



VETERINARY CARE



Pets Connect Us™

A Valuable Guide &
Reference Book
For The Lifetime Of Your
New Family Member





Dogs are not our whole life,
but they make our lives whole.

The information and resources contained in this guide are provided to assist in the care of your new puppy. The information does not apply to every situation or pet but we hope that it will be useful when you need it. As always, if you need immediate assistance or have a question, please do not hesitate to reach out to your veterinarian at West Loop Veterinary Care.



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Hello & Welcome!



Pets Connect Us™



JUST PUPPY! CLASS

Have Fun Learning Together



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY!

At West Loop Veterinary Care, we know how quickly your puppy will grow and change. The first few months of your puppy's life are critical for training and socialization. You can help your puppy grow up to become a good-natured and well-behaved dog by enrolling in our "Just Puppy!" classes.

Open to puppies aged 8 weeks to 5 months, our classes focus on teaching basic manners, including handling and socialization with other puppies and people in a safe and fun environment. Skills taught include sit, down, stay, leave it, take it, drop it, heel, polite greetings, and even a few tricks. Using effective, fun and dog-friendly techniques, we'll help you solve common puppy behavior problems, such as house training and home alone training.

Our trainers are certified by the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers®, an international certification process for dog training professionals. These are experienced trainers who are committed to continuing education and professional practice, as well as humane training techniques that both strengthen and enhance the relationship between you and your new furry family member.

To book our puppy class, register online at www.westloopvet.com.

WEST LOOP VETERINARY CARE

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BASIC COMMANDS

Sit. Down. No.

Timing is key for training commands. Remember to be patient with your puppy and do not give up. If you are not consistent and persistent with your training, your puppy will not have any discipline. The reason that many puppies and dogs have certain behavior problems is because many dog owners get frustrated with their pets and give up trying to teach them properly.

Start with the basic commands: "sit," "down," and "no." These are the easiest for your puppy to understand and not only help with behavior, but also the ability to learn other necessary commands for puppies such as "come," "heel," "stay," and "drop it."

Teaching Your Puppy To "Sit"

Using a food reward, hold the food over your puppy's nose and slowly move it up and back over your puppy's head. When your puppy follows the food with his or her head, your puppy will sit down. When your puppy does this, say the word "sit" with the action. As soon as your puppy sits, say "good sit" and give the reward. Many repetitions will be necessary for your puppy to learn to associate the reward with the sit. Start off with 3 short training sessions lasting just 5 minutes a day, and extend the sessions little by little as your puppy gets older.

Teaching Your Puppy "Down"

Once you have taught your puppy to sit, you can start teaching the "down" command. Get your puppy to sit first, and then encourage him or her to lie by holding a reward, lowering it between your puppy's front paws and pulling it forward (away) at the same time while saying "down." When your puppy lies down, give a reward, and of course, a "good boy" or "good girl"!

Teaching Your Puppy "No"

Your puppy is like another member of the family and like babies, they need to be taught what is wrong and what is right. A fundamental training command that your puppy needs to learn is "No." Training your puppy to stop an action will reinforce you as the alpha dog and teach your puppy to respect you.

Training a puppy the "no" command may be a bit of a challenge because it can only be taught when your puppy is displaying bad behavior. The steps used to teach a puppy the "no" command are similar to those of the other basic training. First, whenever you find your puppy doing something inappropriate, such as jumping on someone or biting something, immediately clap your hands and say no at the same time. Clapping your hands will distract your puppy from what he or she is doing. Be sure to say the word "no" in a strict voice and only say it once. You do not want to say it more than once because you want your puppy to obey you the first time. If your puppy successfully stops what he or she is doing, give a lot of praise. At this point, you want to follow by giving another basic command, such as sit or down. Be sure to give your puppy praise and even a treat. Remember that you want to slowly phase out the treats as you advance in your training.



HOUSE TRAINING

House Training Your Puppy

GENERAL HOUSE TRAINING GUIDELINE

Puppies are quick learners, so the earlier you start puppy training, the better it is. Your puppy's first few days at home are extremely important and the rules you set then will last a lifetime.

Make Your Puppy Familiar With His or Her Name

The first thing your puppy needs to learn is his or her name. The shorter the name, the easier it will be to remember. Never scream your puppy's name as they are very sensitive and can understand the variations in your tone. Shouting will cause stress. Say your puppy's name slowly and clearly so he or she can associate with it.

Maintain 'Command' Consistency

Make sure that from the very beginning your puppy understands the word NO. You should be consistent with your command. Anything that is forbidden must be associated with NO. Also ensure that the tone is sharp enough every time you say it.

Help Your Puppy Understand Simple Commands

Your puppy should quickly understand your command. 'Sit', 'lie down' and 'stay' (in the same sequence). Your puppy should also ideally be on a lead while you are teaching these commands. Teach these one by one, moving on after the first is well understood.

Let Walking On The Lead Be 'Joyful'

First, let your puppy get used to a collar, and then slowly, the lead. Make your puppy sit next to you and then use the command to come for a walk using the word COME. Always keep your puppy near you and if he or she pulls, say NO and give a sharp pull on the lead. Never hit your puppy with a lead, it should be a symbol of a fun walk and not punishments.

Call Out For Your Puppy

More than just a command, calling your puppy is like inviting him for petting or reward. But if your puppy does not respond to your command simply walk in the opposite direction or hide and he will come searching for you. Associate the word HERE with calling and start using it to call him or her during mealtime. Praise and pat your puppy for following the command.

Never Leave Your Puppy Alone

Initially, when your puppy is 4 or 5 months old, avoid leaving him or her alone as it might create a real anxiety crisis. Being left home alone will be the fact of life for your puppy and you need to prepare him or her for this. Start by leaving the room for just a few minutes. If your puppy cries, come back, tell him to be quiet and go out. Praise your puppy if he or she remains calm and gradually extend the duration.

Mealtime Manners

It is important to teach your puppy mealtime manners from the very beginning. Always feed at the same time and from the same bowl to get your puppy habituated. Feed your puppy after everyone is done eating - this defines who is the boss and mimics pack behavior. Also, avoid feeding your puppy tidbits or table scraps as it upsets his or her nutritional balance.

Continued...



HOUSE TRAINING

House Training Your Puppy...*Continued*

POTTY TRAINING GUIDELINES

Until your puppy is three to four months old, he or she has little bowel or bladder control. If you follow these guidelines you can expect to limit the number of accidents.



Set an Alarm

When you start training your puppy, set a timer on your phone to remind you to take him or her out every 1-2 hours. Physical control, and thus timing, is based on age. If you don't take your puppy out often, he or she will take more time to get trained. Make sure you take your puppy out after every meal, on waking up and after playtime.



Right Command at the Right Time

If you notice your puppy going round in circles indoors, wait until he or she starts doing his business and then pick him up with a firm "NO" and go outside. When your puppy has finished outside, give him or her lots of praise and petting.



Create a Toilet Command

Introduce a word while your puppy is urinating or defecating. Use this cue only for toileting. This will connect the behaviour with the command, and also encourage your puppy to go on command!



Praise Him

Reward your puppy within a few seconds of toileting, so that your puppy knows what he or she is being patted for. This will make the training much faster and easier.



Do Not Punish

Accidents indoor are a part and parcel of toilet training. If any accident happens, never punish your puppy. Simply try and take your puppy out as frequently as possible.



CRATE TRAINING

Why We Recommend It & How

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, comfort 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.

Crate Training Guidelines

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, family room, or bedroom.

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. 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. Always remove your puppy’s collar and tags because they could get caught.



TRAVEL TRAINING

Traveling With Your Puppy

It is always a good idea to start traveling with your pet early in their lifetime so he or she will be used to traveling at adulthood. Planning ahead is a good idea if you are going on a long trip. If your dog or puppy isn't accustomed to riding in the car, here are a few tips on how to make it more comfortable for you both.

- Sit in the car with your puppy, playing with him or her and giving a treat.
- Take a few short rides before any long trips.
- Taking your puppy for a walk or play can help to calm your puppy before a trip.
- Always keep proper identification and current tags on your pet.
- Always keep your pet on a leash, even if they normally respond to voice commands, as they may spook easily in new environments.
- Take along an adequate supply of your pet's regular food and medication, as well as bowls, waste pick-up bags and a plastic jug of cool water.
- Pets should not be allowed to ride with their heads outside car windows. Particles of dirt can enter the eyes, ears, and nose, causing injury or infection.

Remember that your veterinarian, local library, humane society, breeder or breed rescue group can be valuable sources of more information.

QUICK CHECKLIST

- Try to calm your pet before a trip with mild exercise or play.
- Make sure to pack your pet's food, water, and any medications if you are taking a long trip.
- Keep your pet on a leash when you let him or her out of the car during stops.



MY PET'S FIRSTS

Important Moments & Memories

Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Distinguishing Marks: _____

The first thing I did that made me stand out: _____

First vet visit: _____

House/Potty Trained: _____

Date/place I lost my first baby tooth: _____

First grooming: _____

First training class: _____

First daycare experience: _____

First favorite activities: _____

First new friend/encounter: _____

First favorite toy(s): _____

First learned command(s) and trick(s): _____

First long trip: _____



MY PET'S RECORDS

Your Pet's Vaccination Record

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Name of Pet: _____

Name of Veterinarian: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Spayed/Neutered: YES NO Date: _____

Breed: _____

Microchip: _____

Age	Date	Distemper/Parvo	Rabies (1 Year)	Rabies (3 Year)	Bordetella	Canine Influenza Virus	Leptospirosis	Lyme Disease
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
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_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				

Other: _____ Age _____ Date _____

Other: _____ Age _____ Date _____



MY VETERINARIAN

West Loop Veterinary Care



VETERINARY CARE

312-421-2275

815 W. Randolph • Chicago, IL 60607



Mon-Thur 7:30am-8pm • Friday 7:30am-7pm • Saturday 8am-4pm • Closed Sunday

Early intake appointments begin at 7:30am. Critically ill or injured pets will be seen immediately during office hours. Select parking is available directly in front of our door in the loading zone.

Compassion + Science

Compassion + Science = Exceptional Care for your pet. From preventative care to hospitalization, West Loop Vet is central to your pet's well-being and quality of life.

Advanced Medical Care

Dental & Oral Surgery Suites • Certified Technicians
Digital Radiography • In-House Lab

Urgent Care

Critically ill or injured pets will be seen immediately

Specialty Services

Echocardiograms & Cardiac Consultations
Orthopedic & Advanced Soft-Tissue Surgeries
Ultrasonography Services

Extended Examinations

We take the time to listen carefully to you while closely examining and treating your pet

Stress-Minimizing Environment

All-Family Exam Rooms • Soundproof Feline Ward

In-Home Visits

Medical & Hospice Care at Home





PUPPY CARE SCHEDULE

Vaccines & Care For Your Puppy's First Year

Please note that 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 a monthly flea & tick preventative and a monthly oral heartworm preventative (starting at 10-12 weeks old) that also protects against many intestinal parasites.

				
7-8 weeks	10-12 weeks	14-16 weeks	6-8 months	1+ years
1st DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus), Corona & Influenza	2nd DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus), Corona & Influenza	3rd DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus)	3rd Bordetella (Kennel Cough) Spay* or Neuter Procedure	DA2PP (Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 1 & 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus), Corona & Influenza
1st Bordetella (Kennel Cough)	2nd Bordetella (Kennel Cough)	2nd Leptospirosis Vaccine	ID/ Microchip	Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
Intestinal Parasite Screen	1st Leptospirosis Vaccine	Rabies Vaccine		Leptospirosis Vaccine
Deworming Treatments (2nd 2 weeks after 1st)	Dental Kit	2nd Intestinal Parasite Screen		Intestinal Parasite Screen
1st Heartworm Preventative	1st Lyme Vaccine (if needed)	2nd Heartworm Preventative		Lyme Vaccine (if needed)
Consider Pet Health Insurance		2nd Lyme Vaccine (if needed)		

*Talk to us about a Vessel Sealing Spay. This technology allows us to separate and seal internal vessels and tissues in one step, effectively reducing the trauma and extended recovery associated with traditional scalpel and suture techniques.



COMMON DISEASES & PROBLEMS

Many Diseases & Problems Can Be Prevented

DISEASES

Knowing about common dog diseases and being aware of appropriate prevention and treatment can 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.

Corona

Canine coronavirus is a highly contagious viral infection attacking the gastrointestinal tract. Signs are similar to parvovirus infection, except it is generally milder and more effectively treated.

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.

Continued...



COMMON DISEASES & PROBLEMS

Preventing Diseases & Problems...Continued

INTERNAL PARASITES

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 on your pet, 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.

Continued...



COMMON DISEASES & PROBLEMS

Preventing Diseases & Problems...Continued

EXTERNAL PARASITES

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 sarcoptes 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 medication. Be sure to treat any other cats or dogs in the household.



SPAYING & NEUTERING

Important Information 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 exercise regiment 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; we take extra precautions for your pet's comfort, safety, and recovery.

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

A The answer to this question is NO. The earlier this surgery is done, the better it is for your pet. Your pet's health and behavior will be improved by spaying before the first heat cycle. Spaying early also eliminates the risk of possible birthing complications.

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

A The best age for spaying is around six to eight months of age; neutering can be done anywhere from six months to one year. The first heat cycle in a female pet usually occurs around this time. Spaying your pet before her first heat cycle greatly reduces the risk of breast tumors and/or cancer. Neutering your pet prevents many undesirable behavior patterns. It is always easier to prevent these behavior patterns than to correct them.



BENEFITS OF SPAYING

- Eliminates Heat Cycles
- Prevents Accidental Pregnancies
- Prevents Unwanted Offspring
- Reduces Risk of Breast Tumors or Cancer
- Significantly Reduces Undesirable Behavior
- Prevents Uterine Infections Common In Older Pets



BENEFITS OF NEUTERING

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



LASER THERAPY

Photo-Bio Stimulation For Healing

What is Laser Therapy?

Laser therapy uses a beam of light able to penetrate deep into tissues and induce chemical changes in cells. This is called photo-bio-stimulation.

What does it do?

The particles of light or photons penetrate damaged cells and stimulate healing and pain relief within those tissues. Therapeutic lasers have no effect on normal cells. They are not simple heat treatments, but rather a method of increasing cellular metabolism. This speeds up and facilitates the healing process.

Can it hurt my pet?

Therapeutic lasers are not the same as cutting lasers used in surgery. They will not burn but will create warmth in the treated area.

What can it treat?

Most conditions that are associated with inflammation, wounds or pain can be treated:

- Post-surgical pain, wound healing and swelling
- Chronic inflammatory and/or painful conditions such as arthritis, nerve entrapment, joint or muscle pain/swelling.
- Chronic and acute infections such as anal sac infections, moist dermatitis or "hot spots", interdigital cysts, ear infections.
- Non-healing wounds
- Laser treatment improves nerve function following injury
- Lasers can be used as "needleless" acupuncture point stimulation

Can laser therapy be used on people?

Laser therapy was discovered in Hungary in 1967 and used in the Soviet Union and China during the 1970's-1980's. In 1993, research on laser treatments at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton lead to the effort to compile data to comply with FDA regulations and in 1998 the North American Association for Laser Therapy was established.

How long are treatments?

Treatment sessions can be as short as three minutes if one small area is involved and up to twenty minutes for multiple joints in the case of severe arthritis.

How many treatments are needed?

The frequency of treatments is as important as the number of treatments. We usually advise six treatments for most cases, sometimes more for acute conditions. Generally we treat three times the first week, twice the second week and once the third. The effects of laser therapy are cumulative and therefore not as successful if many days pass between initial treatments.



PET INSURANCE

What To Consider

What is pet insurance?

Pet insurance can assist in the payment and/or reimbursement of medical expenses if your pet becomes ill or has an accident. Pet insurance is often used to alleviate some of the financial burden associated with unexpected, costly veterinary care for your pet.

Why do I need pet insurance?

Each pet parent must consider the potential benefits of pet insurance in their particular situation. In many instances, pet insurance can help to ensure your pet receives the care it needs to live a full and healthy life. In instances where emergency care or acute, chronic diseases are diagnosed, veterinary bills can be extreme. While a simple case might result in a \$500 invoice, some might reach \$3,000-\$5,000 and in extreme cases involving emergency medical procedures a bill can reach in excess of \$15,000. While those cases are rare, pet insurance can sometimes ease the economic shock of that care.

How does pet insurance work?

Generally speaking, pet insurance plans are considered reimbursement plans. This means that as the owner of the pet, you are responsible for paying a monthly premium and the cost of the veterinary care at the time services are rendered. After payment is made to your care provider, you are normally responsible for making a claim and providing your insurance carrier a duplicate copy of the invoice or receipt. Like other types of insurance a deductible may be required before the carrier will consider a claim for reimbursement. Each insurance company is different in their requirements for claims, monthly premiums, deductibles, items and conditions that they will cover, maximum payouts, exclusions, and turn-around time to complete a claim.

What should I look for when selecting coverage?

Most pet insurance companies offer plans that will cover costs associated with accidents, injuries and illness. The main policy differences lie in the types of medical conditions that are covered. When researching coverage within each plan, the following items are important to note before making your final decision. Also, if your pet is older in age or has pre-existing conditions, they may not be eligible for the following types of coverage:

- Cancer
- Chronic disease and continual coverage for those diseases
- Hereditary and congenital diseases
- Medical conditions common to your pet's breed and species

What else should I look for when considering a pet insurance company?

Other items to consider include the cost of premiums, maximum payout amounts, deductibles, "Worst case scenario costs" for your area, exclusions, add-on coverage options, coverage for wellness/routine visits, steps that you must take to enroll your pet, and the reputation/experience of the company itself.



BABY TEETH

A Timeline of Puppy Teething

Yes, puppies have baby teeth that fall out, just like human babies! We've compiled a puppy teething timeline so you know exactly what to expect as your furry family member grows into an adult.

Weeks 2 to 4

Your puppy will still be with his or her mother when baby teeth start coming in. At this point, his or her eyes will have opened and he or she will still be nursing.

Weeks 5 to 6

By now all of your puppy's baby teeth should have come in. Dogs usually have about 28 baby teeth total. Around this time, your puppy will likely be in the process of weaning from nursing as they learn to eat moist, soft puppy food.

Weeks 12 to 16

This is around the time you'll get to take your puppy home with you (some breeders let puppies go to their new owners' homes at 8 weeks, but others wait an extra month or so, depending on the breed and the individual breeder's preferences).

This is also the time when you may start to find little rice-sized teeth around your home as your puppy's baby teeth start to shed and permanent adult teeth emerge. Anyone who has ever cared for a teething baby knows this process is painful! It's important to be offering your puppy safe chew toys at this point in development.

It's important to mention that this period is also important for getting your puppy used to new experiences. This is a good time to start touching your puppy's mouth, outside and in. Be careful — those remaining puppy teeth are razor sharp. By doing this, you'll be setting your puppy up to be able to enjoy (or at least tolerate) getting his or her teeth brushed.

6 Months & Older

By the time your puppy is about six months old all puppy teeth should have fallen out and adult teeth should have grown in. In general, adult dogs have about 42 teeth. (Fun fact: that's about 10 more than people!) It's time to brush your pet's teeth regularly. Begin by gently scrubbing the teeth with a finger brush or gauze pad. Later you can graduate to a toothbrush and canine toothpaste. Toothbrushes should be soft, and toothpaste must be formulated for a dog's system (an enzymatic toothpaste will work both mechanically and chemically to destroy plaque). Toothpaste made for people can cause an upset stomach if your pup swallows it.



ORAL CARE HEALTH

Why Dental Care Is Important To Pets

As with people, dental health is an important part of your pet's overall good health. Poor dental health can lead to pain and contribute to health problems related to your pet's heart, liver and kidneys.

THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR PET'S DENTAL HEALTH



Brush your pet's teeth regularly. Every other day should be the minimum.



Make certain your pet's teeth are checked by your veterinarian annually.



Budget for dental assessment and treatment as recommended by your veterinarian. While some pets may never need dental treatments, most pets need a professional cleaning periodically.

Periodontal disease is the most common clinical condition occurring in dogs and is entirely preventable. By three years of age, most dogs have some evidence of periodontal disease. Unfortunately, other than bad breath, there are few signs of the disease process evident to the owner, and professional dental cleaning and periodontal therapy often comes too late to prevent extensive disease. As a result, periodontal disease is usually under-treated. Failure to diagnose and treat this disease may cause multiple problems in the oral cavity and may be associated with damage to internal organs in some patients as they age.

Ask your West Loop Vet about our Periodontal Disease Prevention Package. Prevention is key! With proper oral care, together we can prevent the following:

- Extreme pain preventing your pet from eating
- Bacteria spreading into the blood stream toward vital organs
- Jawbone destruction which can lead to fractures, tooth loss, and abscesses

SIGNS YOUR PET NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION



changes in eating



excessive drooling



broken teeth



bad breath



loose teeth



discolored teeth



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 a mild pet 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

Though usually not needed with high quality diets, there are many options, including flaxseed oil, safflower oil, and prescription supplements. Supplements you give to your animal should be tailored to them. Please consult with your West Loop veterinarian.



BATHING & GROOMING

Proper Hygiene For Your Puppy

Bathing

The frequency of baths will vary according to your puppy's coat texture and activity. Shaved coats only need to be washed when they are dirty. Short-haired puppies need to be bathed twice a year on average and long-haired puppies need to be bathed approximately every three months.

Lukewarm water should be used for bathing, along with a shampoo made for puppies. Human products are too acidic and may irritate your puppy's skin. Before bathing your puppy, brush out his coat to remove any tangles and/or excess hair. Wet your puppy's entire body. Lather up the shampoo, being careful not to get any in the ears or eyes. Allow the shampoo to work for a few minutes and then rinse thoroughly. It is best to rinse your puppy's head last, which may discourage the urge to shake.

Wipe your puppy down and leave him or her in a warm room. In the summer your puppy can be let outside or taken for a walk. If your puppy will tolerate it, a hair dryer (on "low" or "cool" only) may be useful. Be careful not to burn your puppy and brush him out while drying.



BATH CHECKLIST

- Use lukewarm water and shampoo made for puppies/dogs.
- Rinse from tail to head to minimize and/or discourage shaking.
- Allow a wet puppy to dry in a warm area. A hair dryer may be used on "low" or "cool."

Nail Trimming

All puppies need proper nail care. Please don't let your fear of hurting your puppy stop you from taking care of your puppy's nails. Many pets remain indoors a great deal of the time where soft surfaces do not wear down their nails to an acceptable length. Nails that are left too long can become very painful for your puppy's feet and very painful for you or your home if your pet jumps up and scratches.

Handle your puppy's feet at a young age so he or she gets used to it and it won't be uncomfortable. When trimming your puppy's nails, use nail clippers made for dogs. Hold your dog's foot and gently push down with your thumb at the base of each nail. This will cause the nail to extend slightly, making it much easier to see your dog's nail (and where the quick at the nail bed ends).

Be sure to avoid cutting the quick at the base of the nail bed. The quick is visible in clear nails, as a pink triangle. In dark nails, the quick can be detected by looking for traces on the underside of the nail. In both cases, trim below (or before) the marks. Cut each nail back just a little at a time until you get close to the quick.

Continued...



BATHING & GROOMING

Proper Hygiene For Your Puppy...Continued

Brushing & Combing

No matter what type of coat your puppy has, hair falls out and new hair grows in its place. Outdoor dogs shed their coat twice a year (Spring and Fall) corresponding to the changes in daylight. Indoor dogs are not as affected by changes in light, so they shed hair throughout the year, with two periods of increased shedding in Spring and Fall.

Regular brushing will help remove “dead hair.” The frequency and the type of brush or comb used will vary depending on the nature of the coat.

Short-Haired Puppies

Although short coats might not require regular grooming, brushing once or twice a week is necessary. Using a rubber brush and working against the line of the coat will loosen dead skin and hair. Then, use a bristle brush and work with the line of the coat, brushing your puppy’s entire body.

Medium-Haired Puppies

Because of the coat density (both undercoat and a topcoat), your puppy should be brushed every other day. Use a bristle brush and work against the line of the coat to loosen as much dead skin and hair as possible. Then, use the same brush and work with the normal lay of the hair to remove the loosened debris. A wide-toothed comb can be used on your puppy’s tail and paws.

Long-Haired Puppies

Long-haired puppies require daily brushing. In the case of Afghan hounds, for example, brushing can take up to an hour each day. Use a slicker brush to brush along the normal line of the coat to remove tangles and mats. Because the hair is so long, the skin may be pulled when attempting to untangle knots, so proceed delicately to avoid hurting the puppy.

For puppies with silky coats (like a Yorkshire Terrier), using a bristle brush will add sheen to his or her coat.

For puppies with a lot of hair (Cocker Spaniel, Scottish Terriers, etc.) debris can be removed with a wire brush. A wide-toothed comb can be used to finish untangling the hair behind the hocks. Use clippers to even out the coat length and to trim away hair that is likely to become tangled or trap debris (hocks, breast, interdigital spaces and footpads).

BRUSHING CHECKLIST

- Brush your puppy as often as the coat requires. Regular brushing will keep your puppy’s coat shiny and healthy.
- Use the proper brush for your puppy’s type of coat. A wide-toothed comb can be used on the hocks, tail and paws.
- Trim away hair that is likely to become tangled or dirty.





HOW TO GREET A DOG

...And What To Avoid

	Human to Human INCORRECT	Human to DOG INCORRECT	Human to DOG CORRECT
<p>1</p> <p>Don't Approach Dogs In Cars</p>	 <p>You wouldn't reach in to greet a stranger like this.</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching in or toward a dog in a car.</p>	 <p>Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Approach Dog Slowly & Calmly</p>	 <p>It can be scary when someone rushes up to you.</p>	 <p>Avoid rushing up to a dog you don't know well.</p>	 <p>Approach slowly, at a relaxed walk.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Ask For Permission To Interact</p>	 <p>Interacting without permission can be unwelcome.</p>	 <p>Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.</p>	 <p>Ask first if you can interact.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Avoid Staring or Approaching Head-On</p>	 <p>Staring can make people feel very uncomfortable.</p>	 <p>Avoid staring at or approaching a dog head-on..</p>	 <p>Approach sideways and look at the dog using your peripheral vision.</p>

continued...



HOW TO GREET A DOG

...And What To Avoid...Continued

	Human to Human INCORRECT	Human to DOG INCORRECT	Human to DOG CORRECT
<p>5</p> <p>Don't Loom Over An Unfamiliar Dog</p>	 <p>Hovering over someone can make them feel scared and unsafe.</p>	 <p>Avoid leaning over dogs, especially when you change positions.</p>	 <p>Make sure you stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Avoid Reaching Into Personal Space</p>	 <p>People don't like others reaching into their personal space.</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching your hand out to a dog, even if it's to let them sniff.</p>	 <p>Encourage trust and let the dog approach at his own rate.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Avoid Interacting If A Dog Looks Scared</p>	 <p>A person who senses fear in someone stays back rather than getting too close.</p>	 <p>Avoid petting or reaching for a dog who looks nervous or tense.</p>	 <p>It's OK to pet a dog that looks relaxed, comes up to you and rubs against you.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Touch & Pet A Dog Gently</p>	 <p>Some friendly gestures are unwanted or unwelcomed.</p>	 <p>Many dogs dislike overly friendly gestures, too. Dogs often dislike hugging, kissing, and rough petting.</p>	 <p>Be mindful of the dog's feelings and pet gently.</p>

Source: "How To Greet A Dog," by Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS
Illustrations by Lili Chin



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Critical Information For Emergencies

WEST LOOP VETERINARY CARE

312-421-2275

815 W. Randolph • Chicago, IL 60607

Mon-Thur 7:30am-8pm • Friday 7:30am-7pm • Saturday 8am-4pm • Closed Sunday

Early intake appointments begin at 7:30am. Critically ill or injured pets will be seen immediately during office hours. If you have an emergency after our hours of operation, please contact one of the emergency treatment centers listed below. Select parking is available directly in front of our door in the loading zone.



PREMIER VETERINARY GROUP OF CHICAGO

773-516-5800

3927 W. Belmont Avenue • Chicago, IL 60618

Emergency services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by staff specialists trained in critical care, surgery and internal medicine. This location includes: 24-hour ER, critical care, internal medicine, oncology, advanced surgery, pet blood donor and blood bank. Learn more at www.premiervets.net.

MEDVET

773-281-7110

3123 N. Clybourn Avenue • Chicago, IL 60618

MedVet Chicago is a 24-hour clinic, open all weekends, evenings and holidays. They are fully staffed with emergency veterinarians and technicians who are trained and experienced in animal emergencies. You can learn more by visiting their website: www.medvetforpets.com/location/chicago.



ASPCA POISON CONTROL CENTER

888-426-44353

The ASPCA Poison Control Center is an emergency hotline providing 24-7 telephone assistance to both veterinarians and pet owners. The licensed veterinarians and veterinary staff members share over 110 years of combined call center experience and over 75 years of combined clinical and diagnostic toxicology. The center is an allied agency of the University of Illinois and is a member of the American Association of Poison Control centers.

Continued...



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Critical Information For Emergencies...Continued

OTHER EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Name/Place: _____

Call Here If: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Main Contact Name(s): _____

Name/Place: _____

Call Here If: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Main Contact Name(s): _____

Name/Place: _____

Call Here If: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Main Contact Name(s): _____

FOR MY PET SITTER



Attach your contact information for your pet's sitter.



HAZARDS IN THE HOME

Be Mindful Of These Hazards To Your Pet



GENERAL HOME HAZARDS

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



HARMFUL FOODS

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



HAZARDS IN THE HOME

Be Mindful Of These Hazards To Your Pet 

...Continued



HAZARDS PLANTS

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	Schefflera
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	Yucca

For more information: www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants



HAZARDS IN THE HOME

Be Mindful Of These Hazards To Your Pet 

...Continued

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

VALENTINE'S DAY



Many types of flowers and plants found in bouquets are harmful to dogs and cats if they are ingested (see our list of hazardous plants).

Chocolate can be problematic and even fatal (see "Halloween" and "harmful foods").

EASTER



Fake grass may look appetizing to your pets, but it could cause them to choke or obstruct their intestines if ingested.

Small toys and plastic Easter eggs can cause your pet to choke or damage their intestinal tract.

Chocolate can be problematic and even fatal (see "Halloween" and "harmful foods"). **Xylitol** (artificial sweetener) in candy and gum is toxic to your pet (see "harmful foods").

4TH OF JULY



Fireworks can scare your pets, making them highly nervous or even run off. Fireworks can also cause serious injuries if detonated near your pet. If ingested, they are toxic.

With more people and food around during picnics and parties, be mindful of food accessible to your pet (see our list of "harmful foods").

HALLOWEEN



Repeatedly opening doors for trick-or-treaters can increase the chances of your pet running out. If your pet likes to run out or is not friendly to other people, consider crating or keeping them in a secure area.

Pets are naturally curious and may be attracted to lights and flames. Dogs and cats could get burned on candles or knock them over and cause a fire.

Chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, seizures, and in severe cases chocolate poisoning can be fatal. **Xylitol** (artificial sweetener) in candy, gum and mints is toxic to your pet (see our list of "harmful foods").

THANKSGIVING



Animal bones, especially turkey, chicken, and other small animals, are very different from the large bones you find in the pet store. These small bones splinter easily and can cause serious internal damage if swallowed. Never give them to your pet.

Your pet will most likely become curious when they smell something cooking. Keep an eye on hot containers so that your pet does not tip them over and get burned.

There are many foods that are dangerous to your pet (see our list of "harmful foods").



HAZARDS IN THE HOME

Be Mindful Of These Hazards To Your Pet 

...Continued

HOLIDAY HAZARDS



CHRISTMAS

Holiday plants like poinsettia, holly, lilies and mistletoe are all toxic to dogs and cats. (see our list of harmful plants).

Ribbons may look adorable on your pet, but placing them around your pet's neck may cause them to choke. If swallowed, your pet could choke or it could cause internal trauma.

Antique bubbling lights are attractive decorations, but may contain methylene chloride, which is a highly toxic chemical.

Fire salts contain chemicals that could be harmful to your pets.

Angel hair is a form of spun glass and can be irritating to the eyes and skin, and could cause intestinal obstruction if eaten.

Christmas tree water containing preservatives or stagnant water could result in stomach upset if ingested.

Styrofoam can cause your pets to choke if swallowed.

Ornaments can look like toys to your pet, but they can cause serious injury, especially if your pet breaks or swallows them.

Tinsel can cause choking or internal trauma if swallowed.

Pets are naturally curious and may be attracted to lights and flames. Dogs and cats could get burned on candles or knock them over and cause a fire.

Your pet will most likely become curious when they smell something cooking or baking. Keep an eye on hot containers so that your pet does not tip them over and get burned.

There are many foods that are dangerous to your pet (see our list of harmful foods).



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Balloons and confetti can cause your pet to choke or obstruct their intestines if ingested. Keep an eye on your pets when they're around these items or move them to an area that is not decorated.

New Year's Eve can be a loud holiday. Unfortunately loud noises can frighten pets and cause them to be overly nervous or run off. Keep your pets away from noise makers, loud music and other sounds that startle them.

Watch your pets around party foods and alcoholic beverages that are often left unattended. There are many foods that are dangerous to your pet (see our list of harmful foods).



INSECT STINGS & BITES

Emergency Action Steps

What To Know About Insect Stings & Bites

Most of the time, an insect sting is just painful and irritating for your dog. Getting stung several times, or stung inside the mouth or throat, is dangerous and requires a trip to the veterinarian.

The two most common types of stinging insects are bees and wasps, which are poisonous. It's not the small puncture wound that causes the sting's pain, but the small amount of poison that is injected. A bee's stinger is barbed and designed to lodge in the skin, killing the bee when the stinger detaches from the body. Wasp stingers are not barbed but are more painful, and if provoked these insects can sting multiple times.

Most of the time dogs get stung on their faces from investigating a stinging insect too closely. A sting on your dog's sensitive nose is particularly painful. Some dogs may even get stung on the tongue or inside their mouth. These stings can be dangerous. The subsequent swelling can close your dog's throat and block his airway.

Watch for allergic reactions. A severe reaction can be caused by a large number of stings or by an allergic reaction. Signs of a reaction include: general weakness; difficulty breathing; a large amount of swelling. If your dog is having a severe reaction, you need to take the dog to a vet immediately.

ACTION STEPS FOR STINGS

Check the area and remove the stinger: A simple sting can be safely left alone. There will likely be mild swelling and tenderness, being bothersome only temporarily. If a stinger is still present, try to remove it immediately by scraping it with a rigid piece of cardboard or plastic. Avoid using tweezers or fingers unless absolutely necessary as this may force more venom out of the stinger.

Administer a remedy for the pain: Applying a weak mixture of water and baking soda to the affected area will help reduce the pain. You can also apply an icepack or cool towel to the wound to reduce swelling and pain. If your pet appears to be in pain or there is swelling, contact your veterinary office to see if Benedryl can be administered or if your pet needs to be examined. Your vet needs to instruct you on the correct dosage, based on your pet's age and weight.

Maintain a watchful eye on your dog: Observe your dog closely after the incident to ensure an allergic reaction doesn't develop. If the swelling increases or spreads, notify your veterinarian.

In case of a strong reaction: Some dogs may be allergic to bee stings, and they can go into anaphylactic shock if they don't receive immediate veterinary attention. If your dog starts vomiting within five to 10 minutes and his gums become pale, they are likely going into anaphylactic shock. Your dog will be treated with steroids and Benadryl injections.



CHOKING

Emergency Action Steps

Saving A Choking Dog

Dogs use their mouths to explore the world, and fortunately, their anatomy includes safeguards that make choking rare. But it isn't impossible for a dog to experience choking, and it's important that you be able to distinguish between a choking dog and a dog dealing with illness or another issue. In a life-threatening emergency there may not be time to contact a vet, in which case you must administer first-aid yourself; however, if the dog is uncomfortable but not in immediate danger, your better option is to keep them calm and seek veterinary advice.

Possible causes: foreign object (bone, food, plant material) lodged in throat, esophagus or teeth; allergic reaction.

ACTION STEPS FOR CHOKING

Check for signs of choking: Signs that a dog is choking include: gagging or drooling excessively; unable to swallow; standing in the "air hunger position" with their head and neck held low and in a straight line; acting unusually agitated or frantic, pawing at their mouth, and whimpering; coughing forcefully, wheezing, or gasping for breath; having grey or blue gums; having a visible object in the back of their throat; displaying exaggerated chest movements; collapsing; losing consciousness.

Look inside the dog's mouth: By visually checking the dog's mouth, you can find out if an object is obstructing its airway and act accordingly. Gently pull the tongue forward and inspect mouth and throat for a foreign object or obstruction.

Remove foreign object if spotted: Hold the mouth open and attempt to remove it by hand or with tweezers or small pliers. Take care not to push the object farther down the throat.

If your dog is not breathing: See CPR.

Call your veterinarian: If your dog is choking, showing signs of choking, or indeed having breathing difficulties and no foreign object is spotted, phone your vet for advice. The exception to this rule is if your dog has completely collapsed or has lost consciousness. In that instance, begin administering what first-aid you can. You may be talked through first aid procedures while waiting for emergency help and likely you will be asked to bring your pet in immediately.



CPR FOR DOGS

Emergency Action Steps For No Breathing or Pulse

CPR For Dogs

CPR is necessary if your dog is not breathing or has no pulse. Possible causes include: choking; unconsciousness from drowning or shock; poisoning; allergic reaction.



ADMINISTERING CPR

- 1 Lay your dog on his or her side and remove any obstructions in the airway:** Open mouth, pull tongue forward, extend neck and sweep mouth with finger. Remove any foreign objects.
- 2 If the airway is clear:** Extend neck and close your pet's jaws over their tongue.
- 3 Holding jaws closed, breath into both nostrils for 5 to 6 breaths:** If no response, continue artificial respiration (see below). If there is no pulse, begin cardiac compressions.
- 4 Depress the widest part of the chest wall:** 1.5"-3" with one or two hands. Refer to compressions per minute chart for weight specific info.
- 5 Continue artificial respiration:** Refer to breaths per minute chart for weight specific info.

WEIGHT	COMPRESSIONS PER MINUTE	BREATHS PER MINUTE
UNDER 5 LBS.	Place hands around rib cage and apply cardiac massage	30+ Breaths Per Minute
5-10 LBS.	120-140 Times Per Minute	130+ Breaths Per Minute
11-60 LBS.	80-100 Times Per Minute	16-20 Breaths Per Minute
OVER 60 LBS.	60 Times Per Minute	12 Breaths Per Minute

Source: Innovation In Health Nutrition

Continued...



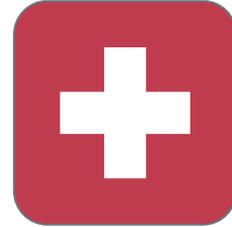
CPR FOR DOGS

Emergency Action Steps For No Breathing or Pulse ...Continued

LAY SIDWAYS



1 Lay your dog on his or her side and remove any obstructions in the airway: Open mouth, pull tongue forward, extend neck and sweep mouth with finger. Remove any foreign objects.



CPR AT-A-GLANCE

CLEAR AIRWAY



2 If the airway is clear: Extend neck, hold tongue out of mouth and close animal's jaws over tongue.

BREATHS



3 Holding jaws closed, breath into both nostrils for 5 to 6 breaths: If no response, continue artificial respiration (see below). If there is no pulse, begin cardiac compressions.

UNDER 5 LBS.	30+ Breaths/Min
5-10 LBS.	130+ Breaths/Min
11-60 LBS.	16-20 Breaths/Min
OVER 60 LBS.	12 Breaths/Min

COMPRESSIONS



4 Depress the widest part of the chest wall: 1.5 to 3 inches with one or two hands. See compressions per minute chart for weight specific info.
5 Continue artificial respiration: Refer to breaths per minute chart for weight specific info.

UNDER 5 LBS.	Cardiac Massage
5-10 LBS.	120-140X/Min
11-60 LBS.	80-100X/Min
OVER 60 LBS.	60X/Min

Source: Innovation In Health Nutrition



The world would be a nicer place if everyone had
the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog.



VETERINARY CARE

815 W Randolph St
Chicago, IL 60607
312.421.2275
www.westloopvet.com



Mon-Thur	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:30am-8pm	7:30am-7pm	8am-4pm	Closed



Early intake option upon request

Select parking available directly in front of our door
in the loading zone

