



NEW PUPPY INFORMATION



Congratulations on getting a new puppy! This little bundle of energy can be a loyal, loving friend and family member. Your pup will ask that you provide him/her with a warm place to sleep, lots of love, plenty of exercise and proper health care. Most of this will come naturally to you, but what is involved in proper health care?

VACCINATIONS: Puppies receive antibodies from their mother that will protect them for a short period of time. When these are gone, they need vaccines to help them build their own immune response. We recommend a DAP vaccine be given to all puppies every three weeks, starting at 6-8 weeks and continuing until 4-5 months of age. This vaccine will protect against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus. The law requires a rabies vaccine at 4 months of age. . DAP and rabies should be repeated every 3 years after the first yearly booster. If your puppy will have access to wetland areas as an adult, we recommend the leptospirosis vaccination. Highly social dogs (those active in agility, dog shows, day care or visiting dog parks often) should receive vaccines for canine influenza. If you plan to board your dog somewhere other than Animal Care Clinic, you may be required to have him vaccinated against Bordetella (kennel cough).

WORMING: Virtually all puppies are born with roundworms or hookworms, a serious public health threat. People can become infected with these worms. All puppies should be wormed for roundworms and hookworms, and this should be continued as a lifelong, year-round habit. An intestinal parasite exam to check for parasite eggs & adults should be done every year beginning as a puppy. Tapeworms are carried by fleas and can appear to you like small rice grains (dry and tan or white and moving) in feces, bedding or on pets. If you see these, let us know so we can adjust your parasite control program!

NUTRITION: Puppies need diets made especially for growing dogs. They should be fed on a regular schedule, three times daily. For most puppies, you can set the food down and let them eat as much as they are comfortable eating in about 10 minutes, and then pick up the bowl. For the more voracious eaters, you will have to limit the volume you offer – we will help you with that! Be sure to get a copy of our body condition scoring chart so you know what an ideal body weight looks like. Your puppy should be growing while not getting too thin or too fat. At about 4 months of age you can back off to feeding twice daily and for most breeds can switch to a diet formulated for adults (your puppy is in High School already!)

EXTERNAL PARASITES: Fleas are a common problem in our area. They cause itchiness and irritation, carry tapeworms and can cause a severe allergic reaction. Good flea control is important. Fleas are small, black and very mobile. They prefer the back half of the body. Ticks are also quite common and are found in grasses in the hilly areas of SLO county. If you hike, you've likely seen ticks on dogs! Ticks can be the size of a pin head up to the size of a grape! Once they bite, they burrow in and do not move. Ticks can transmit serious diseases like Lyme and Ehrlichia. We have many products available to control external and internal parasites, and will help you choose the best solution for your lifestyle and budget.

SPAY/NEUTER: Most of our clients want to spay and neuter pets, but are not sure when is the best time for the procedures. If you adopted your puppy from a shelter, the procedure has likely already been performed. If not, there are many things to consider and our doctors will discuss these with you at length. Most of our clients want to spay before the first

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heat – there are several health benefits to this and then you never have to deal with a canine heat cycle (which can be quite the ordeal!). For larger breed dogs, there is evidence that waiting until they are 12-18 months old to spay may have some health benefits. Neutering early for males can be important for behavioral issues in some dogs, but waiting until 12-18 months of age for polite young men, can have health benefits too.

If you intend to breed your dog, it is essential that you understand the importance of genetic & health screening plus reproductive monitoring. Please ask us about these issues.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCREENING: Heartworm, Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis are all mild but increasing problems in our area. Heartworm disease is passed by mosquitos & can cause a fatal disease of the lungs and heart. If your puppy will travel, or you live in North County, heartworm prevention should be routine for you. Heartworm is prevented by the same products that control roundworms and hookworms. (see page 1)

Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis are both carried by ticks and are more common in this area than is heartworm disease. Both diseases can be fatal, but are quite simple to eliminate if caught early. Good tick control is essential in this area. We recommend all dogs be tested yearly with a combination test for heartworm, Lyme and Ehrlichiosis – called an Infectious Disease Screen.

DENTISTRY: Good dental care can greatly increase your dog's longevity and quality of life. Start brushing your puppy's teeth daily right away. It is much easier to train a puppy to allow this process than it is an adult dog! Dental chews are also an important part of daily dental care. Your puppy will start to get permanent teeth at about 3 months of age and most puppies will have full adult dentition by 5-6 months. Many puppies retain baby teeth, which can lead to serious problems. If you ever see both a permanent and baby tooth together, have us take a look – we may need to extract that baby tooth. If you notice red gums, broken or missing teeth, discolored teeth, or reluctance to eat, please call us immediately.

TRAINING: This most often ignored area of canine health is perhaps one of the most important. More animals die each year due to behavioral problems than due to any disease. We strongly suggest starting training at 8 weeks of age with our puppy kindergarten class. Follow that with our basic etiquette class. Once you and your dog have graduated from basic obedience, the training should not stop. Being a good citizen requires a lifetime commitment to learning. Watch our team members to learn about "Fear Free" handling of your puppy!

YEARLY PHYSICAL EXAM: Animals can't tell us when something isn't quite right. If we wait until they show obvious symptoms, often the prognosis for a problem becomes much worse. To help detect illness as early as possible, we suggest that a physical exam be done every year. As your dog gets older, we recommend exams every 6 months along with yearly blood work and urinalysis.

We hope that this information will be helpful in allowing you to take the best possible care of your puppy. If you would like more information on any of these subjects, please give us a call or visit our website. Congratulations!

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Your Puppy's Wellness Schedule



This basic schedule will be used to help keep your puppy as healthy as possible. This is a guideline only. We may need to remove or add items to the expected care list as time goes on. If you can't come in on the exact date listed, it is okay – we will adjust the rest of the schedule. These visits should occur as close to every 3 weeks as possible and it's important to not skip a visit.

| Date | Age | Expected Care |
|------|---------------------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete veterinary exam and consult ○ Review of our wellness plans and basic puppy care ○ Vaccines, dewormers, flea control as needed ○ Discuss timing of spay/neuter ○ Intestinal parasite exam (send kit home) ○ Discuss pet insurance ○ |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-vaccination evaluation by a veterinary nurse ○ DAP vaccine (other vaccines as needed) ○ Parasite Control ○ Toenail trimming demonstration ○ |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-vaccination evaluation by a veterinary nurse ○ DAP vaccine (other vaccines as needed) ○ Parasite Control ○ Toothbrushing demonstration ○ |
| | 4 months (16-18 weeks) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-vaccination evaluation by a veterinary nurse ○ DAP vaccine (other vaccines as needed) ○ Parasite Control ○ Rabies Vaccine ○ Confirm age at which spay/neuter will occur ○ Cut back to twice daily feedings and switch to adult food ○ Some pups ready to take home 12 months of parasite control (based on body weight) |
| | 5 months (18-22 weeks) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certain breeds will require an additional DAP vaccine and pre-vaccination evaluation. ○ Ok to play outdoors & socialize now! ○ Make sure you have your year-round parasite control! |



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WHAT TO FEED YOUR PETS



Choosing what to feed your pet can be very difficult. There are so many foods and so many places to buy them! We want you to know that there truly is a difference between commercial pet foods, and generally, you get what you pay for.

Nutrients

There are 6 groups of nutrients that must be considered when evaluating a diet. These are water, vitamins, minerals, carbohydrates, proteins and fats. Every living thing needs an OPTIMUM amount of each nutrient – not too much and not too little. These nutrients must be in a proper balance with each other also. We all know that excess fat causes obesity, but excess protein or minerals can be even more devastating. The quality of protein provided is probably even more essential than the actual amount. Inexpensive protein is usually not “complete” and won’t meet your pet’s needs.

Palatability

This word simply refers to how good a food tastes. For instance, most people find chocolate more palatable than lima beans! Most pet owners feel that foods their pets eat vigorously are better than those they don’t like. If we think about our children, we know that isn’t true. Quite often, things that are bad for us taste the best. The same holds true for our pets. Fat, protein and salt generally taste very yummy to dogs and cats, and therefore may be added to foods in excess. The result can be overconsumption of food, and thus obesity.



Pet food labels

Pet food labels can be extremely misleading! You may have noticed that pet food labels only list minimum or maximum amounts of nutrients. This leaves tremendous room for overloading diets with some nutrients, while completely ignoring others! To be labeled as a diet that is “complete for all stages of a pet’s life” a food only needs to meet minimum standards. That means that significant excesses may exist. Words like “organic” & “fresh” do not require much of the manufacturer, and phrases like “by-products” and “meal” often refer to items considered delicacies by humans! Feeding recommendations often are far too high.

Grocery Store Foods

Most pet foods sold in grocery stores are made from ingredients left over after producing human products. This means they are of lower quality and vary from one batch of food to another. We like to compare them to “fast food”. All 4 food groups may be there and it may taste good, but we all know if we only ate fast food, it would be a health disaster. Pet food is a very competitive industry and there is great pressure to provide low cost, tasty foods. In order to do this, these companies skimp on quality, and meet minimum standards as cheaply as possible. Do you really want your pet eating a food formulated like that?



WHAT TO FEED YOUR PETS



Specific ingredients

Many people feel that certain ingredients are somehow inherently evil. You may have heard that corn, wheat, soybeans, or even gluten are bad for animals. This is simply untrue. Some animals may have an intolerance or allergy for a certain ingredient, just as some people are allergic to, or intolerant, of milk, peanuts or gluten. This doesn't mean that we all should avoid milk, or that all pets should avoid soybeans. Some people feel that lamb and rice is the best combination of ingredients to feed. If a pet has been shown to be allergic or intolerant to all other meats and grains, then lamb and rice is the best way to go, but most pets can easily digest and enjoy all grains and meats. Oddly enough, most lamb and rice diets also contain at least one other meat or grain anyway. Check those labels!

Dry vs. Canned, Raw, Fresh, Freeze Dried

Many false impressions exist in this area. The form of food you feed is not super important, but you need to understand the pros and cons. Dry food is the simplest form for most households. It is the most calorie dense form of food (has the least water), so it is easy to make pets obese with this formulation. Many pets prefer to eat canned food. It will cost more to feed and some people do not like the smell. Fresh and raw diets come refrigerated and are the quickest to spoil. Studies have shown all commercially available raw diets, and most fresh, are contaminated with some level of E coli. While this rarely makes pets sick, we do not recommend feeding these diets. The freeze dried diets are newer and so far not being produced by the major player in veterinary nutrition. Therefore we are not recommending these diets at this time.

Homemade Diets

It is becoming more popular for clients to want to cook at home for their pets. This is a wonderful way to love your friend and ensure safe and quality ingredients. However, most homemade diets are not nutritionally complete! Most will have significant deficiencies in calcium and specific amino acids! If you want to cook for your pet, let us know. We can get you a perfectly balanced set of recipes that are easy to make at home!

What do I feed?

Veterinarians and some pet stores and feed stores sell what are called "premium" diets. These pet food companies meet optimum nutrient content, use a fairly constant formula of ingredients and use higher quality sources of nutrients to provide the best possible nutrition for your pet. These foods definitely cost more per pound, but in the long run are not anymore expensive than foods of lesser quality. Because there are fewer "wasted calories", your pet doesn't need to eat as much of a quality food (and there will be less waste to clean up!) You will also find that you need fewer visits to the groomer and veterinarian – a huge money saver! Ask us what diets are "premium" and which would be best for you.

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PREMIUM DIETS



There are so many pet diets available on the market today, how can the average pet owner decide which one to feed? Labels can be very deceiving and confusing:

- The “guaranteed analysis” which lists nutrient percentages can be quite misleading as it only lists minimums or maximums – the actual nutrient content can be significantly different.
- Phrases like “gluten-free”, “grain-free” and “limited ingredient” are very misleading – most pets do not need these type of diets. They could even be harmful.
- The ingredient list may also be misleading and cannot always be relied upon to accurately reflect the main ingredients in a food.
- “By-products” is not a bad word. These are the parts that wild animals eat first! Many people consider them delicacies. If the food is manufactured in the US, by-products are perfectly safe and in fact offer certain nutrients things like “chicken breast” cannot.
- Labels that claim such things as “natural”, “preservative free” or “complete” really mean nothing.
- Even the feeding guides are usually inaccurate and recommend you feed more than the average pet needs.



The most important thing a pet food label can tell you is if a food is balanced for the specific life stage of your pet. Foods that are balanced for “all life stages” are usually too high in calories, minerals and protein for older pets or even adults.

We prefer diets that have a “fixed formula”, which means that the ingredient list never changes. You cannot determine this from the label or bag. You must call the company to see if they can give you specific nutrient contents. That means they can say the diet is

22.3% protein, not that it is at least 21% protein. They should also be able to tell you contents of other nutrients such as calcium and phosphorous, and the ratio between the two.

Diets (manufacturers/lines) recommended by Animal Care Clinic:

**Pro Plan diets
Royal Canin diets
Science Diet & Hills Diets**

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Do you get nervous when you go to the doctor or dentist? Do you feel vulnerable wearing that funny little gown while they poke and prod you in unusual ways? And you don't understand why it is happening! Imagine what dogs and cats feel when they come to the vet. Pacing, panting, whining, clinging to you, holding still better than usual or any sign of aggression are all signs that your pet is scared! We don't want that at ACC!

At Animal Care Clinic our team is committed to making veterinary visits the best experience possible, for you and your pet. All of our full time team members are Fear Free certified because we want your pet to be happy when they visit us. Fear Free doesn't mean that your pet will never experience anything uncomfortable at ACC - they may be injured or ill, after all - but it does mean that we make every effort to reduce the fear, anxiety, and stress that is related to examinations and procedures.

It's best to start young! Using Fear Free handling starting with the first visit, puppies and kittens grow up accepting gentle handling & even enjoying visits to the vet, which ensures they receive the best possible care throughout their lives. You can expect our team to be as concerned with your pet's emotional health as we are with their physical health.

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WHY ATTEND PUPPY KINDERGARTEN?



Your puppy is never too young, or too old, to learn new tricks! Would you consider locking your baby in his or her room, with virtually no visitors, until reaching junior high school age? Of course not! You know this would lead to tremendous behavioral problems! Yet that is what some people recommend we do to puppies. Because puppies are not immune to disease until they have completed their vaccine series, they should not be allowed in areas frequented by other dogs until they are 5-6 months old (a canine teenager!). This is why Puppy Kindergarten was developed.

There are four main goals to Puppy Kindergarten:

1. To teach the owner to be a loving boss, and teach the dog to respect the owner
2. To socialize your puppy with other dogs & people of all ages and sizes
3. To teach the owner how to teach the dog. Basic commands are first
4. To demonstrate “Fear Free” techniques for you to use at home



The class is designed to be fun for the puppies and the owners. The entire family is encouraged to attend (as long as children are behaved well enough to not be a distraction to the puppy’s learning). Playtime, which is really bite inhibition, is a part of every session but we also teach basic health care and canine manners.

The great advantage of Puppy Kindergarten at Animal Care Clinic is that it is veterinary supervised. All puppies must be on an approved vaccination program, and they must pass a physical exam before every session. The class is held in our “puppy room”, which is thoroughly disinfected before every class. Puppies who attend our class rarely have a fear of the “doctor’s office” as adults.

There are many things necessary to raise a healthy puppy. Vaccinations and nutrition are often touted as the most important, but we truly feel that proper training and socialization are equally important. The number one reason that dogs are euthanized in this country is because they are considered to be unruly by their owners. Don’t let your new puppy fall into this category. Start your training early!



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Internal Parasites

Dogs and cats are susceptible to a variety of internal parasites, or worms. These parasites vary in their importance and in the way they are diagnosed. The following are the most important “worms” in our area.

ROUNDWORMS: Virtually all puppies and kittens are born with roundworms. Adults are infected by contact with feces of other animals, including wildlife, and cats get infected by eating rodents. These parasites can rob the dog and cat of nutrients, and they are responsible for the common “pot belly” appearance of many youngsters. Adult dogs and cats can be infested with these worms, but they don’t often show signs of disease. **The greatest threat roundworms pose is to people!** If these worms find their way into the body of a child or immunocompromised adult, they can cause serious damage to the eye, brain, or other organs. Diagnosis in dogs and cats is best done with both a “fecal floatation” for eggs and an “ELISA” for signs of adults. In general, it is best to treat all animals that are likely to be carriers. We recommend treatment of all puppies and kittens followed by a year round preventative program for every animal that goes outdoors. These are extremely common parasites that should not be taken lightly!

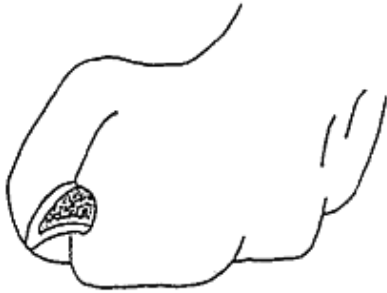


TAPEWORMS: A very common external parasite, the flea, is the carrier for an internal parasite called tapeworms. These appear as little “grains of rice” in the stool of infected animals. Sometimes they may be mobile. The only way that a pet can get tapeworms is to ingest fleas. Tapeworms do not usually cause too much problem for pets. They may increase itchiness, however. If you see these little worms in your pet’s stool, there is no need for a fecal sample - it won’t help diagnose the problem. Just let us know and we will prescribe a dewormer (and probably some flea control!).

HEARTWORMS: This worm that lives in the heart of dogs, and rarely cats, is much less common than roundworms or tapeworms in our area. However, it has much more serious effects. In fact, both infection and treatment can be fatal! We recommend prevention in all dogs - this consists of yearly heartworm blood tests and year round preventative, especially if you travel.

HOOKSWORMS & WHIPWORMS: These parasites are uncommon in San Luis County, but quite common in other areas. They can be diagnosed via a fecal exam.

Exhibit A



The quick (blood supply) in a short nail.

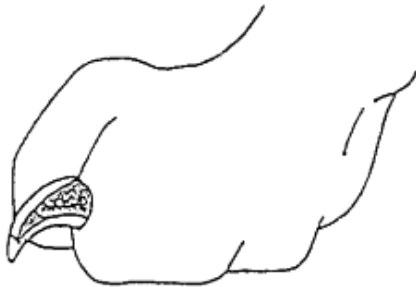
Exhibit B

As the nail grows, the quick lengthens. If a cut is made into the quick, the nail will bleed profusely.



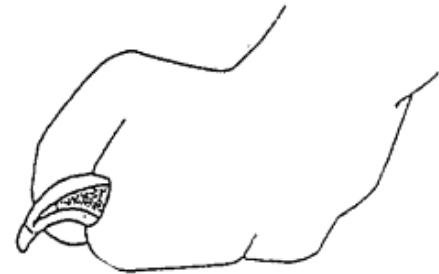
Trim here and the quick will begin to recede.

Exhibit C



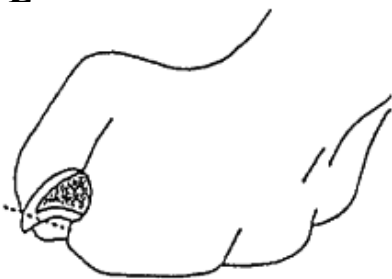
Trim or file a small portion of the nail every few days. The quick will continue to recede.

Exhibit D



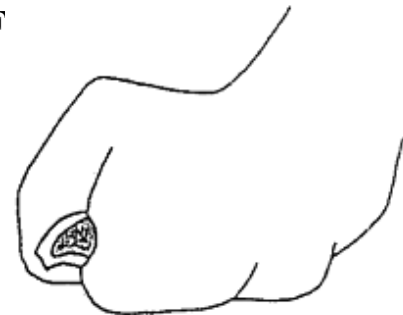
As the nail gets shorter, the quick gets shorter.

Exhibit E



When kept short, the nail can be properly maintained without bleeding or discomfort to the pet.

Exhibit F



A properly trimmed nail.



SPAYS & NEUTERS AT ACC



Not all spays are created equal! That sounds funny, but it is true. Most pet owners assume that surgical procedures are performed the same way in every hospital, but that is not true. At Animal Care Clinic we always put the safety and comfort of our patients first. We are proud to have found ways to provide the highest quality of anesthetic and surgical care at a reasonable price.

The following is a list of services that we believe are essential to providing proper surgical and anesthetic care to a patient undergoing major surgery. All of these are included for every patient at ACC:

- a. A **Fear Free** approach to anesthesia and hospitalization – most patients are sedated immediately upon arrival so they do not worry before surgery. Your pets' emotional experience is very important to us!
- b. An **individualized anesthetic plan** for each patient based on a complete physical exam, laboratory testing and medical history.
- c. A dedicated team member monitors each patient to **ensure safety** during the procedure. Seven different parameters are monitored and recorded, including end tidal CO₂ which is unusual outside of a specialty hospital.
- d. A never-ending focus on **pain control** – before during and after surgery!
- e. Advanced warming systems – loss of body temperature is perhaps the greatest risk to veterinary anesthesia patients today. We keep your pet warm before, during and after surgery!
- f. Pre-anesthetic blood panel for all patients.
- g. IV catheter and warmed IV fluids before, during and after surgery.

Dogs and cats cannot express pain or anxiety easily, so we must make every effort to avoid and control it for them. We pledge to you that we will never take your pet's health, emotions or safety lightly. If you have any questions about this or any other subject, please call us. One of our doctors would be happy to talk to you.



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Crate Training

How, and why, to use this effective training tool.

The dog crate is a wonderful training tool. Apart from its obvious uses for transporting dogs by car or plane, the crate may be used for short-term confinement – to keep out of mischief at times when the owner is not able to supervise. Confining the dog to the crate prevents it from developing bad habits. In addition, the crate may be used specifically to create good household habits: to housetrain the dog, to establish a chew toy habit, and to reduce hyperactivity and barking. However, sometimes crate training backfires, and misuse of the crate by novice owners may produce a dog that is more difficult to housetrain, more active and unruly, more vocal and destructive, and maybe aggressive!

The ubiquitous acceptance of the crate within the dog fancy makes its use almost second nature. However, what may be routine and accepted practice for a breeder or trainer may be unpleasant or difficult for novice owners. Explaining that a crate is the dog's den is all fine and dandy. More convincing though, is for a prospective owner to see a young pup run happily into its crate and settle down for a nap.

Misuse = Abuse

Crate training problems usually arise because owners fail to teach the dog to like the crate, and leave untrained dogs confined for too long. If the owner has not accustomed the dog to the crate, it will not enjoy confinement, and might run from the owners when called and/or resist and resent being manhandled into the crate. Once confined, the dog might bark out of frustration and try to destroy the crate in an attempt to escape. If confined for too long, the dog will soil the crate.

Whether or not an adult dog like its crate depends on when the crate was initially introduced and how. If the dog was taught to enjoy the crate during puppyhood, it will prefer resting in its doggy den as an adult (this is easily tested by leaving the crate door open).

However, an adolescent dog, allowed complete freedom of house and garden since puppyhood, might object to lengthy confinement unless previously trained to enjoy the crate.

Introducing the Crate

No matter how much the dog enjoys its crate, there will be occasions when the owner wants to confine the dog but the dog does not want to be confined. Therefore, never call the dog and put it in the crate, or else it will soon become wary of approaching its owner when called. Instead, use a place command such as "go to your crate." It is possible to enforce a place command without ruining the dog's recall.

Tell the puppy/dog "go to your crate," lure it towards the crate with a food treat (kibble from dinner), and give the lure as a reward when the pup settles down inside. Praise the pup and periodically hand feed kibble while the pup is inside, but ignore the pup the moment it leaves. Feed the pup in the crate. Place pieces of kibble in the crate so the pup will develop the habit of visiting the crate on its own, and whenever it does, praise the pup and offer especially tasty food treats, ignoring the pup when it leaves. The pup will soon learn it gets lots of attention, affection and goodies inside the crate, but very little outside.

Now accustom the pup to short confinement. Throw a treat in the crate and close the door long enough to give the pup two or three tasty treats through the gate, then open the crate. Repeat this many times over. It is important that the pup learns confinement does not necessarily mean "for the duration," but rather for a short time – and a good time.

Place Training

A dog crate is a marvelous place to send the dog when the house gets busy or when the owner just wants a little peace and quiet. It is important to familiarize the dog with the crate as early on as possible so



that controlled quiet periods set the precedent for adult life. Learning to “turn the dog off” – to frequently instruct the pup to settle down and shush – is a priority obedience exercise for pet owners.

The length of time a dog may be confined to a crate depends on whether it enjoys the crate and whether it is housetrained. To confine an un-housetrained dog to a crate for lengthy periods is courting disaster. If the dog is forced to soil its sleeping area, the crate may no longer be effective in inhibiting elimination, and therefore cannot be used as a predicting tool in housetraining.

Housetraining

A dog crate may be used extremely effectively as a housetraining tool. House soiling is a spatial problem, and confinement is the solution. The dog is eliminating in the wrong place and if confined and not allowed free access to the living rooms and bedrooms, it cannot soil the carpets. However, long-term confinement to a small area to prevent house soiling should not be confused with short-term confinement to a crate during housetraining.

The purpose of long-term confinement to a small area (with both sleeping/eating quarters and a toilet zone) is to confine the problem at times when the owner cannot supervise the dog. Acknowledging the puppy/dog will have to eliminate during the course of the day, the owner confines the dog to an area where it is acceptable for the dog to eliminate.

Confining the dog outdoors is fine, as long as from the beginning the dog develops the good habit of eliminating outside. Confining the dog to a room indoors is sometimes a temporary necessity until the dog is housetrained.

However, during housetraining, the purpose of short-term close confinement (crate training) is to inhibit the dog from eliminating at all. Then the dog will want to eliminate immediately when released from confinement and taken to its toilet area.

The single most important use of the crate for housetraining is as a tool to predict when the dog will eliminate. This vital piece of information must be communicated to novice dog owners.

When away from home, keep the puppy in its long-term confinement area – the kitchen, utility room, basement, outdoor run or kennel. When at home, confine the pup to its crate in the same room as the family, so the pup is not socially isolated. Every hour, run the puppy to its elimination area and give it three minutes to produce. If it does, praise and give food treats. If it doesn't, back in the crate for another hour.

Chewing

When the owner is home, confine the puppy as much as possible to its crate with a variety of chew toys. A chew toy is an appropriate item to chew that the dog can neither destroy nor consume. Confining a dog to a crate with a chew toy is like confining a child to an empty room with a Nintendo. This is called passive training. All the owner has to do is set up the situation, and the dog is auto shaped via self-reinforcement (successive munches on a chew toy will progressively reinforce chewing the chew toys). As the dog becomes hooked on its chew toy habit, regular chew toy sessions soon comprise an integral part of the dog's day.

Making chew toys especially attractive and/or novel may augment the passive learning process. If the dog does not destroy rawhide, different rawhide toys may be soaked in a variety of soups and then dried so the dog may have a unique rawhide flavor-of-the-day, or, fairly indestructible toys may be stuffed with tasty treats. A dog biscuit forced inside a Kong or some freeze-dried liver squished into the cavity of a Redi-bone make irresistible toys. The dog knows the treats are there, and will worry at the chew toy forever trying to get them out.



Thirteen Signs that Mean “Call Us Now”

1. **Bleeding** - bleeding from any part of the body that is more than a slow drip & especially if not easily stopped. Bloody urine or stool could be an indicator of underlying disease or infection, but is usually not an emergency.
2. **Vomiting or Diarrhea** – frequent vomiting or diarrhea during a short period or intermittently. It is not normal for cats or dogs to vomit regularly. Sudden onset of unproductive retching and/or bloating is an emergency.
3. **Changes in Appetite** – If your pet has not eaten in 24-48 hours it could be an emergency, especially for felines. If your pet is suddenly ravenous with no change in diet this could be an indicator of a problem, but not likely an emergency.
4. **Convulsions** – seizures or uncontrolled tremors, especially if your pet is nonresponsive during an episode.
5. **Lethargy** – lack of energy and motivation, not wanting to engage in normal activities or routine. Weakness or collapse during exercise is an emergency.
6. **Pain** – limping or lameness, crying out or seeming painful when touched or lifted. Severe itching, pain from an ear infections, etc.
7. **Eye Abnormalities** – redness, discharge, cloudiness, squinting or loss of vision.
8. **Weight Loss** – sudden weight loss with no alteration in diet or exercise.
9. **Masses** – Any lump that is new, bleeding or growing rapidly.
10. **Scratching** – frequent biting, chewing, or licking at any part of the body. Compulsive pawing at the face, ear and/or tilting the head are emergencies.
11. **Changes in Urination** – Straining or inability to urinate is a critical emergency. Increased consumption of water, with or without increased urination is not an emergency but should be evaluated soon.
12. **Coughing or Sneezing** – Violent sneezing that comes on suddenly, with or without discharge. Coughing that is effecting exercise or sleep.
13. **Any Form of trauma or ingestion of unusual substance** – Even if your pet seems fine after an accident, internal injuries can take time to show themselves. Many plants and medications are toxic and take days to cause problems. Get your pet assessed as early as possible!

Early recognition & treatment is the key to a successful recovery.

If your pet has been injured, take caution! Animals in discomfort are fearful and not always aware of their owners. They may bite even their best friend on mistake!

For after hours emergencies we suggest:

PETS Hospital
4854 S Bradley Rd #109
Orcutt, CA 93455
(805) 250-5600

162 Cross Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
www.animalcareclinicSLO.com

(805) 545-8212