

Vaccinations

As always your Veterinarian will set up the best plan for vaccinations and your puppy. Here are a few points about various vaccinations available. If you can split up the vaccinations, especially for a puppy this is the healthiest way to administer these vaccinations (try to give Rabies separately at a visit of its own, when the puppy is at least 16 weeks old).

Bordetella or Classic Kennel Cough: -this is an airborne disease
-affects the respiratory system
-symptoms are persistent coughing
-vaccination can be given intra nasal (the best route) or intra muscular
-give at least two weeks before boarding or dog show

Coronavirus: -spread by contact with infected blood, feces or vomit
-affects the gastrointestinal tract
-symptoms are fever and diarrhea, occasionally vomiting

Canine Distemper: -this is an airborne viral disease with the main source being respiratory secretions
-affects respiratory, gastrointestinal, nervous system
-symptoms are coughing, sneezing, fever, nose and eye discharge, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, listless and possibly even seizures

Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Adenovirus): -spread from inhalation of infected feces, urine or saliva (viral disease)
-affects kidney, liver and cells that line the blood vessels
-symptoms can be all or part of fever, inflammation of nose or mouth, diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting, loss of appetite, depression and possible even hemorrhaging

Leptospirosis: **can affect humans** -can be spread by recovered animals
-contact with infected urine in puddles and shallow ponds
-contact with nasal secretions, urine or saliva of infected animals (often skunks and raccoons) (Bacterial Disease)
-symptoms fever, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, listless

Lyme Disease: **can affect humans** -Bacterial disease
-spread through tick-borne through deer ticks
-appears as arthritis with sudden onset of severe pain
and lameness, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, depression

Parvovirus: -spread through contact with an infected dog's blood,
feces, or vomit (viral infection)
-affects gastrointestinal tract and can cause death in puppies
-symptoms are severe bloody diarrhea that is very foul smelling
fever, vomiting and loss of appetite

Parainfluenza: -(viral disease) spreads quickly among close dogs
-affects the respiratory system
-symptoms are dry, hacking cough, loss of appetite,
runny nose and eyes, depression

Rabies: **Humans can be affected**
-spread through the bite of an infected animal
-infection of the central nervous system – **always fatal**

There are two phases of the disease:

1. Excitatory phase/furious rabies: restless, irritable,
unprovoked biting, sensitivity to noise
2. Paralytic phase/dumb rabies: paralysis, cramps and
difficulty swallowing

Dangerous Foods

These are some of the foods that are toxic or dangerous to pets:

- Alcohol
- Avocados
- Bones
- Chocolate
- Chewing gum with Xylitol
- Coffee
- Garlic, Chinese chive or anything from the garlic (Allium family)
- Grapes or raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Nuts or moldy cheese
- Onions
- Peaches pit or any other pit
- Raw bread dough of any type

Toxic Plants

A close eye should be kept, especially on puppies around plants both in the house and in the garden.

Some of the more common plants that can be toxic:

- Daffodil
- Holly
- Iris
- Ivy
- Lily
- Mistletoe
- Morning Glory
- Mulch made of Cocoa plant
- Oleander
- Poinsettia
- Rhododendron
- Tobacco

Puppy's Development Periods

Canine Socialization (3-7 weeks): Puppy should be with their dog family.

Puppy learns: -canine behaviour (how to speak dog)
-receiving discipline from mother
-bite inhibition (how hard to bite, puppies, mother)

Human Socialization (7-12 weeks): -rapid learning stage
-good time for puppy classes
-short training periods with positive reinforcement

Fear Impact Periods (8-11 weeks) & (6-14 months):

-during these two periods, anything that frightens your puppy will have a longer lasting effect
-during these two periods make all the puppy's experiences positive
-keep training sessions short and positive
-trips to the vet should be fun and pleasant – rewarding a weigh in with a cookie

Flight Instinct Period (12-14 weeks): -the puppy may be testing his/her position in the family
-the puppy may have flight instinct periods which last a few days to a few weeks
-puppy testing his/her wings
-may not want to come when called
-may play “run away” with toys
-have chew toys for the puppy to chew on while teeth are coming in

Maturity (1-2 years+): -this development varies according to the breeds and sometimes varies from dog to dog within a breed
-continue to teach your dog, stimulating their mind
-training is continued

Canine Nutrition

As seen with any growing animal nutrition is very important. The most growth for a large breed dog is between 3 – 8 months of age. After the 8 months they will still fill out and get a bit heavier but the majority of the growth is finished.

Think Quality when choosing your dog food. Check what your breeder is feeding and this may be the dog food of choice for you. Cheap dog food has cheap ingredients. Also remember when choosing a dog food canines are *carnivores* so avoid foods that contain fillers such as corn and other grains as their main ingredients. Nutrition has changed quite a bit in the last few years and doing your research will help to make the best choices for your dog which will affect his/her overall health.

Large breed puppies should be fed large breed dog food. These large breed foods have been designed to reduce the risk of joint disease, which can be a serious problem in large, fast-growing puppies.

Treats: This is also a changing area. There are many good balanced treats out there you have to read the ingredients. The cheaper treats tend to be loaded with salt, fat, preservatives and artificial colourings.

Fresh water should always be available.

You should begin feeding your puppy that is 4-5 months or less 3 meals per day, adding water and some canned food is also good. Older than this their total food intake should be broken down in two meals per day, water could also be added to the food. Change to adult food between 9 – 12 months depending on the dog, activity and weight.

Never run your dog just before or within two hours of a full meal.

Housetraining

Housetraining, if done well from the first day can be fairly quick and painless. The humans are usually the weak link in the activity. When you are home with the puppy loose in the house they must be supervised at all times.

Puppies will have to go outside after every meal, after each playing session, as soon as they wake up from the night or a nap and about every 20 minutes, when they are awake, at the beginning.

When not supervised or at night having them in a crate, at least until trained will help to shorten the housetraining period.

If a puppy is caught eliminating a firm “No” is used to interrupt the elimination and the puppy is taken directly outside. Never punish for an elimination that has not been witnessed.

Use a verbal cue such as “hurry up” or “get busy” each time your puppy eliminates outside and they will soon eliminate on cue. Always use loads of praise when they eliminate outside appropriately.

On average a puppy has to eliminate every 2-3 hours when 4 weeks old, by age 8 weeks it would be 4-5 hours. This would be extended to 5-7 hours and sleeping through the night at 12-16 weeks. All of this varies according to how much intake the puppy has had and the puppy itself.

Crate Training

Crate training can be beneficial for so many reasons. Instinctively dogs do not want to mess where they sleep thus making a crate an aid in housetraining. It can also be a *safe* place for the new puppy. Being in there when you can not supervise him/her could mean that they are not chewing on cords and such. This should also be the place where the puppy can go if they would like to get away and sleep or to feel safe. By leaving the door open they could turn there when life became too overwhelming, such as a party. Always explain to children that when the puppy is in their crate it is their time to be alone. The puppy may choose this cave like spot to escape.

The crate should have comfortable bedding and be large enough for them to stand up, lie down and turn around. The crate could be placed in a social area such as the kitchen or bedroom. Never use the crate as punishment. They could have toys in there. The puppy may cry when first in a crate but wait until they are quite in order to let them out of the crate. Crate training makes so much sense as on a long trip they may be in a crate.

Remember they are puppies and must be let out within reasonable time to eliminate. This may mean getting up during the night the first few nights of having the puppy at home. It may also mean having someone let the puppy out at lunch if you are working.

Training

Training is a very important part of your puppy's development both to live with but also in order to compete in the German testing.

Obedience is very important and will go a long way to making your field work that much easier. Start earlier with puppy classes which will help with commands as well as socialization.

Your breeder (if you live in the same area) may know of a good place for obedience training. If you are not located in the same area ask your veterinarian, food store, friend or local dog club.

Ask your breeder about field training. Often there are training days where groups of people gather to train young dogs for field and water work.

Some books that are recommended for reading are:

The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog, by Sigbot Winterhelt and Edward D. Bailey

The Drahthaar Puppy Manual by Roger Smith and Nancy Bohs

Deutsch Kurzhaar Verband Testing and Breeding Regulations by VCDKK

Speed Training Your Own Bird Dog by Larry Mueller

Gun-Dog Training Pointing Dogs Care and Training of All Pointing Breeds by Kenneth C. Roebuck

Puppy Aggression

Some dogs guard their food and their food bowl. It is best if you teach your puppy that this is not acceptable. Teach them when humans approach their bowl only good things happen.

- *Have tastier treats in your hand and remove the bowl for a minute while they eat the tastier treats.

- *occasionally pet your puppy when they are eating

- *add a tasty treat to the bowl

Same kind of thing with toys:

- *replace a toy with a better toy

- *replace a toy with a tasty treat

Socialization with puppies and other dogs will help to lessen the chance of dog aggression.

Deworming

The majority of puppies are born with worms! These internal parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, poor weight gain and even death in extreme cases. Some kinds of parasites are also transmissible to humans. Over 10,000 cases of animal roundworms cause illness in children every year in North America.

Testing can be done on a stool sample. No anti-parasitic medication kills all internal parasites. Therefore testing is a good idea. Standard puppy dewormers are given every two weeks until 12 weeks of age. Then they are often repeated at 6 months of age.

Common Parasites:

Roundworms (nematodes or Ascarids):

Two species in dogs are *Toxocara canis* and *Toxascaris leonina*. *Toxocara canis* cause more significant disease and can also be transmitted to *humans*.

This is the most common type of intestinal worm. Transmitted through mother's uterus, a dog's infected stool or contaminated soil. Roundworms are most threatening to puppies. Often characterized by the "pot belly" and can cause growth reduction in the puppy.

The life cycle of *Toxocara canis* is complicated. Roundworm larvae swallowed by adult dogs usually encyst in the dog's tissues. Few roundworms will mature in the bowel.

There are many safe treatments. Most only kill the adult worms therefore it is important to repeat the treatments, usually every two weeks.

Humans can act as a paratenic host, especially children.
Roundworms may cause liver problems or even blindness.

Hookworms: Named for their hook-like mouth parts are also fairly common. Transmitted through mother's uterus and milk or a dog's infected stool.

The most common problems appear related to intestinal distress and anemia. Pale gums, diarrhea, or weakness are common signs of anemia.

Treatment can be given by injection or orally with little side effects. Again these only kill adult worms therefore must be repeated in 2-4 weeks.

Although the adult worms do not live in humans the larvae can burrow into human skin. This causes itching. This is rare.

Whipworms: Can cause bloody diarrhea. Transmitted through infected stools.

There are several drugs to treat whipworms. Two treatments are required at a 3-4 week interval.

Tapeworms: Common in animals that hunt or have fleas. These are flat worms that attach to the intestinal wall by hook-like parts. The worm segments resemble small grains of rice in the stool.

The most common tapeworm in dogs is *Dipylidium caninum*. The adult may reach up to 8 inches. Individual pieces are shed in the stool or may be seen around the anus.

Treatment is in the form of injection or tablet. Humans must swallow an infected flea in order to get this form of tapeworm.

Coccidia: Are more like bacteria than worms. Infects the intestinal tract by a one-celled organism (protozoa) called coccidia. They are passed through the stool of infected dogs.

The most common type of drug used to treat coccidia is a sulfa-type antibiotic. It is given for 10-14 days. Re-infection is common so environmental disinfection is important.

Not commonly transmitted to humans. One type of parasite, *Cryptosporidium*, may be transmitted to humans but may also be found in water supplies.

Giardia: Microscopic parasite carried by wildlife. Giardia are one-celled parasites classified as protozoa.

The typical drug used to kill Giardia is metronidazole, an antibiotic. It is commonly given for 5-7 days.

Giardia can cause diarrhea in humans. Therefore environmental disinfection is important. It is also treated with antibiotics.

Heartworm: (dirofilariasis) Is a serious and potentially deadly disease caused by a blood-borne parasite called *Dirofilaria immitis* and transmitted by mosquitos. Mosquitos pick up infected larvae while feeding on an infected dog.

Dogs can have heartworm for several months before symptoms are obvious. Preventative medicine is the best treatment, such as Revolution, Heartguard or Sentinal. Oral or topical treatment.

Heartworm can be treated but it is expensive, time consuming and can be dangerous for the dog as well.

Fleas: Fleas can be a problem. They carry tapeworm larvae, cause discomfort and itchy to the dogs, and may cause an allergic reaction.

An adult flea can live on your pet for over 100 days and can lay over 2000 eggs

Preventive treatment is the best treatment.

Humans can be bitten and cause a skin irritation.

Ticks: are becoming more of a problem. Deer ticks can cause many different disease such as lyme disease. Close examination of your dog after each field outing is a must.

Lyme disease can be found in humans as well, from a tick bite. This is a very serious disease.

Preventive measures such as Frontline and Revolution.

Humans must be diligent in checking for ticks on themselves as well. Wearing high boots and spraying clothes can help to prevent the ticks.