

Towne South Animal Hospital

2403 E 70th Street | Shreveport, LA 71105 | 318-797-8489 www.townesouthah.com



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our hospital. We know you have a choice, and we truly appreciate you choosing Towne South Animal Hospital for loving and competent health care of your pet.

At Towne South Animal Hospital our goal is to provide you and your pet with the highest level of quality veterinary medicine available. We are an AAHA accredited practice, and our Doctors place a strong emphasis on preventative medicine and keeping your pet healthy and feeling great well into their geriatric years.

Welcome to Towne South Animal Hospital

Welcome to the Towne South family! We are so pleased that you decided to put your trust in us for the care of your pet. We are an AAHA-accredited practice, which means that we have passed a number of tests based on quality and standards of care so we can provide your pet with the best care possible.

- We put a large emphasis on the well-being of your pet and believe that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of sick care. That is why we encourage Wellness Care for all of our patients. For more information about our recommended prevention programs, please refer to the following pages.
- We also recommend that all pets are spayed or neutered. Spaying and neutering your pets not only helps control the population, it is also a good step toward better health for your pet. This packet also contains more information on all of the healthy benefits of spaying or neutering your pets.
- In addition to caring for the medical health of your pet, we also offer a large boarding facility. In our boarding facility, our goal is to give your pet the same kind of love and attention they receive at home. Come take a tour of our facilities any day after 10 AM, we would love to show you around and answer all of your questions.

For more information that is not found in this information packet, please feel free to visit our website at www.townesouthah.com or you can find us on Facebook!

We are pleased to provide this notebook for you as an easily accessible resource for your pet's records. We have given you dividers to help you organize everything for every stage of your pet's life. Please bring this binder with you to all of your veterinary appointments and we will help you keep everything up-to-date. When you leave, we will gladly hole-punch your receipt so you can keep all of your pet's records together.

Our Doctors take tremendous pride and personal interest in caring for all of our client and patient's needs.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS: INFO



Towne South Animal Hospital

Phone: 318-797-8489

2403 E 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105

www.TowneSouthAH.com

Email: cc@townesouthah.com

Fax: 318-797-7871

Hours:

Monday – Friday - 7:00 am to 5:30 pm

Saturday - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sunday - Closed

For emergencies outside of our business hours, please contact one of the following emergency hospitals.



Animal Emergency Clinic

Phone: 318-227-2345

2421 Line Ave, Shreveport, LA 71104

www.aeclinic.com



OUR SERVICES



Wellness Care

- Puppy, Kitten, and Exotic Visits (new pet counseling included)
- Annual Vaccinations and Testing for Dogs and Cats
- Full line of Heartworm and Flea and Tick preventatives, specifically tailored to individual needs
- Senior and Geriatric Wellness Exams and Monitoring



Treatment Services

- Full-service Hospital
- Laser Surgery; fully equipped surgical suite with complete surgical monitoring equipment (including EKG & Blood Pressure check)
- Digital X-Ray
- Ultrasound
- K-Laser Therapy Laser
- Complete Dental Services with Digital Dental X-Ray



Boarding

All boarding is Veterinary Supervised, Doctors are on call every weekend.

- **Camp Cosbie for Dogs**
 - Supervised free play with “Camp Counselor”
 - Luxury and Deluxe Suites available with Web Cam access
- **Camp Kitty Cat for Cats**
 - Private, quiet room for cats only
 - Multi-room Kitty Condos
 - Special Play Area for cats with Kitty Tower and cat toys
 - Quiet music
 - Special TLC individual time (additional fee)

Our buildings are monitored by an off-site service for security, fire, temperature changes, carbon monoxide, and smoke



PET PORTALS

Pet Portals are private websites that give you secure online access to your pet's health information. We provide Pet Portals free of charge to all clients who have an active e-mail address.

Pet Portals allow you to:

- View your pet's information
- Order prescription refills
- Order prescriptions through our online pharmacy
- Request appointments and boarding reservations
- Update your contact information
- Print proof of vaccinations

How can I get a Pet Portal?

Just give us your e-mail address and you will receive a password by email. To get your Pet Portal simply do one of the following:

- Visit our website and click the "EPet Health" login button. Just follow the instructions you'll find under the "Want a Pet Portal?" header.
- Give us your e-mail address when you visit the hospital and let us know that you would like your free Pet Portal.
- Give us your e-mail address when you next speak with us on the telephone.

How do I access my Pet Portal?

Visit our website at www.townesouthah.com and click on the Pet Portal login button. Enter your e-mail address and password in the Pet Portal login box. You can bookmark the login page but not your Pet Portal site because it is a secure site.

What do you do with my e-mail address?

We use your e-mail address as your Pet Portal sign-in name. You have the option of receiving your pet's service reminders by e-mail. We use e-mail to contact clients about important practice and animal news. We will not sell your email address.



CHECK LIST: FOR A HEALTHY DOG

Congrats on your new pet! This welcome kit is a great reference for tips from **Towne South Animal Hospital** on how to keep your pup healthy and happy.



NECESSITIES

- Nutritious Foods & Treats
- Bowls - Ceramic or Stainless Steel for Food & Water
- Leash & Collar & Harness ID Tag & Microchip
- Crate
- Potty Training Aids
- Therapeutic Chew Toys
- Stain Remover & Odor Eliminator
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Brush or Comb
- Poop Bags
- Flea & Tick Preventative
- Heartworm Preventative
- Toothbrush Kit & Dental Aids
- Obedience Training (Formal Classes, Books, etc.)
- Routine Exams with your Veterinarian



OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Dog Treats & Cookies (low calorie)
- Nail Trimmer & Styptic Powder
- Air-Tight Food Container & Scoop
- Regular Grooming Program
- Dog Bed
- Short/Long Term Confinement Area
- Books on Dog Care (breed specific)
- De-Shedding Tool



DAILY PET CHECK: FOR A HEALTHY DOG



MY PET

- Is acting normal, active and happy.
- Does not tire easily after moderate exercise. Does not have seizures or fainting episodes.
- Has a normal appetite, with no significant weight change. Does not vomit or regurgitate food.
- Has normal appearing bowel movements (firm, formed, mucus-free). Doesn't scoot on the floor or chew under the tail excessively.
- Has a full glossy coat with no missing hair, mats or excessive shedding. Doesn't scratch, lick or chew excessively.
- Has skin that is free of dry flakes, not greasy, and is odor-free. Is free from fleas, ticks or mites.
- Has a body free from lumps and bumps. Has ears that are clean and odor-free.
- Doesn't shake head or scratch at ears.
- Doesn't rub face and ears on the carpet after eating. Has eyes that are bright, clear and free of discharge.
- Has normal hearing and reactions to the environment. Walks without stiffness, pain or difficulty.
- Has healthy looking feet and short nails (including dewclaws).
- Breathes normally, without straining or coughing.
- Has normal thirst and drinks the usual amount of water at the same frequency.
- Urinates in the usual amount and frequency; color is normal, no unusual odor.
- Has a moist nose, free of discharge.
- Has clean white teeth, free from plaque, tartar or bad breath.
- Has gums that are moist and pink with no redness, swelling or offensive odor.
- Has no offensive habits (biting, chewing, scratching, or spraying urine, or aggressive behavior).



FAQ: SPAYING & NEUTERING FOR DOGS



Q Will spaying or neutering cause my pet to become overweight and lazy?

A Spaying or neutering your pet will not necessarily make your pet become overweight and lazy. Heredity, diet, and how much and what type of exercise has more influence on the weight and attitude of your pet than does the surgery.

Q Is spaying or neutering dangerous?

A There is always a risk while a patient is under general anesthesia, whether the patient is human or animal. Veterinary procedures are very similar to human medical procedures. The risk is very small in healthy animals; and we take extra precautions for your pet's comfort, safety, and recovery.

Q Should I wait until my pet has had a litter?

A Absolutely not! Published studies show a moderately increased link to cancer in delayed or non-sterilized dogs.

Q When is the best time to have my pet undergo this procedure?

The best age for spaying and neutering is around 6 months of age. The first heat cycle in a female dog usually occurs around this time. Neutering your pet prevents many undesirable behavior patterns.

A



BENEFITS OF SPAYING

- Eliminates Heat Cycles
- Prevents Accidental Pregnancies
- Significantly Reduces Undesirable Behavior
- Prevents Uterine Infections & Other Common In Pets
- Significantly Reduces Mammary Tumors



BENEFITS OF NEUTERING






- Significantly Reduces Prostate & Testicular Disease or Cancer
- Reduces Undesirable Behavior



VACCINES: PUPPY CARE SCHEDULE



Please note not all vaccines are for all pets. Your veterinarian will discuss with you the vaccinations that are right for your pet and its lifestyle. In addition to the schedule below, we recommend year-round flea and tick prevention.

8					
8 WEEKS	12 WEEKS	16 WEEKS	6 MONTHS	1+ YEAR	
1st DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus)	2nd DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus)	3rd DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus)	Spay or Neuter Procedure ID/ Microchip Flea/Tick & Heartworm Preventative	DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus)	
Intestinal Parasite Exam	Intestinal Parasite Exam	2nd Leptospirosis Vaccine (if DVM approves)		Bordetella (Kennel Cough)	
Deworming Treatment	Deworming Treatment	Deworming Treatment		Leptospirosis Vaccine	
Consider Pet Health Insurance & Preventive Plan	Flea/Tick & Heartworm Preventative	Rabies Vaccine		Rabies Vaccine	
Flea/Tick & Heartworm Preventative	1st Leptospirosis Vaccine (if DVM approves)	Flea/Tick & Heartworm Preventative		Intestinal Parasite Exam	
	Bordetella (Kennel Cough)				



VACCINES: WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER



What to expect after your puppy has their vaccines.

It is common for pets to experience some or all of the following mild side effects after receiving a vaccine, usually starting within hours of the vaccination. If these side effects last for more than a day or two, or cause your pet significant discomfort, it is important for you to contact your veterinarian:

- Discomfort and local swelling at the vaccination site
- Mild fever
- Decreased appetite and activity
- Sneezing, mild coughing, "snotty nose" or other respiratory signs may occur 2-5 days after your pet receives an intranasal vaccine

More serious, but less common side effects, such as allergic reactions, may occur within minutes to hours after vaccination. These reactions can be life-threatening and are medical emergencies. Seek veterinary care immediately if any of these signs develop:

- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Itchy skin that may seem bumpy ("hives")
- Swelling of the muzzle and around the face, neck, or eyes
- Severe coughing or difficulty breathing
- Collapse

A small, firm swelling under the skin may develop at the site of a recent vaccination. It should start to disappear within a couple weeks. If it persists more than three weeks, or seems to be getting larger, you should contact your veterinarian.



HOME HAZARDS: BE MINDFUL OF THESE



GENERAL HOME HAZARDS

Plants*	Lead	Fire Places
Drugs, Medicine, Vitamins	Wax	Fire Pits & Grills
Fabric Softener	Cotton Swabs	Compost
Mothballs	Pins, Needles, Tacks Paper Clips	Fertilizers & Mulch
Bleach	Rubber Bands	Algae
Disinfectants, Detergents, & Cleaning Products	Hair Pins & Fasteners	Bodies of Water
Solvents & Removers	Twists & Ties	Sinks & Tubs
Potpourri	String, Yarn, Dental Floss	Washers & Dryers
Tobacco Products	Buttons	Toilets
Lighter Fluid	Coins	Doors & Windows
Gasoline	Small Balls/Toys	Balconies
Oil & Antifreeze/Coolant	Batteries	Fences & Gates
De-icing Salts	Electric Cords	Branches & Sticks
Pesticides, Insect or Rodent Traps & Bait	Glass & Sharp Objects	



HARMFUL FOODS

Avocados	Onions	Macadamia Nuts	Salt	Raw Yeast Dough
Chocolate	Garlic	Tea Leaves	Moldy/Spoiled Foods	Gum, Candies & Foods Sweetened with Xylitol
Coffee	Grapes & Raisins	Alcohol	Fatty Foods	



For more information:

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants



HAZARDS: PLANTS



PLANT HAZARDS

Aloe	Corn Flower Crocus	Ferns (Most Forms)	Marble Queen	Pokeweed
Amaryllis	Castor Bean	Gladiolas	Morning Glory	Poppy
Andromeda Japonica	Caladium	Golden Pothos	Mother-In-Law	Potato
Avocado	Ceriman	Golden Glow	Mountain Laurel	Red Emerald
Asparagus Fern	Clematis	Heavenly Bamboo	Mistletoe	Rhododendron
Australian Nut	Cordatum	Honeysuckle	Monkshood	Ribbon Plant
Autumn Crocus	Corn Plant	Hurricane Plant	Mushrooms	Rhubarb
Azalea	Cycads	Hyacinth	Narcissus	Sage Palm
Anemone	Cyclamen	Hydrangea	Nephthysis	Satin Pothos
Apricot	Cactus	Henbane	Nightshade	Scheffera
Arrow Grass	Cherry (Most Forms)	Hemlock	Nutmeg	Striped Dracaena
Buttercup	Chrysanthemum	Horse Chestnut	Oleander	Sweetheart Ivy
Belladonna	Daphne	Iris	Panda	Scotch Broom
Bird of Paradise	Daffodil	Ivy (Most Forms)	Philodendron	Skunk Cabbage
Bittersweet	Delphinium	Jerusalem Cherry	Poison Hemlock	Star Of Bethlehem
Black Locust	Dieffenbachia	Jimson Weed	Precatory Bean	Sweet Pea
Burning Bush	Dumbcane	Jack In The Pulpit	Privet	Tulip
Buckeye	Euonymus	Japanese Plum	Peach	Tobacco
Buddhist Pine	Eucalyptus	Java Beans	Pear	Tomato
Balsam	Elephant Ears	Jonquil	Peony	Virginia Creeper
Baneberry	Fiddle Leaf Philodendron	Kalanchoe	Periwinkle	Water Hemlock
Black-Eyed Susan	Flax	Lantana	Pimpernel	Wisteria
Bleeding Heart	Four O-Clock	Lilies (Most Forms)	Poinsettia	Wild Barley
Bloodroot	Foxglove	Lupine	Poison Ivy	Yew
Boxwood		Locoweed	Poison Oak	

For more information:

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants



SOCIALIZING: HOW TO SOCIALIZE YOUR PUPPY

Socializing your puppy

Puppies enter the world not knowing about people or the world in which we all live. A puppy needs to learn about the things, people and other animals in her environment. If she is not properly taught, she may grow up to be a fearful, anxious and/or antisocial dog.

Socialize Early

The first few months of a puppy's life is crucial to her development. As soon as you get your pup, you can start teaching her how to listen to you, how to act around people and other dogs. Start slowly with quiet one-on-one interactions and work your way up to interaction with multiple people in noisier environments. Friends, relatives and their pets can help socialize your puppy by simply coming to your home to meet and play with your new friend!

Behavior problems are cited as the top reasons why pets are relinquished. Early training and socializing are the best way to create good manners and a solid bond. Once your puppy is sufficiently vaccinated (according to your veterinarian); take her on as many walks and outings as possible. However, avoid areas that may be high risk for disease such as parks or neighborhoods with stray dogs. Your veterinarian may be able to provide advice on good areas in your community to take your puppy.

To encourage your puppy to interact with other pets and people, reward her with a small treat whenever she meets a new friend. Start with mild exposure and only reward her for non-fearful responses. It is important to remember to take things slowly and have patience with your furry companion. The world can be a very scary place for a young puppy and it takes time to teach them that it doesn't have to be frightening.

Variety is the Spice of Life

To fully socialize your puppy, make sure that she meets a variety of people of all ages and appearances. It is especially important to introduce your puppy to children because they do not act like adults (they move erratically, are loud and approach with no regard to boundaries). If your puppy only encounters people of a certain age or appearance, she may show aggression or fear when later introduced to people who appear or act different (for example, females, children or men with facial hair).

Puppy Classes

One of the best things you can do to socialize your puppy with other dogs is to enroll her into puppy classes. However, make sure to choose a class that doesn't promote punishment, such as swatting, hitting her nose or rubbing her face in her "accidents". This type of physical discipline can have a negative effect on your puppy's good people skills.

Most puppy preschools start at eight to twelve weeks of age. Your puppy may not have all of their vaccinations yet, but they will be around other puppies that have just started their vaccinations. Ask your veterinarian about appropriate classes near you.

You will find that proper socialization and development of your puppy's disposition will take time and patience, but your efforts will be worthwhile as you puppy becomes a friendly and well-behaved companion
Courtesy of HealthyPet.com

http://www.healthypet.com/petcare/DogCareArticle.aspx?art_key=85db09fe-37b5-485d-ac99-88b09c200cac



HOUSTRAINING: TIPS FOR IN-HOME TRAINING

Puppy Houstraining

Houstraining your new puppy can be relatively easy and very successful if you devote the appropriate amount of time and patience to the task. A successful puppy training plan includes supervision, confinement, encouragement and lots of opportunities to succeed.

Elimination

Your first task will be to teach your puppy where you want him to eliminate (go to the bathroom) by accompanying him every time he goes outside. Select a specific area where you want him to go that is easy to get to, i.e., close to the door! Your puppy will become familiar with this place as he recognizes his odor from previous eliminations. You should gently praise his sniffing and other pre-elimination behaviors. Make sure to energetically praise your puppy after he eliminates in the proper area. You may want to offer a treat to your puppy as soon as he finishes eliminating (reinforcing the behavior of eliminating in the appropriate spot).

Mealtimes

You can help control your puppy's elimination routine by also controlling his feeding schedule. Most puppies should eliminate within an hour after eating, so it is best to avoid feeding him a large meal right before confinement (leaving him alone while you're or when your sleeping). You should offer him food two or three times each day at the same times and only make the food available for a maximum of 30 minutes. Your puppy's last meal of the day should be finished between three and five hours before bedtime so he has plenty of time to go to the bathroom.

Make sure to take your puppy outside for a bathroom break after eating, drinking, sleeping or playing. Develop a schedule of mealtimes, play sessions, confinement periods (for sleeping or rest) and trips outside to the "bathroom" to adjust your puppy to a fairly predictable elimination schedule. Putting your puppy on a schedule will help them learn the routine of going potty outside much faster.

Prevent "Accidents"

Preventing accidents indoors is the most challenging part of houstraining your puppy. To avoid this, you need to constantly supervise your puppy. When you are not able to directly supervise your puppy, confine him to a small, safe area. This can be a room or a crate. Always take him outside to eliminate just before you confine him. You may want to use a wire or plastic crate to confine your puppy when you can't directly supervise him (see the article Crate Training).

If you are leaving your puppy home alone every day for long periods, you may want to consider hiring a dog walker so there are no unexpected accidents. Teaching a puppy to eliminate on papers or puppy pads gives your puppy an extra confusing step. Successful house training requires frequent outdoor bathroom breaks. Figure an hour for each month of age and add an additional hour to the total to determine the frequency of potty breaks your puppy needs. For example, an 8-week-old puppy can stay in the crate for three hours. The most amount of time any dog should spend in a crate is 8 hours.

Help your puppy become comfortable in his confinement area by having toys and treats in the area, playing with him in this area, or simply being in the room with him while he rests.



CRATING TRAINING: YOUR PUPPY



YOU CAN

- Enjoy peace of mind when leaving your dog at home alone, knowing that nothing can be soiled or destroyed, and your pet is protected.
- Housebreak your dog quickly, using confinement to encourage control.
- Prevent “accidents” at night or when left alone.
- Effectively confine your dog when over-excited or bothered.
- Travel with your dog without risk of the driver being distracted or your dog getting loose

YOUR DOG CAN

- Enjoy the privacy and security of a “den” of their own.
- Easily learn to control their bowels and to associate elimination only with the outdoors or other designated locations.
- Be conveniently included in family outings, visits, and trips instead of being left behind.
- Stay out of trouble when you’re not around

CRATING A PUPPY

A crate should always be large enough to permit your dog to stretch out flat on his side without being cramped and to sit up without hitting his head on the top. Measure your dog from the tip of their nose to the base of their tail. In the instance that a crate is too large for a growing puppy, purchase a crate that comes with a partition so you can adjust it as your puppy grows. If the crate is too large your puppy will sleep in one end and use the other end as a bathroom.

The crate should be placed in or as close to a “people” area as possible, like the kitchen or family room. Avoid placing crate in your bedroom, as crying puppies will tend to disturb your sleep for first couple of weeks.

A young puppy (8-16 weeks) should normally have no problem accepting the crate as their “own place.” Your pet may bark when first placed in the crate during the early stages of training. He or she is simply learning to accept this new environment.

For bedding, use a towel or blanket that can be easily washed. A nylon bed is also a great option because it is easy to clean and durable. Avoid putting newspaper in or under the crate, as it may encourage elimination.

Make it clear to all family members that the crate is NOT a playhouse. Its purpose is to be a special and comforting room for the puppy. You should not however allow your puppy to become overprotective of the crate. Your puppy should allow you to reach into the crate at any time.

Establish the “crate routine” immediately, closing the puppy in at regular intervals throughout the day and whenever your puppy must be left alone for up to 3-4 hours. Consider removing your puppy’s collar and tags because they could get caught



SHEDDING: TIPS TO REDUCE SHEDDING



We all love our pets, but we do not love the fur they leave all over our homes and on us. Here are some tips to reduce shedding:

BATHING & GROOMING

Brush your pet regularly. Regular brushing reduces shedding, helps to reduce the undercoat without damaging the top-coat, and helps to bring out the pet's natural oils, promoting healthy skin and a shiny topcoat. Start brushing at a very young age to get your pet used to the sensation.

Bathe your pet as needed with an oatmeal-based shampoo. Dogs and cats benefit from bathing and grooming. A clean pet gets petted more and therefore a clean pet is a happy pet.

DIET

Provide a high-quality diet—look for foods that contain vitamins E and C (tocopherals and ascorbic acid) as a preservative rather than BHT, BHA, and ethoxyquin.

SUPPLEMENTS

Supplements you give to your animal should be tailored to them. Please consult with your Heartfelt veterinarian..



HOW TO GREET A DOG: & WHAT TO AVOID



Human to Human INCORRECT



Avoid reaching into their safety zone.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interactions without asking.



Avoid staring at people. This is scary.



Avoid looming over.



Avoid reaching into personal space.



Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.



Avoid touching inappropriately.

Human to Dog INCORRECT



Avoid reaching in or towards the dog's car.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.



Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.



Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.



Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.



Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.



Avoid hugging, kissing, and patting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.

Human to Dog CORRECT



Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.



Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).



Ask if you can interact first.



Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.



Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.



Let the dog approach at his own rate.



It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by rubbing against you.



Pet gently.



KIDS & DOGS: HOW TO INTERACT



BE KIND

Be polite and kind to pets. Learn to recognize when your dog is scared or anxious.

Comfortable



Uncomfortable

PLAY APPROPRIATELY

Play games that are appropriate for your pet or teach him training tricks.

Playing Fetch



Training & Teaching

Walking & Running



Hide-N-Seek

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Supervise your kids to avoid accidents and train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences for appropriate pet-child interaction.



Source: www.drsophiayin.com, Dr Sophia Yin, DVM, MS





Knowing about common dog diseases and being aware of appropriate prevention and treatment can better help you provide excellent care. Some of the most common and serious dog diseases have been made less common through vaccines; however, these diseases continue to threaten a dog that lacks proper immunization. The following diseases can be prevented through vaccinations.

Distemper

Canine distemper is caused by a highly contagious, airborne virus. It affects the dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. Early symptoms are those of a "cold" — runny eyes and nose, fever, cough, and often diarrhea. Later in the course of disease there may be nervous twitching, paralysis, and seizures (convulsions). There is no successful treatment.

Hepatitis (Adenovirus)

Canine infectious hepatitis is a viral disease transmitted by urine, feces, or saliva of infected animals. It affects the liver, kidney, and blood vessels. The signs are fever, tissue swelling, and hemorrhage. Treatment may require blood transfusions and intensive care.

Leptospirosis

Canine leptospirosis is caused by bacteria spread through contact with nasal secretions, urine, or saliva of infected animals. The disease also can infect humans. Lepto infects the kidneys and causes fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and jaundice. Treatment requires antibiotics, intensive care, and intravenous (IV) fluid therapy. Dogs that recover may be left with permanent kidney damage.

Kennel Cough

Canine infectious tracheobronchitis is caused by several viruses (including parainfluenza) and bacteria (including Bordetella). This highly contagious disease attacks the respiratory system, causing a chronic, dry, hacking cough. It is generally a mild infection, but it may progress to severe pneumonia in young puppies or older dogs.

Parvo

Canine parvovirus is a deadly contagious viral disease that is spread by contact with infected fecal material. The virus is difficult to kill and is easily spread. It attacks the gastrointestinal system, causing fever, lethargy, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and rapid dehydration. Treatment requires intensive IV fluid and supportive therapy and has a variable rate of success.

Rabies

Rabies is a viral infection of all mammals, including man. It is transmitted by the bite of an infected animal. The virus infects the central nervous system, causing a brain infection (encephalitis), which is always fatal. There is no treatment for dog or man after symptoms appear. However, a vaccine is effective in preventing the disease in people if it is administered soon after their possible exposure.





Heartworms

Heartworms are devastating internal parasites that live in a dog's heart and in the big vessels near the heart, where they cause severe damage to the circulatory system and lungs. They are transmitted by the bite of a mosquito that has bitten an infected dog. Treatment is difficult, but preventive measures are available. Dogs should be tested annually. If the test is positive, treatment may be attempted. If the test is negative, preventive medication can be given to your dog on a monthly basis throughout the year. Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best heartworm prevention plan for your dog.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms are long, segmented worms. They are transmitted when a dog ingests a larval stage of the worm found in a flea or the raw meat of small mammals. A dog that hunts on its own or has had fleas will likely develop tapeworms. Individual tapeworm segments are easily seen in freshly passed feces. Special deworming medication is required for treatment.

Roundworms

The long, thin spaghetti-like Ascarids worms inhabit the intestine. Some types of these worms can be seen in an infected dog's feces. These worms commonly create a problem in puppies, where they cause stunted growth, lethargy, diarrhea, vomiting, and a pot-bellied appearance. In severe cases, ascarids can cause seizures (convulsions).

Hookworms

Hookworms attach themselves to the intestinal wall and suck blood from the dog. They can be transmitted in utero and via the mother's milk to newborn puppies. Consequently, puppies may have hookworms at a very early age. Signs of infection include lethargy, stunted growth, anemia, and dark, tarry feces. Hookworms are a potentially life-threatening parasite at any age. Blood transfusions may be necessary in advanced cases.

Whipworms

These are tiny worms that inhabit and develop in the lower bowel. They often cause chronic watery diarrhea and weight loss. Their life cycle is longer than most intestinal parasites, and proper timing of repeated deworming is important for their control.

Influenza

Dog flu, or canine influenza virus, is an infectious respiratory disease caused by an influenza A virus, similar to the viral strains that cause influenza in people. There are two known strains of dog flu found in the United States: H3N8. H3N2. Signs of influenza include coughing (both moist & dry, sneezing, nasal discharge, purulent nasal discharge, runny eyes, fever, lethargy, difficulty breathing. Dog flu symptoms resemble kennel cough symptoms, which is also an illness you should talk to your veterinarian about as soon as you notice symptoms.





Fleas

Fleas are readily seen in a dog's haircoat. They are pencil-lead size, brown, compressed side to side and seem to be in constant motion. They are seen most easily at the base of the tail, between the ears, or in the short hair on the abdomen. Many treatments are available; however, the dog's environment must be treated just as vigorously, due to infant flea stages that are on your pet. Flea control should be implemented at the earliest sign of flea infestation because fleas multiply rapidly and a small problem becomes a major one in just a few days. While most dogs scratch with fleas, some dogs are also allergic to flea saliva. For them, one flea bite can set off an allergic reaction of severe skin inflammation.

Ticks

Ticks are most prevalent in early spring and are most commonly found on outdoor dogs that get into underbrush and wooded areas. Ticks can transmit several diseases and should be removed with care. Grasp the tick near its head with a pair of tweezers and pull away from the skin with a firm tug. Do not try to kill the tick first. Disinfect the area with alcohol to prevent infection.

Lice

These are small, light-colored parasites that are transmitted dog to dog. They can be seen at the base of the hair. Signs of lice infestation (pediculosis) are a rough and dry haircoat, matted hair, and scratching and biting of the skin.

Mange

Mites cause two types of mange in dogs. Sarcoptic mange is caused by the sarcoptic mite, a microscopic parasite similar to a chigger. These mites are transmitted from dog to dog and can also infect human skin. They burrow into the skin and cause severe itching and consequent skin irritation and inflammation. Hair loss can be severe and generalized over the body. Diagnosis by a veterinarian is essential, and treatment is usually quite effective. All animals in contact with the infected dog should be treated at the same time.

Demodectic mange is caused by demodectic mites that destroy the hair follicle in which they reside. This causes small patches of hair loss that can spread to the entire body. The initial skin lesions may become infected and are difficult to treat. The tendency to develop demodectic mange is thought to be hereditary. It is seen most frequently in pure-bred dogs. Demodectic mange is not contagious. Diagnosis and treatment by a veterinarian are necessary; treatment is difficult.

Ear Mites

These mites tunnel in the skin of the outer ear canal. They are easily transmitted from dog to dog or cat to dog. They can be seen in the ear with magnification. Ear mites are suspected when dark coffee-ground debris is present in the ears. Infestation signs are head shaking and scratching at the ears. Left untreated, ear mites predispose the ear to secondary bacterial infection. Treatment requires cleaning of the ear by a veterinarian and use of mite-killing insecticide. Be sure to treat any other cats or dogs in the household.

