location as the dog bowl.

Leaders, coaches, parents, or 4-H please feel free to contact the Dog Bowl Committee chair, Dottie Allen at 856-234-6117 or email at DottieAllen@comcast.net

Information

Teams can be formed by counties prior the entry in the Dog Bowl and/or individual 4-H members can enter and be placed on a team with other NJ 4-H members.

We will be awarding ribbons to all members of the top ten Junior and the top ten Senior teams as well as the top ten individuals in both the Junior and Senior divisions.

Seeing Eye Project Members

The information in this study guide is for the State 4-H Quiz Bowl ONLY. You should refer to your Seeing Eye Puppy Project Manual for specifics about your pups. (for example, the grooming section states to clean the ears with mineral oil and water, The Seeing Eye prefers the use of ear cleaning solution).

Source Information for 2010 NJ 4-H Dog Bowl Competition

Table of Contents

<i>4-H Information</i>	5
<i>Dog Parts</i>	8
<i>Seeing Eye Information</i>	9
<i>Canine Good Citizen Testing</i>	14
<i>AKC Obedience</i>	16
<i>AKC Rally®</i>	18
<i>AKC Agility</i>	20
<i>AKC dog breed information</i>	22
<i>Performance Events</i>	23
<i>When to get help</i>	24
<i>Bloat</i>	27
<i>AVMA Links</i>	28
<i>What you should know about Spaying and Neutering</i>	29
<i>What you Should know about cancer in animals</i>	31
<i>What you Should know about canine distemper</i>	33
<i>What you should know about Canine Parvovirus</i>	35
<i>What you should know about dog bite prevention</i>	37
<i>What you should know about external parasites</i>	39
<i>What you should know about internal parasites in cats and dogs</i>	43
<i>What you should know about heartworm disease</i>	46
<i>What you should know about vaccinations</i>	48
<i>What you should know about rabies</i>	51
<i>What you should know about household hazards to pets</i>	54
<i>4-H Dog Showmanship</i>	57
<i>Jobs for Dogs</i>	60
<i>Grooming</i>	62
<i>Reproduction</i>	64

4-H Information

4-H is the largest out of school youth organization in the United States with over 7 million youth members and 500,000 teen and adult volunteers. There is Cooperative Extension staff responsible for 4-H programs in every county and city - so there's probably a 4-H program near you. Whether you live in a city, suburb or rural area, there's something for you in 4-H. In most states, you can join 4-H if you are between the ages of 8-18. Some areas have special age-appropriate programs designed especially for younger kids.

Where are 4-H programs found

4 -H programs are conducted in 3,150 counties of the United States, and also in the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In addition, more than 80 countries around the world have youth programs similar to 4-H, with an overall enrollment of about 10 million young people. 4-H and related programs exist in over 80 countries around the world. These programs operate independently, as there is no international 4-H organization. However, through international exchanges, global education programs, and communications, they share a common bond in 4-H.

History

4-H didn't really start in one time or place. 4-H started over 100 years ago. The seed of the 4-H idea of practical and "hands-on" learning came from the desire to make public school education more connected to country life. Early programs tied both public and private resources together for the purpose of helping rural youth.

During this time, researchers at experiment stations of the land-grant college system and USDA saw that adults in the farming community did not readily accept new agricultural discoveries. But, educators found that youth would "experiment" with these new ideas and then share their experiences and successes with the adults. 4 -H clubs were preceded by corn clubs for boys and canning clubs for girls, organized in the early 1900's by public school educators who wanted to broaden the knowledge and experience of their students.

So rural youth programs became a way to introduce new agriculture technology to the adults. A.B. Graham started one such youth program in Ohio in 1902. It is considered the birth of the 4-H program in the U.S. When Congress created the Cooperative Extension Service at USDA in 1914, it included boys' and girls' club work.

Nearing its 50th anniversary, 4-H began to undergo several changes. In 1948, a group of American young people went to Europe, and a group of Europeans came to the United States on the first International Farm Youth Exchange. Since then, thousands of young people have participated in 4-H out-of-state trips and international exchanges. 4-H began to extend into urban areas in the 1950's.

Later, the basic 4-H focus became the personal growth of the member. Life skills development was built into 4-H projects, activities and events to help youth become contributing, productive, self-directed members of society. The organization changed in the 1960's, combining 4-H groups divided by gender or race into a single integrated program.

4-H Lore

The 4-H Pledge

"I Pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service,
and my Health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

The pledge tells what 4-H is all about. 4-H has as its goal the four-fold development of youth: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The pledge was adopted by the delegates to the 1927 National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, DC. State club leaders voted for and adopted the pledge for universal use. The phrase "and my world" was added in 1973. The saying of the pledge has prominent place in 4-H activities at regular 4-H meetings, achievement days, and other club events.

4-H Mission

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

4-H Vision

A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change

The 4-H Emblem, Colors, and the four H's

The original symbol of the Boys and Girls Clubs was a three leaf clover with the words Head, Heart, and Hands. Nebraska clubs used the words as part of their statement of purpose: "to educate the youth of the county, town and city to knowledge of their dependence upon nature's resources, and to the value of the fullest development of hand, head and heart...."

Here are two examples of the pins designed by O.H. Benson, Superintendent of Schools, Wright County, Iowa. He used the design on placards, posters and badges in 1907 or 1908. On September 16, 1909, he placed the first order on record with the Union Emblem Company for the pins. Benson and others are said to have had a four-leaf H design around 1908, but no record of it has been found.

Early in 1911, a meeting of club leaders in Washington adopted a committee recommendation approving the present 4-H emblem design. O.B. Martin, who was directing club work in the South, is credited with suggesting that the 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. **(Benson originally referred to a fourth H as Hustle.)**



4-H colors / Motto

The 4-H emblem is federally protected under Section 18 US Code 707 and belongs to the Congress of the United States. The official emblem is green with white H's - the 4-H colors. The white symbolizes purity. The green represents nature's most common color and is emblematic of youth, life, and growth. The 4-H motto is "To Make the Best Better". The motto was adopted at about the same time as the 4-H Club Pledge. Its intent is to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences.



4-H Slogan

"Learn By Doing"

This phrase sums up the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. Young people learn best when they are involved in their learning. The intent is to do, reflect, and apply.

National 4-Week

National 4-H week is held the first full week of October. During National 4-H Week in October, the nearly 6 million 4-H members and over 500,000 adult and youth volunteers celebrated their involvement in 4-H. County and state 4-H programs planned a variety of activities to promote 4-H to the public and to recognize 4-H accomplishments.

NJ 4-H

Cloverbud Program

As of September 1, 2009 the New Jersey 4-H Prep Program became the New Jersey 4-H Cloverbud Program. The 4-H Cloverbud Program is designed to provide K-3 youth with age-appropriate experiential learning activities in a small club setting. These youth may be registered members of a 4-H Cloverbud club or in a standard club. This program, in the tradition of the Prep Program, will remain non-competitive. The 4-H Cloverbud Program is a nationally recognized program for younger 4-H members.

Health Officer Position

This year every 4-H club in New Jersey is being encouraged to have a Club Health Officer who will lead a health, fitness or safety activity at each regular 4-H club meeting. All of the activities for the year will be distributed at the Health Officers' training that will be conducted sometime during the year in each county by its Food and Fitness Ambassador. Ask your leader about running for this new office so you can promote "HEALTH," the fourth H.

4-H Camp

The **Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp** is located on 108 beautiful acres in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, N. J. The camp is operated by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and is owned by Rutgers University.

Delivery Modes

When most people think about 4-H, they think of 4-H clubs. Although 4-H clubs are the most commonly known, there are several other ways 4-H reaches youth. Each "delivery mode" serves a different purpose but all are equally important.

Organized 4-H Clubs - Members of an organized group of youth, led by an adult, with a planned program that is carried on throughout all or most of the year. 4-H clubs may meet in any location and typically have elected officers and a set of rules approved by the membership to govern the club. Membership in 4-H clubs is open to youth in grades K - 13 (One year past high school).

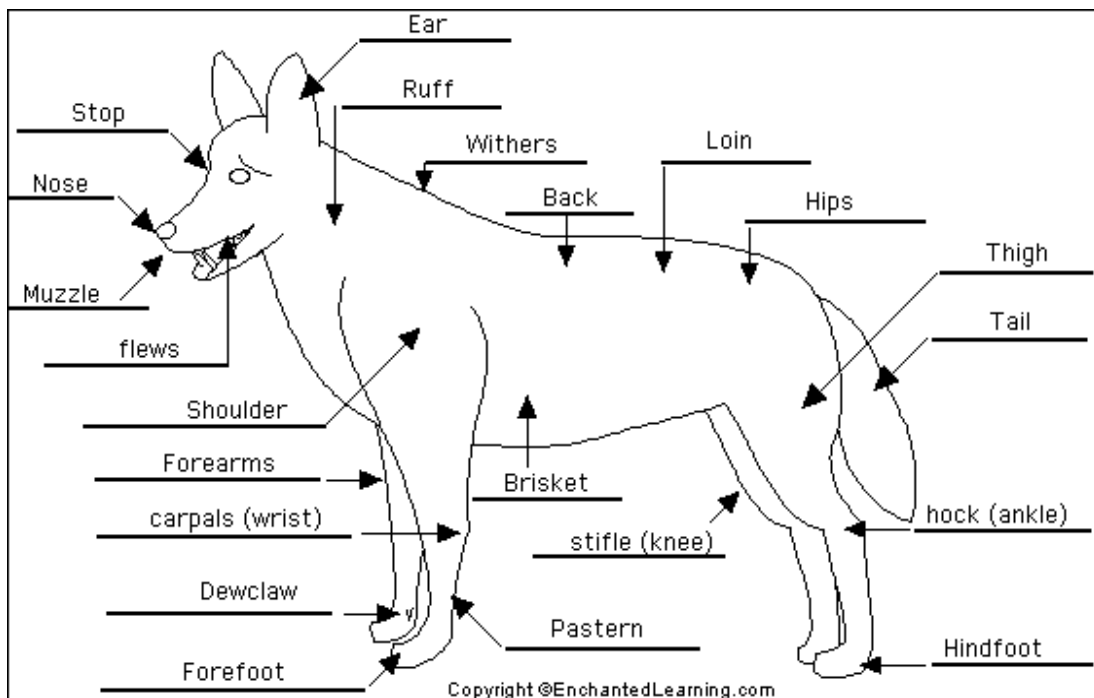
Special Interest/Short Term Programs/Day Camps - Groups of youth meeting for a specific learning experience for one or more sessions, which involves direct teaching by Extension staff or trained volunteers, including teachers. Such a program is not part of school curriculum and cannot be restricted to members of 4-H clubs. This delivery mode does not usually continue for as long as a 4-H club. Examples might be a three-week babysitting course or a weekend-long state 4-H teen conference if they are open to the public.

Overnight Camping Programs - Youth taking part in an Extension planned educational experience of group living in the out-of-doors which includes being away from home at least one night (resident, primitive or travel camping). This experience cannot be restricted to members of organized 4-H Clubs. Most 4-H summer camps fit this description if youth from the public are equally welcome to attend as 4-H club members.

School Enrichment Programs - Groups of youth receiving a sequence of learning experiences in cooperation with school officials during school hours, to support the school curriculum. An example might be a volunteer visiting a school to present a special program on science to youth during classroom hours and promoting 4-H while doing so.

School-Aged Child Care Education Programs - Educational programs offered to youth outside of school hours, usually in a school or other community center and incorporating 4-H curricula. The primary purpose is to provide care for youth while parents are working or unavailable. (Youth who are members of 4-H clubs in school age child care settings are considered members of "organized 4-H clubs.")

Dog Parts



Copyright ©EnchantedLearning.com

back - the part of the body between the loin and the withers.

brisket - the chest of the dog.

carpals - the wrist, the bones of the pastern joint.

dewclaw - the tiny, useless, fifth claw - located on the inner part of the leg above the other toes.

ear - the fleshy, often triangular appendages on the head associated with hearing.

flews - the hanging part of the dog's upper lips.

forearms - The parts of the forelegs between the elbow and the pastern.

forefoot - the front feet.

hindfoot - the back feet.

hips - the joints at the uppermost part of the hindlegs.

hock - the bones that form the ankle/heel of the dog.

loin - the parts of the body located on both sides of the backbone between the ribs and the hips.

muzzle - the front parts of the jaws.

nose - the tip of the muzzle.

pastern - the part of the leg below the carpals (wrist) of the front leg or below the hock of the hind leg.

ruff - the long, thick hair that grows around the neck.

shoulder - the joint at the uppermost part of the forelegs.

stifle - the dog's knee, located on the hind leg above the ankle.

stop - the indented part of the skull between the eyes.

tail - the hind-most part of the backbone, set on the rump.

thigh - the upper part of the hind leg.

withers - the top of the shoulders, just behind the neck.

Seeing Eye Information

from: <http://www.seeingeye.org/CMS/uploads/Newspeakerskit.pdf>

Volunteers in The Seeing Eye Puppy-Raising Project have a unique opportunity to make a positive contribution to society. Since 1942, Seeing Eye puppy-raisers have helped blind men and women from across the United States and Canada to increase their independence, dignity, and self-confidence through the use of Seeing Eye dogs. Puppy-raisers' early, hands-on attention gives the pups a firm foundation of love and security, enabling them to meet their special destiny as the eyes for blind people. Puppy raising brings family members closer together in a common cause. It builds character in children, teaching them early in life to help others. And it ultimately assists the hundreds of blind people each year who return to their families, friends, and jobs with competent, confident Seeing Eye dogs at their sides.

- The Seeing Eye Puppy-Raising Project began in 1942 in Morris County, New Jersey. About 35 puppies were placed in homes the first year.
- The program now is open to residents of New Jersey, and parts of Pennsylvania and Delaware and Maryland.
- Currently, an average of 650 to 675 individuals and families in four states are raising an average of 650 to 675 puppies.
- Most puppy-raisers are children between the ages of 9 and 19, or are retired adults.
- Regional coordinators stay in close contact with puppy-raiser families. They are available for assistance at all times.
- A puppy lives with a puppy-raiser for about 15 months, until its old enough to begin its formal training at the Seeing Eye.
- A puppy-raiser's job is to provide the love and gentle guidance that teaches the puppy to be comfortable and confident in the many types of social settings it will encounter as a working dog (for example in cars, stores, public transportation, and other public accommodations).
- Puppy-raisers teach the dogs simple commands. Later, Seeing Eye instructors teach the dog how to guide a blind person.
- Puppy-raisers attend regular club meetings that provide great socialization experience for pups and people.
- Someone needs to be home for most of the day to meet the puppy's needs.
- The Seeing Eye covers the cost of veterinary care and boarding. They also provide a quarterly allotment to defray the cost of food.
- The late Miss Evelyn Henderson holds the record for puppy raising: over 200 between 1951 and 1978. She also raised 15 foster children, each of whom was required to raise a pup. There were as many as a dozen puppies at one time in her home. In 1978, she received one of The Seeing Eye's highest honors, the Buddy Award in recognition of her work. The book Mine for a Year tells the story of one of her foster sons and his puppy.
- New puppy-raisers are always welcome. For information, call your county extension office or The Seeing Eye at (973) 539-4425
- Students receiving Seeing Eye dogs pay \$150 for a first dog, \$50 for a subsequent dog. This includes the cost of the dog and its initial equipment, training with the dog, room and board while at Morristown, round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, and any follow-up services a graduate may need once he/she returns home. Fees are unchanged since 1929.

- The average working life of a Seeing Eye dog is 10 years. A retired dog may be kept as a pet, given to a friend or relative as a pet, or returned to The Seeing Eye, where it will be placed in an adoptive home.
- The Mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye dogs.
- It is a philanthropy supported by contributions, trusts and bequests, and receives no government aid.
- The Seeing Eye is located in Morristown, New Jersey. There is no other location. Only dogs trained at this school are properly called Seeing Eye dogs, which is a registered trademark name. The generic term for dogs that guide people who are blind is “dog guide”.
- There are 12 accredited schools in the United States. Schools are accredited by meeting standards of the International Guide Dog Foundation
- The Seeing Eye will send its newsletter, general information brochure, annual report, or other material free on request.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is The Seeing Eye supported?

A. The Seeing Eye is a philanthropy. It receives contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Because all administrative and fundraising expenses are covered by the endowment, every dollar of every donation goes to support the school’s programs. Our endowment ensures that The Seeing Eye will endure into the future and that those who want Seeing Eye dogs always will be able to obtain them.

Q. How many students does The Seeing Eye train each year?

A. The school trains nearly 300 students a year. Many are returning to obtain their second, third, or fourth dogs. There are 12 annual classes of about 24 students each.

Q. How much does it cost a blind person to obtain a Seeing Eye dog?

A. A blind person is asked to assume an obligation of \$150 for his/her first visit, and \$50 for each visit thereafter. This fee, unchanged since the school was founded in 1929, represents dignity and self-respect to the student, and ownership of the dog. No one has ever been denied a Seeing Eye dog for lack of funds. This payment, sometimes made in monthly installments, covers a fraction of the actual total cost.

The cost to The Seeing Eye for every dog/owner partnership is about \$50,000. This includes breeding, puppy raising, and training one dog to be matched with a person. Also included is the student’s round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, room and board during the 20-to-27 day training period at the school, the dog, its initial equipment, the student’s instruction with the dog, and any follow-up services the graduate may need once he/she returns home and for the life of the partnership.

Q. Can individuals, clubs, or organizations sponsor a Seeing Eye dog for a blind person?

A. No. As a philanthropy, The Seeing Eye provides dog guides to blind people who seek greater independence and mobility. Sponsoring a dog for someone robs that person of independence by making him or her feel obligated or dependent on the sponsor. The Seeing Eye regards those who choose to come here with dignity and self-respect, and encourages independence. Therefore, all gifts support the entire program.

Q. What breeds of dogs are used?

A. The Seeing Eye breeds German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and crosses at its breeding station in Chester, NJ. Occasionally, Boxers are obtained by purchase or gift.

Q. Are only female dogs used?

A. Due to the success of our breeding program, we use both neutered male and female dogs. It is not its sex that determines a dog’s suitability for guide work, but disposition, intelligence and good health.

Q. How long does it take to train a dog?

A. Training a Seeing Eye dog is a multi-step process. When the dog is about seven weeks old, it's placed in the home of a volunteer puppy raiser, where it's taught basic obedience and socialization, and given lots of love. After about 15 months, the dog returns to The Seeing Eye and begins a four-month course with a sighted instructor. When the dog passes this phase, it's matched with a blind person. Person and dog then train together under the supervision of the instructor. Someone coming to The Seeing Eye for the first time participates in a 27-day training session; someone returning for a second or subsequent dog participates in a 20-day session.

Q. What is the average working life of a Seeing Eye dog? What happens to the dogs when they get old? What happens to the dogs when their owners die?

A. The average working life of a Seeing Eye dog is 10 years. However, many have lived and worked to the ages of 12, 13, and longer. A retired Seeing Eye dog may be kept as a pet, given to a friend or relative as a pet, or returned to The Seeing Eye, which will find it a suitable home. If the owner dies, the dog is sometimes placed with a new owner. Sometimes it remains with the family, depending on its age and other factors.

Q. Do the dogs have any free time?

A. A dog keeps the same work schedule as its owner. At home, it's free to relax or play. Out of harness, it's like any other dog, and sometimes may even get into mischief. When the harness is put on it eagerly accepts it, becoming more serious and responsible.

Q. Can I train dogs for the Seeing Eye?

A. New volunteer puppy-raisers who live in New Jersey, parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland are always welcome. Call The Seeing Eye or your county extension office for details.

Staff instructors are full-time employees. They have college degrees in education, psychology, or related fields, and have successfully completed The Seeing Eye three-year apprenticeship program. They relate equally well to dogs and people and are physically fit, since their job is physically demanding and involves working outdoors in all weather. Call the manager of human resources at The Seeing Eye for information.

Q. What is the puppy-raising program?

A. In 1942, The Seeing Eye, in conjunction with 4-H clubs of New Jersey, established its puppy-raising program. Since then, 4-H children and their families have raised Seeing Eye puppies during the first year of the pups' lives. Due to the increased demand for puppy-raisers, the program is growing. When the puppies are about seven weeks old, they leave the breeding station to live with their families for about a year, until they are old enough to begin their formal training. There are equal amount of children and adults raising puppies for us. The responsibilities involved in raising a puppy are; providing affection, discipline, and exposure to the kinds of experiences it will encounter as a working dog.

Q. How does a dog know when to cross the street?

A. Dogs are color-blind and can't read traffic lights. The dog's owner learns to judge the movement of traffic by its sounds. At the appropriate time, he/she will command the dog to move forward. The dog will not carry out the command until it is safe to do so. This is called intelligent disobedience.

Q. How does a dog know where a blind person wants to go?

A. Blind people generally know their own communities and can direct their dogs wherever they want to with the simple commands left, right, or forward. In a new location, blind men and women, like sighted people, ask for directions and communicate them to the dog by using the proper command.

Q. What is the greatest difficulty dog guide users encounter?

A. Public interference. For anyone to take hold of a blind person's arm, or the dog's harness, or otherwise distract the dog or its owner is not only a shocking experience, but akin to grabbing the steering wheel of a

moving car away from its driver. If you think a dog guide user needs assistance, calmly ask if he or she would like help. The person can accept or decline your offer.

Q. Will a dog defend a blind person who is in danger?

A. Seeing Eye dogs are dog guides, not guard dogs. The Seeing Eye breeds its dogs for good temperament, intelligence, stability, gentleness, and good health. However, given the special relationship that develops between the dog and master from many years of working and living together, we can't predict what the dog would do. Common sense says it probably would protect its master.

Q. Are there other dog guide schools?

A. In addition to the U.S., many foreign countries have dog guide schools. There are 12 in this country, but there is only one Seeing Eye, in Morristown, New Jersey. It has no branches. Only dogs obtained there are properly called Seeing Eye dogs. The generic term for dogs trained by other schools is dog guide. Founded in 1929, The Seeing Eye is legally registered in the U.S. and Canada. The premier dog guide school in North America, it has matched nearly 15,000 Seeing Eye dogs with blind people from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Q.

Seeing Eye Project Members

The information in this complete study guide is for the State 4-H Quiz Bowl ONLY. You should refer to your Seeing Eye Puppy Project Manual for specifics about your pups. (for example, the grooming section states to clean the ears with mineral oil and water, The Seeing Eye prefers the use of ear cleaning solution).

Other than blindness, are there special qualifications to obtain a Seeing Eye dog?

A. A person must be at least 16 years old, in good general health, and have an active enough lifestyle to need a Seeing Eye dog.

More Facts about Seeing Eye

- Since its founding in 1929, The Seeing Eye has matched about 14,700 specially-bred and trained dog guides with blind people throughout the United States and Canada.
- About 1800 active graduates of The Seeing Eye lead productive, independent lives with Seeing Eye® dogs at their sides. They include students, teachers, lawyers, musicians, factory workers, x-ray technicians, clergy, computer programmers, social workers, psychologists, writers, homemakers and volunteers.
- The Seeing Eye is the oldest dog guide school in America. It is a philanthropic organization whose primary purpose is to help blind adults achieve mobility through the use of properly trained dog guides.
- In addition to breeding German shepherds, Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers, The Seeing Eye occasionally obtains boxers. The puppies are raised by volunteer families through The Seeing Eye Puppy Raising/4-H Program. Pups live with the families for about 16 to 18 months, and then return to The Seeing Eye to enter training. During that time, The Seeing Eye pays all veterinary costs plus a quarterly allowance toward food costs.
- It takes about 16 weeks to train a dog. Instructors (who are sighted) train 10 at a time. They use a system of affectionate rewards and gentle corrections to teach each dog both obedience and intelligent disobedience -

to disregard a command if it would lead to danger.

- About 300 people each year come to the Morristown campus of The Seeing Eye to be matched with a dog guide. They live with their dogs in The Seeing Eye student residence for the 20 to 27 days it takes for them to learn to become a safe and effective working team.
- Those in need of a Seeing Eye dog must be over 16 and in good health. The Seeing Eye does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, or economic status.
- Students are asked to pay \$150 for their first visit to the Seeing Eye, and \$50 for each subsequent visit. This is applied toward the cost of the dog and its initial equipment, round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, and meals and lodging during the training period. The actual cost to breed, raise and train a dog and instruct a student in its use is about \$50,000 per person/dog team. The difference is made up through philanthropic gifts to The Seeing Eye. No one has ever been denied a Seeing Eye dog because of inability to pay.
- The Seeing Eye was founded by Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank, the first blind person to use a dog guide, in Nashville, Tennessee. It moved to Morris County, N.J. in 1931 and has been at its present Washington Valley Road location since 1965. There are no branches.
- As a philanthropy that receives no government aid of any kind, The Seeing Eye relies on contributions, trust income, bequests and endowment earnings. It welcomes public interest and will send it quarterly newsletter, The Seeing Eye Guide, in print, Braille, audiotape, or email on request.
- Blind people may apply directly to The Seeing Eye, Inc., PO Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963-0375, or call (973)539-4425. Preliminary information and application forms are sent on request.

The Seeing Eye ® is a registered trademark of dog guides of The Seeing Eye

Canine Good Citizen Testing

Taken from the AKC Canine Good Citizen Testing Participant's Handbook,
found at: <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/cgc/GK9GC2.pdf>

The Canine Good Citizen Program ("CGC") is administered by the American Kennel Club. It's purpose is to ensure that our dogs become respected members of our community through training them to act well behaved in the home, in public and with other dogs.

All testing for the CGC is performed on a leather or fabric leash, with the dog wearing a well fitting buckle or slip collar made of leather, fabric or chain. All handlers upon check in must sign the Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge, stating that the dog gets routine veterinary care. No formal score is given for the CGC other than a pass or fail. In order to earn the CGC designation a dog must pass all ten items of the test.

The complete CGC test is made up of the following ten items:

Accepting a Friendly Stranger, Sitting Politely for Petting, Appearance and Grooming, Out for a Walk (Walking on a Loose Leash), Walking Through a Crowd, Sit, Down on Command and Stay in Place, Coming When Called, Reaction to Another Dog, Reaction to Distractions, Supervised Separation.

The testing proceeds as follows:

#1 Accepting a Friendly Stranger. The evaluator walks up to dog and handler, greets handler in a friendly manner, then shakes hands with handler and exchanges pleasantries. The dog must show no signs of resentment or shyness and must not break position or approach the evaluator.

#2 Sitting Politely for Petting. The dog can sit on either side of the handler as the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body only. Then handler may talk to the dog throughout the exercise and the dog may stand in place once petting begins but must not show shyness or resentment.

#3 Appearance and Grooming. The evaluator inspects the dog for signs of good health and then, using a grooming tool provided by the handler, will softly comb or brush the dog and gently pick up each front foot. The dog does not have to hold a specific position but must show tolerance inspection and grooming.

#4 Out for a walk. The dog may be on either side of the handler but it's behavior should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive and responsive to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The team will be required to perform a left turn, right turn, about turn, and stop in between and at the end of the exercise.

#5 Walking Through a Crowd. The dog and handler move around at least three people of different appearances. The dog should move politely and under control. The dog may show some interest in strangers but will continue to walk with handler in a well behaved manner.

#6 Sit and Down on Command / Stay in Place. The dog's leash is replaced with a twenty foot line. The handler makes the dog sit and then down. The handler may use reasonable time multiple commands and a light touch to instruct the dog but may not force the dog into position. On the evaluator's instruction, the handler tells the dog to stay walks forward, to the end of the line, turns around and returns to the dog, all at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the spot it was left until the evaluator instructs the handler to release it.

#7 Coming When Called. The handler walks ten feet from the dog, turns to face the dog and calls it. The handler may use the stay or wait commands, or may simply walk away without giving the dog specific instructions. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come while the evaluator provides mild distractions.

#8 Reaction to Another Dog. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other or the other handler, nor approach either.

#9 Reaction to Distractions. This item demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. Two of the following distractions are used: A person with crutches, wheelchair or walker; sudden open/closing of a door, dropping a loud item farther than five feet from the dog, a jogger, a person pushing a cart or cart dolly, a person on a bike. The dog can express natural interest or be slightly startled, but should not panic, run away, bark or show aggressiveness.

#10 Supervised Separation. The evaluator offers to hold the dog, and the handler hands the leash to the evaluator and goes out of sight for three minutes. The handler may give the dog commands to down or sit and stay, but the dog does not have to maintain it's position.

The dog must maintain it's training and manners and may not continually bark, whine or pace unnecessarily, or show anything more than mild agitation.

AKC Obedience

- Demonstrating the usefulness of a dog as a companion to humankind, AKC Obedience is a sport with rules, regulations, judges, conditioning, training, placements and prizes.
- Dog and handler teams are judged on how closely they match the judge's mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance as they execute a series of specified exercises.
- Accuracy and precision are essential, but the natural movement of the handler and the willingness and enjoyment of the dog are very important. Dogs are required to heel on the left side of the handler.
- You must be registered with the AKC to compete in AKC Obedience Trials
- A dog that is blind, deaf or has been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons (other than changes customarily approved for its breed) cannot compete in any AKC Obedience Trial
- Dogs must be 6 months or older to be shown in an AKC Obedience Trial. No dog in season may be shown at an AKC Obedience or Rally Trial or at a 4H event.

Training and Warm-up on the Show Grounds

- There will be no intensive or abusive training of the dogs on the grounds or premises at an AKC licensed or member obedience trial or sanctioned match.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring, warm-up ring or exercise area and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards and when waiting in the ring before and after the group exercises.
- The leash must be made of fabric or leather and need only be long enough to provide adequate slack during the Heel on Leash exercise.
- All dogs in the obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the judge. **No special training collars, such as electronic collars or prong collars will be permitted.** Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.
- All dogs will be kept on leash except when in the obedience ring, designated warm-up area or exercise area.

Obedience Classes

Pre-Novice Class. The Pre-Novice class shall be for dogs that have not received a third qualifying score in a Novice class prior to the closing of the trial. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. However, if a person has handled more than one dog in the first four exercises, that person must provide a handler for the additional dog in the same group exercise. All exercises will be scored as in the Novice class, except the dogs will perform all exercises on leash, which should be 6 feet in length.

The exercises are: Heel on Leash and Figure Eight Stand for Examination
Recall Long Sit (1 min) Long Down (3 min)

The **Novice Class** demonstrates good canine companion skills

Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Heel Free Stand for Examination
Recall – Long Sit (1 minute) Long Down (3minute)

*In the Novice Class, dogs earn an **AKC Companion Dog (CD)** title after receiving 3 qualifying scores under 3 different judges.*

The Open Class is more challenging as more exercises are done off leash and retrieving and jumping challenges are added.

Heel Free and Figure Eight,	Drop on Recall	Retrieve on the flat
Retrieve Over High Jump	Broad Jump	Long Sit (3 minutes)
Long Down (5 minutes) of sight.		

*In the Open Class, dogs earn an **AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)** title after receiving 3 qualifying scores under 3 different judges.*

The Utility Class, includes scent discrimination, directed retrieves, jumping and silent signal exercises, and is the most challenging class.

Signal Exercise ,	Scent Discrimination	Directed Retrieve
Moving Stand and Examination	Directed Jumping	

*In the Utility Class, dogs earn an **AKC Utility Dog (UD)** title after receiving qualifying scores from three different judges.*

Qualifying Performance in Obedience

A qualifying score indicates that the dog has performed all the required exercises according to AKC Obedience Regulations and justifies the awarding of the obedience title. A minimum of 170 points must be received to have a qualifying score. A perfect score in any class is 200. All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a “leg,” or qualifying score toward their title.

The following colors must be used for prize ribbons or rosettes in all regular classes

First Prize – Blue	Second Prize – Red
Third Prize – Yellow	Fourth Prize – White
Blue and Gold-Highest scoring dog	

All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a "leg," or qualifying score toward their title.

Obedience implies compliance with the direction or command given by the handler

Brisk, briskly — keenly alive, alert, energetic

Command — verbal order from handler to dog

Crowding — a dog so close to the handler as to interfere with the handler’s freedom of motion

Mouthing — when a dog chews or rolls the dumbbell in its mouth unnecessarily

Verbal Command — verbal order from handler to dog

Hand Signal — nonverbal direction from the handler to dog

Leg – A term that is used frequently for a qualifying score.

AKC Rally®

AKC RALLY is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10-20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The dog and handler team moves continuously at a brisk but normal pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. The team moves through the course, passing the signs on their right. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect heel position is not required. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. Unlimited communication from the handler to dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise. Encourage, clap hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and /or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arm need not be maintained in any particular position. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

AKC Rally is a companion sport to AKC Obedience. Both require teamwork between the dog and handler along with similar performance skills. Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC companion events for new dogs and handlers and can provide a challenging opportunity.

Rally was devised by Charles L. "Bud" Krammer from the obedience practice of "doodling"-doing a variety of interesting warm up and freestyle exercises.

In AKC Rally, which is only open to AKC breeds, the team starts with 100 points, and the judge deducts points for mistakes, after qualifying three times at each level under two different judges, the dog earns a title, which appears after the dog's registered name. Each qualifying trial earned is known as a "leg".

RALLY SIGNS

The signs may be any color and they include descriptions as well as directional arrows of exercises. Signs are numbered to make it easy to find the next station when navigating the course. All signs are placed to the handler's right side. The signs are large enough to be easily recognized when going through a course. The exercises designated on the signs will be performed in close proximity to the sign itself, either directly in front of, or in front of and to the left of the sign.

Rally Competitions

Novice-this is the first level for those just getting started in competition.

- All exercises are performed with dog on leash
- There is a requirement of 10-15 stations to complete with no more than 5 stationary exercises
- The exercises performed vary from turning 360 degrees to changing paces during the course
- Exhibitors at this level may clap their hands, pat their legs, and talk to their dogs through the course

Advanced-this is the second level, which includes more difficult exercises throughout the course

- All exercises are performed off leash
- There is a requirement of 12-17 stations with no more than 7 stationary exercises
- Exercises include a jump as well as calling your dog to the front of you from a stationary position

Excellent-this is the third level and the most challenging

- Exercises are performed off leash except for the honor exercise
- There is a requirement of 15-20-stations, with no more than 7 stationary exercises
- Handlers are only allowed to encourage their dogs verbally. Physical encouragement is not allowed at this level.

Qualifying Performance

A qualifying performance indicates that the dog has performed the required exercises according to the AKC Rally Regulations. Each performance is timed, but times are only counted if two dogs earn the same score. All dogs and handlers begin with a perfect 100. A dog and handler team is awarded a qualifying score if it retains at least 70 points after the course has been completed.

Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog that eliminates while in the ring for judging
- Knocking over a jump
- Bar knocked off the uprights
- Handler error**
- Station not attempted by handler
- Using a jump as an aid in going over
- Walking through or on the broad jump boards
- Dog attempts broad jump but does not clear entire jump
- Failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction

Ribbons

-Blue - awarded for first place in any regular class.

-Red - awarded for second place in each class.

-Yellow - awarded for third place in each class. -

White - awarded for fourth place in each class.

All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a "leg," or qualifying score toward their title.

GENERAL

Lame-irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe

Walk-through-the time allowed for the handlers to walk the course without a dog, prior to the start of the class to plan their strategy

AKC Agility

Excerpt of pages 9-11 (excluding list of jump heights) of Beginner's Guide to Companion Events, found at: www.akc.org/pdfs/events/GOCET1.pdf

What is Agility?

Running a dog in an agility trial is the ultimate game for you and your dog and is one of the most exciting canine sports for spectators. In an agility trial, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects. It's an activity that strengthens the bond between dog and handler and provides fun and exercise for both, which might explain why it's so enjoyable to watch and has become the fastest-growing dog sport in the United States!

Types of Classes

There are several types of classes offered at an agility trial: Standard, Jumpers With Weaves, Fifteen And Send Time (FAST) and Preferred. The Standard class has contact obstacles, which have yellow "contact zones" at each end. Contact obstacles include A-frame, dog walk and seesaw. The dog must place a least one paw in the contact zone in order not to receive a fault. This encourages safety in training and in running the course. Standard class also has a variety of jumps; weave poles, pause table, tunnels and a closed chute. The Jumpers with Weaves class does not have contact obstacles or a pause table to slow the team's forward momentum. This is a very fast course requiring instant decisions by the handler and close attention from the dog. The FAST class is an additional test of strategy skill, accuracy, speed, timing and distance handling, to demonstrate a dog's athletic ability and willingness to work with its handler in a fast-paced atmosphere over a variety of agility obstacles. As indicated by the title, the Fifteen and Send Time class uses fifteen (15) point-valued obstacles and/ or obstacle combinations. The course will include a 'Send Bonus' or distance element that will award a bonus of twenty (20) points if completed successfully, and is identified as the 'Send Bonus.'

Levels of Agility Competition

There are three different levels of competition in agility:

NOVICE – for the dog that is just starting in agility. There are 13 to 15 obstacles on this course. The focus of the Novice class is on performing the obstacles with minimal handling technique.

OPEN – for the dog that has completed the Novice level. There are 16 to 18 obstacles on this course. The focus of the open class is on more difficult obstacle course performance with more handling skill required.

EXCELLENT – for the dog that has completed the open level. There are 18 – 20 obstacles on this course. The focus of the Excellent A & B class is to provide the opportunity for dogs and handlers to demonstrate their superior skills in moving quickly and efficiently with close communication and teamwork through challenging agility courses. The Excellent B level is the class where handler-dog teams can earn the title, Master Agility Champion (MACH), in the Regular Classes.

How Agility is Scored

Agility is a time and fault sport where the qualifying requirements are more challenging as the competition class levels get higher. There are two types of faults: time and penalty. Time faults are given for every second a dog goes over the Standard Course Time.

Below are examples of Penalty Faults that a judge may assess a handler and dog:

- Taking an obstacle out of sequence
- Missing a contact zone
- Displacing a bar or panel on a jump
- Jumping off the pause table before the judge is through counting
- Running around or refusing the next obstacle
- Exceeding the amount of time set by the judge for running the course
- Touching either the dog or any obstacle by the handler while running the course
- Outside assistance may be penalized
- Handler failure to control the dog may be penalized

Qualifying Performance

A perfect score in any class at any level is 100. A dog must earn 3 qualifying scores under two different judges. The minimum score to qualify is 85 in all classes. The minimum time allowed to run the course and the number of obstacles to complete successfully, increase as the level of difficulty increases.

Jump Heights

The classes are divided by jump heights in order to make the competition equal between the different sizes of dogs.

In the REGULAR class, a dog of a certain height at the shoulder jumps a specific height according to an objective measurement.

The PREFERRED class affords an opportunity for a greater variety of dogs and their handlers, to participate in the sport of agility. Handlers have the option to enter the Preferred classes with modified, but still specific standards of lower jump heights and more generous course times.

AKC dog breed information

For 2010 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl, we will not be asking much about breeds of dogs

Questions will be limited to the following information

The AKC breed groups are:

Herding, Working, Hounds, Sporting, Non Sporting, Toys, and Terrier
(we will not ask about the Miscellaneous Group)

Name up to 5 breeds of dogs in any of the AKC breed groups

ie - Name 3 breeds in the Hound Group -

Answer - Bloodhound, Whippet, and Greyhound

All the breeds are available at AKC.org. It would take too much space to list all the breeds here, so if you have questions, please look it up.

Breeds of dogs that originated in the USA

Alaskan Malamute

American Eskimo Dog

American Foxhound

American Staffordshire Terrier

American

Water Spaniel

Black and Tan Coonhound

Boston Terrier

Chesapeake Bay Retriever

Plott Hound

AKC allows spayed and neutered dogs to compete in Jr Showmanship, Performance, Obedience, Rally, Agility, and all events except conformation classes that make a dog eligible for Best in Show at an all breed show.

As of January 1, 2010, mixed breed dogs will be eligible for AKC registration

April 1, 2010 mixed breed dogs that are registered with AKC will be eligible for “stand alone” competition in Companion events which are Obedience, Rally, and agility.

A stand-alone AKC Companion Event is an AKC Agility, Obedience or Rally event that is *not* held on the same date AND show site as an AKC All-Breed dog show, Group Show or Independent Specialty (Conformation events).

Mixed-breed classes will be held separately from the regular purebred classes.

AKC clubs will have the option to hold mixed-breed classes for eligible stand-alone Agility, Obedience, or Rally events. Those clubs electing to hold mixed-breed classes will offer the same classes for mixed-breed dogs and purebred dogs.

Performance Events

(Does not include agility, rally, and obedience - which are covered separately)

Herding - The purpose of the competitive herding trial program is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the herding breeds and to demonstrate that they can perform the useful functions for which they were originally bred. The herding trials are open to all breeds in the herding group as well as Rottweilers, Samoyeds, Standard and Giant Schnauzers, Pyrenean Shepherds, Swedish Vallhunds, Norwegian Buhunds and Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs. Herding tests and trials can be judged with the dogs herding sheep, goats, ducks, geese, turkeys or cattle, but must be stated in the premium list

Earth Dog - The purpose of non-competitive Earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small Terriers and Dachshunds a standardized gauge to measure their dogs' natural aptitude and trained hunting and working behaviors when exposed to an underground hunting situation. The noncompetitive program begins with a basic introduction to den work and quarry and progresses through gradual steps to require the dog to demonstrate that it is willing to perform the required tasks including seeking its quarry, locating and working it underground.

The behaviors tested are willingness to follow a scent to the entrance; willingness to enter a dark den; and willingness to work the quarry. The dog may work the caged rats by barking, digging, growling, lunging, biting at the protective bars or any work that the judge feels displays a desire to get to the quarry.

Tracking - AKC tracking events are the competition form of canine search and rescue. These Tracking events provide training for dogs and their handlers to meet some human needs for tracking and finding lost humans or other animals, as well as, demonstrating the extremely high level of scent capability that dogs possess.

A dog earns a tracking title by following a track laid by a human tracklayer and is "aged" 30 minutes to five hours, depending on the level of test, before the dog begins scenting. The goal is to use the scented track to locate an article left at the end of the trail by the tracklayer. The owner follows the dog on a long leash and can encourage the dog during the tracking test.

Lure Coursing - The purpose of non-competitive lure coursing tests is to offer sighthound breed owners a standardized gauge to measure their hounds' coursing instinct. The purpose of the competitive lure coursing trial program is to preserve and develop the coursing skills inherent in the sighthounds. Sighthounds are a special group of hounds that are bred to hunt by sight. The sighthound breeds are: Whippets, Basenjis, Greyhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Afghan Hounds, Borzois, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Salukis and Rhodesian Ridgebacks. These Tests and Trials utilize a 'lure' of white plastic strung around a rope course of 600 to 800 yards in an open field. The lure is moved around the field by a motor and pulleys to control the speed and direction of the rope with the lure attached.

Field Trials and Hunting Tests - The purpose of these events is to offer tests and events that preserve and develop the natural instinct of the hunting breeds of pointers, hounds, any gun dog breeds or hunting breeds of which there are many.

When to get help

It is helpful for you to know your dog's normal temperature and pulse in determining if there is a problem or concern

Temperature

The normal temperature of a dog should be between 100.5 to 102.5.

Pulse

How to Take a Dog's Pulse

- Move your dog to, or get your dog to lie on it's side.
- Put your hand under the top back leg.
- Find the crease that divides the leg from the body.
- Put your index and middle fingers alongside the crease, that is where a main artery is located.
- Count the pulse beats for a full minute. If you have difficulty you can count for twenty seconds and multiply by three.

Healthy Pulse Rates

The smaller the dog, the faster it's pulse will be. If you believe your dog is in pain, or is ill, and their pulse rate varies significantly from the chart below, bring your pet to a veterinarian for medical assistance.

* Take the pulse at least two or three times over an hour's time, as the first few times your pet may get excited or upset at the unfamiliar handling, and that would change a normal pulse. Do Not wait an hour if it is an emergency. Get them to the vet ASAP.

* allow at least a 5 to 10 beat variance due to generality of sizing chart

* obesity and age of pet are both factors in gauging answer

Small Dog - from 140 to 160 beats per minute

Medium Dog - from 120 to 140 beats per minute

Large Dog - from 60 to 80 beats per minute

As a dog owner or caretaker, you need to know when to contact your vet for help.

Contact your veterinarian Immediately if your dog:

Has signs of heart or respiratory disease including:

- No pulse or heart beat
- No breathing or severe difficulty breathing
- Bluish or white gums or tongue
- A near drowning

Has been exposed to a toxin or poison or has had trauma including:

- A broken bone, or a cut that exposes a bone
- Heavy bleeding that cannot be stopped
- An eye injury, the eye is out of the socket, or appears enlarged or protruding
- A fight, especially if it was with a cat or a wild, or unvaccinated animal

- A wound from a bullet or arrow
- Being hit by a vehicle or other large fast-moving object
- Puncture wounds to the abdomen or chest
- Any trauma to the head
- A bite from a snake, scorpion, or poisonous spider; or has bitten a toad
- Porcupine quills imbedded in the mouth, face, or body
- A broken tooth, or the loss of a healthy tooth, including the root (keep the tooth in a small jar of milk)
- A severe laceration, or an incision that has opened and the skin is gaping
- Falling or jumping from an open window, balcony, etc.
- Swelling of the face and/or hives

Has had heat or cold related injuries including:

- Chewing on an electrical cord and receiving a shock or burn
- Burns or inhaled smoke
- Heat stroke or a fever over 105°F (normal is less than 102.5°F)
- Frostbite or hypothermia

Has signs of gastrointestinal distress including:

- Straining continually, but unable to produce feces
- Bloat (abdomen appears large or dog attempts to vomit, but cannot bring anything up)
- Choking
- Vomiting blood or uncontrolled vomiting
- Swallowing a foreign body (e.g., toy)
- Diarrhea with blood, a foul smell, or that is uncontrolled
- Black, tarry stool
- A protruded rectum or bleeding from the rectum
- An overdose of medication or suspected poisoning

Has signs of nervous system or muscular disease including:

- Extreme lethargy or depression, unconsciousness, collapse, or coma
- Seizures
- A head tilt, nystagmus (eyes move rapidly from side to side), staggering, walking in circles, knuckling over (walking on the top of the foot), unable to use hind limbs, or other problems moving
- Severe or continuous pain
- Sudden inability to bear weight on one or more limbs

Has signs of urinary or reproductive problems including:

- Difficulty giving birth: no puppy after 24 hours of beginning labor; no puppy after 1 hour of active straining; over 4 hours between deliveries; weak or infrequent contractions once labor has started; failed to start delivery within 24 hours of the temperature dropping below 99°F; crying or licking the genital area excessively; abnormal bleeding or vaginal discharge; weakness
- A male in whom the penis is exposed and cannot be withdrawn back into the sheath (the hair-covered area that usually encloses the penis)
- Straining continually but unable to pass urine, or the urine has blood in it
- Crying while trying to urinate
- Bleeding from the urinary or genital area

Contact your veterinarian the same day if your dog:

Has signs of heart or respiratory disease including:

- Some difficulty breathing, shallow breathing, or breathing at a faster rate (unassociated with physical exercise or environmental temperature)
- Continuous sneezing or coughing

Has signs related to digestion or food and water consumption including:

- Not eating or drinking for 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours and acting depressed
- Drinking water excessively, unrelated to activity or environmental temperature

Has signs of nervous system or muscular disease including:

- Sudden change in behavior
- Crying when touched or picked up
- Cloudy eyes, squinting, or appears to be unable to see
- Sudden, severe lameness

Has signs of urinary or reproductive problems including:

- A retained afterbirth for over 8 hours
- A female who has had an unwanted breeding
- A female who is pregnant or nursing her young and develops a red, swollen, or painful breast
- A male with swollen testicles or scrotum

Has signs associated with the skin including:

- A rash, excessive shedding, excessive head shaking, or persistent scratching or chewing at spots on the body
- Abnormal lumps or bumps that are painful, red, and/or hot to the touch
- Maggots
- A nosebleed for no apparent reason, bruising easily, or tiny red dots on the skin

Contact your veterinarian in 24 hours if your dog has signs including:

Has signs related to digestion or food and water consumption including:

- Not eating, but no other signs of illness
- A soft stool, but there is no pain, blood, fetid odor, green or black color, mucus, or straining
- Occasional vomiting (2 or 3 times), but no abdominal pain or blood
- Foul breath
- Sudden weight gain or loss
- Drooling

Has signs of nervous system or muscular disease including:

- Lameness for more than 24 hours
- Swollen joints
- Lethargy, depression, sleeping more than usual, unwillingness to play or exercise

Has signs associated with the skin including:

- Moderate itching or an unpleasant odor from the coat
- A discharge from the eye, ear, or other body opening

Bloat

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) is also known as "bloat," "stomach torsion," or "twisted stomach." Bloat is an extremely serious condition, and should be considered a life-threatening emergency when it occurs. There are not home remedies for bloat, therefore dog owners must contact their veterinarians immediately if they suspect that their dog has bloat. Dogs can die of bloat within several hours. Even with treatment, as many as 25-33% of dogs with GDV die.

Bloat is a very serious and life threatening condition. Understanding the signs, prevention, and need for prompt treatment will help reduce the risk of mortality if your dog develops this problem.

What dogs are more susceptible?

Breed - There is a definite link between the likelihood of occurrence of GDV and the breed and build of the dog. GDV is much more likely to occur in large breeds with deep, narrow chests. The problem can occur in small dogs, but only rarely. By one study, Great Danes were the highest risk of bloat by breed.

Age - Dogs over 7 years of age are more than twice as likely to develop gastric dilatation and volvulus as those who are 2-4 years of age.

Gender - Male dogs are twice as likely to develop gastric dilatation and volvulus as females. Neutering does not appear to have an effect on the risk of bloat.

Eating habits - Dogs fed once a day are twice as likely to develop GDV as those fed twice a day. It appears that dogs who eat rapidly or exercise soon after a meal may also be at increased risk.

Temperament - Dogs that tend to be more nervous, anxious, or fearful appear to be at an increased risk of developing bloat.

What are the signs? - The most obvious signs are abdominal distention (swollen belly) and nonproductive vomiting (animal appears to be vomiting, but nothing comes up) and retching. Other signs include restlessness, abdominal pain, and rapid shallow breathing. Profuse salivation may indicate severe pain. If the dog's condition continues to deteriorate, especially if volvulus has occurred, the dog may go into shock and become pale, have a weak pulse, a rapid heart rate, and eventually collapse. A dog with gastric dilatation without volvulus can show all of these signs, but the more severe signs are likely to occur in dogs with both dilatation and volvulus.

- Owners of susceptible breeds should be aware of the early signs of bloat and contact their veterinarian as soon as possible.
- Owners of susceptible breeds should develop a good working relationship with a local veterinarian in case emergency care is needed.
- Large dogs should be fed two or three times daily, rather than once a day.
- Water should be available at all times, but should be limited immediately after feeding.
- Vigorous exercise, excitement, and stress should be avoided one hour before and two hours after meals.
- Diet changes should be made gradually over a period of three to five days.
- Susceptible dogs should be fed individually and, if possible in a quiet location.

AVMA Links

Source references taken from the American Veterinary Medical Association web site at [www.AVMA.org](http://www.avma.org)

The following are the links if you want to view the sources directly from the web site.

What you should know about Spaying and Neutering

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/spay_neuter/spay_neuter_brochure.asp

What you Should know about cancer in animals

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/cancer/cancer_brochure.asp

What you Should know about canine distemper

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/canine_distemper/distemper_brochure.asp

What you should know about Canine Parvovirus

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/canine_parvo/parvo_brochure.asp

What you should know about dog bite prevention

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/dog_bite/dog_bite_brochure.asp

What you should know about external parasites

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/external_parasites/external_parasites_brochure.asp

What you should know about internal parasites in cats and dogs

[http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/internal_parasites/cat_dog/
internalparasites_brochure.asp](http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/internal_parasites/cat_dog/internalparasites_brochure.asp)

What you should know about Heartworm disease

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/heartworm/heartworm_brochure.asp

What you should know about vaccinations

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/vaccination/vaccination_brochure.asp

What you should know about Rabies

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/rabies/rabies_brochure.asp

What you should know about Household Hazards to pets

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/hazards/household_brochure.asp

What you should know about Spaying and Neutering

Is there a pet population problem?

Every year, millions of unwanted dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, are needlessly euthanized. The good news is that every pet owner can make a difference. By having your dog or cat surgically sterilized, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens and enhance your pet's health and quality of life.

What about pet behavior and pet reproduction?

Contrary to what some people believe, getting pregnant — even once — does not improve the behavior of female dogs and cats. In fact, the mating instinct may lead to undesirable behaviors and result in undue stress on both the owner and the animal. Also, while some pet owners may have good intentions, few are prepared for the work involved in monitoring their pet's pregnancy, caring for the puppies or kittens and locating good homes for them.

What is surgical sterilization?

During surgical sterilization, a veterinarian removes certain reproductive organs. If your cat or dog is a female, the veterinarian will usually remove her ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus. The medical name for this surgery is an ovariectomy, although it is commonly called "spaying." If your pet is a male, the testicles are removed and the operation is called an orchiectomy, commonly referred to as castration or simply "neutering."

While both spaying and neutering are major surgical procedures, they are also the most common surgeries performed by veterinarians on cats and dogs. Before the procedure, your pet is given a thorough physical examination to ensure that it is in good health. General anesthesia is administered during the surgery and medications are given to minimize pain. You will be asked to keep your pet calm and quiet for a few days after surgery until the incision begins to heal.

What are the benefits to society of spaying and neutering?

Both surgeries prevent unwanted litters and eliminate many of the behavioral problems associated with the mating instinct.

What are the benefits to spaying my female pet?

Female dogs experience a "heat" cycle approximately every six months, depending upon the breed. A female dog's heat cycle can last as long as 21 days, during which your dog may leave blood stains in the house and may become anxious, short-tempered and actively seek a mate. A female dog in heat may be more likely to fight with other female dogs, including other females in the same household.

Female cats can come into heat every two weeks during breeding season until they become pregnant. During this time they may engage in behaviors such as frequent yowling and urination in unacceptable places.

Spaying eliminates heat cycles and generally reduces the unwanted behaviors that may lead to owner frustration and, ultimately, a decision to relinquish the pet to a shelter. Most importantly, early spaying of female dogs and cats can help protect them from some serious health problems later in life such as uterine infections and breast cancer.

What are the benefits of neutering my male pet?

At maturity (on average, 6 to 9 months of age), male dogs and cats are capable of breeding. Both male dogs and cats are likely to begin "marking" their territories by spraying strong-smelling

urine on your furniture, curtains, and in other places in your house. Also, given the slightest chance, intact males may attempt to escape from home and roam in search of a mate. Dogs and cats seeking a female in heat can become aggressive and may injure themselves, other animals, or people by engaging in fights. Roaming animals are also more likely to be hit by cars.

Neutering male dogs and cats reduces the breeding instinct and can have a calming effect, making them less inclined to roam and more content to stay at home. Neutering your male pet can also lessen its risk of developing prostate disease and testicular cancer.

Are there risks associated with the surgery?

Like any surgical procedure, sterilization is associated with some anesthetic and surgical risk, but the overall incidence of complications is very low. Because changes in concentrations of reproductive hormones may affect your pet's risk of developing certain diseases and conditions in the future, your veterinarian will advise you on both the benefits and risks of the sterilization procedure.

What is the best age to spay or neuter my pet?

Consult with your veterinarian about the most appropriate time to spay or neuter your pet based upon its breed, age and physical condition. Keep in mind that, contrary to popular belief, it is NOT best to wait until your female dog or cat has gone through its first heat cycle.

Will the surgery affect my pet's disposition or metabolism?

The procedure has no effect on a pet's intelligence or ability to learn, play, work or hunt. Most pets tend to be better behaved following the surgery, making them more desirable companions. Also, this surgery will not make your pet fat. Feeding your pet a balanced diet and providing regular exercise will help keep your pet at a healthy weight and prevent the health risks associated with obesity. Ask your veterinarian to advise you on the best diet and exercise plan for each stage of your pet's life.

Is the expense for the surgery really worth it?

Yes! This is a one-time expense that can dramatically improve your pet's quality of life and prevent some behavioral frustrations for you. If you are still uncertain whether or not to proceed with the surgery, consider the expense to society of collecting and caring for all the unwanted, abused, or abandoned animals being housed in shelters. Having your pet spayed or neutered is a part of responsible pet ownership.

What you Should know about cancer in animals

What are Neoplasia, Tumors and Cancer?

Neoplasia (nee-oh-PLAY-zhuh) is the uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells or tissues in the body, and the abnormal growth itself is called a neoplasm (nee-oh-PLAZ-m) or tumor. It can be benign (bee-NINE) or malignant. Benign neoplasms do not grow aggressively, do not invade the surrounding body tissues, and do not spread throughout the body. Malignant neoplasms, on the other hand, tend to grow rapidly, invade the tissues around them, and spread, or metastasize (me-TAS-ta-size), to other parts of the body.

The word "tumor" or "mass" is often used to describe the actual swelling or other physical appearance of a neoplasm. The word "cancer" is often confused with neoplasia, but only malignant neoplasms are truly cancers.

How Common are Neoplasia and Cancer?

Neoplasia is common in pet animals and the incidence increases with age. Cancer accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats get fewer cancers.

How is it Diagnosed?

Neoplasia is often suspected on the basis of the pet's medical history and physical exam. Additional tests, such as radiographs (x-rays), blood tests, and ultrasound exams, may be necessary to confirm neoplasia. A biopsy (BYE-op-see), taking a tissue sample from the neoplasm for examination under a microscope, is usually necessary to confirm the diagnosis and help determine if the neoplasm is benign or malignant. Additional biopsies of other tissues, such as lymph nodes, may be necessary to determine how far a malignant neoplasm (cancer) has spread.

Is Neoplasia Preventable?

Unfortunately, the cause of most neoplastic diseases is not known and, therefore, prevention is difficult. Early detection and treatment are the best ways to manage neoplasia in pets.

Common Types of Neoplasia in Pets

Skin - Skin tumors are very common in older dogs, but much less common in cats. Most skin tumors in cats are malignant, but in dogs they are often benign. Your veterinarian should examine all skin tumors in a dog or cat to determine if any are malignant.

Mammary Gland (Breast) - 50% of all breast tumors in dogs and greater than 85% of all breast tumors in cats are malignant. Spaying your female pet before 12 months of age will greatly reduce the risk of mammary gland cancer.

Head & Neck - Neoplasia of the mouth is common in dogs and less common in cats. Signs to watch for are a mass or tumor on the gums, bleeding, odor, or difficulty eating. Since many swellings are malignant, early, aggressive treatment is essential. Neoplasia may also develop inside the nose of both cats and dogs. Bleeding from the nose, breathing difficulty, or facial swelling are signs that may indicate neoplasia and should be checked by your veterinarian.

Lymphoma - Lymphoma is a common form of neoplasia in dogs and cats. It is characterized by enlargement of one or many lymph nodes in the body. A contagious feline leukemia virus can be the cause of lymphoma in some cats.

Testicles - Testicular tumors are rare in cats and common in dogs, especially those with retained testicles (testicles that did not move to their normal positions during growth, and may be located in the abdomen or between the abdomen and scrotum).

Abdominal Tumors - Tumors inside the abdomen are common but it is difficult to make an early diagnosis. Weight loss or abdominal swelling are signs of these tumors.

Bone - Bone tumors are most often seen in large breed dogs and dogs older than seven years, and rarely in cats. The leg bones, near joints, are the most common sites. Persistent pain, lameness, and swelling in the affected area are common signs of the disease.

Many of the above signs are also seen with non-neoplastic conditions but they still need prompt attention by a veterinarian to determine the cause. Neoplasia is frequently treatable and early diagnosis will aid your veterinarian in delivering the best care possible.

How is Cancer Treated?

Each type of neoplasia requires individual care and may include one or a combination of treatment therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery (freezing), hyperthermia (heating) or immunotherapy. Your pet's overall health is important too, and your veterinarian may recommend dietary changes or other things to help your pet better respond to treatment. Once you have a diagnosis, your veterinarian will discuss the best treatment option(s) for your pet and the risks and side effects associated with each option. Pain management is also an important part of treatment. In some instances, your veterinarian may refer you to a board-certified oncologist (cancer specialist) and/or specialty clinic depending upon the recommended course of treatment.

Some types of neoplasia can be cured, but other types can only be managed to decrease spread and prolong your pet's comfort and life as much as possible. How early a neoplasm is detected and the type of neoplasm are often the biggest factors determining the success of treatment.

Sometimes, euthanasia is considered when a pet has neoplasia (especially with some cancers). Before you make your decision for treatment or euthanasia, discuss the options with your veterinarian so you can make the best choice for your pet and your family.

What is the Success Rate?

This strongly depends upon the type and extent of the neoplasia, as well as the aggressiveness of therapy. Benign neoplasms are usually easier to treat, and treatment of any type of neoplasia is more likely to be successful if the neoplasms are detected early. Although some neoplasms (especially the more aggressive cancers) cannot be cured, treatment can prolong your pet's life and improve their quality of life.

What Will the Future Bring?

We are learning more about neoplasia through research and experience. Animals today have a better chance of being successfully treated for neoplasia and cancer than they did before, and the more we learn about it, the more pets' lives we can improve and save.

New diagnostic methods can help detect neoplasia earlier and improve your pet's chances, and new treatment methods are being developed to provide better success rates with less risk of side effects.

10 Common Signs of Neoplasia in Small Animals

- Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
- Sores that do not heal
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
- Offensive odor
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
- Persistent lameness or stiffness
- Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating

What you Should know about canine distemper

What is Canine Distemper?

Canine distemper is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and, often, the nervous systems of puppies and dogs. The virus also infects wild canids (e.g. foxes, wolves, coyotes), raccoons, skunks, and ferrets.

How is Canine Distemper virus spread?

Puppies and dogs usually become infected through airborne exposure to the virus contained in respiratory secretions of an infected dog or wild animal. Outbreaks of distemper tend to be sporadic. Because canine distemper also affects wildlife populations, contact between wild and domestic canids may facilitate spread of the virus.

What dogs are at risk?

All dogs are at risk but puppies younger than four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against canine distemper are at increased risk of acquiring the disease.

What are some signs of Canine Distemper?

The first sign of distemper is eye discharge that may appear watery to pus-like. Subsequently, dogs develop fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. In later stages, the virus may attack the nervous system, bringing about seizures, twitching, or partial or complete paralysis.

Occasionally, the virus may cause footpads to harden. Distemper is often fatal. Even if a dog does not die from the disease, canine distemper virus can cause irreparable damage to a dog's nervous system. Distemper is so serious and the signs so varied that any sick dog should be taken to a veterinarian for an examination and diagnosis.

How is Canine Distemper diagnosed and treated?

Veterinarians diagnose canine distemper on the basis of clinical appearance and laboratory tests. No specific drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs. Treatment consists primarily of efforts to prevent secondary infections; control vomiting, diarrhea, or neurologic symptoms; and combat dehydration through administration of fluids. Ill dogs should be kept warm, receive good nursing care, and be separated from other dogs.

How is Canine Distemper prevented?

Vaccination and avoiding contact with infected animals are key elements of canine distemper prevention.

Vaccination is important. Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine distemper virus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally succumb to distemper. To narrow gaps in protection and optimally defend against canine distemper during the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations is administered.

Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when taking their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations, health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs.

To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's distemper vaccination is up-to-date. Ask your veterinarian about a recommended vaccination program for your canine companion.

Contact with known infected dogs should always be avoided. Similarly, contact with raccoons, foxes, skunks, and other potentially infected wildlife should be discouraged.

Although this brochure provides basic information about canine distemper, your veterinarian is always your best source of health information. Consult your veterinarian for more information about canine distemper and its prevention.

What you should know about Canine Parvovirus

What is canine parvovirus?

Canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2) is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract of puppies, dogs, and wild canids (e.g. foxes, wolves, coyotes). It was first identified in 1978 and is seen worldwide. It also can damage the heart muscle in very young and unborn puppies.

There are several variants of CPV-2 (CPV-2a, CPV-2b, CPV-2c) based on analysis of the genetics of the virus, but they produce similar signs in animals. CPV-2b is the most common variant in the US. CPV-2c was first confirmed in the U.S. in 2006, and is becoming the second most common variant.

How is parvovirus spread?

CPV-2 is highly contagious and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces (stool), environments or people. The virus can also contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. It is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying, and can survive in the environment for long periods of time. Even trace amounts of feces containing parvovirus may serve as environmental reservoirs of the virus and infect other dogs that come into the infected environment. CPV-2 is readily transmitted from place to place on the hair or feet of dogs or via contaminated cages, shoes, or other objects.

What dogs are at risk?

All dogs are at risk, but puppies less than four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against canine parvovirus are at increased risk of becoming infected and ill.

What are some signs of parvovirus infection?

Dogs infected with the CPV-2 virus that are ill are often said to have "parvo." CPV-2 infection causes lethargy; loss of appetite; fever; vomiting; and severe, often bloody, diarrhea. Vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration, and most deaths from parvovirus occur within 48 to 72 hours following the onset of clinical signs. If your puppy or dog shows any of these signs, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

How is canine parvovirus diagnosed and treated?

CPV-2 infection is often suspected based on the dog's history, physical examination, and laboratory tests. Fecal testing can confirm the diagnosis.

No specific drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs, and treatment is intended to support the dog's body systems until the dog's immune system can fight off the viral infection. Treatment should be started immediately and consists primarily of efforts to combat dehydration by replacing electrolyte and fluid losses, controlling vomiting and diarrhea, and preventing secondary infections. Sick dogs should be kept warm and receive good nursing care. When a dog develops parvo, treatment can be very expensive, and the dog may die despite aggressive treatment. Early recognition and aggressive treatment are very important in successful outcomes.

Since CPV-2 is highly contagious, isolation of infected dogs is necessary to minimize spread of infection. Proper cleaning and disinfection of contaminated kennels and other areas where infected dogs are

(or have been) housed is essential to control the spread of parvovirus. The virus is not easily killed, so consult your veterinarian for specific guidance on cleaning and disinfecting agents.

How is parvovirus prevented?

Vaccination and good hygiene are critical components of canine parvovirus prevention.

Vaccination is extremely important. Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine parvovirus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally be infected by parvovirus and develop disease. To reduce gaps in protection and provide the best protection against parvovirus during the first few months of life, a series of puppy vaccinations are administered. Puppies should receive a dose of canine parvovirus vaccine between 14 and 16 weeks of age, regardless of how many doses they received earlier, to develop adequate protection.

To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's parvovirus vaccination is up-to-date. Ask your veterinarian about a recommended vaccination program for your canine companion.

In spite of proper vaccination, a small percentage of dogs do not develop protective immunity and remain susceptible to infection.

Hygiene—Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when bringing their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, kennels, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations, health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs. Contact with known infected dogs and their premises should always be avoided.

Finally, do not allow your puppy or dog to come into contact with the fecal waste of other dogs while walking or playing outdoors. Prompt and proper disposal of waste material is always advisable as a way to limit spread of canine parvovirus infection as well as other diseases that can infect humans and animals. Dogs with vomiting or diarrhea or other dogs which have been exposed to ill dogs should not be taken to kennels, show grounds, dog parks, or other areas where they will come into contact with other dogs. Similarly, unvaccinated dogs should not be exposed to ill dogs or those with unknown vaccination histories. People who are in contact with sick or exposed dogs should avoid handling of other dogs or at least wash their hands and change their clothes before doing so.

What you should know about dog bite prevention

Any dog can bite

Even the cuddliest, fuzziest, sweetest pup can bite if provoked. Most people are bitten by their own dog or one they know. Some owners actually promote aggression in their dogs or allow aggression to go unchecked.

Although media reports and rumors often give the impression that certain breeds of dog are more likely to bite, there is little scientific evidence to support those claims.

From nips to bites to actual attacks, dog bites are a serious problem. Dog bite victims requiring medical attention in the United States number approximately 800,000 annually. Countless more bite injuries go untreated. On average, about a dozen people die each year from dog bite injuries. Fortunately, there are steps we can take to address this problem.

Who's being bitten?

The number of recorded dog bite injuries is significantly higher in children than adults. The elderly and home service providers such as mail carriers and meter readers are also high on the list of frequent dog bite victims. CAUTION: Never leave a baby or child alone with a dog.

What's a dog owner to do?

- Carefully select your pet. Puppies should not be obtained on impulse. Before and after selection, your veterinarian is your best source for information about behavior, health and suitability.
- Make sure your pet is socialized as a young puppy so it feels at ease around people and other animals. Gradually expose your puppy to a variety of situations under controlled circumstances; continue that exposure on a regular basis as your dog gets older. Don't put your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.
- Wait until your child is older. Because so many dog bite injuries happen to young children, it is suggested that parents wait to get a dog until children are older than 4 years of age.

Train your dog. The basic commands "sit," "stay," "no," and "come" can be incorporated into fun activities that build a bond of obedience and trust between pets and people. Avoid highly excitable games like wrestling or tug-of-war. Use a leash in public to ensure you are able to control your dog.

Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and preventable infectious diseases. Parasite control and other health care are important because how your dog feels directly affects how it behaves.

Neuter your pet. The available science suggests neutered dogs may be less likely to bite.

Be a responsible pet owner. License your dog with your community as required. Obey leash laws. If you have a fenced yard, make sure the gates are secure. Dogs are social animals; spending time with your pet is important. Dogs that are frequently left alone have a greater chance of developing behavioral problems. Walk and exercise your dog regularly to keep it healthy and provide mental stimulation.

Be alert. Know your dog. Be alert to signs of illness. Also watch for signs your dog is uncomfortable or behaving aggressively.

How can my family and I avoid being bitten?

Be cautious around strange dogs and treat your own pet with respect. Because children are the most common victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:

- NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.

- Be alert for potentially dangerous situations.
- Teach their children – including toddlers – to be careful around pets.
- Children must be taught NOT to approach strange dogs or try to pet dogs by reaching through fences. Teach children to ask permission from the dog's owner before petting the dog.
- Other tips that may prevent or stop a dog attack
- Don't run past a dog.
Dogs naturally love to chase and catch things. Don't give them a reason to become excited or aggressive.
- Never disturb a dog that's caring for puppies, sleeping or eating.
- Never reach through or over a fence to pet a dog.
Dogs can be protective of their territory, and may interpret your action as a threat.
- If a dog approaches to sniff you, stay still.
In most cases, the dog will go away when it determines you are not a threat.
- If you are threatened by a dog, remain calm.
Don't scream or yell. If you say anything, speak calmly and firmly. Avoid eye contact. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly until the dog is out of sight. Don't turn and run.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your head and neck. Protect your face.

What should I do if my dog bites someone?

- Even if the bite can be explained (e.g., someone stepped on your dog's tail), it's important to take responsibility for your dog's actions by taking these steps:
- Restrain the dog immediately. Separate it from the scene of the attack. Confine it.
- Check on the victim's condition. Wash wounds with soap and water. Unseen damage can occur with bites, and can lead to complications. Professional medical advice should be sought to evaluate bite wounds and the risk of rabies or other infections. Call 911 if a response by paramedics is required.
- Provide important information including your name, address and information about your dog's most recent rabies vaccination. If your dog does not have a current rabies vaccination, it may be necessary to quarantine it or even euthanize it for rabies testing. The person bitten may need to undergo post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Comply with local ordinances regarding reporting of dog bites.
- Consult your veterinarian for advice about dog behavior that will help prevent similar problems in the future.

IF YOU are bitten

If your own dog bit you, confine it immediately and call your veterinarian to check your dog's vaccination records. Consult with your veterinarian about your dog's aggressive action. Your veterinarian can examine your dog to make sure it is healthy, and can help you with information or training that may prevent more bites.

If someone else's dog bit you, first seek medical treatment for your wound. Next, contact authorities and tell them everything you can about the dog: the owner's name, if you know it; the color and size of the dog; where you encountered the dog; and if, where, and when you've seen it before. These details may help animal-control officers locate the dog. In addition, consider asking your physician if post-exposure rabies prophylaxis may be necessary.

Dogs are wonderful companions. By acting responsibly, owners not only reduce dog bite injuries, but also enhance the relationship they have with their dog.

What you should know about external parasites

At some point in their lives, many pets experience discomfort caused by external parasites such as fleas, ticks, or mites on their skin or in their ears. These parasites can be extremely irritating to pets and can cause serious skin problems or even carry disease. Although this brochure provides basic information about the most common external parasites, your veterinarian is your best source of advice regarding your pet's needs. Modern medicines make treatment, control, and prevention of many external parasites much easier than in the past.

Fleas

Flea Basics

Fleas thrive when the weather is warm and humid. Depending on your climate, fleas may be a seasonal or year-round problem. Your pet can pick up fleas wherever an infestation exists, often in areas frequented by other cats and dogs. Adult fleas are dark brown, no bigger than a sesame seed, and able to move rapidly over your pet's skin.

Once the flea becomes an adult, it spends virtually all of its time on your pet. Female fleas begin laying eggs within 24 hours of selecting your pet as a host, producing up to 50 eggs each day. These eggs fall from your pet onto the floor or furniture, including your pet's bed, or onto any other indoor or outdoor area where your pet happens to go. Tiny, worm-like larvae hatch from the eggs and burrow into carpets, under furniture, or into soil before spinning a cocoon. The cocooned flea pupae can lie dormant (inactive) for weeks before emerging as adults that are ready to infest (or reinfest) your pet. The result is a flea life cycle of anywhere from 12 days to 6 months, depending on environmental factors such as temperature and humidity.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

You may not know that your pet has fleas until their number increases to the point that your pet is obviously uncomfortable. Signs of flea problems range from mild redness to severe scratching that can lead to open sores and skin infections ("hot spots"). One of the first things you may notice on a pet with fleas is "flea dirt" — the black flea droppings left on your pet's coat. You may not actually see the fleas themselves, but they can still be on your pet and in the environment.

Fleas bite animals and suck their blood; young or small pets with heavy flea infestations may become anemic. Some pets can develop an allergy to flea saliva that may result in more severe irritation and scratching; these pets can become severely itchy from just one or two flea bites. Also, pets can become infected with certain types of tapeworms if they ingest fleas carrying tapeworm eggs (a pet using its teeth to scratch the flea bites often eats the fleas). In areas with moderate to severe flea infestations, people may also be bitten by fleas. While fleas are capable of transmitting several infectious diseases to pets and people, this is rare.

Treatment and Control

Your veterinarian will recommend an appropriate flea control plan for your pet based on your needs, your pet's needs and the severity of the flea infestation.

Pets at risk for fleas should be treated during the flea season with an appropriate preventive. Your veterinarian can recommend a product most suitable for your pet.

Because much of the flea's life cycle is spent off of your pet, treating only your pet will not eliminate the problem. If you kill the adult fleas and do not kill the eggs, larvae and pupae, your pet will become reinfested when these fleas become adults and the cycle will start all over again. Therefore, in addition to treating your pet, reduce the flea population in your house by thoroughly

cleaning your pet's sleeping quarters and vacuuming floors and furniture that your pet comes in contact with frequently. Careful and regular vacuuming/cleaning of the pet's living area helps to remove and kill flea eggs, larvae, and pupae.

You may be advised to treat your house with insecticides to kill the fleas; consult with your veterinarian about products safe for use around pets and children. Flea larvae are more resistant than adult fleas to insecticides. With moderate and severe flea infestations, you may also be advised to treat your yard. Your veterinarian can recommend an appropriate course of action and suggest ways to prevent future flea infestations.

Ticks

Tick Basics

Ticks are commonly found in wooded areas, brush, shrubs and wild undergrowth, and any animal (or human, for that matter) that enters these environments is at risk of becoming a tick's host. Immature ticks often feed on small, wild animals found in forests, prairies, and brush. Adult ticks seek larger hosts like dogs and cats which venture into these habitats. Tick exposure may be seasonal, depending on geographic location. There are many different species of ticks that can affect dogs and cats.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Ticks are most often found around your dog's neck, in the ears, in the folds between the legs and the body, and between the toes, but they can be found anywhere on the body and are usually easily seen or felt. Cats may have ticks on their neck or face. Tick bites can cause skin irritation and heavy infestations can cause anemia in pets. An adult female tick can ingest up to 100 times her weight in blood! Ticks are also capable of spreading serious infectious diseases (such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and others) to the pets and the people on which they feed. They can also cause tick paralysis. Disease risk varies by geographic area and tick species.

Treatment and Control

Prompt removal of ticks is very important because it lessens the chance of disease transmission from the tick to your pet. Remove ticks by carefully using tweezers to firmly grip the tick as close to the pet's skin as possible and gently and steadily pulling the tick free without twisting it or crushing the tick during removal. Crushing, twisting or jerking the tick out of the skin while its head is still buried could result in leaving the tick's mouth parts in your pet's skin; this can cause a reaction and may become infected. After removing the tick, crush it while avoiding contact with tick fluids that can carry disease. Do not attempt to smother the tick with alcohol or petroleum jelly, or apply a hot match to it, as this may cause the tick to regurgitate saliva into the wound and increase the risk of disease if the tick is infected.

Pets at risk for ticks should be treated during the tick season with an appropriate preventive. Your veterinarian can recommend a product best suited to your pet's needs. Owners who take their pets to tick-prone areas during camping, sporting, or hiking trips should examine their pets for ticks immediately upon returning home and remove them from their pets. If your pet picks up ticks in your backyard, trimming bushes and removing brush may reduce your pet's exposure and risk of infestation. And, if you find ticks on your pet, don't forget to check yourself for ticks, too!

Ear Mites

Mite Basics

Ear mites are common in young cats and dogs, and generally confine themselves to the ears and surrounding area. Mites are tiny and individual mites may be seen only with the aid of a microscope. Your pet can pick up ear mites by close contact with an infested pet or its bedding.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Ear mites can cause intense irritation of the ear canal. Signs of ear mite infestation include excessive head shaking and scratching of the ears. Your pet may scratch to the point that it creates bleeding sores around its ears. Excessive scratching can also cause breakage of blood vessels in the earflap, causing the formation of a pocket of blood (an aural hematoma) that may require surgery. A brown or black ear discharge is common with ear mite infections, and secondary infections with bacteria or yeast can occur. A swab of the discharge is usually examined under a microscope to confirm the presence of ear mites.

Treatment and Control

Treatment of ear mites involves thorough ear cleaning and medication. Your veterinarian can recommend an effective treatment plan.

Sarcoptic Mange Mites

Mite Basics

Microscopic sarcoptic mange mites cause sarcoptic mange, also known as scabies. Sarcoptic mange can affect dogs of all ages and sizes, during any time of the year. Sarcoptic mange mites are highly contagious to other dogs and may be passed by close contact with infested animals, bedding, or grooming tools.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Sarcoptic mange mites burrow through the top layer of the dog's skin and cause intense itching. Clinical signs include generalized hair loss, a skin rash, and crusting. Skin infections may develop secondary to the intense irritation. People who come in close contact with an affected dog may develop a skin rash and should see their physician. Sarcoptic mange is usually confirmed by taking a skin scraping and examining it under a microscope.

Treatment and Control

Dogs with sarcoptic mange require medication to kill the mites and additional treatment to soothe the skin and resolve related infections. Cleaning and treatment of the dog's environment is also necessary.

Demodectic Mange Mites

Mite Basics

Demodectic mange caused by demodectic mange mites is mainly a problem in dogs. Demodectic mange mites are microscopic and not highly contagious. In general, demodex mites are not spread to other animals or across species. A mother dog, however, may pass the mites to her puppies.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Localized demodectic mange tends to appear in young dogs (usually less than 6 months old) as patches of scaly skin and redness around the eyes and mouth and, perhaps, the legs and trunk. Itching is not common with this type of mite infestation unless a secondary infection has occurred. Unlike other types of mange, demodectic mange may signal an underlying medical condition, and your pet's overall health should be carefully evaluated. Less commonly, young and old dogs experience a more severe form of demodectic mange (generalized demodectic mange) and can exhibit widespread patches of redness, hair loss, and scaly, thickened skin. Dogs with demodectic mange can develop secondary bacterial infections which require additional treatment.

Cats are rarely infected with demodex mites, and the cat demodex mite is not the same as the dog demodex mite. Affected cats develop hair loss, crusts and scaly skin around the face, neck and eyelids, and may excessively groom the areas. They may also be more itchy than dogs affected by demodex.

Demodectic mange is usually confirmed by taking a skin scraping and examining it under a microscope.

Treatment and Control

Your veterinarian will discuss treatment options with you. Treatment of dogs with localized demodectic mange generally results in favorable outcomes. Generalized demodectic mange, however, may be difficult to treat, and treatment may only control the condition, rather than cure it.

Important Points

- Look for fleas, ticks, and coat abnormalities any time you groom your dog or cat or when you return home from areas that are likely to have higher numbers of these parasites.
- Consult your veterinarian if your pet excessively scratches, chews, or licks its coat, or persistently shakes its head or scratches its ears. These clinical signs may indicate the presence of external parasites or other conditions requiring medical care.
- Prompt treatment of parasites lessens your pet's discomfort, decreases the chances of disease transmission, and may reduce the degree of home infestation.
- Discuss the health of all family pets with your veterinarian when one pet becomes infested. Some parasites cycle among pets, making control of infestations difficult unless other pets are considered. Consult your veterinarian before beginning treatment.
- Tell your veterinarian if you have attempted any parasite remedies, as this may impact your veterinarian's recommendation.
- Be especially careful when applying insecticides to cats, as cats are particularly sensitive to these products. Never use a product that is not approved for cats because the results could be lethal.
- Follow label directions carefully.
- Leave treatment to the experts. Your veterinarian offers technical expertise and can assist you in identifying products that are most likely to effectively and safely control your pet's parasite problem.

What you should know about internal parasites in cats and dogs

Most internal parasites are worms and single-celled organisms that can exist in the intestines of dogs or cats. The most common worms are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. Common single-cell parasites are coccidia and Giardia.

What are roundworms and how are they spread?

Roundworms are the most common intestinal parasite in dogs and cats in the world. Animals with roundworms pass the infection to other animals when the worm eggs develop into larvae and are present in the animal's feces (droppings). Your pet can pick up the infection by eating infected soil, licking contaminated fur or paws, or by drinking contaminated water.

Infected female dogs may pass the infection to their puppies before birth or afterwards when they are nursing. Infected female cats cannot infect their kittens before birth, but can pass on the infection through their milk when kittens are nursing.

What are the health risks to pets and people?

Puppies and kittens are the most prone to roundworm infection. Because roundworms live in the small intestine, they steal the nutrients from the food your pet eats and that can lead to malnutrition and intestinal problems. As the larvae move through your pet's body, young animals may develop serious respiratory problems such as pneumonia.

Roundworm infections are zoonotic (pronounced zoe-oh-NOT-ick) diseases, meaning that they are animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans. While direct contact with infected dogs and cats increases a person's risk for roundworm infection, most infections come from accidentally eating the worm larvae or from larvae that enter through the skin. For example, children are at risk for infection if they play in areas that may contain infected feces (such as dirt piles and sandboxes), and they pick up the larvae on their hands.

Left untreated, roundworms in people can cause serious health problems when the larvae enter organs and other tissues, resulting in lung, brain, or liver damage. If the roundworm larva enters the eyes, permanent, partial blindness can result.

What are hookworms and how are they spread?

Hookworms are the second most common intestinal parasites found in dogs, but they are less commonly found in cats. Your pet can become infected when larvae penetrate the animal's skin or the lining of the mouth. An infected female dog can pass the infection to her puppies through her milk, but this does not occur in cats.

What are the health risks to pets and people?

Hookworms are dangerous parasites because they actually bite into the intestinal lining of an animal and suck blood. As with roundworms, puppies and kittens are at high risk of infection and developing severe diseases. Left untreated, hookworm infections can result in potentially life-threatening blood loss, weakness, and malnutrition.

Like roundworms, hookworm infections are zoonotic, and infections usually occur by accidentally eating the larvae or by the larvae entering through the skin. In humans, hookworm infections cause health problems when the larvae penetrate the skin. The larvae produce severe itching and tunnel-like, red areas as they move through the skin and, if accidentally eaten, can cause intestinal problems.

What are whipworms and how are they spread?

These worms get their name from their whip-like shape. Animals with whipworms pass the infection along to other animals when the worm eggs develop into larvae and are passed in their feces (droppings). Your pet can pick up the infection by eating infected soil or licking their contaminated fur or paws.

What are the health risks to pets and people?

Like hookworms, whipworms bury their heads in the lining of an animal's intestine and suck blood, but they are generally less harmful and usually do not cause health problems. Occasionally, severe infections can develop and lead to diarrhea, weight loss, and blood loss. Whipworm larvae rarely infect humans when they are accidentally eaten.

What are tapeworms and how are they spread?

Tapeworms got their name because they are thin and flat, like strips of tape. Unlike the smooth-bodied roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms, tapeworms' bodies are actually made up of joined segments. Dogs and cats become infected with tapeworms when they eat infected fleas or lice. They can also get certain types of tapeworms by eating infected rodents.

What are the health risks to pets and people?

Tapeworms live in the small intestine and steal the nutrients from the food your dog or cat eats. An infection is usually diagnosed when the eggs sacs are seen under the pet's tail or on its stool. These sacs look like flattened grains of rice. While there are several dewormers available that are effective against tapeworms, keeping your pet free of fleas is the best preventative. Rarely are tapeworms a risk to people.

How can I prevent/treat worm infections?

Healthy pets may not show outward signs of a worm infection. However, if you notice a change in your pet's appetite or coat, diarrhea, or excessive coughing, see your veterinarian. In most cases, a simple fecal test can detect the presence of worm eggs or adults and, if present, your veterinarian will recommend a deworming program. A good way to prevent worm infections is by using one of several monthly heartworm preventatives available from your veterinarian.

Nursing female dogs and cats and their litters are also major sources for the spread of infective eggs and larvae. If you have a new puppy or kitten, or a pregnant pet, consult with your veterinarian about a deworming program that will reduce your family's risk of infection.

Worm infections in humans can be easily prevented by practicing good hygiene and sanitation. Children should be discouraged from eating dirt and should not be allowed to play in areas that are soiled with pet feces. Sandboxes should be covered when not in use. Adults and children should always wash their hands after handling soil and after contact with pets. Shoes should be worn when outside to protect feet from larvae present in the environment, and raw vegetables should be thoroughly washed because they may contain parasites from infected soil.

Dog droppings should be immediately picked up from public areas and from your yard to reduce the chances of contaminating the soil. Keeping cats indoors is an effective way to limit their risk of exposure to roundworms.

Other internal parasites

Coccidia

Coccidia (cok-SID-ee-ah) are single-celled parasites and are not visible to the naked eye. Your pet can become infected by eating infected soil or licking contaminated paws or fur. Once swallowed, the parasites damage the lining of the intestine and your pet cannot absorb nutrients from its food. Bloody, watery diarrhea may result, and the animal may become dehydrated because it loses more water in its stool than it can replace by drinking. Young pets are most often infected because their immune systems may not yet be strong enough to fight off the parasite. Coccidia can be very contagious among young puppies and kittens, so households with multiple pets should be especially careful to practice good hygiene and sanitation.

A routine fecal test by your veterinarian will detect the presence of coccidia. Treatment with medications will prevent the parasite from multiplying and allow time for your pet's immune system to kill the parasites.

Giardia

Giardia (gee-AR-dee-ah) is also a single-celled parasite that, if swallowed, damages the lining of the intestine and reduces the absorption of nutrients from the food your pet eats. While most Giardia infections do not cause illness, severe infections can lead to diarrhea.

Giardia is harder to diagnose than other intestinal parasites, and several stool samples may have to be tested before it is found. If necessary, your veterinarian will recommend treatment with medications to eliminate the infection. Because it is highly contagious among animals, good hygiene and sanitation are important when there are multiple pets in the household.

Important points about internal parasites

- See your veterinarian if your pet has diarrhea, weight loss, increased scooting, a dull coat, or if you see worms under its tail, in its bedding, or on its stool.
- Prompt treatment of internal parasites lessens your pet's discomfort, decreases the chances of intestinal damage, and decreases the chance that your pet will infect humans or other animals.
- Good hygiene and sanitation reduce the chances that your pet will infect people or animals. You can help prevent the spread of infection by always cleaning up your pet's droppings immediately.

What you should know about heartworm disease

Heartworm is a preventable, but serious and potentially fatal, parasite that primarily infects dogs, cats and ferrets. It can also infect a variety of wild animals, including wild canids (e.g., foxes, wolves, coyotes), wild felids (e.g. tigers, lions, pumas), raccoons, opossums, and pinnipeds (e.g., sea lions and seals), as well as others. There have been documented human infections, but they are thought to be rare and do not usually result in signs of illness.

How is heartworm disease transmitted and what does it cause?

Heartworms can only be transmitted from animal to animal by mosquitoes. When a mosquito bites an infected animal, young heartworms called microfilariae enter into that mosquito's system. Within two weeks, the microfilariae develop into infective larvae inside the mosquito; these infective larvae can be transmitted to another animal when this mosquito takes its next blood meal. Unlike dogs, infected cats do not often have microfilariae circulating in their blood, and an infected cat is not likely to transfer the heartworm infection to another mosquito.

The infective larvae mature into adult heartworms in approximately six months. During the first three months, the larvae migrate through the animal's body, eventually reaching the blood vessels of the lungs. During the last three months, the immature worms continue to develop and grow to adults, with females growing to lengths of up to 14 inches. The worms damage the blood vessels, and reduce the heart's pumping ability, resulting in severe lung and heart disease. When the animal shows signs of illness due to adult heartworm infection, it is called heartworm disease.

If adult worms (5-7 months post-infection) of both sexes are present, they will mate and produce new microfilariae. The microfilariae can cause the animal's immune system to mount a reaction; this immune reaction can actually cause damage to other organs. This life cycle continues when a mosquito bites the infected animal and becomes infected by the microfilariae. After development of the microfilariae to infective larvae within the mosquito (10 days to 2 weeks later) the infective heartworm larvae are capable of infecting another animal. Adult heartworms can survive for 5 to 7 years in dogs and several months to years in cats.

Where is heartworm disease found?

Geographically, heartworms are a potential threat in every state as well as in many other countries around the world. All dogs, regardless of age, sex, or living environment, are susceptible to heartworm infection. Indoor, as well as outdoor, cats are also at risk for the disease. If you plan to travel with your dog or cat to a different part of the country, or another country, ask your veterinarian about the risk of heartworm infection in the area where you are going to relocate or visit.

What pets should be tested for heartworm?

Because heartworms are spread by mosquitoes, any pet exposed to mosquitoes should be tested. This includes pets that only go outside occasionally.

How can I tell if my pet has heartworm disease?

If your dog has been recently or mildly infected with heartworms, it may show no signs of illness until the adult worms have developed in the lungs and signs of heartworm disease are observed. As the disease progresses, your dog may cough, become lethargic, lose its appetite or have difficulty breathing. You may notice that your dog seems to tire rapidly after only moderate exercise.

Numerous diagnostic tests are available for your veterinarian to detect the presence of adult heartworm infection (> 6 month old infections) in your dog. Antigen tests detect the presence of adult female heartworms, and antibody tests determine if your pet has been exposed to heartworms. The antigen test is most commonly performed, and is very accurate in dogs. Further tests, such as chest radiographs (x-rays), a blood profile and an echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart), may be necessary to confirm the diagnosis, to evaluate the severity of the disease, and to determine the best treatment plan for your dog.

How can my pet be treated?

As with most medical problems, it is much better to prevent heartworm infection than to treat it. However, if your dog does become infected with heartworms there is an FDA-approved treatment available. There is substantial risk involved in treating a dog for heartworms. However, serious complications are much less likely in dogs that are in good health and when you carefully follow your veterinarian's instructions.

The goal of heartworm treatment is to kill the adult worms and microfilariae present in your dog, as safely as possible. However, when a dog is treated it is important to consider that heartworms are dying inside the dogs lungs. While your dog is treated, it will require complete rest throughout hospitalization and for some time following the last treatment. Additionally, other medications may be necessary to help control the body's inflammatory reaction as the worms die and are broken down in the dog's lungs.

Can heartworms be surgically removed?

Surgical removal of heartworms from dogs and cats is a high-risk procedure and is typically reserved for severe cases. However, in many cases surgical removal of heartworms may be necessary to afford the best opportunity for survival of the pet.

Can heartworm disease be prevented?

Heartworm infection is almost 100% preventable in dogs and cats. There are several FDA-approved heartworm preventives available in a variety of formulations. Your veterinarian can recommend the best method of prevention based upon your pet's risk factors and lifestyle. Of course, you have to remember to give your pet the preventive in order for it to work!

The preventives do not kill adult heartworms, and will not eliminate heartworm infection or prevent signs of heartworm disease if adults are present in the pet's body. Therefore, a blood test for existing heartworm infection is recommended before beginning a prevention program to assess the pet's current heartworm status. Because it is more difficult to detect heartworms in cats, additional testing may be necessary to make sure the cat is not infected.

Testing must then be repeated at appropriate intervals. The next test should be performed about 6 months after starting the preventive treatment, to confirm that your pet was not infected prior to beginning prevention (remember, tests only detect adult worms). Heartworm tests should be performed annually to ensure that your pet doesn't subsequently become infected with the disease and to ensure the appropriate amount of medication is being prescribed and administered. There have been reports of pets developing heartworm infection despite year-round treatment with a heartworm preventive, so having your pet tested regularly is the best way to keep them protected.

What you should know about vaccinations

Pets, like people, can be protected from some diseases by vaccination. Although this brochure provides basic information about vaccinations for your dog or cat, your veterinarian is your best source for advice regarding individualized care.

Q: What are vaccines?

A: Vaccines are products designed to trigger protective immune responses in pets and prepare them to fight future infections from disease-causing agents.

Vaccines can lessen the severity of future diseases and certain vaccines can prevent infection altogether. Today, a variety of vaccines are available for use by veterinarians. Some vaccines are administered via injections using a syringe and needle, and others are administered into the animal's nose or directly into the skin (transdermally). Other methods of administration are currently under development.

Q: Is it important to vaccinate?

A: Yes! Pets should be vaccinated to protect them from many highly contagious and deadly diseases. Experts agree that widespread use of vaccines within the last century has prevented death and disease in millions of animals. If an unvaccinated pet develops one of these diseases, treatment can become very expensive and many of these diseases can be fatal despite treatment. Even though some formerly common diseases have now become uncommon, vaccination is still highly recommended because these serious disease agents continue to be present in the environment.

It is also important to remember that pets can be vaccinated for some zoonotic (pronounced ZOE-oh-not-ick) diseases, which are diseases that can be spread from animals to people. For example, rabies is a serious, often fatal, disease that can spread from infected animals to people. By vaccinating your pets for rabies, you are protecting your family as well as your pet.

Q: Does vaccination ensure protection?

A: For most pets, vaccination is effective in preventing future disease. Occasionally, a vaccinated pet may not develop adequate immunity and, although rare, it is possible for these pets to become ill if exposed to the disease. These gaps in protection should be as short as possible to provide optimal protection against disease for the first few months of life. It is important to remember that although breakdowns in protection do occur, most appropriately vaccinated pets are able to successfully fight off disease — reinforcing the importance of vaccines in your pet's preventive health care program.

Q: Are there risks?

A: Any treatment carries some risk, but these risks should be weighed against the benefits of protecting your pet from potentially fatal diseases. Most pets respond well to vaccines. The most common adverse responses are mild and short-term, including fever, sluggishness, and reduced appetite. Pets may also experience temporary pain or subtle swelling at the site of vaccination.

Although most adverse reactions will resolve within a day or two, any excessive or continued pain, swelling, or listlessness should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Rarely, more serious adverse reactions can occur. Allergic reactions appear within minutes or hours of a vaccination and may include repeated vomiting or diarrhea, whole body itching, swelling of the face or legs, difficulty breathing or collapse. Contact your veterinarian immediately if any of these symptoms are seen. In very rare instances, death could occur from an allergic reaction. There are other uncommon but serious adverse reactions, including injection site tumors (sarcomas) in cats, which can develop weeks or months after a vaccination. The best advice is to always tell your veterinarian about any abnormalities you notice after your pet has been vaccinated.

Q: Why do puppies and kittens require a series of vaccinations?

A: Very young puppies and kittens are highly susceptible to infectious diseases because their immune systems are not fully mature. While nursing, their mother's milk contains antibodies (special proteins) that provide some immunity to diseases; however, these maternal antibodies do not last long, and there may be gaps in protection as the milk antibodies decrease and the puppies' or kittens' immune system isn't yet capable of fighting off infection. In many instances, the first dose of a vaccine serves to prime the pet's immune system against the virus or bacteria while subsequent doses help to further stimulate the immune system to produce the antibodies needed to protect a pet from specific diseases. To keep these gaps in protection as small as possible and to provide optimal protection against disease in the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations are scheduled, usually 3-4 weeks apart. For most puppies and kittens, the final vaccination in the series is administered at about 4 months of age; however, in some situations, a veterinarian may alter this schedule based on an individual animal's risk factors. Remember that an incomplete series of vaccinations may lead to incomplete protection, making puppies and kittens vulnerable to infection.

Q: Which vaccines should my pet receive?

A: Not all pets should be vaccinated with all available vaccines. "Core" vaccines are recommended for most pets in a particular area because they protect from diseases most common in that area. "Non-Core" vaccines are reserved for individual pets with unique needs. Your veterinarian will consider your pet's risk of exposure to a variety of preventable diseases in order to customize a vaccination program for optimal protection throughout your pet's life. Talk with your veterinarian about your pet's lifestyle including its expected travel to other geographic locations and/or contact with other animals (such as exposure at kennels, obedience classes, shows, and dog parks) since these factors impact your pet's risk of exposure to certain diseases. For older pets, make sure your veterinarian is aware of any previous adverse reactions to vaccines.

Q: How often should my pet be vaccinated?

A: For many years, a set of annual vaccinations was considered normal and necessary for dogs and cats. There is increasing evidence to support that immunity triggered by some vaccines provides protection beyond one year while the immunity triggered by other vaccines may fail to protect for a full year. Consequently, one vaccination schedule will not work well for all pets. Your veterinarian will determine a vaccination schedule most appropriate for your pet.

Q: What are antibody titers, and do they replace vaccination?

A: Antibody titers are blood tests that measure the amount of antibodies in the blood. Following exposure to a disease-causing organism (such as a virus) or a vaccine, the body generates antibodies that help to destroy the organism and prevent or minimize illness if the body is exposed to the same organism again.

Antibody titers do not replace vaccination programs, but in some instances may help your veterinarian determine if your pet has a reasonable expectation of protection against disease. However, there are only a limited number of disease-causing organisms for which antibody titers can suggest your pet's level of protection and those antibody tests have limitations. Consequently, a higher antibody titer does not necessarily mean your pet will be protected if exposed to the disease, and a lower titer may not mean your pet's protection is lacking.

A final thought

Many factors are taken into consideration when establishing a pet's vaccination plan. Your veterinarian will tailor a program of vaccinations and patient health care that will help your pet maintain a lifetime of infectious disease protection.

What you should know about rabies

What is rabies?

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is secreted in saliva and is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal. Less commonly, rabies can be transmitted when saliva from a rabid animal comes in contact with an open cut on the skin or the eyes, nose, or mouth of a person or animal. Once the outward signs of the disease appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.

What animals can get rabies?

Only mammals can get rabies; birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians do not. Most cases of rabies occur in wild animals — mainly skunks, raccoons, coyotes, bats, and foxes. In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies. This is because many cat owners do not vaccinate their cats before the cats are exposed to rabid wildlife outdoors. Rabies also occurs in dogs and cattle in significant numbers and, while not as common, has been diagnosed in horses, goats, sheep, swine and ferrets.

Improved vaccination programs and control of stray animals have been effective in preventing rabies in most pets. Approved rabies vaccines are available for cats, dogs, ferrets, horses, cattle and sheep. Licensed oral vaccines have been used for mass immunization of wildlife.

What are the signs of rabies in animals?

Once the rabies virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain. Dogs, cats, and ferrets with rabies may show a variety of signs, including fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, staggering, and seizures. Rabid wild animals may only display unusual behavior; for example, an animal that is usually only seen at night may be seen wandering in the daytime. In addition to those signs seen in dogs and cats, horses, cattle, sheep, and goats with rabies may exhibit depression, self mutilation, or increased sensitivity to light.

How great is the risk of rabies to humans?

Rabies vaccination and animal control programs, along with better treatment for people who have been bitten, have dramatically reduced the number of human cases of rabies in the United States. Most of the relatively few, recent human cases in this country have resulted from exposures to bats. A few rabies cases have resulted from corneal or organ/tissue transplants from an infected donor, but these have been extremely rare. Dogs are still a significant source of rabies in other countries, so travelers should be aware of this risk when traveling outside of the United States.

What can I do to help control rabies?

- Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, ferrets, and select horses and livestock. Your veterinarian will advise you on the recommended or required frequency of vaccination in your area.
- Reduce the possibility of exposure to rabies by not letting your pets roam free. Keep cats and ferrets indoors, and supervise dogs when they are outside. Spaying or neutering your pet may decrease roaming tendencies and will prevent them from contributing to the birth of unwanted animals.

- Don't leave exposed garbage or pet food outside, as it may attract wild or stray animals.
- Wild animals should never be kept as pets. Not only may this be illegal, but wild animals pose a potential rabies threat to caretakers and to others.
- Observe all wild animals from a distance. A rabid wild animal may appear tame but don't go near it. Teach children NEVER to handle unfamiliar animals — even if they appear friendly.
- If you see a wild animal acting strangely, report it to the city or county animal control department.
- Bat-proof your home and other structures to prevent bats from nesting and having access to people. (See [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/bats_ & rabies/bats&.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/bats_&_rabies/bats&.htm) for more information.)

What if my PET HAS BITTEN someone?

- Urge the victim to see a physician immediately and to follow the physician's recommendations.
- Check with your veterinarian to determine if your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date.
- Report the bite to the local health department and animal control authorities. If your pet is a cat, dog or ferret, the officials will confine the animal and watch it closely for ten days. Home confinement may be allowed.
- Immediately report any illness or unusual behavior by your pet to the local health department and to your veterinarian.
- Don't let your pet stray and don't give your pet away. The animal must be available for observation by public health authorities or a veterinarian.
- After the recommended observation period, have your pet vaccinated for rabies if it does not have a current rabies vaccination.

What if my PET HAS BEEN BITTEN?

- Consult your veterinarian immediately and report the bite to local animal control authorities.
- Even if your dog, cat or ferret has a current vaccination, it should be revaccinated immediately, kept under the owner's control, and observed for a period as specified by state law or local ordinance (normally 45 days or more). Animals with expired vaccinations will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Dogs, cats and ferrets that have never been vaccinated and are exposed to a rabid animal may need to be euthanized or placed in strict isolation for six months.
- Animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets that are bitten by a rabid or potentially rabid animal may need to be euthanized immediately.

What if I am bitten?

- Don't panic, but don't ignore the bite. Wash the wound thoroughly and vigorously with soap and lots of water.
- Call your physician immediately and explain how you were bitten. Follow the doctor's advice. If necessary, your physician will give you the post exposure treatment recommended by the United States Public Health Service and may also treat you for other possible infections that could result from the bite.
- If possible, confine or capture the animal under a large box or other container if that can be done safely. Once captured, don't try to pick up the animal. Call the local animal control authorities to collect it. If the animal cannot be captured, try to memorize its appearance (size, color, etc.) and where it went after biting you.
- If it is a wild animal, only try to capture it if you can do so without getting bitten again. If the animal cannot be contained and must be killed to prevent its escape, do so without damaging the head. The brain will be needed to test for rabies.
- Report the bite to the local health department. Prompt and appropriate treatment after being bitten and before the disease develops can stop the infection and prevent the disease.

For more information on rabies, contact your veterinarian, or your local health department, or visit the following sites:

American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avma.org)
United States Centers for Disease Control (<http://www.cdc.gov>)

What you should know about household hazards to pets

Every home contains a variety of everyday items and substances that can be dangerous or even fatal if ingested by dogs and cats. You can protect your pet's health by becoming aware of the most common health hazards found in many pet-owning households.

HAZARDS IN THE KITCHEN

Foods

Many foods that are perfectly safe for humans could be harmful or potentially deadly to dogs and cats. To be safe, keep the following food items out of your pet's menu:

coffee grounds	grapes/raisins
chocolate	onions
yeast dough	tea
macadamia nuts	alcohol
fatty foods	salt
avocado	garlic

chewing gum, candy and breath fresheners containing xylitol

Always keep garbage out of a pet's reach, as rotting food contains molds or bacteria that could produce food poisoning.

Cleaning Products

Many household cleaners can be used safely around cats and dogs. However, the key to safe use lies in reading and following product directions for proper use and storage.

For instance, if the label states "keep pets and children away from area until dry," follow those directions to prevent possible health risks. Products containing bleach can safely disinfect many household surfaces when used properly, but can cause stomach upset, drooling, vomiting or diarrhea, severe burns if swallowed and respiratory tract irritation can occur if inhaled in a high enough concentration. In addition, skin contact with concentrated solutions may produce serious chemical burns. Some detergents can produce a similar reaction, and cats can be particularly sensitive to certain ingredients such as phenols.

As a general rule, store all cleaning products in a secure cabinet out of the reach of pets and keep them in their original packaging, or in a clearly labeled and tightly sealed container.

Insecticides/Rodenticides

As with household cleaners, read and follow label instructions before using any type of pesticide in your pet's environment. For example, flea and tick products labeled "for use on dogs only" should not be applied to cats or other species, as serious or even life-threatening problems could result. Always consult with your veterinarian about the safe use of these products for your pet.

If a pet ingests rat or mouse poison, potentially serious or even life-threatening illness can result; therefore, when using any rodenticide, it is important to place the poison in areas completely inaccessible to pets.

- Lily of the Valley, oleander, azalea, yew, foxglove, rhododendron and kalanchoe may cause heart problems if ingested.
- Rhubarb leaves and shamrock contain substances that can produce kidney failure. Certain types of lilies (Lilium and Hemerocallis species) are highly toxic to cats, resulting in kidney failure — even if only small amounts are ingested.
- Sago palms (Cycad species) can cause liver damage, especially if the nut portion of the plant is consumed. Additionally, fungi such as certain varieties of mushrooms can cause liver damage or other illnesses.

A few other potentially harmful plants include philodendron, corn plant, castor bean, mother-in-law's tongue, Hibiscus and hydrangea.

For a complete listing of common toxic and non-toxic plants, visit www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/.

OTHER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

Small items that fall on the floor can be easily swallowed by a curious cat or dog. Such items include coins, buttons, small children's toys, medicine bottles, jewelry, nails, and screws. The result may be damage to your pet's digestive tract and the need for surgical removal of the object.

While electrical cords are especially tempting to puppies who like to chew on almost anything, even an adult dog or cat could find them of interest; burns or electrocution could result from chewing on live cords. Prevent this by using cord covers and blocking access to wires.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

Don't forget that holidays and visitors can pose a special challenge to your pets. Discourage well-meaning guests from spoiling pets with extra treats and scraps from the dinner table. Fatty, rich or spicy foods can cause vomiting and diarrhea and lead to inflammation of the pancreas. Poultry or other soft bones can splinter and damage your pet's mouth or esophagus.

While trick or treating is fun for children, it can be hazardous to pets. Halloween treats such as chocolate or candy sweetened with xylitol can make a harmful snack. Certain Halloween and Christmas decorations (especially tinsel, ribbons and ornaments) also pose a hazard to pets, so make sure nothing is left on the floor or on tables within reach.

String-like items can damage your pet's intestine and could prove fatal if not surgically removed. While poinsettia is not deadly as popular legend would have it, it could still cause an upset stomach if consumed. Holly and mistletoe are especially dangerous plants. Christmas tree water treated with preservatives (including fertilizers) can also cause an upset stomach. Water that is allowed to stagnate in tree stands contains bacteria that, if ingested, could lead to nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS POISONED

Don't wait! Time is critical for successfully treating accidental poisoning. Pick up the phone and call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435; a consultation fee may apply). Be prepared to state your pet's breed, age, weight and any symptoms. Keep the product container or plant sample with you to assist in identification so the appropriate treatment recommendations can be made.

For more information about pet poisons,
visit the ASPCA Poison Control Center
www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/

4-H Dog Showmanship

Taken from the Indiana 4-H Dog Showmanship Guide, found at:
<http://home.comcast.net/~4hdogclub/Files/4-H-716-W-Showmanship.pdf>

Objectives for the 4-H Participant:

- To develop leadership, initiative, and responsibility.
- To develop self-confidence and patience.
- To learn show procedures, rules, and etiquette as a dog handler.
- To develop high standards of sportsmanship when dealing with judges, competitors, and the public.
- To learn about the positive experience of dog ownership and of presenting the dog in the show ring.
- To learn how to win and how to lose gracefully.

Showmanship Philosophy

Showmanship is concerned with how well the dog is shown by the handler. The dog's conformation or its being purebred is of no importance. The emphasis is on the handler's presentation of the dog standing still and in motion. The handler must convey knowledge and understanding of the dog's breed, or the breed chosen as that which the dog most resembles. The handler should present the dog according to the chosen single breed standard. The handler and dog appear to be part of a team. They work well together, move fluidly, and give an overall picture of being one unit. If a dog moves out of place or makes an error, a good handler is aware of this. The handler quickly and efficiently adjusts for the fault and resumes his/her presentation of the dog.

Guidelines and Procedures for Showmanship

Appearance of the Handler

The entire picture of the dog and handler should be one of symmetry and be appealing to the judge. The handler should appear neat and well groomed. Girls and boys must wear dress outfits that are modest and appropriate for drawing attention to the dog, not the handler. Clothing color should complement the dog, but not necessarily match the dog. Recommended shoes include tennis shoes or soft-soled shoes.

Blue jeans are not considered appropriate attire for any handler. Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge's view of the team. Handlers are to use good judgment concerning any makeup or accessories, and in styling hair away from their face.

Attitude of the Handler

The handler must be a good sport in the ring and outside the ring. He/she must exhibit a positive attitude toward other exhibitors as well as the judge. Courtesy to the judge and the other handlers is important. Handlers must be alert and attentive to what is going on in the ring, as well as to their dog, and its behavior. Smoothness and continual control of the dog is mandatory.

Handlers should listen to the judge's directions. If a handler is unable to hear what the judge says for directions, he/she should ask the judge to please repeat what was said.

Handlers should not stare at the judge with an exaggerated smile. Staring at the judge makes most judges uneasy, and the exhibitor gains no advantage. Handlers need to be aware of the judge's presence at all times and should occasionally make brief eye contact with the judge. It is important for a handler to convey that he/she is enjoying showing his/her dog. Smiling is good, but it should not be overbearing or have the appearance of insincerity. Double handling is not allowed. There should be no help from outside the ring to coach a handler or distract a dog.

Appearance of the Dog

The dog should be well groomed with clean, mat-free hair, toenails cut to the proper length, teeth cleaned, and void of fleas and ticks. Its eyes should be clear, and its coat free of tear stains. Its ears should be clean with no excess earwax or dirt. Whiskers and hair on the legs, feet, and ears can be trimmed if it is appropriate. Not all dog breeds should be trimmed and void of whiskers. Dogs should be groomed before the competition without the use of dyes, talc powder, or other cosmetics. Dogs should not wear scarves or have painted nails. Bows or bands should be worn only by appropriate breeds.

Show Ring Procedures

Armbands should be worn on the left arm with the number visible to the judge.

Before judging begins, the procedure for entering the ring should be made known. The procedure used is entirely at the judge's discretion; he/she may call handlers in as a group or individually.

Judging will begin when the handler and dog enter the ring. The handler should set up (stack) the dog quietly and quickly, ideally leaving three to four feet between them and the dog and handler directly in front of them. Do not crowd. The judge needs room to walk between dogs if he/she prefers.

To stack a dog, it is best to set up the dog's front end first. The handler should lift a front foot if necessary by grasping the leg at the elbow. Position the rear legs by grasping the stifle or hock to place the feet. Should matting be provided, the dog should be stacked near the inside edge of the mat. Allow room for the judge to walk between the dog and the ring fence. Keep moving forward and restacking the dog as the dogs in front are individually gaited and moved to the end of the line. When a class is very large, the judge may divide it and tell some handlers to relax their dogs.

Relaxing does not mean not paying attention. While relaxing, it is not necessary to stack your dog or keep it alert at all times. Be alert for the judge to call your group back again.

Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and when used properly, capture and hold the dog's attention. These should be used without distracting other exhibitors or the judge. Talking to the dog is permissible providing discretion is used. For breeds normally examined on the table at conformation shows, the handler should follow the judge's instructions about when to table the dog. Unless indicated otherwise, the handler should place the dog on the table while the preceding dog is being gaited. Stack the dog facing the judge, with the front feet approximately one inch away from the edge of table.

During the individual exam, the judge will normally ask the exhibitor to "show the bite" (teeth). To show the bite, gently pull up the lips to reveal the bite of the dog with the mouth closed, keeping the leash out of the way. Premolars may be shown by raising the flews on each side of the dog's mouth. If the breed standard indicates the necessity to count teeth, the mouth should be opened wide enough to do so. If required, the mouth should be opened to display the color of the gums or tongue.

As the judge begins to examine the dog's front, the handler should move out of the way. The handler needs to adjust his/her position as needed during the exam, while keeping control of the dog. Should a judge disturb the coat, or misplace a foot, the handler should reposition the coat or foot.

Gaiting

Gaiting means to move the dog in the pattern requested by the judge. Movement should be smooth, in a straight line, and at the correct speed according to the dog's size and breed standard.

The acceptable gait is a controlled trot. Remember, the speed for the “pattern” may be different than for the “go around.” Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge. It is permissible for a handler to momentarily block the judge’s view of the dog when making turns in gaiting patterns. If matting is provided, keep the dog centered on it while gaiting. Handlers should have the proper lead and lead placement when moving their dog. Adjust the lead to the right length by gathering the excess lead in the hand closest to the dog so that no part of the lead is dangling while gaiting.

Handlers and dogs should move in unison with each other and look like a well-trained team. Allow the dog to move freely and naturally. At the beginning of the individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy turn is optional. A properly executed courtesy turn will allow the handler to align with the judge and the path to be taken. This small turn in front of the judge is also called honoring the judge.

Handlers should maintain good posture when moving their dog. Handlers should constantly be aware of their dog, the route, and the judge’s position in the ring. It is not necessary to look at the judge and smile all the time. Occasional quick glances and a smile at the judge will indicate that the handler is being attentive.

Gaiting Patterns and Diagrams

Patterns are a systematic way of moving the dog around the ring. The most common patterns are: the Go Around, the Triangle and Reverse Triangle, the L, the T, the Diagonal, the Down and Back Alone, and the Down and Back with Another Handler. The judge will instruct exhibitors about the pattern that he/she wants completed. The pattern is to be consistent within the class. The pattern is at the discretion of the judge, but it is recommended that initially the Triangle and the Down and Back be used for the junior class. More difficult patterns may be used if the competition warrants.

Jobs for Dogs

Service dogs:

A **service dog** is a type of **assistance dog**, specifically trained to help people who have **disabilities** other than visual or hearing impairment.

Hearing Dog-

A **hearing dog** is a specific type of **assistance dog** specifically selected and trained to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired by alerting their handler to important sounds, such as **doorbells**, **smoke alarms**, ringing **telephones**, or **alarm clocks**. They may also work outside the home, alerting to such sounds such as sirens, forklifts and a person calling the handler's **Dog Guide/Guide Dog**. **Guide dogs** are **assistance dogs** trained to lead **blind** or **vision impaired** people around obstacles.

Assistance dog

An **assistance dog** is a **dog** trained to aid or assist a person with a disability. Many are trained by a specific organization, while others are trained by their handler (sometimes with the help of a professional **trainer**). There are three general "types" in which an assistance dog may be further classified.^[1] Most assistance dogs will be trained for only one of these, though "combination" dogs do exist.

- **Guide dogs** assist the **blind** and the **visually impaired**.
- **Hearing dogs**, or **signal dogs**, help the **deaf** and **hard of hearing**.
- **Service dogs** refers to dogs not specifically trained for visual or hearing impairment, but trained to do other work, such as **mobility assistance dogs**, **seizure alert dogs** or other **medical alert dogs**, and **psychiatric service dogs**. In the **United States**, the term "service dog" may be used synonymously with "assistance dog," and is occasionally used for other types of **working dogs** as well. In most of the rest of the world a distinct separation between service dogs and assistance dogs is observed.

Search and Rescue-

The National Association for Search and Rescue, Inc., (NASAR) is a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to advancing professional, literary, and scientific knowledge in fields related to search and rescue. NASAR is comprised of thousands of paid and non-paid professionals interested in all aspects of search and rescue - the humanitarian cause of saving lives - throughout the United States and around the world. "...that others may live."

Beagle Brigade-

"The Beagle Brigade" is responsible for sniffing out and confiscating fruits, vegetables, and meats that are banned from crossing the country's borders. The dogs and their human partners form a critical barrier against the entry of plant and animal diseases into the United States.

Police Dogs-

A **police dog** is a **dog** that is trained specifically to assist **police** and other law-enforcement personnel in their work. Police dogs are often referred to by the term "**K9**", which is a **homophone** of "canine", a word that generally refers to dogs and dog-like animals.

Roles police dogs fill include:

- **Public order enforcement dog** - The traditional image of a police dog is one used to enforce public order by chasing and holding suspects, or detaining suspects by the threat of being released. **German Shepherd Dogs** and **Belgian Malinois** are most commonly used because of their availability (see **Popular Police Dog Breeds**); however other dog breeds have also contributed, such as **Dutch Shepherds**, **Rottweilers**, **Boxers**, **Doberman Pinschers**, **Giant Schnauzers**, **American Pit Bull Terriers**, and **American Staffordshire Terriers**.
- **Search and rescue dog** - This dog is used to locate suspects or find missing persons or objects. **Bloodhounds** are often used for this task.
- **Detection dog** - Some dogs are used to detect illicit substances such as drugs or explosives which may be carried on a person in their effects. In many countries, **Beagles** are used in airports to sniff the baggage for items that are not permitted; due to their friendly nature and appearance, the Beagle does not worry most passengers^[10].
- **Cadaver dogs** - Some dogs are trained in detecting the odor of **decomposing bodies**. Dogs' noses are so sensitive that they are even capable of detecting bodies that are under running water^[11] Pioneering work was done by Dr. Debra Komar (**University of Alberta**) in Association with the **RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association** in this area. The result was the development of training techniques that resulted in near 100% accuracy rates.^[12] Her research has been published in the **Journal of Forensic Anthropology**.

Therapy Dogs

A **therapy dog** is a **dog** trained to provide affection and comfort to people in **hospitals**, **retirement homes**, **nursing homes**, **schools**, with people with learning difficulties and stressful situations such as **disaster areas**. Therapy dogs are not **service or assistance dogs**. Service dogs directly assist humans, and have a legal right to accompany their owners in most areas. In the United States, service dogs are legally protected at the federal level by the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**. Therapy dogs do not provide direct assistance and are not mentioned in the **Americans with Disabilities Act**.

Grooming

General

Proper grooming is an important part of pet care. It not only makes a companion animal look better, but contributes to his or her physiological and psychological health.

Coat

Brush your pet thoroughly every day. This helps keep his or her hair in good condition by removing dirt, spreading the natural oils throughout the coat, preventing tangles from forming and keeping the skin clean and free from irritation.

It is best to start brushing your pet at an early age, but do not despair if he or she is an older animal. It is possible to train one to enjoy grooming. Proceed slowly, and be sure to use treats and plenty of praise to make the experience fun!

Nails

Trim your pet's nails about once per month. You'll need a clipper designed specifically for the kind of companion animal you have. Either a scissor- or guillotine-style clipper can be used. You should also purchase a small bottle of blood-clotting powder.

How to Cut Your Pet's Nails

1. Have your companion animal sit beside you. Then place one of his or her paws in your hand and gently pull it forward. If your pet dislikes being handled this way, slowly accustom him or her to it by offering treats and praise.
2. Gradually shorten one nail. Be sure to stop before you reach the quick, which is the part of the nail that contains nerves and blood vessels. If you cannot see the quick clearly, stop cutting just behind the point at which the nail begins to curve downward.
3. If you cut into the quick, do not panic. Put some clotting powder on a moist cotton swab and press it firmly against the nail for several seconds.
4. Repeat the process until all of your companion animal's nails have been trimmed.
5. Do not forget to trim the dewclaw, which is located on the inside of each front leg just above the paw. (Some dogs do not have dewclaws.)

Ears

Ear care is an important part of grooming. Ear infections can not only be painful, but lead to permanent hearing loss. The signs of a problem with a companion animal's ears include redness, constant scratching, head shaking and odor.

How to Clean Your Pet's Ears

1. Check your companion animal's ears twice per month. The skin inside and on the flaps should be pale pink. If there is a foul odor and/or any red, brown or black skin, have a veterinarian examine your pet's ears.
2. Moisten a cotton ball with warm water or a little mineral oil and use it to clean the opening into the canal and the flaps. Do not probe too deeply into the canal.

Teeth

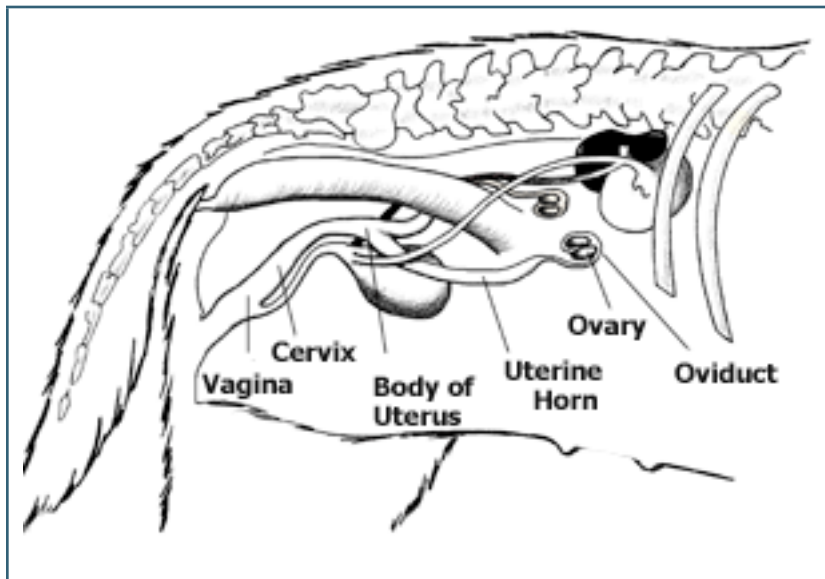
Companion animals can get cavities and develop periodontal disease, so their teeth should be cleaned with a pet toothpaste at least twice per week. It is best to use a small toothbrush that has soft bristles. Cleanings performed by a veterinarian may also be required.

Bathing

Bathe your companion animal once every two months or as often as needed. Be sure to brush him or her before each bath in order to get all of the mats out of his or her coat.

How to Bathe Your Pet

1. Place a rubber mat in your bathtub, or a towel in your sink, for secure footing. Then place a cotton ball in each of your companion animal's ears to prevent water from entering.
2. Rinse your pet with warm water. Use a spray hose if one is available, but be sure to keep the nozzle very close to your companion animal's body. Never spray him or her in the face.



3. Apply a shampoo designed especially for pets in small amounts, working from the head to the tail. Be sure to clean the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under the chin. Try to avoid getting shampoo in your companion animal's eyes.
4. Thoroughly rinse your pet with warm water.
5. Dry your companion animal with a towel and/or hair dryer.

Reproduction

Only the Senior aged competitors will be responsible for this section

Puppies, both male and female, are born with their reproductive organs present but not fully developed. The ovaries of the female puppy do not become fully developed until the puppy matures, usually after six months of age. At birth in the male, the testicles are not usually fully descended within the scrotal sac. They are generally positioned inside the abdominal cavity or located within muscles in the abdominal wall.

Female reproductive anatomy

The reproductive system of dogs and humans are very similar. In the female, the reproductive system is composed of the ovaries, oviducts, uterus, cervix, and vagina. The ovaries are the site of production of the unfertilized eggs, and many of the hormones responsible for heat cycles and the maintenance of pregnancy. The eggs pass from the ovaries into the oviducts. These small finger-like tubes are the site of fertilization by the sperm. From there the eggs pass into the uterus, which is composed of the left and right horn and uterine body. The developing embryos mature within the uterus, attached to its walls by the placenta which also surrounds them.

Heat cycles

The heat cycles of the female (bitch) are caused and controlled by hormones that are produced and released by the ovaries and other glandular structures within the body. The ovaries are paired structures that become increasingly active when the animal passes through puberty, at the first heat cycle. This ranges from between five and eighteen months of age depending on the individual and the size of the animal. In the toy and small breeds, heat cycles occur as early as five months of age, while in the giant breeds, this may not occur until the animal is fourteen to eighteen months old. Typically, these cycles will occur every six to nine months throughout the life of the animal. In the very young and very old, there may be 'silent heats' with no outward signs that are detectable by the owner or sometimes even other dogs. Dogs do not undergo any form of menopause. There have been rare cases of heat cycles resulting in pregnancies at fifteen years of age.

The heat or estrus cycle of the female is divided into four different stages. There is great variation in the length of these cycles among individuals of the same breeds and among various different breeds. Additionally, the same animal may have significant variations over the course of a lifetime. It is therefore impossible to talk about the cycling of bitches using exact dates or time periods.

Proestrus: The first stage of a heat cycle is a preparatory period referred to as proestrus. This follows a period in which the reproductive system, was from all outward appearances, inactive. Proestrus typically lasts five to nine days. On the first day of proestrus, the vagina becomes swollen and a bloody discharge is soon observed. During this stage males show an interest in the female, but she will be unreceptive to them.

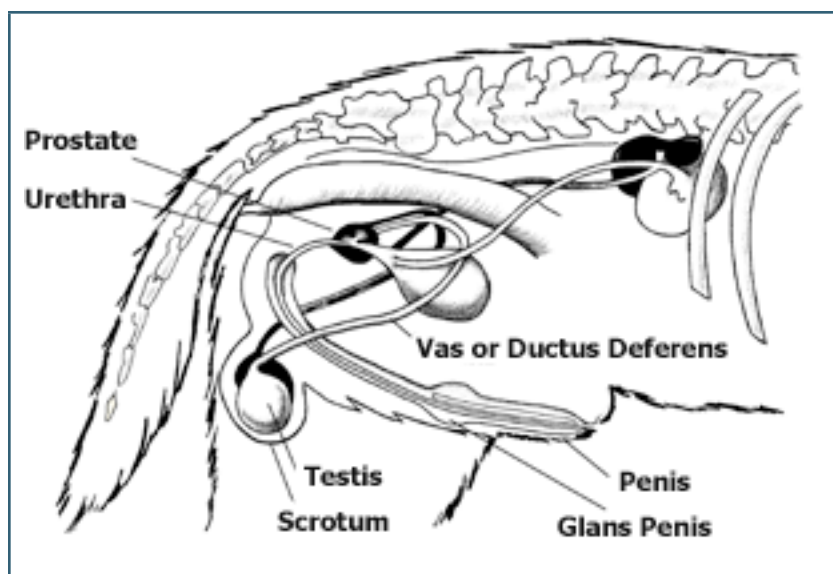
Estrus: The next stage is referred to as estrus. This is the active breeding phase, and will usually last from five to nine days. Bleeding from the vagina is very slight or completely absent at this point. Eggs are released from the ovary and travel down the oviduct. During estrus males will definitely be attracted to and attempt to mate with the female. The female will allow them to mount her, resulting in intercourse. In the dog, a 'tie'

usually occurs in which the male and female are held together physically, with the vagina tightly enclosed around the glans penis. Ejaculation will occur and sperm cells will enter the uterus and make their way to the oviduct, where their union with the egg will result in fertilization. A tie, however, is not necessary for *conception* to take place. The union of the egg and sperm results in the formation of a fertilized egg, which is referred to as a zygote. This matures further, developing into an embryo and then a fetus.

Diestrus: Following estrus is the diestrus period. This extends from the time when the female dog is no longer receptive to the male to the end of pregnancy. In cycles in which a pregnancy did not occur, diestrus will last for a period of up to 80 days. In early diestrus, the embryos and their placentas attach to the wall of the uterus, from which they will derive their oxygen and *nutrients*.

Anestrus: Following diestrus is anestrus. This is the quiescent period between heat cycles characterized by no outward physical or behavioral signs of sexuality.

Male reproductive anatomy



In male dogs, there is no seasonal period of increased or decreased sexual activity. Rather, they can be stimulated at any time by nearby females that are in season (heat).

In the male, the important structures of the reproductive system are the testicles, ductus or vas deferens, prostate gland, and penis. Sperm production and storage occurs within the testicles. Upon ejaculation, the sperm is transported to the prostate gland by the vas deferens. Within the prostate, additional fluids are added to the sperm to nourish it and aid in its transport from the penis and through the uterus.

The sperm and prostatic fluids, at the level of the prostate gland, enter the common urethra and are carried from the body through the penis. The penis of the dog has two specialized structures. The glans penis is a bulb-like dilation at the base of the penis, which fills with blood and holds the penis within the vagina during intercourse. Within the penis is a bone that maintains the shape and direction of this organ during mating. The penis is protected from the environment, as it is enclosed within the sheath or prepuce.

The more common disorders of the reproductive tracts of puppies include vaginitis in females, and cryptorchidism and phimosis in males.

At what age can a dog have her first litter?

Puberty (the age at which animals can reproduce) in the dog is usually between 5 and 12 months of age. This is when a dog will have her first heat. Some large breed dogs may not have their first heat until they are almost 2 years old.

How often does a dog come into heat?

Most dogs come into heat every 6 to 7 months.

How can I tell if a dog is in heat?

Just prior to coming into heat, the dogs' vulva and breasts may enlarge and a bloody discharge will be seen coming from the vulva. At this point, she is not yet ready to accept a male dog. When the vaginal discharge becomes more yellow in color, generally in 4 to 13 days, she will accept the male. She will accept the male for another 4 to 13 days.

How long is pregnancy in the dog?

Dogs generally have their puppies 58 to 68 days after they are bred. The average is 63 days. This equates to 9 weeks (compared to humans have a gestation period of 9 months)

How many puppies are in the average litter?

The average size of a litter is generally 6 to 10 puppies. The number of puppies in a litter often varies with the size of the dog. Smaller dogs tend to have smaller litters.

How many litters can a dog have in a year?

The average dog could have 2 litters a year.