

## NEW PUPPY INFORMATION PACKET

Congratulations! You are about to embark on a fun and rewarding journey of raising a puppy! Whether you are experienced with dogs or a first-time dog owner, this packet will supply you with the most current information and advice about how to raise your new friend. If you have any questions during or after your visit, please feel free to ask one of our doctors or technicians. We are here to help!

### *FLEA & TICK PREVENTION*

Flea's & ticks are 2 of the most frequent pet care concerns. Prevention is the best defense against these parasites. Fortunately, today we have very effective flea and tick preventatives that have a wide margin of safety and are easy to administer. Here at Goshen Animal Clinic we offer a variety of preventatives that will fit you and your pet's lifestyle. We recommend Flea & Tick Prevention year around for the best health of your pet.

### *INTESTINAL PARASITES*

Many puppies are born with intestinal parasites from an infected mother in utero, or via milk or feces ingestion. The only way to diagnose them is by microscopic examination of your dog's feces for the eggs shed by the adult worms. In very large infestations, some adult worms can be observed in your dog's bowel movements or after he vomits. We deworm at least twice then we will request a sample of your puppy's stool around 12-14 weeks of age to test for any remaining presence of intestinal parasites.

### *HEARTWORMS*

Heartworm is a fairly large worm - up to 14 inches long - that, in adulthood, lives in the heart and pulmonary arteries of an infected dog. Dogs acquire this infection through mosquito bites as mosquitoes readily pick up larval heartworms from infected dogs and carry them to new dogs. Their presence causes obstruction of blood flow and inflammation of the arteries and can be life-threatening if untreated.

### *SPAYING & NEUTERING*

The old adage that "if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem" is particularly applicable to unwanted pregnancy in dogs – and that includes purebred dogs! We recommend spaying/neutering at 6 months of age. This is a perfect time to microchip you pet! Read about the benefits of microchipping below.

**Spay Your Female Dogs.** Aside from the very real pet overpopulation problem, there are some valid health reasons for spaying female dogs. Spaying your dog will not change her personality, and



there is no benefit to letting a dog “have just one litter”. Additionally, it is a myth that spaying your dog will cause her to gain weight. There are numerous benefits to spaying your dog including:

- Eliminates Chances of Pyometritis. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus that is fatal if emergency surgery is not performed immediately. This is a life-threatening condition and creates a great financial expense to the owner.
- Decreased Risk of Mammary Cancer. Ideally, to give a female dog protection against mammary cancer, she should be spayed prior to her first heat. Each subsequent heat brings a greater chance of mammary cancer at a later time.
- Eliminates Risk of Ovarian or Uterine Cancer. Spaying a dog involves the removal of the uterus and ovaries. No organs: no cancer; simple as that.

**Neuter Your Male Dogs.** This is the most proactive step. Neutering is a relatively simple surgery with a quick recovery period. Besides preventing unwanted pregnancies, neutering a male will help mitigate certain problem behavior found in unneutered males, and it will help prevent certain medical conditions too. It will not take away his personality or his “manhood.” The only thing he will miss is fighting and running away from home!

- Neutered dogs are less likely to mark their territory by urinating.
- Neutered dogs are easier to obedience train and are better family pets.
- Neutered dogs will be less likely to try to escape/run away.
- Neutered dogs will be less likely to get attacked by other dogs.

## **MICROCHIPPING**

Even the most experienced and diligent pet owner is at risk for losing their dog. While collars and tags are important and certainly beneficial when worn by your pet, they are subject to breaking, fading, becoming scratched, and even falling off. If this occurs, there is no way to determine to whom your dog belongs. Microchipping is a permanent means of identification, and the best possible way of bringing your lost or stolen best friend back to you. A microchip is a rice-grain sized electronic chip enclosed in a glass case that is injected under the skin of your dog using a hypodermic needle. If your dog is ever lost and brought to a veterinary hospital or shelter, one of the first procedures performed is to scan for a microchip. Though no one wants to suffer the heartbreak of losing a pet, microchipping helps to create a happy reunion. Microchipping can be done at any time.

## **PREVENT ACCIDENTAL POISONINGS**

Have you taken inventory of your medicine cabinets lately? Are you properly storing lawn and garden pesticide containers? When you tidy up around the house, do you put food, liquor, and tobacco products safely out of harm's way? These precautions are second nature to households with children, but homes with animals must be just as secure.



Aspirin and other pain relievers are in almost every home, and these poisonings can be severe. When aspirin is prescribed for animals, the dosage must be strictly followed. Too much aspirin can lead to anemia and bleeding stomach ulcers. Ibuprofen and naproxen will cause painful gastrointestinal problems.

One 200mg ibuprofen tablet is toxic to a small dog. Never give acetaminophen (Tylenol) to a cat or dog. The drug affects cat's oxygen carriage in the blood and it produces severe depression and produces abdominal pain in dogs. If not quickly eliminated from the body, just two extra strength tablets in 24 hours will mostly likely kill a small pet.

Clinical signs in cats develop within one to two hours and include excessive salivation, paw and facial swelling, depression, and ash-grey gums. In dogs, watch for anorexia, vomiting, depression, and abdominal pain. High doses are usually fatal.

**Neurological poisons** can also be present in lawn and garden pesticides, insecticidal aerosols, dips and shampoo products. Signs of toxicity include apprehension, excessive salivation, urination, defecation, vomiting and diarrhea, tremors, seizures, hyper-excitability or depression and pinpoint pupils. If an animal has absorbed enough of any enough of any neurological toxin, sudden death may be the only sign.

**Coumarins/Coumadins**, most recognizable as D-Con, a rat and mouse poison, affect the ability of the blood to clot. Mice that consume the poisoned grain essentially bleed to death. Your pets will be affected the same way, and the severity of the symptoms often depends on the amount ingested. Cats that eat poisoned mice can also become ill if the levels of poison are high enough. If you find an empty box of rat poison bring your pet into the veterinarian immediately. Tell them about the recent exposure so they can implement the proper monitoring protocols. Additionally, if you see labored breathing, anorexia, nosebleeds, bloody urine or feces and pinpoint hemorrhages on the gums, take your pet to the veterinarian immediately.

**Garbage**, though often not regarded as poisonous, contains toxins that are produced by bacteria fermenting the garbage. Rapid and severe signs include vomiting, blood diarrhea, painful abdominal distention, shivering, shock, and collapse.

*How should pets be protected from these poisons? Some very simple rules to follow are:*

- Properly dispose of and store all pesticide containers up and out of sight of your pets. Make sure the lids are tight and the containers are undamaged.
- Use cords or locking lids for garbage cans. Put them in a heavy frame to prevent knockdown.
- Keep pets off lawns sprayed with chemicals. Consult with the lawn care company for proper information on drying time and compounds used. Wash pets' feet with mild soap and water if exposed.
- Keep your pets out of vegetable and flower gardens.



- Encase compost piles or use commercially made containers.
- Never assume that a human drug is applicable to an animal unless a veterinarian instructs you to use it.

## *What is poisonous?*

Here is a quick reference guide to the more common house and garden plants and foods that are toxic to most all animals and children. If you have these plants or foods, you need not dispose of them—just keep them away from pets and children. (\*Substances are especially dangerous and can be fatal.) If you suspect your animal may have ingested any of the substances on this list or if your pet shows any abnormal behavior (vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, etc.), you should contact your veterinarian immediately. Take a sample of the suspected toxin and its packaging with you to the veterinarian.

### **Cardiovascular Toxins**

- Avocado
  - Japanese pieris
  - Yew
  - Azalea (entire rhododendron family)
  - Kalanchoe
  - Autumn crocus (Colchicum autumnale)
  - Lil-of-the-valley
  - Bleeding heart
  - Milkweed
  - Castor bean
  - Mistletoe berries
  - Foxglove
  - Mountain Laurel Oleander
  - Hyacinth bulbs
  - Rosary Pea
  - Hydrangea
  - Tobacco Products
- Gastrointestinal Toxins**
- Avocado
  - Chocolate
  - Iris corms
  - Amaryllis bulb
  - Chrysanthemum
  - Lily

- Azalea
- Clematis Crocus bulb
- Macadamia nuts
- Autumn crocus
- Croton
- Mistletoe berries
- Bird of Paradise
- Cyclamen Bulb
- Moldy foods
- Bittersweet Boxwood
- Dumb Cane
- Narcissus, daffodil
- Buckeye Bulbs
- Eggplant
- Onions
- Buttercup (Ranunculus)
- Elephant's ear
- Pencil cactus/plant potato
- Caladium
- English Ivy
- Rosary Pea
- Cannabis (Marijuana)
- Hyacinth bulbs
- Spurge
- Castor beans
- Holly berries

- Tomatoes (leaves and stem)

### **Respiratory Toxins**

- Chinese sacred or heavenly bamboo
- English Ivy Toxins that Affect the Blood

- Onions
- Garlic

### **Neurological Toxins**

- Alcohol (all beverages, ethanol, methanol, isopropyl)
- Chrysanthemum
- Morning glory
- Amaryllis bulb
- Crocus bulb, delphinium, larkspur, monkshood
- Moldy foods
- Azalea
- Eggplant
- Tobacco products
- Bleeding heart
- Jimson weed



- Potato (leaves and stem)
- Buckeye caffeine castor bean
- Lupine species
- Tomatoes (leaves and stem)
- Chocolate
- Macadamia nuts
- Choke cherry, unripe berries
- Marijuana (Cannabis)
- Kidney/Organ Failure
- Toxins
- Amanita mushrooms
- Day lily
- Oak
- Anthurium
- Elephant's ear
- Rhubarb leaves
- Asiatic lily
- Easter lily
- Scheffelera
- Begonia
- Grapes/raisins
- Shamrock
- Calla lily
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Star-gazer Lily
- Castor beans
- Lantana



## Vaccination Schedule for Puppies

Glossary: **DHLPP** = Distemper: fatal disease involving the lungs and nervous system.

Hepatitis: a disease involving the liver.

Leptospirosis: a disease involving the liver and kidneys\*

Parvovirus: a fatal disease involving the intestines

Para influenza: a disease also involving the intestines

**Bordetella:** More commonly known as “kennel cough” an airborne pathogen with a radius of up to 10 miles.

**Canine Influenza (H3N8 & H3N2):** Highly contagious respiratory disease, that is easily passed through direct contact, coughing/sneezing and even be passed to our beloved pets through contaminated surfaces like clothes, hands, etc

**Lyme:** Carried by specific tick species, this can damage many different organs including the liver, heart, nervous systems, and kidneys.

**Rabies:** Rabies is a deadly virus spread to people from the saliva of infected animals. The rabies virus is usually transmitted through a bite.

With each visit, a “well patient” exam is performed to ensure that your puppy is free of birth defects and proper development.

**6-8 weeks of age: DHPP booster, 1<sup>st</sup> FLU, Dewormer, and Parasite prevention:** Puppies are vaccinated to help protect against the diseases listed above. This schedule ensures protection for the vulnerable and weakened immune system. A dose of dewormer will be given to protect both your puppy and family against intestinal parasites. Also, a weight appropriate dose of flea, tick, heartworm and intestinal parasite preventative will be sent home to be given to your puppy with the next meal.

**9-11 weeks of age: DHPP booster, Bordetella, 1<sup>st</sup> Lyme, Final FLU, Dewormer and Parasite Prevention refill:** Puppies will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Lyme and Bordetella. As well as de-worming. Bordetella vaccine is given either intra-nasally, orally or injectable every 6 months throughout your pet’s life. Lyme vaccine is an injection annually for the lifetime as well.

**At age 12-14 weeks: DHLPP, Final Lyme, Dewormer and Parasite Prevention:** This visit we will introduce a new vaccine to your puppy called Leptospirosis.

**At age 16-18 weeks: Rabies, Final DHLPP, and Parasite Prevention:** This is a very special appointment! Your pet will receive their Rabies vaccination. At this time, you will receive a rabies tag and certificate.

Please note that up to date vaccinations Including FLU are **REQUIRED** for all animals in boarding and grooming.



## Caring for Your Puppy in His First 3 Months

Whatever the breed, all puppies develop in the same way; they pass through the same stages from infancy to maturity. Not only is it interesting for you to know about these stages, it is also important that you should be aware of what your puppy is capable of at any particular time of his life.

Although puppies follow the same pattern of development, speeds can vary depending on the breed. Generally speaking, smaller breeds develop faster and attain maturity before they're a year old; larger-breed dogs can take as long as eighteen months to develop fully.

### *From Birth to Two Weeks*

During these early few days, just like a new-born baby, your puppy will just sleep and suckle. But he'll be able to crawl. If he's cold he will seek the warmth of his brothers and sisters or his mother. Between 10 and 14 days, his eyes will open but his sight is weak for the first few weeks.

### *Week Three*

Your puppy's teeth will begin to come through, and he'll learn to walk and drink. By the end of the third week, his sense of smell will develop. The breeder of your puppy should subject him to mild stress, but this isn't anything to be alarmed about. Simply picking him up and holding him in different positions is defined as mild stress. This will get your puppy used to human handling, and help him to cope later on in life.

### *From three to 12 weeks: Socialization*

This is a critical time for your puppy. If he's to develop into a happy and healthy and well-balanced dog, he needs to experience humans, other dogs and his surroundings.

- **Stage One:** *From three to five weeks:* Your puppy will start to react to loud sounds, which is useful for mother when she growls at him to stop him feeding at will. Up to four weeks, his hearing, sight and sense of smell are working more efficiently. He'll bark, wag his tail and play-bite his brothers and sisters. He'll also begin to eat solid food and leave his sleeping area to go to the bathroom. From four to five weeks, he'll chase and play head shaking games; he'll also bare his teeth, growl, and carry things in his mouth.
- **Stage Two:** *From five to eight weeks:* Your puppy's face will become more expressive and his ears and eyes will be more coordinated. He'll join in playing games with his brothers and sisters and by the seventh week, he'll be ready to go to his new home. By the end of the eighth week, he'll be curious and willing to explore and investigate everything; but at the same time, he'll show signs of caution. In the final week before you take your puppy home, he should be taken away from his family and he should come into plenty of contact with humans -- children as well as adults. He should also get at least five minutes attention each day. From week six to eight, your puppy will begin to settle in with you and your family and he'll experience the





sights, sounds and smells of his new home. As soon as he crosses your threshold, you should begin housetraining.

- **Stage Three:** *From eight to 12 weeks:* Your new puppy will experience a very strong desire to please you as he assesses his position in a new family. You'll begin to teach him to play human games and help him to reduce his play-biting.





## Crate Training Your Dog

When you think of puppies, you have to see them in the same way as babies. Just as you would not leave an unsupervised child alone in your house, nor should you leave an unsupervised dog alone in the house until they have been completely trained. A dog left alone will make choices, choices like, “where should I urinate?” or “what can I chew up?” Any dog under 2 years of age, or a dog at any age that has difficulty with housetraining or destructive behavior, is an excellent candidate for crate training. If you have just brought your new dog home, it is critical to introduce the crate the first day. Setting a schedule and sticking to it as well as getting your dog comfortable to being alone are important for his mental adjustment.

The key to keeping your home and your pet protected is prevention. By successfully crate training your dog, he is given the proper tools for the prevention of learning inappropriate behavior in your house. The concept of crate training is simple: dogs possess a denning instinct as if in the wild. Their crate becomes their “den” or place they can go to feel secure. Dogs also don’t like to eliminate where they sleep, which makes the crate an effective house breaking tool. Dogs at any age can learn to enjoy a crate, as long as you make it enjoyable right from the start.

First, be sure your dog’s crate is the right size. The crate should be just large enough for your pet to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably. If the crate is too big your dog may use one end to eliminate and the other to sleep, making house breaking more difficult. This can be corrected by using a box to take up the extra space or by purchasing a crate that has a divider so your crate can grow with your dog. Next, be sure the crate is in a high-traffic area so the dog is not isolated when put in the crate.

### *Teaching Your Dog to Like the Crate*

Open the door to the crate and drop a small treat in the middle of the crate. Give your dog praise when he retrieves the treat and allow him to leave the crate when he chooses. Keep the door open and continue practicing until the dog is comfortable entering and leaving the crate.

Continue the exercise above but this time drop the treat in the back of the crate. The idea behind doing this is to associate the crate with good things much like you do when he/she goes potty outside.

Next, give your dog his/her favorite chew toy in the crate. If he/she doesn’t have one, try a peanut butter stuffed Kong toy or moist dog food works well. Toss it toward the back of the crate and close the door briefly. Continue this exercise, but increase the amount of time you leave the door closed. Don’t encourage your dog to leave the crate when you open the door; simply open it and walk away.



## *Tips for successful Crate Training*

By following these steps, you should be well on your way to a dog who is comfortable in the crate with the door closed. While you are practicing, keep the following tips in mind:

### *Crates are never used for punishment!*

Used properly, a dog is crated before he is given the opportunity to be destructive or eliminate in the house. Never crate your dog after correcting him for inappropriate behavior. This will only lead to your dog associating the crate with negative things and he/she will learn to dislike being there.

### *Praise your pet!*

Every time your pet goes into the crate, give it lots of praise. You can give treats to instill the idea of a safe place. Good experiences in a crate include circumstances that permit the crate to be viewed as a retreat or place of comfort, freedom to come and go (the door is left open periodically so that the dog is not always confined), company inside or outside of the crate, and regular feeding and bathroom trips.

### *Make the crate a comfortable place!*

Make the crate a comfortable place by putting a blanket and perhaps some toys inside.

### *Crate Training Your Adult Dog*

The following is a program by which older dogs can be introduced or even re-introduced to crates as a place of refuge. The goal is to systematically desensitize the dog by making the crate appear as benign as possible.

Position the crate in a high traffic area of the house and make the interior of the crate comfortable and inviting.

Enrich the space with food, treats, toys and initially, always leave the door open.

Feed the dog progressively closer to the entrance of the of the crate, and reward him with praise as he gets closer to the crate.

Eventually, move the food bowl across the threshold of the crate and then just inside the crate so that he has to put his head and shoulders inside in order to eat.

Move the food bowl progressively further towards the back of the crate so that the dog has to go further inside to eat.

Always praise the dog for being in or near the crate.



Do not confine the dog in the crate until he shows that he will enter willingly and of his own accord.

If things go well with the acclimation, the next thing is to try closing and fastening the door for brief periods, while staying in the area.

Gradually, the duration of confinement can be increased. Eventually, you may be able to leave the dog confined for considerable periods of time and tranquility prevail.

Do not leave the dog alone in the crate while you are away until he is perfectly comfortable being in it while you are there.

The program may take time but it will work.

Note: With any behavioral modification scheme, like crate training, the golden rule is that if there is no progress in 3 to 5 days, change the strategy. It is important to emphasize throughout training and beyond that the crate should never be a place in which the dog has any negative experiences.



## Successful Housetraining for Puppies and Adult Dogs

Keep in mind while housetraining that most dogs don't like to spend time where they have urinated or defecated. Some adult dogs that have been adopted through a shelter may need a refresher course in housetraining.

- Establish a schedule around YOUR routine, NOT your dog's routine. Keep meals and water on a schedule and provide potty breaks accordingly. Your dog will need to go outside immediately after eating or drinking. Your puppy should also be taken out first thing in the morning and after any extended time in the crate as well as following play time.
- After the puppy has been offered ample time to eat, pick up any remainder food that may be left. By doing this, you can help regulate when your dog will need to relieve itself.
- Always take your puppy out on a leash. Choose a location to designate a "potty area." When you get to this area, give your dog his command to "potty." After the puppy has done what he was commanded, he should be praised and given treat of appropriate size for doing GREAT!!
- When you are in the house, your puppy will need to be watched at all times while indoors until the puppy is completely housetrained. The puppy will need to be confined to its crate during unsupervised times. If you have taken the puppy out to go potty and he has not performed, then he should return to his crate and allowed to go back out in 10-15 minutes and continue to repeat this until the puppy has eliminated.
- If you catch your dog urinating or defecating inside, interrupt by clapping your hands. Get him outside and give a command to go. Praise him and give him a treat ONLY if he goes potty. Never physically punish the dog for inappropriate elimination because this will cause the dog to associate you with the punishment and the dog will avoid eliminating in front of you even when outside.

*Remember, consistency, supervision, crate training, and sticking to a schedule is key to making housetraining easy!*



## Behaviorists/Puppy Training Classes

### **Bark Busters (Doug Rountree)**

1(877) 500-BARK (2275)

At home training with a lifetime guarantee

[www.barkbusters.com](http://www.barkbusters.com)

### **Companion Dog School**

Pat Higgins

(502) 969-3644

[www.companiondogschool.wix.com](http://www.companiondogschool.wix.com)

### **PawsAbilities Unlimited Dog Training**

Leslie Marlin

502-572-9832

Lmarlin316@yahoo.com

[www.pawsabilityunlimited.com](http://www.pawsabilityunlimited.com)

### **Dr. Beth Strickler**

Board Certified Behaviorist

Versailles, Ky

Vetbehaviorsolutions.com

1-877-203-5973

### **Cherie Beattie aka "The Canine Professor"**

Certified by CCPDT (Certification Council of  
Professional Dog Trainers)

502-552-0620

<http://canineprofessor.com>

### **Ky Dog Training**

502-500-9789

<http://www.kydogtraining.com>





# Puppy 101

## Kentucky Humane Society

502-253-2883 (Behavior Training Department)

<https://www.kyhumanesociety.org/dog-training/group-classes>

## Wiserdog

502-553-9203

<https://www.wiserdog.com>

## Shelburne Pet Sitter

502-633-4944

<https://www.facebook.com/shelburnepetcenter/>

## Rosie Dane Dog Training

<https://rosiedanedogtraining.com/>

## Recommended Websites:

[www.HSUS.org](http://www.HSUS.org)

[www.drsophiayin.com](http://www.drsophiayin.com)

## Sophia Yin

<http://drsophiayin.com/>

## Suggested Readings:

"Good Owners, Great Dogs" by Brian Kilcommons

"The Art of Raising a Puppy" by the Monks of New Skete



## Puppy Mouthing and Play Biting

Biting is one of the most common complaints made by owners of puppies and adolescent dogs. Puppies have very sharp teeth and during the “teething” period they seem to enjoy chewing on hands, arms, clothing, and anything else they can get their mouths on.

Just because your puppy may bite or chew does not mean that you have an aggressive or “bad” dog. Investigating things with their mouths is a natural behavior, but it does not mean that you have to endure this obnoxious behavior. There are some very simple steps you can take to teach your puppy exactly what is acceptable- and what isn’t. Before starting the following exercise, be sure to have a couple of your pup’s favorite toys nearby. And remember: *consistency is the key to effective training.*

### *Steps To Prevent Puppy Mouthing*

- Avoid putting your hands near your puppy’s mouth or using your hands to play.
- Play with an appropriate toy. This can be a ball, rope, stuffed toy, or any other toy your dog likes. If your pup has a tendency to chew toys apart or swallow pieces, DO NOT leave them unsupervised with these toys.
- If your puppy puts his mouth on you (even if it doesn’t hurt) or grabs your clothes, give a loud, high-pitched “yelp” or “ouch!” Make sure it is loud enough to distract the puppy and cause him to let go.
- As soon as the puppy is distracted (lets go of your fingers), immediately encourage him to play with the toy. Redirecting the puppy’s attention is key! Otherwise the puppy will stay focused on your fingers.
- Should the puppy decide to grab your hand (foot, shirt, etc.), again, give a loud “Ouch” and redirect his attention as before.
- Give your puppy lots of praise when he has the toy in his mouth instead of your hand.
- If your puppy seems persistent about biting you, DO NOT continue to play with the pup. Simply ignore him. Ignoring means NO playing, touching, talking to, or even looking at the puppy. By ignoring the pup, you are conveying that each time they bite you the object of interest is removed.
- In some cases your puppy may need a “time out.” Put the puppy in his crate NOT as a punishment!! Be sure to reinforce the crate as a good place by giving the puppy appropriate chew toys while allowing him to calm down for a few minutes.

*\*\*If you follow these steps in a consistent manor with your puppy training your puppy will soon realize what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior and learn to keep his teeth to himself!*

### *Adult Nipping and Mouthiness*

Adult dogs that exhibit excess grabby oral behaviors do so because they have not been properly schooled as youngsters. They may nip you or grab people by the arm to indicate their wishes or admonitions. Being nipped and grabbed by your dog against your will is a fairly distressing consequence for an owner. The correct way for an owner to deal with such a problem is to





immediately implement a "leadership" program in which the dog must learn that all good things in life come from you – and for a price. One common name for such a program is “Nothing in Life is Free.”

As for adult nipping, avoid circumstances that can lead to nipping while working on the leadership program. If nipping or grabbing occurs do not shout, try to wave your arms around, or pull away. Instead, "turn to stone" and reward the dog when he lets go and stops nipping. A refinement of this approach to management of the mouthy dog is to arm yourself with a clicker and/or delicious food treats and ignore him when he engages in any rude and rough nipping behavior. The clicker is clicked and the food treat is supplied when his nipping ceases. Specifically, 3 seconds after a bout of mouthy behavior stops you should click, say "good dog," and offer him a food treat. For more frenetic nippers, a head halter with training lead attached can be employed as negative reinforcement to increase the frequency of the desired behavior – i.e. letting go when instructed!



## Common Household Dangers for Pets

Many common household items can pose a threat to our animal companions—even some items specifically meant for pets could cause health problems.

To protect your pet, simply use common sense and take the same precautions you would with a child.

Although rodent poisons and insecticides are the most common sources of companion animal poisoning, the following list of less common, but potentially toxic, agents should be avoided if at all possible.

- **Antifreeze** that contains ethylene glycol has a sweet taste that attracts animals but is deadly if consumed in even small quantities; one teaspoon can kill a seven-pound cat. Look for antifreeze that contains propylene glycol, which is safe for animals if ingested in small amounts. Ethylene glycol can also be found in common household products like snow globes, so be sure to keep these things out the reach of animals.
- **Cocoa mulch** contains ingredients that can be deadly to pets if ingested. The mulch, sold in garden supply stores, has a chocolate scent that is appetizing to some animals.
- **Chemicals used on lawns and gardens, such as fertilizer and plant food**, can be easily accessible and fatal to a pet allowed in the yard unsupervised.
- **De-icing salts used to melt snow and ice** are paw irritants that can be poisonous if licked off. Paws should be washed and dried as soon as the animal comes in from the snow. Other options include doggie boots with Velcro straps to protect Fido's feet
- **Cans and garbage** can pose a danger when cats or smaller dogs attempt to lick food from a disposed can, sometimes getting their head caught inside the can. To be sure this doesn't happen, squeeze the open end of the can closed before disposing.
- **Traps and poisons** Pest control companies frequently use glue traps, live traps and poisons to kill rodents. Even if you would never use such methods to eliminate rodents, your neighbor might. Dogs and cats can be poisoned if they eat a rodent who has been killed by poison (called secondary poisoning).
- **Human medications, such as** pain killers (including aspirin, acetaminophen and ibuprofen), cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, anti-depressants, vitamins and diet pills can all be toxic to animals. Keep medicine containers and tubes of ointments and creams away from pets who could chew through them, and be vigilant about finding and disposing of any dropped pills.
- **Poisonous household plants**, including azalea, dieffenbachia (dumb cane), lilies, mistletoe and philodendron.
- **String, yarn, rubber bands and even dental floss** are easy to swallow and can cause intestinal blockages or strangulation.



- **[Chocolate](#)**. Though not harmful to people, [chocolate](#) products contain substances called methylxanthines that can cause [vomiting](#) in small doses, and death if ingested in larger quantities. Darker [chocolate](#) contains more of these dangerous substances than do white or milk chocolate. The amount of chocolate that could result in death depends on the type of chocolate and the size of the dog. For smaller breeds, just half an ounce of baking chocolate can be fatal, while a larger dog might survive eating 4 ounces to 8 ounces, though 8 ounces would be extremely dangerous. Coffee and [caffeine](#) have similarly dangerous chemicals.
- **Alcohol**. Symptoms of alcohol poisoning in animals are similar to those in people, and may include vomiting, [breathing problems](#), coma and, in severe cases, death.
- **Avocado**. You might think of them as healthy, but avocados have a substance called persin that can act as a dog poison, causing vomiting and [diarrhea](#) or worse.
- **Macadamia nuts**. Dogs may suffer from a series of symptoms, including [weakness](#), overheating, and vomiting, after consumption of macadamia nuts.
- **Grapes and raisins**. Experts aren't sure why, but these fruits can induce [kidney failure](#) in dogs. Even a small number may cause problems in some dogs.
- **Xylitol**. This sweetener is found in many products, including sugar-free gum and candy. It causes a rapid drop in [blood sugar](#), resulting in weakness and [seizures](#). [Liver failure](#) also has been reported in some dogs.

