

# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY



Here at Pennridge Animal Hospital, we want to help you build your relationship with your puppy. Read over some of these general tips and information about bringing your puppy home, training, and keeping your puppy healthy.

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# TIPS FOR YOUR NEW ARRIVAL

Your new furry friend is super cute and will be a lot of fun, but remember it is a big commitment. Here are few things to help you prepare!

## **SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED:**

1. **A crate** – This is an invaluable tool when trying to housebreak your new puppy. It provides your puppy with a sense of security when you are busy or away. Just try not to leave them in there for extended periods of time.
2. **Baby Gates** – Keep your new puppy and your stuff safe by blocking off restricted areas.
3. **Toys** – Kongs, nylabones, antlers, and stuffed toys are all some great options. Make sure they are size appropriate and that you monitor your new pet while chewing.
4. **Bowls** – You will need separate ones for food and water
5. **Collar/Leash** – Make sure they are fitted appropriately, so that your new pup cannot slip out and get lost.
6. **ID Tag** – Place this on their collar so if they wander off, they will make it back home.
7. **Grooming Supplies** – Brushes, shampoo, nail clippers
8. **Cleaning Supplies** – Stock up on paper towels, odor and stain removers – you will need them as you are working on their house training.

## **PUPPY PROOFING YOUR HOUSE AND YARD:**

1. **Remove Potential Hazards Indoors** – Remove anything that looks like it could make a great chew toy – power cords, potted house plants, clothing, and small children's toys are all things that are enticing for a curious puppy!
2. **Check the Yard** – Make sure they do not have access to a garage or shed where they can ingest anything toxic. Watch out for rocks, mulch, etc – puppies need to be supervised when outside!
3. **Get on Your Hands and Knees** – After you think you have got everything clear – get down low and double check!

## **YOUR PUPPIES FIRST DAY:**

1. **Be Patient** – Accidents are bound to happen. Do not yell at your new puppy when he makes a mistake. Positive reinforcement works best – whenever they do something good, make sure to use lots of praise!
2. **Structure** – Try your best to stick to a schedule for everything – sleeping, feeding, outside to potty. This will not only help with housebreaking, but will make your pet feel more comfortable when they know what to expect from day to day.
3. **Nap Time** – Puppies are like babies – they need quiet time several times during the day. Place them in a comfortable crate in a quiet place to let them relax.
4. **Training** – It's never too early to start! They are pack animals and need assurance and authority. Make sure your training focuses on positive reinforcement!

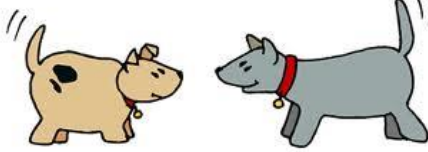
### **THEIR FIRST NIGHT HOME:**

**Their first night can be a challenge – they will probably cry and whine during the night and will probably need to go out to potty. Evening routines are just as important as the daytime routines.**

- 1. Use the Crate** – I know you may want to cuddle with your adorable new puppy, but until your dog is trained keep them safe by placing them in a crate to sleep. You do not want them to wake up in the middle of the night and chew on something they shouldn't or have an accident in your bed.
- 2. Sleeping Arrangements** – Find a space to put the crate that is quiet for them. Remember if they are in your room, it may be difficult for either of you to get sleep.
- 3. Going to the Bathroom** – Your puppy will probably need to go out at least every 4 hours. It is ok to take them out, but they do not always need to go out every time they cry. If you take your new puppy out every time it makes a sound, you are reinforcing this behavior and will have a difficult time training them to sleep in a crate.
- 4. Making them Comfortable** – You can hide a ticking clock in their bed, a warm water bottle, or large stuffed toy in their crate to comfort them.

### **GENERAL TIPS:**

- 1. Find a Trainer** – Feel free to check out a few trainers. Ask them about their training methods, age requirements, class structure and size. Find the one that fits your ideals the best. We can help you out with some recommendations of our favorite trainers.
- 2. Keep Your Puppy Healthy** – Never hesitate to call us! We are always here for any questions you have. Make sure you keep up to date with their vaccines and well checks throughout their life.
- 3. Exercise** – A tired puppy is a happy puppy. You will need to start out slow, but be sure to provide plenty of physical and mental exercise for your new pup. This will keep them happy and less likely to have destructive behaviors.
- 4. Proper Identification** - Your dog should always wear an ID tag that has your basic information – name, address, and phone number (not just their rabies or license tag). Getting your dog microchipped will give an additional protection in case your dog's collar or tags fall off. Having a collar with ID tags and a microchip will greatly increase the chance that your pet will be returned to you quickly if they get lost.
- 5. Make Time for Your New Puppy** - Owning a dog is a big responsibility. Make sure you make them part of your routine. Carve time out of your day to pet, snuggle, play with, train, walk, and do other activities with your dog that are fun for both of you.



# INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PUPPY TO THE REST OF YOUR PACK

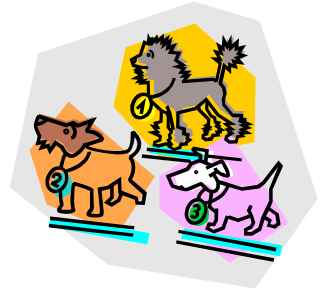
## A few tips:

- Set reasonable goals. Knowing each dog's background as to how well they were socialized will help you manage what might happen.
- Proceed slowly and calmly. Slow-paced introductions can help prevent any fear-based or aggressive reactions. Bad behaviors not addressed from the start can become a bad habit that can be very hard to change.
- Be sure all dogs are current on all vaccinations to avoid any risk of infections
- If you have more than one resident dog, introduce each one to the new dog individually to prevent the group from overwhelming the new puppy.
- Stay in control of the introduction. If you are not sure how your pet will react, take necessary precautions to keep yourself and the other dogs safe.
- Never leave new dogs unattended. Behaviors can change very quickly when dogs are first meeting.
- Body language to be on the look-out for:
  - Stiff/slow body movements
  - Hair standing up on back
  - Tensed mouth or teeth bearing
  - Growling
  - Prolonged staring
- Positive body-language for a good interaction:
  - Loose body movements and muscles
  - Relaxed open mouths
  - Play bows or other playful posturing

## How to start:

1. Introduce dogs in a neutral location that is unfamiliar to both dogs.
2. Have each dog handled by a different person on a loosely held six-foot leash. Stay calm and relaxed. If you are putting a lot of tension on the leash, your dog will pick up on this and act tense and more defensive as well.
3. Don't force any interaction. Just let them walk near each other for a few minutes. It is ok if they ignore each other at first. Give them time to get comfortable with each other and the new situation.
4. After a few minutes of walking near each other, allow the dogs to sniff each other briefly. If their interaction is positive, praise them. Only allow them to interact for a few minutes and then have them walk away from each other.
5. Continue to give them breaks and do several introductions before they are allowed to be with each other for an extended amount of time.
6. Once you feel comfortable with how they act with each other in neutral territory, you can take them back to your home and repeat the same process.
7. When you are doing the introductions in your home, make sure you pick up food bowls, high value toys/bones, and beds to prevent any resource guarding.
8. If you feel uncomfortable at all with the interactions, consult a trainer to help you in order to keep yourself and all of your pets safe.

# MANAGING A MULTI-DOG HOUSEHOLD



1. **Establish Boundaries** – Use baby gates and close off rooms while all pets acclimate to the new situation and get used to one another. You should allow your resident dog to roam the house and confine the new dog behind a barrier while they get used to one another.
2. **Never Leave New Dogs Unattended** – When dogs are getting acquainted their behaviors can change quickly. They should be kept separate at all times when unsupervised until you know how they are going to act in all situations – over food, toys, space, sleeping, etc.
3. **Create Separate Areas** – Make sure you have separate bowls for eating and beds for sleeping for each dog. Not all dogs like to share their food bowls or beds. This will help keep your resident dog from feeling like their territory is being threatened.
  - ❖ **Feeding Time** - Food guarding can be a natural instinct.
    - Do not allow the dogs to eat from each other's bowls.
    - Pick up bowls after a dog is finished eating
    - Feed your dogs in separate rooms or in their crates
4. **Supervised Play Time** – Make sure you supervise all playtime to prevent dogs from getting overexcited. If one dog begins to bully another by growling or playing too rough, interrupt their play and separate them for a few minutes. Always make sure to praise all of the dogs when they are playing well together.
  - ❖ **Toys**
    - Have duplicates have the same toy for each dog to lessen the occurrence of resource guarding
    - Give only “high value” toys – their favorites – when the dogs are in their crates
5. **Walking Dogs Together** – If you are walking all of your dogs together, walk them both on the same side, with your more confident dog on the outside. This will put the other dog in the middle, which is a natural position for the more submissive dog to be protected by the leader.
6. **Watch Body Language** – If one dog is staring and making prolonged eye contact, this can be a sign of aggression. If you notice this behavior, make that dog sit or lie down to stop this behavior.
7. **Avoid Sibling Rivalry** – Make sure you show all of your dogs equal attention to avoid competition. They should all get the same amount of treats, exercise/training, and affection.



# INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PUPPY TO YOUR CAT

## **Before bringing your puppy home:**

1. Create a safe place for your cat that your puppy can't get to. Make sure they have a safe spot in any room that they would be in with the dog – such as somewhere high they can jump to or a gate they can jump over.
2. Put your cat's food and water in a safe place that the dog cannot get to.
3. Put your cat's litter box in a safe space that the dog cannot get to or block the cat from getting to. The litter box should not be close to where you keep your puppy's crate or bed.

## **How to set up a safe and successful introduction:**

1. Make sure your cat's claws are trimmed before they are introduced.
2. Before you bring your puppy home, let the cat sniff the crate, new toys, and other things you bought for the puppy. You can let your cat sniff these things when you take the puppy outside after it has come home with you as well.
3. Before you introduce the puppy to the cat, make sure you have given your puppy plenty of exercise so it is less rambunctious.
4. Keep your dog on a leash the first few times they meet so you can give a quick correction and to prevent your puppy from chasing the cat. The first time they meet, it is a normal reaction for a cat to run and hiss – so don't worry!
5. Never force an interaction. Do not restrain your cat (either holding or in a crate) to let the puppy meet your cat.
6. Let your puppy slowly approach the cat. If it seems like your puppy wants to chase the cat, try to get their attention back with treats and rewarding them if they sit and start ignoring the cat. Giving your cat some treats to keep them relaxed is ok too!
7. Keep repeating these steps and keep your puppy on a leash around the cat until you feel they are both more comfortable with each other. Once they are more comfortable allow the dog to roam more. You should still keep them attached to their leash so you can grab them quickly if you need to, but you don't have to hold the leash the whole time.
8. If the cat swats the dog on the nose, distract your puppy with a toy. Do not punish your cat. Many times, all it takes is one swat from the cat for your puppy to learn their lesson.
9. Once you are comfortable with how the two interact, you can remove the leash from your puppy.

It may take several weeks for your cat to feel comfortable with the newest family member. Some dogs and cats become best friends very quickly, while others will just tolerate each other. Always make sure you are supervising interactions between your dog and cat until you are sure how they react to each other.



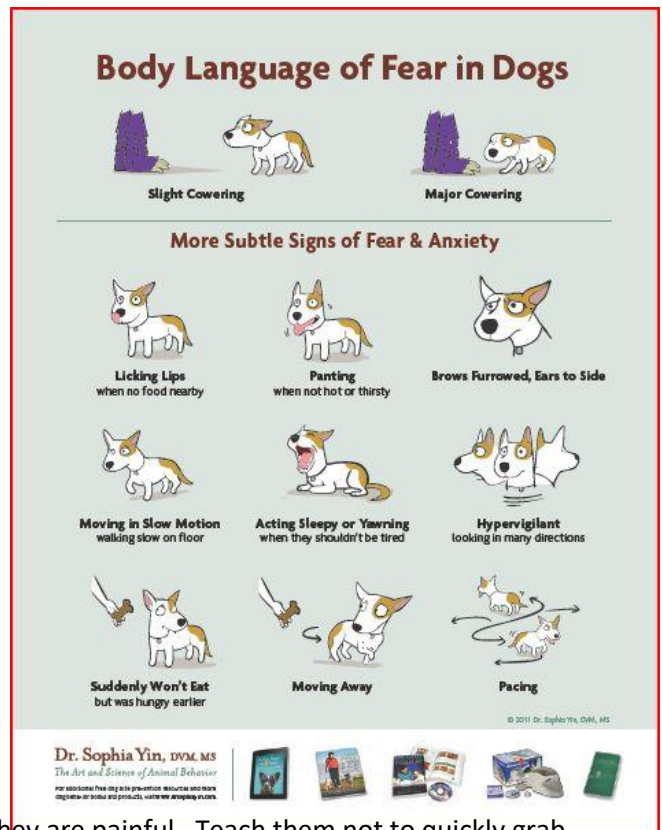
# SAFETY TIPS FOR DOGS AND CHILDREN



Everyone sees pictures and commercials everyday of young children hugging their furry friends and getting slobbery kisses right back. Although we all hope that our dog will be 100% tolerant of our children's unpredictable, often rough ways of showing love, that is not always the case. It is very important to teach your children how to properly interact with dogs. They will need to learn proper voice tones, body language, and movement around dogs to ensure everyone's safety.

## Some rules to follow:

1. Never leave a child/baby alone with a dog – that includes both inside and outside.
2. Do not allow your child to feed a dog unsupervised. Dogs can be protective of food and can snap or bite at a child if they are near their food bowl.
3. Do not allow your child to hand feed your dog. This will teach dogs that it is acceptable to take food from children at any time.
4. Do not allow your child to pull on the dog's collar. Children should never be allowed to walk a dog on their own. Dogs can be very strong and can drag a child down or the dog could slip out of their grip and get loose.
5. Children should never approach a dog while they are sleeping or eating.
6. Do not allow children to pull toys out of a dog's mouth.
7. Teach children how to appropriately pet a dog. Avoid having them pet their head or tail. Never allow them to pull on a dog's tail or ears – this can hurt a dog and cause them to snap because they are painful. Teach them not to quickly grab or try to hug a dog, as this can frighten them.
8. Never allow children to tease a dog or try to make it angry.
9. Never force an interaction between a child and a dog. Allow your dog to come up to your child when they feel comfortable to do so.



Children and dogs can make for best friends. Just make sure that your children learn how to respect animals. Most rules that children should follow when interacting with other people/children are the same as the rules of interacting with dogs. Have them learn these signs of a nervous dog (shown above). If a dog is showing any of these body language clues, teach your child that this means the dog needs some space.





# WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR DOG'S FIRST YEAR

## **Birth – 7 weeks**

Puppies develop quickest during their first weeks of life. They are born without most of their senses. They can begin to hear, smell, and see between 3-5 weeks of age. At this time you will see them becoming more aware of their environment and begin interacting with their littermates. They also start developing teeth and can start eating solid food.

## **7-9 Weeks**

Puppies are old enough to be separated from their mother when they are 8 weeks old. Puppies are very curious at this age, so make sure to “puppy-proof” everywhere they have access too. Puppies will usually receive their first vaccinations around this time. They are not fully protected with only one vaccine, so make sure to keep them away from other dogs/dog-parks/pet stores, etc. at this age. Puppies can get stressed very quickly at this age. Make sure to praise them often to give them confidence. Continually introduce them to new situations to help with their socialization.

## **9-12 Weeks:**

Your puppy can start understanding basic commands – housetraining, leash walking, and learning its name. Start instilling a schedule and working on basic commands. This is a good time to start “puppy kindergarten” to help with training and socialization. Be sure to check with your veterinarian and training facility to make sure they have the right vaccinations in order to participate.

## **13-16 Weeks:**

Teething has started! You will notice that your puppy wants to chew on everything. When they are chewing on things they shouldn't or nipping at your hands or legs, give them a toy they are allowed to chew on. This is a great time to work on the “leave-it” or “drop-it” command. You can even put some of their favorite chew toys in some water and freeze them to help soothe their gums. Puppies can also start testing their dominance at this age. Be consistent in your training to reinforce good behavior. Keep training sessions at home to 15 minutes, so they don't get overly tired while trying to learn.

## **16-18 Weeks:**

This is a time of rapid growth for puppies. It is good to keep them active, but make sure you don't overdo it. Especially in large-breed dogs, as their bones are rapidly growing they can become sore if they are too active. You may start noticing some sexual behavior at this time, such as humping. This is a good time to have the conversation about getting your puppy spayed or neutered. Puppies have lost most of their baby teeth at the end of this period.

## **6-12 months:**

Congratulations – you have made it to adolescence. Your puppy may still be growing, but at a much slower rate. For an average sized dog – they will be full grown at 12 months of age. Continue to increase their exercise, as they can tolerate longer walks or even slow jogs. They should be fully vaccinated by now and it is safe for them to visit dog parks or dog stores.

# PREPARING YOUR PUPPY FOR THEIR FIRST VET VISIT



Bringing your puppy to visit the veterinarian is an essential part in keeping them happy and healthy! However, even routine check-ups can be a stressful time for pets. They are encountering new smells, other barking animals, and new people. We try to keep your visits as stress-free as possible with dog beds for them to cuddle in, plenty of toys to play with while they are waiting, and of course some yummy treats!

**Here are some ways to help prepare your puppy for their veterinary visits and keep them comfortable in the office:**

1. At home, get your puppy comfortable with being handled and examined. Pet them on different parts of their body – touch their ears, paws, and belly. You can even mimic some of the things we do during an exam, like lifting up their lips and gently moving their legs around. Give them plenty of treats and praise when you are doing this.
2. Bring your puppy to the vet for just a fun visit to introduce them to the clinic and all of the smells and sounds. It is nice for them to come in when they aren't getting poked or restrained. Bring them in just to get some attention and treats, walk them onto the scale to get them accustomed to that as well.
3. Make sure they go other places in the car besides the vet so they don't associate a car ride with only that. Take them for some practice drives to somewhere fun – a walk in the park or a friend's house.
4. Exercise your dog before the visit. A tired dog is much more relaxed and easier to manage.
5. Stay relaxed during the visit, even if you feel sad that they need to get vaccines. Your dog can sense your feelings – so if you are stressed they will pick up on that. Your dog will look to you for safety and security, so the calmer you are, the more confident and comfortable they will be.
6. Keep them on a short leash in the waiting area and always maintain control of them to avoid altercations with other pets. Even though he might love to play with other dogs at home, in a new environment they may react differently.
7. After the visit, make sure he gets plenty of love and attention and take them somewhere fun to reward them.

# Canine Vaccines

Here are all of the vaccines that we offer. Please feel free to ask us which vaccines are needed for your specific pet to keep them healthy.



## **Core Vaccines:** These are recommended for all dogs!

- **Rabies Vaccine** – Rabies is a deadly virus spread by wild animals. There is NO CURE, and it can be transferred to people! This vaccine is REQUIRED by law.
  - Single shot at 12 weeks old
- **Distemper Combination Vaccine** – This vaccine protects against the distemper virus (respiratory, GI, and neurologic signs), adenovirus (hepatitis/liver disease), and parvovirus (deadly GI disease) – these viruses can all be very serious or deadly.
  - Series of 3-4 shots every 3-4 weeks. These are usually started at 6-8 weeks of age

## **Lifestyle Vaccines:** These are optional vaccines based on your dog's lifestyle and exposure

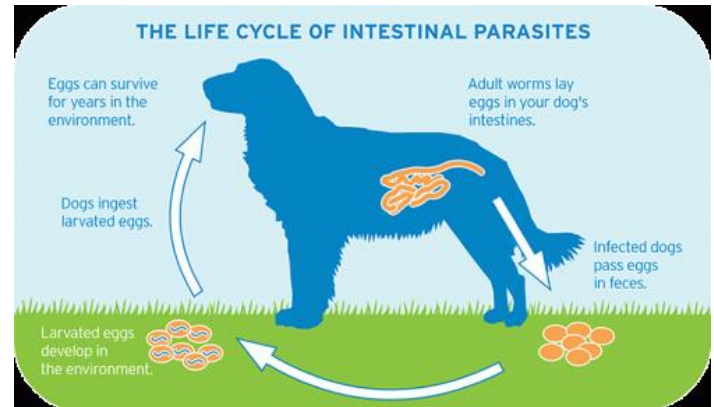
- **Leptospirosis Vaccine** – Leptospirosis is a spirochete (like a bacteria) that is spread in the urine of wild animals and can also infect humans. It causes kidney and liver failure.
  - Recommended for dogs a higher risk of exposure to wild animals and their urine (live in woods, camping, hiking, swimming, puddle drinkers, etc)
  - Start around 10-12 weeks old, series of 2 shots 3-4 weeks apart
- **Lyme Vaccine** – Lyme Disease is a virus spread by the deer tick that typically causes joint pain and inflammation, and sometimes kidney disease. It is VERY common in our area!
  - Recommended for dogs at a higher risk of exposure to deer or other wild animals, and wooded areas that ticks would infest
  - Also recommended for dogs previously infected with Lyme Disease
  - Start around 10-12 weeks old, series of 2 shots 3-4 weeks apart
- **Bordetella Bronchiseptica/Parainfluenza Vaccine** – These are respiratory viruses typically spread dog-to-dog through the air that cause respiratory disease/infection.
  - Required by some boarding facilities, groomers, or doggy daycares
  - Recommended for dogs exposed to other unknown dogs: boarding, grooming, daycare, dog parks, etc.
  - Given after 8 weeks old, single vaccine in the nose. Recommend getting at least 4 weeks before boarding.
- **Canine Influenza Vaccine** – This is a respiratory virus that causes flu-like symptoms and is spread dog-to-dog through the air.
  - Required by some boarding facilities.
  - Recommended for dogs exposed to other unknown dogs in close proximity, such as kennels/boarding facilities.
  - Given after 8 weeks old, series of 2 shots 3-4 weeks apart. Recommend getting at least 4 weeks before boarding.

# PETS, PARASITES, AND PEOPLE

Intestinal parasites are a very common issue in pets, especially young puppies. Young puppies can become infected with intestinal parasites from their mother during development and nursing. When they are with their littermates during their first weeks of life, they tend to continue to pass parasites back and forth as well.

## How can I tell if my dog has worms?

- Look for symptoms. Your dog might show the following signs if they have a parasite:
  - Round, pot-bellied appearance
  - Diarrhea/soft stool
  - Vomiting
  - Seeing worms in the stool or vomit
- You may not always see physical worms in the stool, so you would need to bring a fecal sample to your veterinarian to check for worm eggs under the microscope. You should always bring a fecal sample to your first visit. It is then recommended to check a fecal sample every 6-12 months to make sure your dog is clear of parasites.



## What do I do if my dog has an intestinal parasite?

- After a stool sample has been tested to let the veterinarian know what type of worm your dog has, you will be given the appropriate medication to treat that type of parasite. Some treatments are a single dose of dewormer, while other treatment can be a course of daily dosing of medication for 1-2 weeks.
- Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands after cleaning up after your dog. Make sure you wash your children's hands often as well.

## Can I get parasites from my dog?

- It is uncommon to get parasites from your dog if you practice good hygiene. Proper hand-washing is a must, especially for children. Children tend to get the worms from infected soil – after playing in the dirt they may place their dirty fingers in their mouths which is where they would pick up the worm. So make sure to clean under their fingernails as well.
- Just being near your dog or letting them give you an occasional kiss should not be an issue, as long as you keep your hands clean and your dog clean as well.

## How can I prevent my dog from getting worms again?

- Always clean up immediately after you dog. Even if you have a fenced yard – if you know they have parasites, take them out on a leash and clean up their stool right away. Once they are cleared of infection, you can start letting them have more free roam
- Use monthly preventatives. Monthly heartworm medication provides protection to help control intestinal parasites when given every month.
- Bring a stool sample to your veterinarian every 6-12 months to make sure your dog is free of parasites.



# FLEAS AND TICKS

Fleas and ticks are the most common type of external parasites that affect our pets. Here are some common questions about these parasites:

## **When do I need to worry about these parasites?**

- Even though we see fleas and ticks more in the summer, they can still cause problems during the cooler months because they are able to continue their life cycle indoors.

## **How do I know if my dog has fleas?**

- Look for signs of itching and hair loss, especially around the base of the tail. Sometimes you can find flea dirt (which is actually flea feces), which are little black flecks in the hair coat. If you comb some of these black flecks and put them on a wet paper towel, you will notice a rust-color. You may even see a flea, which is a small dark brown bug (about the size of a rice grain) that can jump and move quickly.
- You may notice tapeworms in your dogs stool or around their anus. Tapeworms are a type of parasite that are carried by fleas.

## **How do I get rid of fleas?**

1. Environmental decontamination: Make sure to wash all carpets, bedding, furniture, etc. Frequent vacuuming of rugs will help get rid of fleas. If you have a vacuum with a bag, make sure to throw the bag away after you vacuum. You may need to spray your yard or indoors as well. Please make sure the products you are using are safe for you pets.
2. Using preventatives for ALL animals in the house – including indoor only cats too!

## **Can fleas cause problems for humans?**

- Humans are not the main host for fleas, but they can still jump on you and bite you, which can be very itchy and cause a rash.

## **Are deer ticks the only type of ticks I need to worry about?**

- Deer ticks are very small ticks that carry lyme disease, which can cause many problems – including limping, swollen/painful joints, fever, and even kidney failure. There are several other types of ticks, such as American Dog tick and the Lonestar tick, that can carry diseases like Anaplasma, Ehrlichia, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever that cause problems similar to Lyme disease.

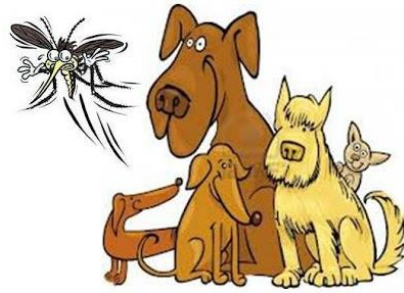
## **Can you catch Lyme disease from your dog?**

- You cannot catch any tick-borne diseases from your dog, but if you have ticks in your environment that carry these diseases, the tick can attach to you as well and infect you.

## **How do I prevent fleas and ticks?**

- You should keep all of your animals on monthly flea/tick preventatives all year round. There are many products out there, so make sure you check with us about which one is best for your pet.

# HEARTWORM DISEASE



## **What are heartworms?**

- Heartworms are a type of parasite that are transmitted by mosquitoes. Once in the body, these worms live in the heart and large blood vessels of the lungs. Adult worms can be over 1 foot in length!

## **Why are heartworms dangerous?**

- Once heartworms enter the heart and lungs they affect blood flow and cause symptoms such as shortness of breath, exercise intolerance, and coughing. Some dogs can remain asymptomatic for months while the worms continue to reproduce and grow in their heart and lungs.

## **How do I know if my dog has heartworm disease?**

- If you are noticing any clinical signs, you can bring your dog in for a blood test for this disease. It can be done in the office and you can get results within minutes. Sometimes you can even look at some of the blood under the microscope and see the worms.

## **How is heartworm disease treated?**

- First your dog will need to have extensive testing performed to see the severity of the infection – including full blood work and chest x-rays.
- There are several different protocols to treat heartworm disease. They all include a deep injection of medication into the dog's spinal muscles. This treatment sometimes has to be repeated up to 3 times to completely clear an infection. After treatment, dogs must remain strictly crate rested for over 1 month.

## **How can I prevent my dog from getting heartworm disease?**

- Heartworm disease is 100% preventable. Your dog should be started on a heartworm preventative as early as 8 weeks of age. This medication is given every month, and should be given all year round as well. We offer this medication here at our hospital, so ask us which medication is best for your pet.

## **Can I get heartworm disease from my dog?**

- People cannot get heartworm disease from mosquitoes or from their affected pet. It also cannot be passed back and forth between pets. The only way for a pet to get heartworm disease is by getting bit by a mosquito.



# SPAYING AND NEUTERING



## What happens when my pet is spayed or neutered?

- When females get spayed we remove their ovaries and uterus.
- When males are neutered we remove their testicles.
- Your animal will undergo general anesthesia. Here at Pennridge Animal Hospital, all animals that have surgery have an intravenous catheter placed and receive fluids during the short procedure to help maintain their blood pressure. We also offer pre-anesthetic blood work that allows us to screen for any underlying issues that may come up during surgery. All animals are given pain medications prior to surgery and are sent home with this medication as well to keep them comfortable.

## Recovery Process:

- The recovery process is about 10 days. During this time period they will need to rest and stay calm to help them heal. They usually need to wear a collar on their head to prevent them from licking or causing any problems with the incision and stitches.

## Top 10 reasons to spay/neuter your pet:

1. Spaying reduces the chance that your female dog will develop life-threatening uterine infections as well as breast cancer.
2. Neutering will prevent testicular cancer and decrease prostatic issues as your male ages.
3. Spayed females do not go into heat. Heat cycles can last several days to weeks and can occur several times a year. When your dog is in heat they urinate more and can drip blood for several days.
4. Neutering your male dog decreases their desire to roam. Intact dogs will do just about anything to find a mate – including pushing out of doors, digging under fences, or jumping over them. When they are out of your home, they risk getting injured in traffic or fights with other animals.
5. Neutering your male dog helps with unwanted behaviors, including humping, marking, and aggression.
6. Spaying/neutering does NOT make your pet fat or change their personality. Their calorie needs change from puppyhood into adolescence which has nothing to do with the surgery.
7. Finances! The cost of spaying/neutering your pet is a lot less than the cost of caring for a litter or dealing with emergency health issues that arise from your pet not being fixed.
8. It is good for the community. Stray animals that are not neutered can cause damage to wildlife and injure other animals or people. By spaying or neutering you are cutting back the chances of unwanted litters of dogs that end up on the streets or in shelters.
9. If you want your children to experience the “miracle of birth” breeding dogs is not the best way to do that. There are books and videos that can teach your children about that. Often children are not that interested in the birth or taking care of the new litter of puppies.
10. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation. Every year millions of dogs and cats of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays due the high number of unplanned litters from animals that haven’t been altered.



# MICROCHIPPING



Did you know that 1 in 3 pets will go missing in its lifetime? 90% of those dogs without proper identification never get returned to their home.

## **What is a microchip?**

- It is a permanent ID that is implanted underneath your pet's skin

## **How does my pet get a microchip?**

- A microchip has to be implanted by a veterinary professional. The chip is the size of a grain of rice and gets implanted underneath the skin between the shoulder blades with a small needle.

## **Does it hurt my pet to get microchipped?**

- It is a quick poke with a needle, just like they are getting a vaccine. With young dogs we implant them when they are under anesthesia for their spay or neuter so they won't even know it happened. You can still get your pet microchipped even if they are not having surgery! It only takes a few seconds, and your pet should not react any more than they would react to getting vaccinations.

## **How do they work?**

- Almost all police stations, veterinary hospitals, and shelters have scanners that can tell if a dog is implanted with a microchip. A quick scan of a dog with a microchip will have their microchip number pop up within seconds. As long as you registered your chip when it was implanted, you will be contacted once the dog is scanned. This service is available 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## **Does my dog need a microchip if you have an ID tag on their collar?**

- We do recommend that all pets wear tags with their name and owner's phone number. Unfortunately tags can become worn and difficult to read and can even fall off the collar. Collars themselves can break and slip off. A microchip is a permanent form of identification that cannot be altered or removed.

## **Is it a GPS?**

- Unfortunately it is not a tracking device. They do make some collars that have GPS technology in it if you are interested in that!

## **Does it ever need to be replaced?**

- No! A microchip will last a lifetime in your pet. It does not have an internal battery or power source, so it will last forever.

# YOUR A to Z LIST OF PET POISONS



- A: Acetaminophen (Tylenol)** – This can cause liver damage in dogs and is especially serious in cats  
**Alcohol** – Consumption can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and coma.
- B: Batteries** – They can cause ulcers in the mouth, esophagus, and stomach.  
**Baking soda/powder** – Ingestion can lead to muscle spasms and heart failure in high quantities.
- C: Chocolate** – This can lead to signs ranging from vomiting and diarrhea to arrhythmias and seizures if enough is consumed. Dark chocolate and unsweetened baker's chocolate cause the worse symptoms.
- D: Detergents/Fabric softener sheets** – This can cause ulcers in the mouth, esophagus, and stomach.
- E: Ethylene Glycol (Antifreeze)** – Antifreeze has a sweet taste which attracts pets and is extremely dangerous. As little as a tablespoon can cause severe kidney failure.
- F: Fertilizers** – Some products can contain some poisonous compounds – high amounts of nitrogen, iron, zinc, and pesticides. Keep your pet away from treated lawns until they are dry and make sure you don't have to rinse the lawn before animals can walk on it.  
**Fatty Foods** – These can lead to severe pancreatitis which causes vomiting and inappetance.
- G: Grapes/Raisins** – Even in small amounts can lead to kidney failure in dogs.
- H: Household cleaners (bleach/drain cleaners/toilet bowl cleaners)** – They can cause ulcers in the mouth, stomach, and intestinal tract.
- I: Insecticides** – Make sure you check with your veterinarian and read the labels to find out which flea and tick products are safe for you dog and cat. Products for treating the yard cannot be used on pets.
- J: Jimson weed (Devil's Trumpet)** - This can cause restlessness, drunk walking, and respiratory failure in dogs and cats.
- K: Kerosene** – Gasoline and tiki torch fluid can cause drooling, loss of balance, and breathing problems.
- L: Lilies** – These flowers cause kidney failure in cats.
- M: Mothballs (Naphthalene)** – These can cause vomiting, diarrhea, increased drinking/peeing, and seizures.  
**Moldy food** – These contains mycotoxins that can lead to vomiting and diarrhea, and even seizures and coma.  
**Mushrooms** – Depending on the type of mushroom eaten – consumption can lead to severe vomiting and diarrhea and even severe neurologic disease and seizures.
- N: NSAIDS (Ibuprofen)** – They can cause ulcers, anemia, liver and kidney failure.
- O: Onions (as well as garlic, leeks, chives)** – They can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and severe anemia.

- P:** **Prescription Medications** – ADHD medications, anti-depressants, blood pressure and cardiac medications are some of the most common human pills that cause severe issues in dogs if consumed.
- Pits** – Pits from apricots, peaches, cherries, and plums contain cyanide, which can be released if punctured when chewing. Large quantities do need to be eaten to cause signs.
- Q:** **Queensland Nuts (Macadamia Nuts)** – They cause lethargy, vomiting, and difficulty walking.
- R:** **Rodenticides (Mouse/Rat Poison)** – There are several different types of these poisons. Ones with warfarin can cause life-threatening bleeding, while ones with Vitamin D can lead to kidney failure.
- S:** **Sago Palms** – They can lead to severe vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and liver failure.
- Salt** – Excess consumption can lead to vomiting, electrolyte imbalances, kidney damage, seizures, and coma. Be especially careful in the winter when they are used in de-icers.
- T:** **Tobacco** – Nicotine can cause vomiting, tremors, and collapse.
- U:** **Unbaked Bread Dough** – This can expand in the stomach and can even make it twist. The yeast in the dough can produce alcohol which can lead to seizures and respiratory failure.
- V:** **Veterinary Prescriptions** – Medications such as arthritis medication can be flavored and if large quantities are ingested at once they can cause ulcers, liver and kidney failure.
- W:** **Windshield Wiper Fluid** – These can contain methanol which can lead to low blood sugar and seizures. They can also contain ethylene glycol (see antifreeze poisoning above).
- X:** **Xylitol** – This is found in sugar-free gums, breath mints, and tooth paste. It is extremely toxic. It can lead to low blood sugar and permanent liver failure.
- Y:** **Yard Products** – Products such as slug/snail bait, fertilizers, and cocoa mulch can cause different levels of toxicity.
- Z:** **Zinc** – Eating metal or coins (even a single penny) can lead to fatal anemia, liver, kidney, and heart failure.

Make sure to safeguard your pet by placing all medications and cleaning products on high shelves or in closed cabinets. Take your medications in a different room from you pet with the door closed.

If your pet ingests something you think could be toxic, call ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435). They are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year and will tell you if what your pet ate is toxic and how to treat them.

# PET INSURANCE

Did you know that every year 1 in 3 pets will become sick or have an accident requiring an emergency visit to the veterinarian? Pet parents spent over 12 billion dollars last year on veterinary bills alone.

As a pet parent, you want to provide your new addition with the best care possible – no matter what! No matter how much you prepare and set aside costs for your pets' routine needs – food, monthly heartworm and flea tick preventatives, and vaccines, accidents can happen. Sometimes a pet's illness can cost hundreds even thousands to treat. No one wants to feel like they can't choose the best treatment for their pet to help them heal the quickest because of finances. With pet insurance, you do not have to worry as much about these costs, because pet insurance will help you cover them. Check out some averages costs of common medical conditions →



## Do I have to use a specific veterinarian?

With pet insurance you can still use whichever veterinarian you choose – even emergency facilities. It works a little differently than human insurance, but still helps you cover the cost of your pet's medical needs. After you visit the veterinarian, you are still responsible for paying the bill up front. You then fill out a claim form. The claim form sometimes does need to be signed by a veterinarian and they will need to provide a diagnosis or describe treatment in some instances too. This form then gets sent back to your pet insurance provider and they will reimburse you. The amount of reimbursement depends on your plan and premium.

## What does pet insurance cover?

Again, this depends on the provider and plan you choose. Some providers will cover routine medical costs, while others will cover only accidents and illnesses. Some cover hereditary conditions and others do not – so just make sure to do your homework based on the breed of dog you have. Most plans do not cover elective procedures, grooming, or pet food (unless it's required due to a medical condition).

## Which plan should we choose?

Check out this website to compare plans and find out which one would work best for you and your pets:

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



# GETTING YOUR DOG OFF ON THE RIGHT PAW



Here are some tips to get your new puppy off to the right start:

- Provide your dog with a safety zone when you are away or can't keep an eye on them. You can use a baby gate to keep them in a safe area or a crate. Crates are a great tool to use when housebreaking your new puppy.
- Puppies love to chew! Make sure to remove any hazards, such as power cords or small items that can easily be ingested. Don't use old shoes or socks as chew toys – puppies can't tell the difference between old and new.
- Puppy proof your home. Just like when you have an infant in your house – make sure to keep anything dangerous or toxic out of your puppies reach. To keep them as safe as possible – don't let them out of your site. When you can't see them – they are probably finding ways to get in trouble!
- While your new puppy is getting used to their new home you need to be patient with them. It will take your puppy time to learn housebreaking and general manners – they are not born knowing this stuff.
- Get them on a schedule right away. Take them out to the bathroom often and always take them to the same spot. Puppies need naps – so make sure to schedule them in too!
- Puppies need exercise – make sure to take them for walks and play with them every day.
- Always have a collar with and ID tag on them. When they are old enough, make sure to get them microchipped too.
- Make sure your entire family is on the same page and establish ground rules from the start. Your puppy will get confused if they are allowed to rough-house with one family member and then another yells at them for jumping and biting.
- Sign your puppy up for a training class to help them learn basic manners. Training classes also teach them appropriate socialization with other dogs and is a great bonding experience for both of you.

Having a new puppy is an adventure. Make sure to start training from day 1. It's easier to teach them how you want them to behave rather than to try to break bad habits later in life.



Pennridge Animal Hospital  
267-272-9996  
1419 Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

# GENERAL BEHAVIOR TIPS:

## PULLING ON THE LEASH:



Make sure you start out by finding the right collar for you and your dog. A gentle leader is one of our favorite collars for dogs that like to pull. There are many other options too, so make sure to ask us to recommend what we think the best fit is for you and your dog. Here are some tips to help you have a more pleasant walk with your new puppy without pulling

1. Start by making your dog sit every time before putting on the leash.
2. When you take them outside, make sure you are leading the dog outside and they are not pulling you out. If they start pulling you, turn around and call them the other way.
3. Make walking a game of 'follow the leader'. When you stop or turn, they should stop or turn with you. Do not go the direction they pull you.
4. If they starting pulling you in another direction, stop and call them to you again. Do not start walking again until they come back to you and sit and are focused on you. You can entice them to come to you with lots of praise and treats. Do not force them to come with you by pulling and yanking on the leash.
5. Teach them to focus on your during the walk. This can be done by calling their name every so often and giving them treats to make sure they are focused on you, not other distractions (dogs, people, cars, etc.).
6. Positive reinforcement during the walk is very important. If they are following you without pulling give them a treat and praise. If they start pulling and you stop and they come right back to you, give them a treat and praise them.

## BARKING:

Barking can be a normal behavior in dogs, but excessive barking can be a sign that your dog is stressed. A dog that barks at everything is not a good watchdog. You want your dog to bark only at something out of the ordinary – like when an unknown person enters your property. You need to help teach your dog what is and is not a threat for your family.

1. Don't react every time your dog barks by calling them, yelling at them, or going to them. This can reinforce their attention seeking behavior.
2. Provide a safe place for them to sleep and relax when they are alone, so they aren't "patrolling" the entire house when you are not there.
3. Training and exercising your dog can help them focus and makes them less likely to bark at everything.
4. A quick squirt with a water bottle can help deter unwanted barking.



## **PUPPY BITING:**

Puppy biting is not a form of aggression, it is a form of communication and play for them. It is important to discourage this behavior from day 1, because it can become dangerous when they become larger adults.

Tips to discourage biting:

1. Yip or make another type of dog noise when your puppy bites. This is how their siblings and mother would respond to tell them "Ouch, that hurts".
2. Do not allow anyone to rough house with the puppy. A puppy cannot understand why it's okay to bite in some situations and not others.
3. Redirection can help a lot. If your puppy is biting you or something they shouldn't, find a toy that they are allowed to chew on and praise them when they start chewing on the appropriate thing.
4. Biting is attention-seeking behavior. So yelling at them and pointing can be seen by your puppy as getting your attention, even if it is negative attention. You may need to walk away and ignore them for a few seconds. This can help to show them that when they do a certain behavior they will not get any attention.
5. Time-outs are okay. Puppies can throw temper-tantrums just like children when they are overly tired. One of the ways they show this is by biting and getting very rowdy. It is okay to put them in a crate for a time-out as long as you are not throwing them in there as punishment.

## **WHY WON'T MY DOG LISTEN???**

Your dog is misbehaving – you have tried screaming and yelling "bad dog" over and over again, bribing them is not working, now you feel like you are stuck with just having to tolerate their bad behaviors. You need to remember that dogs do not speak English, so they don't understand what you are saying. Dogs use body language to communicate with each other, so using your own body language and tone of voice is your most powerful tool in training your dog to listen to you. Dogs are always interpreting our body language. For example, if you want your dog to come to you, coming down to their level and calling them with a high pitched voice makes a dog feel more comfortable and is much less threatening than moving towards them quickly and bending over them. Positive reinforcement (instead of negative behaviors such as hitting, yelling and grabbing) can get you results much quicker and builds a better bond between you and your pet.



## **EXERCISING YOUR DOG:**

Your dog needs both mental and physical exercise! Don't forget that just taking them for walks isn't always enough – you need to exercise their brains too! One of the best ways to provide mental exercise is taking training classes and working on training exercise for at least 10 minutes every day. You can also try puzzles – hide favorite treats somewhere and have them sniff them out and find them. You can place them inside toys or around the house. There are some great puzzle toys on the market that make your dog move pieces around or push a ball around to get treats out too. Dogs that are bored and don't get enough mental and physical stimulation are more likely to get into trouble. A tired dog is a happy dog!!!



# CRATE TRAINING



## Why is crate training a positive thing for your dog?

- A crate is your dog's place of safety and comfort – just like a den in the wild. They need a quiet, warm space where they can relax and rest and where they can feel safe. Keeping a dog in a crate when they are unsupervised prevents them from getting into things they shouldn't and potentially injuring themselves by chewing on wires or eating things that are dangerous for them. When properly introduced, it will become your dog's sanctuary. Getting them used to being in a crate will help with travel as well, so they can be kept safely when in the car. It is a great way to help with house-training as well. Dogs tend not to like to eliminate in areas they sleep.

## What type of crate is the best?

- A crate should only be large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around comfortably. If it is much larger than that, it allows dogs space to eliminate in one corner and sleep in the other. For small puppies that will grow, you can purchase a larger crate that has a divider to increase the size appropriately as your dog grows. To make them feel even more safe and secure in the crate, cover it with a blanket. Plastic molded crates and wire crates tend to be the most effective – mischievous puppies can chew their way through the soft crates and those are much more difficult to clean if they have an accident in the crate.
- It is okay to include soft bedding as long as your dog doesn't chew them when not being watched. Toys that can't be chewed into pieces are good to keep in the crate as well – like antlers and kongs.

## How do I crate-train my dog?

- Put the crate in a quiet corner of the house – a spare room or office. It should not be kept in an area of high traffic or activity. The crate needs to be a safe haven where your dog can rest and relax away from everything else.
- Leave the door open in the room and let your dog explore the crate, allowing them to go freely in and out. Put a bed, toys, or special treats inside to entice them to go in the crate. You can even feed your dog in the crate to make the crate a positive place for your dog to go.
- Try shutting them in the crate for a few hours while they are enjoying food or safe toy.
- Make sure young puppies aren't left in the crate too long. Puppies can hold their bladder a little over one hour per month of age.
- Don't let them out if they start barking or whining – this reinforces this behavior. Your dog will think – when I bark loud enough, I can come out of the crate. Instead only let them out when they are calm and relaxed. You can make them sit before opening the door and letting them out.
- Put your dog in the crate at different times – not only when you are leaving the house. Come up with a word you want to use for them to go in the crate and praise them and give them treats when they go in.
- NEVER use the crate as punishment. It is your dog's safe, cozy retreat.

# POTTY TRAINING



## When can I start potty training my dog?

- Start training as soon as you bring your new puppy home. Be patient – it takes some time for them to learn your routine. Potty training also requires you to be very observant. The quicker you pick up on your puppies cues that it needs to go to the bathroom – the quicker you can get them trained.

## How often does my puppy need to go outside?

- Puppies can hold their bladder a little over an hour per month of age. For example – a 2 month old puppy can only hold their bladder for about 2 hours!
- Be prepared to take your puppy out:
  1. As soon as they wake up
  2. After naps during the day
  3. After eating or drinking (Approx 20-30 minutes afterwards)
  4. After playing
  5. After returning home from an outing
  6. Right before bed

## How do I start housebreaking?

- Have a designated area that you always take your dog to go to the bathroom.
- When you take your puppy to this spot, use your key word (ie: “Go potty”).
- Always take them outside on a leash to control them and watch them closely.
- Do not play with them before they eliminate. If they seem distracted and won’t go after several minutes, take them back inside and put them in their crate. After a few minutes, take them back out and repeat the same procedure until they eliminate.
- Once they go, make sure to praise them or reward them with playtime. Positive reinforcement when they do the right thing is the best and quickest method for housebreaking.

## Some common mistakes:

1. **Allowing your dog too much freedom in the house before they are 100% potty trained** - If they have access to large areas and you are not watching them, that will give them opportunity to eliminate in inappropriate places. Always confine your dog or tether them to you if you are busy and not able to keep complete watch over them. Preventing them from having accidents in the house will help the process go faster.
2. **Disciplining** – Do not discipline your dog if you find a mess on your floor. They will not associate what they did a few minutes ago with you yelling at them right now. Rubbing their nose in it can just scare them and might cause them to go in places that are harder for you to find. If you are catching them in the act – making a loud distracting sound can stop them. Scoop them up immediately and take them to their potty spot. If they finish going outside, praise them for going outside. Make sure to clean any areas with an enzymatic, pet-safe product to remove the stain and the smell. If it smells like a toilet – it must be a toilet, and they may continue to eliminate in this same spot.
3. **Lack of consistency** – Develop a schedule and stick to it. Take them out at the same time and to the same spot. Dogs do well with routines. Make sure everyone is training them in the same way.

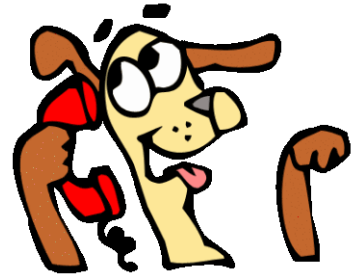
# DOG PARK SAFETY

Dog parks are a great way to socialize your dog, but can be unsafe if proper measures aren't taken. Follow some of these tips to keep your dog safe and happy at the dog park:



1. **Not all dog enjoy dog parks.** If your dog does not enjoy meeting new dogs or gets overwhelmed with meeting many dogs at once, a dog park not be the best idea. Make sure you have introduced your dog to other dogs before going to the dog park. Testing your dog in a controlled environment with a friend or family's dog can give you an idea of how they might react at the dog park. When you first go to the dog park, try off-hour times to get them used to it before going at peak times (weekends, before and after work)
2. **Keep your dog healthy.** Make sure your puppy is finished with all of his puppy vaccines before you start bringing them to the dog park. This includes all of their distemper shots and rabies shot. Bordetella and influenza vaccines are a good idea too! Make sure they are on monthly flea and tick preventatives and heartworm preventatives as well.
3. **Never take your eye off of your dog.** When you are the park, it is not a time for you to talk on your phone or read a book. Make sure you are always watching your dog for signs of stress. If they seem to be getting overwhelmed, overly tired, or are not getting along with another dog there – remove them from the situation.
4. **Start out slow.** When you first start going to the dog park try going at off-hour times to get your dog used to the park in a more controlled manner. Avoid peak times when you first start going – such as weekends, holidays, and immediately before and after work. The first visits to the park should be short. The more comfortable they become, the longer your sessions can be.
5. **Don't leave your dog on a leash.** Mixing leashed and unleashed dogs can create tension between dogs. A dog on a leash can feel threatened when unleashed dogs approach him and may cause him to start a fight, because they feel like they are trapped.
6. **Leave your children at home.** Dog parks are not a safe place for children. You will not be able to safely watch both your children and your dog. Not all dogs that go to the park are comfortable with children and could lead to your child getting injured. Dogs rough house and run quickly while at the park, you do not want your child to get knocked over.
7. **Do not bring your own food or toys.** Giving your dog a special treat or toy in the park can create jealousy with other dogs. This can lead to aggression or resource guarding behavior.
8. **Follow the rules.** Make sure you always clean up after your dog. Make sure your dog is in the right section of the park – some places have different areas for small and large dogs. Do not bring your dog if they are not spayed or neutered.
9. **Never physically intervene in a dogfight.** This could lead to serious injury to you. Squirt dogs with water bottles in the face or distract them with loud noises or throwing something.

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



## **ASPCA NATIONAL ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER:**

**1-888-426-4435**

If your pet ingests something poisonous,  
call this 24 hour service. There is a \$65  
fee for information.

## **EMERGENCY DISASTER HOTLINE**

**1-800-227-4645**

This service is sponsored by the American  
Humane Association and can be called in  
cases of natural disasters to provide support.

## **PET LOSS SUPPORT HOTLINE**

**1-888-478-7574**

This is a free 24 hour hotline that provides  
a source of emotional support for people who  
have recently lost or are making the decision  
about their dogs quality of life.

## **STOLEN PET HOTLINE**

**1-800-STOLENPET**

This service can assist you if your dog is  
lost or stolen.

## **ANIMAL AND PET TRAVEL RESOURCES**

**1-800-545-USDA**

Call this number before flying with your  
pets to get specific requirement for each airline.

## **BUCKS COUNTY SPCA**

**267-347-4674**

60 Reservoir Rd, Quakertown

## **PENNRIDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

**267-272-9996**