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Schnauzer Health Handbook



Your Miniature Schnauzer

Caring for Your Faithful Companion



Miniature Schnauzers: What a Unique Breed!

Your dog is special! She's your best friend and companion and a source of unconditional love. Chances are that you chose her because you like miniature schnauzers, and you expected her to have certain traits that would fit your lifestyle:

- Hypoallergenic coat sheds very little
- Good watchdog with a loud bark
- Intelligent and reliable
- Excellent companion and family dog
- Friendly and willing to please

No dog is perfect, though, and you may have noticed these characteristics, too:

- Coat requires regular grooming
- Wary of strangers, with a tendency to vocalize
- Does not tolerate harsh reprimands or negative-reinforcement training
- Easily bored and will find her own fun
- Prone to attack other small animals, including cats

Is it all worth it? Of course! She's got her own personality, and you love her for it.

Your Miniature Schnauzer's Health

We know that because you care so much about your dog, you want to take good care of him. That's why we'll tell you about the health concerns we'll be discussing with you over the life of your schnauzer.

Many diseases and health conditions are genetic, meaning they're related to your pet's breed. That

About My Dog

Your Miniature Schnauzer's name: _____

Date of your pet's birth: _____

Veterinary hospital's name: _____

Veterinarian's name: _____

Phone number: _____

Website: _____

Your Miniature Schnauzer





doesn't mean your dog will have these problems; it just means that he's more at risk than other dogs. We'll describe the most common issues for miniature schnauzers to give you an idea of what may come up. Of course we can't cover every possibility here, so always check with us if you notice any unusual signs or symptoms.

This guide, along with the health evaluation schedule in this booklet, helps us and you plan for your pet's health-care needs. At the end of the booklet, we've included a description of what you can do at home to keep your schnauzer looking and feeling his best. You'll know what to watch for, and we'll all feel better knowing that we're taking the best possible care of your pal.

Dental Disease

Dental disease is the most common chronic problem in pets, affecting 80% of all dogs by age two. It starts with tartar build-up on the teeth and progresses to infection of the gums and roots of the teeth. If we don't prevent or treat dental disease, your buddy will lose her teeth and be in danger of damaging her kidneys, liver, heart, and joints. In fact, your schnauzer's life span may be cut short by one to three years! We'll clean your dog's teeth regularly and let you know what you can do at home to keep those pearly whites clean.

Diabetes

If your miniature schnauzer has diabetes, it means he has a problem regulating how his body processes sugars and carbohydrates. It is a serious condition and one that is important to diagnose and treat as early as possible. Symptoms include increased eating, drinking, and urination, along with weight loss. If he shows signs, we will do lab tests to determine if he has this condition and discuss treatment options with you.

Ear Infections

Schnauzers often get ear infections, which are painful and annoying. Infections can be caused bacteria, yeast, and allergies. The earlier we catch this, the less discomfort and pain she suffers. Be sure to call us if you notice that she is scratching or shaking her head, there is a foul odor about the ears, or her ears seem painful to the touch. By monitoring for ear infections and treating them early, we also reduce the likelihood of ear-drum damage that can lead to deafness. We'll pay special attention to her ears each time we see her. No one likes an earache!

Eye Problems

Your friend is prone to several eye diseases, including cataracts, dry eye, and glaucoma. Cataracts and glaucoma eventually lead to blindness. With cataracts, surgery is an option to restore his sight. Many dogs adjust well to losing their sight and get along just fine. Dry eye is a condition where the tear glands don't product enough tears to keep the eye moist, and it results in sores and infections. Ouch! If you notice anything unusual at all about your pet's eyes, call us immediately! Dry eye and glaucoma are extremely painful, and glaucoma is a medical emergency and must be treated immediately.

Heart Disease

Your schnauzer is more likely than other dogs to inherit several different kinds of heart disease, including mitral valve disease (where the valve wears out), sick sinus syndrome (where a part of the electrical system of the heart that signals the heart to beat doesn't work properly), and pulmonic stenosis (where there is a partial obstruction of blood flow in the heart). We'll do annual heart health checks, but let us know if your dog is coughing or seems weak. If heart disease is diagnosed early, we may be able to prescribe medications that could prolong your pet's life for many years. Proper dental care and weight control also go a long way in preventing heart disease.

Infections

In addition to ear infections, miniature schnauzers are susceptible to other bacterial and viral infections—the same ones that all dogs can get—such as parvovirus, rabies, and distemper. Many of these infections are preventable through vaccination, which we'll administer to your dog based on the diseases we see in our area, her age, and other factors.

Kidney Stones

There are half a dozen different types of stones that can form in the kidney or in the bladder, and miniature schnauzers are more likely to develop them than other breeds. We'll periodically test for the presence of kidney and bladder stones; they are painful! If your buddy has blood in his urine, can't urinate, or is straining to urinate, it is a medical emergency. Call us immediately!



Liver Disease

Your schnauzer is more likely than other dogs to have a liver disorder called portosystemic shunt, which is a debilitating, genetically linked disease that keeps her liver from working properly. To test for this problem, we'll conduct a liver function test in addition to a standard pre-anesthetic panel every time your dog goes under anesthesia. If she develops symptoms, we'll test her blood and conduct an ultrasound scan of her liver and bladder. We may recommend surgery, but it's more likely that we'll treat your friend with a special diet and medication.

Obesity

Obesity is a significant health problem in dogs and a serious disease that may cause arthritis, some types of cancer, back pain, and heart disease. Though it's tempting to give your pal food when he looks at you with those soulful eyes, you can love him to death with human food and treats.

Pancreatitis

Schnauzers are prone to develop pancreatitis, which is an inflammation of the pancreas, the organ that produces digestive enzymes and insulin. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, lethargy, and dehydration. This is a very serious disease which may require intensive care, pain management, and fluid support. Please call us or an emergency clinic if symptoms develop.

Parasites

All kinds of worms and bugs can invade your dog's body, inside and out. Everything from fleas to ticks to ear mites can infest her skin and ears. Hookworms, roundworms, heartworms, and whipworms can get into her system in any number of ways: drinking unclean water, eating or stepping on feces, or being bitten by an infected mosquito. Some of these parasites can be transmitted to you or a

family member and are a serious concern for everyone. For your friend, these parasites can cause pain, discomfort, and even death, so it's important that we test for them on a regular basis. We'll also recommend preventative medication as necessary to keep her healthy.

Skin Problems

Your pal is especially susceptible to different kinds of skin infections and diseases. He may get "hay fever" just like humans, which is an allergy to pollen, mold, mildew, or dust. Another type of skin infection is caused by yeast (*Malassezia dermatitis*). When it infects the ears, it causes itching, redness, and an accumulation of brown waxy discharge. On the skin, it leads to greasy, hairless areas, especially on the neck and throat, with a characteristic yeasty odor. He is also likely to get different kinds of skin lumps, and all of these problems may make your pet itchy and uncomfortable. The earlier you call to have skin problems checked out, the less likely it is that you'll end up with an itchy, bald, smelly dog to take care of. You don't want that, and neither does he!

Spaying or Neutering

One of the best things you can do for your miniature schnauzer is to have her spayed (called neutering in males). In males, this means we surgically remove the testicles, and in females, it means we surgically remove the uterus and ovaries. Spaying or neutering decreases the likelihood of certain types of cancers and eliminates the possibility of your pet becoming pregnant or fathering unwanted puppies. Performing this surgery also gives us a chance, while your pet is under anesthesia, to evaluate and possibly address some of the diseases your schnauzer is likely to develop. This is convenient for you and easy for your friend. Don't worry; we'll let you know what specific problems we'll look for when the time arrives.

Thyroid Problems

Mini schnauzers are prone to a common condition, called hypothyroidism, where the body doesn't make enough thyroid hormone. Signs can include dry skin and coat, hair loss, susceptibility to other skin diseases, weight gain, lethargy, mental dullness, sleeping excessively, fearfulness, aggression, or other behavioral changes. We'll do a blood screening test annually to test for the disease. Treatment is usually simple: replacement hormones given in the form of a pill.

Taking Care of Your Miniature Schnauzer at Home

Much of what you can do to keep your dog happy and healthy is common sense, just like it is for people. Watch his diet, make sure he gets plenty of exercise, regularly brush his teeth, and call us or a pet emergency hospital when something seems unusual (see "What to Watch For" below). Be sure to adhere to the schedule of examinations and vaccinations that we recommend for him. This is when we'll give him the necessary "check-ups" and test for diseases and conditions that are common in miniature schnauzers. Another very important step in caring for your pet is signing up for pet health insurance. There will certainly be medical tests and procedures he will need throughout his life, and pet health insurance will help you cover those costs.

Routine Care, Diet, and Exercise

- ✓ Build her routine care into your schedule to help your schnauzer live longer, stay healthy, and be happier during her lifetime! Watch her diet, and make sure she gets regular exercise. Overweight mini schnauzers are more prone to cancer, heart disease, and other problems. Brush her teeth at least three times a week.
- ✓ Keep your dog's diet consistent, and don't give her people food.
- ✓ Feed a high-quality diet appropriate for her age.
- ✓ Exercise your dog regularly, and don't overdo exercise.
- ✓ Have your dog groomed regularly.

What to Watch For

Give us a call immediately if you notice any of these signs in your miniature schnauzer:

- ✓ Vomiting or chronic diarrhea
- ✓ Weight loss or weight gain
- ✓ Lumps, bumps, and moles
- ✓ Lethargy, mental dullness, or excessive sleeping
- ✓ Fearfulness, aggression, or other behavioral changes
- ✓ Limping or lameness
- ✓ Hair loss
- ✓ Coughing or difficulty breathing
- ✓ Episodes of weakness
- ✓ Pot-belly appearance
- ✓ Inability or straining to urinate
- ✓ Cloudiness, redness, itching or any other abnormality involving the eyes
- ✓ Itchy skin (scratching or licking)
- ✓ Change in appetite or water consumption
- ✓ Scratching or shaking the head, discharge in the ear, or foul smell about the ear

Partners in Health Care

DNA testing is a rapidly advancing field with tests being developed to help diagnose conditions before they become problems for your friend. For the most up-to-date information on DNA and other screening tests available for your pal, visit www.Genesis4Pets.com.

Your schnauzer counts on you to take good care of him, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that he lives a long and healthy life. Our goal is to ensure that your pal has the best health care possible: health care that's based on his breed, lifestyle, and age. Please contact us when you have questions or concerns:

Health Evaluation Schedule for Miniature Schnauzers

Now that you've read about the health issues we'll be monitoring, we wanted to give you an at-a-glance summary of what services we'll provide to keep your schnauzer happy and healthy. It may seem like your pet is prone to quite a few problems, but don't worry; we'll take the lead in keeping her healthy for a lifetime. We'll review these health-care steps with you in more detail, but please feel free to ask questions or voice concerns at any time.

Studies to determine the frequency of inheritance or disease in this breed either have not been completed or are inconclusive. There is a general consensus among canine genetic researchers and veterinary practitioners that the conditions we've described herein have a significant rate of incidence and/or impact in this breed.



What Is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a contagious disease that can affect both humans and animals. It's spread by infection with *Leptospira*, bacterial pathogens that can cause liver and kidney disease in dogs. The bacteria is usually spread through direct contact with infected urine or indirectly through contaminated vegetation, soil, food or water. In cities, the urine of rats and other rodents can spread the disease.

Lepto is most common in warm, moist environments, during rainy seasons and in tropical climates. The organism survives better in stagnant rather than flowing water. It can live 180 days in wet soil or marshy areas.

Leptospirosis In Dogs

Healthy dogs who come in contact with the bacteria may never exhibit symptoms. And in most cases, lepto is highly treatable when it's recognized early. Learn these symptoms so you can catch it quickly if your dog gets infected. The illness can develop quickly so take your dog to the vet immediately if you suspect lepto infection.

- Lethargy
- Depression
- Loss of appetite

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Increased thirst and urination
- Blood in urine
- Jaundice (yellow tinge in the lining of the mouth or whites of the eyes)

There's a very acute form of the disease where dogs may experience rapid breathing and rapid, irregular pulse, coughing up of blood, tarry feces, nosebleed, red or purple spots on the skin. They may be reluctant to move and very sensitive to pain or touch, and have enlarged lymph nodes. This form of the disease moves very fast and can be fatal.

About Lepto Vaccination

Many dogs are routinely vaccinated for lepto, despite high adverse effects.

Here's a summary of what you need to know about the lepto vaccine before deciding to give it to your dog.

You must vaccinate for lepto at least yearly

Unlike viral vaccines which likely last for the life of the animal, bacterial vaccines such as lepto only last for a

year at most. This means that many vets recommend vaccinating every six months to protect your dog. Leading veterinary immunologist Ronald D Schultz PhD has said that you may need to give a lepto vaccine as often as four times a year. As you'll see below, the lepto vaccine involves a high level of risk for your dog.

The Vaccine Is Limited

The lepto vaccine may not cover the strain of lepto your dog encounters.

There are 20 different species of *Leptospira* bacteria and more than 200 different serovars. The original vaccines contained only the *L. canicola* and *L. icterohaemorrhagiae* serovars. The current vaccines now contain *L. grippityphosa* and *L. pomona*. The latter two strains are now much more common. Two additional serovars that appear to cause infection, *L. bratislava* and *L. automalis*, are not included in the vaccines currently available.

So if you do decide to vaccinate your dog, it's a very good idea to find out which strains of lepto are in your area so that you don't give your dog a risky vaccination that won't even protect him.

Vaccinated Dogs Shed Lepto

Vaccinated dogs and livestock can shed lepto in their urine. This means they can infect other dogs, wildlife and

even you. So routine lepto vaccination actually increases the threat of lepto on the whole. The greater the number of vaccinated animals, the greater the spread of lepto.

Adverse Effects

There is a high rate of adverse effects from the lepto vaccine. Veterinarian Patricia Jordan DVM has documented several cases of tumors from the [lepto vaccine](#), especially from combination vaccinations that include leptospirosis. Kidney failure is another common reaction, as you'll see below. Bacterial vaccinations can also cause autoimmune disease.

In the UK, where leptospirosis vaccination is quite common, [Canine Health Concern](#) conducted a survey and found that the vaccine can also cause the disease it's meant to prevent.

In that survey, 100% of dogs with leptospirosis caught it just after their lepto vaccinations. Leptospirosis attacks the kidneys and [kidney failure was a very common effect](#) after lepto vaccination. Dr Jordan explains that the basement membrane can be damaged by clogging when the immune complexes drain via the lymphatics. The kidneys are a big part of the lymphatic system. The body tries to clear the toxins in the vaccines and the kidneys are damaged by this clearing mechanism.

There's a long list of other documented adverse effects from the leptospirosis vaccine:

- Anaphylaxis
- Anorexia
- Dermatitis
- Infection with flesh-eating bacteria
- Uncontrollable pruritis (itching)
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Lameness
- Vocalization
- Fever
- Dehydration
- Polyarthrititis
- Kidney Failure
- Liver Failure
- Pancreatitis
- Mast cell disease
- Urinary tract infections
- Diarrhea
- Chronic weight loss
- Enlarged spleen
- Cancer
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Death



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Initial 30 Days of Pet Insurance Coverage*

- No Incident Limit
- 80% Reimbursement
- No Waiting Periods*

Activate Coverage

*Not yet available in all states. Waiting periods for Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD), Pre-Existing Conditions, and Cruciate Ligament still apply. CA and WA residents not eligible for this program. For complete details, refer to www.akcpetinsurance.com/sample-policies



30 Days of Initial Pet Insurance Coverage

Now even more protection than ever for your furry friend - So you can play more and worry less

Congratulations on your new pup! To help protect their good health, we are offering an initial 30 days of accident and illness pet insurance coverage (underwritten by Independence American Insurance Company). Take advantage of waived waiting periods* only available with this offer so that you can start using your insurance sooner. You are eligible for this offer with your AKC registration. There is no credit card or commitment required to activate this offer.

Activate Coverage

What's Covered?

- Toxin Ingestion*
- Surgery
- Digestive
- Broken Bones
- Prescription Medication
- Foreign Body Ingestion*
- Cancer
- Hospitalization

*Foreign body ingestion, dogfights, and toxin ingestion are only covered once during the lifetime of a pet. See your policy for additional details.

Customer Claim Example

Breed: Labrador Retriever
 Age: Under 1 year old
 Diagnosis: Broken Bone
 Total Vet Bill: \$5,381.29

Insurance Reimbursement
\$4,759.64

PetPartners, Inc. 2022 Claims Data. Individual results may vary. Illinois resident enrolled in Initial 30-Day Offer, Unlimited Incident, \$250 Deductible, 10% Coinsurance, No Annual Limit.

Policy Details

Policy Limits			
Deductible	\$250	Coinsurance	20%
No Incident Limit/30-Day Max Reimbursement \$5,000			

Claim reimbursement is subject to the limits and waiting periods of the policy.

Activate 30 Days of Pet Insurance Coverage

What happens after 30 days?

Your initial coverage ends after 30 days unless you choose to continue the policy by providing a payment method. When you continue the policy with a customizable plan, you will not experience any gaps in coverage and will already be on your way to meeting the 365-day pre-existing condition coverage waiting period.** Or for maximum protection, enroll in a custom plan starting day one. Start a quote to see your policy options.

Start Your Quote

**Not available in all states.

The AKC Pet Insurance initial 30 days of accident and illness coverage is administered by PetPartners, Inc. Not available in all states (including CA and WA) and only available to U.S. residents. Eligibility restrictions apply. Activation required for coverage to take effect. Premium is deferred on initial 30 days of coverage. Visit <https://www.akcpetinsurance.com/akc-offer> or call 1-866-725-2747 for more information or to review terms and conditions.

<p>Our Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Insurance Cat Insurance 30 Days of Pet Insurance Coverage Accident & Illness Coverage Wellness Plans 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Policies Terms of Service California Residents Maine Residents Maine Waiting Period Waiver Underwriters Privacy Policy Blog Directory Customer Reviews 	<p>Company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About Us Contact Us Why Choose Us Dogs At Work Customer Login 24/7 Vet Helpline COVID-19 Pet Cloud 	<p>Contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✉ Get in Touch 📞 1-866-725-2747 M-F: 8:30am-8pm (EST) Sat: 10am-3pm (EST) Sun: Closed
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Get Quote

PetPartners, Inc. is located at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 350, Raleigh, NC 27617.

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4.5/5.0

Rating on



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How Can Allergies Rack Up Over \$10,000 in Vet Bills?

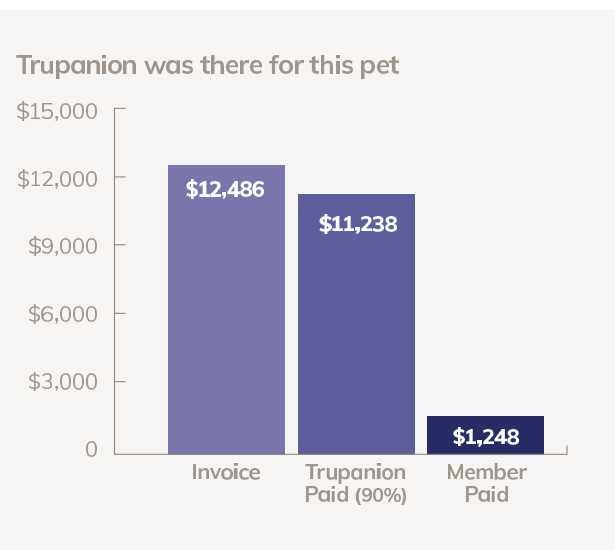
It's easier than you think.

Saving for your pet's medical bills is a great idea—until real life gets in the way. This pet's allergies triggered severe skin infections and required daily medications.

But with Trupanion, they were protected:

- **Unlimited payouts for eligible costs**
- **A customer care team available 24/7/365**
- **Payments made directly to the veterinary hospital***

There's no predicting if or when an unexpected illness or injury will affect your pet. Trupanion is always available whenever you need it.



Actual 2022 Trupanion claims data from a member allergy claim

*Trupanion software required at the veterinary hospital with veterinarian-approved direct bill pay. Visit ([link to http://www.trupanion.com/vet-direct-pay](http://www.trupanion.com/vet-direct-pay)) to see if your veterinary hospital accepts direct payment.

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Dr. Jean Dodds' Recommended Vaccination Schedule

Vaccine	Initial	1st Annual Booster	Re-Administration Interval	Comments
Distemper (MLV) (e.g. Intervet Progard Puppy)	9 weeks 12 weeks 16 - 20 weeks	At 1 year MLV Distemper/ Parvovirus only	None needed. Duration of immunity 7.5 / 15 years by studies. Probably lifetime. Longer studies pending.	Can have numerous side effects if given too young (< 8 weeks).
Parvovirus (MLV) (e.g. Intervet Progard Puppy)	9 weeks 12 weeks 16 - 20 weeks	At 1 year MLV Distemper/ Parvovirus only	None needed. Duration of immunity 7.5 years by studies. Probably lifetime. Longer studies pending.	At 6 weeks of age, only 30% of puppies are protected but 100% are exposed to the virus at the vet clinic.
Rabies (killed)	24 weeks or older	At 1 year (give 3-4 weeks apart from Dist/Parvo booster) Killed 3 year rabies vaccine	3 yr. vaccine given as required by law in California (follow your state/provincial requirements)	rabid animals may infect dogs.
Vaccines Not Recommended For Dogs				
Distemper & Parvo @ 6 weeks or younger	Not recommended. At this age, maternal antibodies from the mother's milk (colostrum) will neutralize the vaccine and only 30% for puppies will be protected. 100% will be exposed to the virus at the vet clinic.			
Corona	Not recommended. 1.) Disease only affects dogs <6 weeks of age. 2.) Rare disease: TAMU has seen only one case in seven years. 3.) Mild self-limiting disease. 4.) Efficacy of the vaccine is questionable.			
Leptospirosis	Not recommended 1) There are an average of 12 cases reported annually in California. 2) Side effects common. 3) Most commonly used vaccine contains the wrong serovars. (There is no cross-protection of serovars) There is a new vaccine with 2 new serovars. Two vaccinations twice per year would be required for protection.). 4) Risk outweighs benefits.			
Lyme	Not recommended 1) Low risk in California. 2) 85% of cases are in 9 New England states and Wisconsin. 3) Possible side effect of polyarthritis from whole cell bacterin.			
Boretella (Intranasal) (killed)	Only recommended 3 days prior to boarding when required . Protects against 2 of the possible 8 causes of kennel cough. Duration of immunity 6 months.			
Giardia	Not recommended Efficacy of vaccine unsubstantiated by independent studies			

Dr. W. Jean Dodd's vaccination protocol is now being adopted by ALL 27 North American veterinary schools. I highly recommend that you read this.

VACCINATION NEWS FLASH

I would like to make you aware that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats. Some of this information will present an ethical & economic challenge to vets, and there will be skeptics.

Some organizations have come up with a political compromise suggesting vaccinations every 3 years to appease those who fear loss of income vs. those concerned about potential side effects. Politics, traditions, or the doctor's economic well being should not be a factor in medical decision.

NEW PRINCIPLES OF IMMUNOLOGY

"Dogs and cats immune systems mature fully at 6 months. If a modified live virus vaccine is given after 6 months of age, it produces an immunity which is good for the life of the pet (ie: canine distemper, parvo, feline distemper). If another MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralize the antigens of the second vaccine and there is little or no effect. The titer is not "boosted" nor are more memory cells induced." Not only are annual boosters for parvo and distemper unnecessary, they subject the pet to potential risks of allergic reactions and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia. "There is no scientific documentation to back up label claims for annual administration of MLV vaccines." Puppies receive antibodies through their mother's milk. This natural protection can last 8-14 weeks. Puppies & kittens should NOT be vaccinated at LESS than 8 weeks. Maternal immunity will neutralize the vaccine and little protection (0-38%) will be produced. Vaccination at 6 weeks will, however, delay the timing of the first highly effective vaccine. Vaccinations given 2 weeks apart suppress rather than stimulate the immune system. A series of vaccinations is given starting at 8 weeks and given 3-4 weeks apart up to 16 weeks of age. Another vaccination given sometime after 6 months of age (usually at 1 year 4mo) will provide lifetime immunity.

There are two types of vaccines currently available to veterinarians: *modified-live* vaccines and *inactivated* ("killed") vaccines.

Immunization Schedules

There is a great deal of controversy and confusion surrounding the appropriate immunization schedule, especially with the availability of modified-live vaccines and breeders who have experienced postvaccinal problems when using some of these vaccines. It is also important to not begin a vaccination program while maternal antibodies are still active and present in the puppy from the mother's colostrum. The maternal antibodies identify the vaccines as infectious organisms and destroy them before they can stimulate an immune response.

Many breeders and owners have sought a safer immunization program.

Modified Live Vaccines (MLV)

Modified-live vaccines contain a weakened strain of the disease causing agent. Weakening of the agent is typically accomplished by chemical means or by genetic engineering. These vaccines replicate within the host, thus increasing the amount of material available for provoking an immune response without inducing clinical illness. This provocation primes the immune system to mount a vigorous response if the disease causing agent is ever introduced to the animal. Further, the immunity provided by a modified-live vaccine develops rather swiftly and since they mimic infection with the actual disease agent, it provides the best immune response.

Inactivated Vaccines (Killed)

Inactivated vaccines contain killed disease causing agents. Since the agent is killed, it is much more stable and has a longer shelf life, there is no possibility that they will revert to a virulent form, and they never spread from the vaccinated host to other animals. They are also safe for use in pregnant animals (a developing fetus may be susceptible to damage by some of the disease agents, even though attenuated, *present in modified-live vaccines*). Although more than a single dose of vaccine is always required and the duration of immunity is generally shorter, inactivated vaccines are regaining importance in this age of retrovirus and herpesvirus infections and concern about the safety of genetically modified microorganisms. Inactivated vaccines available for use in dogs include rabies, canine parvovirus, canine coronavirus, etc.

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

HEMOPET

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Santa Monica, CA 90403

310/ 828-4804

fax: 310/ 828-8251

Note: This schedule is the one I recommend and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice. For breeds or families of dogs susceptible to or affected with immune dysfunction, immune-mediated disease, immune-reactions associated with vaccinations, or autoimmune endocrine disease (e.g., thyroiditis, Addison's or Cushing's disease, diabetes, etc.) the above protocol is recommended.

After 1 year, annually measure serum antibody titers against specific canine infectious agents such as distemper and parvovirus. This is especially recommended for animals previously experiencing adverse vaccine reactions or breeds at higher risk for such reactions (e.g., Weimaraner, Akita, American Eskimo, Great Dane).

Another alternative to booster vaccinations is homeopathic nosodes. This option is considered an unconventional treatment that has not been scientifically proven to be efficacious. One controlled parvovirus nosode study did not adequately protect puppies under challenged conditions. However, data from Europe and clinical experience in North America support its use. If veterinarians choose to use homeopathic nosodes, their clients should be provided with an appropriate disclaimer and written informed consent should be obtained.

I use only killed 3 year rabies vaccine for adults and give it separated from other vaccines by 3-4 weeks. In some states, they may be able to give titer test result in lieu of booster.

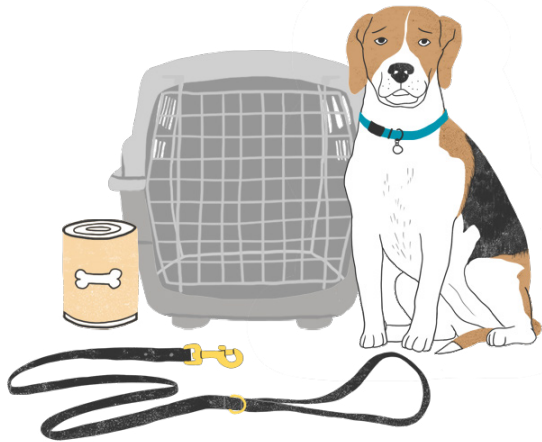
I do NOT use Bordetella, corona virus, leptospirosis or Lyme vaccines unless these diseases are endemic in the local area pr specific kennel. Furthermore, the currently licensed leptospira bacterins do not contain the serovars causing the majority of clinical leptospirosis today.

I do NOT recommend vaccinating bitches during estrus, pregnancy or lactation.

W. Jean Dodds, DVM
HEMOPET

Pet Emergency Preparedness Checklist

It's important to have a plan for your pet in case an emergency situation arises. Here is a list of items to include in your pet's emergency preparedness kit that will keep them healthy and comfortable.



Get more tips and advice on how to keep your pet happy and healthy on zoetispetcare.com

SCAN ME:



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Food & Water

- Two-week supply of food for each pet
- Portable food & water bowls
- Manual can opener (for canned food)
- Feeding instructions for each pet

Supplies

- Travel crate
- Harness & leash
- Collar with ID tags (if not microchipped or already wearing)
- Basic grooming supplies
- Favorite toys
- Pet first aid kit

FOR DOGS

- Potty supplies: poop bags and/or absorbent potty pads

FOR CATS

- Potty supplies: litter box, litter, scooper, garbage bags



Vital Records

- Current photo of each pet
- Copies of medical records
- Copies of pet insurance
- Copies of registration information
- Your contact information and any behavioral notes

Medication

- Two-week supply of prescription medications
- One-month supply of flea, tick, and heartworm medications
- Instructions for giving medications

More Ways to Stay Prepared

- Microchip your pets to increase the likelihood they'll be returned to you
- Learn some basic pet first aid
- Store your kit in an accessible place and practice your evacuation plan

Some human medicines are also effective for dogs; however, the dosages are usually lower due mostly to the smaller size of the animal. Note that these medications are not FDA approved for use in dogs or cats and should only be used under the guidance of your veterinarian. Call your vet to find exact dosage requirements for your pet and ensure the safety of administration.

Medications for Dogs

Medication	Use	Dosage	Method of Administration	Frequency
A & D Ointment	Antibacterial ointment for scrapes and wounds	Apply a thin coating	Topical	3 - 4 times a day for 7 - 10 days
Anbesol	Topical anesthetic for mouth pain		Dab on liquid with cotton swab	1 - 2 times a day for up to 2 days
Aspirin (buffered; enteric coated)	Analgesic, anti-inflammatory	4 - 10 mg per pound of body weight (dose varies with the purpose of the medication)	With food	Once daily
Aveeno Oatmeal Medicated Bath	For soothing itchy skin		Use as a bath rinse	As often as 3 times per week
Benadryl	Antihistamine	1 - 2mg per pound of body weight	Oral	Every 8 hours
Betadine Skin Cleanser	Antiseptic liquid soap for cleaning on or around wounds	Use full strength to wash the affected area		
Betadine Solution	Antiseptic	Dilute to 0.2% (2ml to 2 quarts of water - or the color of weak tea)	Topical	As prescribed for cleaning the wound.
Bufferin	Pain reliever	10 - 25mg per 2.2 pounds of body weight	Oral	2 - 3 times a day
Burow's Solution	Topical antiseptic		Moisten cotton ball and apply to wound	
Caladryl	Soothing topical lotion for pain and itching		Paint on sore area	

Medication	Use	Dosage	Method of Administration	Frequency
Charcoal (compressed activated charcoal)	Binds stomach poisons	5g per 10 pounds of body weight	Oral	Keep at least 30 tablets available, give once and only under the direction of a veterinarian
Chlorhexidine Solution (Nolvasan, etc..)	Antiseptic	Dilute to 0.05% (25ml to 2 quarts, 1.9Liters water)	Topical	As prescribed for cleaning the wound
Cortaid	Anti-itch cream			Apply once or twice daily as needed
Desitin	Soothing ointment			Rub on affected area
Dramamine	For motion sickness	2 - 4mg per pound of body weight	Oral	Every 8 hours
Dulcolax	For constipation	5 - 20mg tablet or 1/2 to 2 pediatric suppositories (10mg)	Oral	Once a day
Epsom Salts	Soothing soak for irritated, itchy skin	1 cup per gallon of water	Topical	Soak The affected area
Hydrogen Peroxide (3%)	Used to induce vomiting	1 teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight	Oral	You may repeat every 15-30 minutes (max 3 times)
Hypo Tears	Eye lubricant		Topical	Apply 4 - 12 times per day
Iodine	Topical antiseptic		Paint on wound	
Ipecac Syrup	Emetic to promote vomiting	1 teaspoon per 20lb, up to 3 tsp		

Medication	Use	Dosage	Method of Administration	Frequency
Kaolin and pectin (beware - some formulations contain salicylates)	For persistent diarrhea	1/2 to 1ml per pound of body weight (or 1 - 2 teaspoons per 10 pounds)	Oral	Every 6 hours
Kayo pectate	For diarrhea	1/2 - 1 teaspoon per 5 pounds	Oral	A maximum of 2 tablespoons every 8 hours
Lanacane	Topical anesthetic		Apply to sore area with gauze pad	
Massengill Disposable Douche	Odor neutralizer for skunk spray or body odor	Mix 2 oz per gal of water		Use a soak for 15 min, then bathe as usual
Metamucil (unflavored)	For constipation or to add fiber to the diet	1 teaspoon per 11 - 22 pounds	Mix in with food	Once daily - for short term use, unless otherwise directed
Milk of Magnesia, Mylanta, Maalox	Antacid, laxative, gas	2 - 4ml per pound of body weight	Oral	Every 12 - 24 hours
Mineral Oil	Lubricant, laxative	5ml per 20 pounds of body weight	Add to food - do not give separately due to aspiration risk	Twice daily - only for 2 - 3 days
Triple Antibiotic Ointment	Antibiotic for preventing wound infection		Topical	Apply 3 - 4 times daily as needed
Pedialyte or Gatorade	For dehydration	Mix 50/50 with water	Oral	Offer as much as the dog wants
Pepcid	Histamine blocker for antacid effect, and vomiting	1mg per pound of body weight	Injection or Oral	Once or twice daily
Pepto-Bismol without XYLITOL	For Diarrhea	0.5 - 1.5ml per pound of body weight	Oral	Every 12 hours

Medication	Use	Dosage	Method of Administration	Frequency
Preparation H	For a sore anal area			Apply up to 4 times daily
Prilosec (omeprazole)	Antacid, ulcer medication	0.25 - 0.50mg per pound of body weight	Oral	Once daily
Robitussin DM, Benylin Expectorant	Cough Suppressant	0.50 - 1mg per pound of body weight (or 1 teaspoon per 20 pounds)	Oral	Every 6 hours
Solarcaine	Topical pain reliever and anesthetic		Topical	Apply to sore area once or twice daily for up to 2 days
Tagamet (cimetidine)	Histamine blocker for antacid effect	10mg per lb. of body weight	Oral	2 - 3 times per day
Tylenol	Pain reliever	Ask your vet	Ask your vet	Ask your vet
Vicks VapoRub	For congestion		Topical	Smear a small amount on your pet's chin for easier breathing
Witch hazel	Astringent / topical antiseptic			Dab on affected area
Zantac (ranitidine)	Histamine blocker for antacid effect	150 - 300mg per pound of body weight	Add to meals	Daily - divide total dose over several meals throughout the day

What You Need to Know About Early Spay/Neuter: Reconsidering a Common Practice

An Overview

Spaying and neutering prevents reproduction, and reduces marking or roaming. However, reproductive hormones affect impact multiple organ systems and functions, including growth and behavior.

In the Past ...

The movement to reduce the euthanasia of shelter cats and dogs, early spay/neuter became a common practice. On a population level, early spay/neuter controls pet overpopulation, but on an individual level, there are risks.

Risks of Early Spay/Neuter

↳ prior to 6 months of age

Delays the closure of growth plates, meaning growth will continue



Leads to a taller dog and changes in conformation



In many larger breeds of dogs, this increases the risk of orthopedic problems, including hip and elbow dysplasia and patella luxation

! Additional Increased Risks: !

- Certain cancers including hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma, and lymphoma
- Obesity, autoimmune disorders, and behavioral problems

The effects of early spay/neuter are breed, age, and sex dependent.

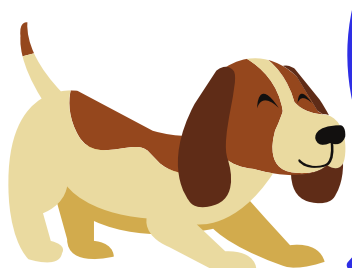
Risks of Later Spay/Neuter

- For intact **females**: mammary cancer and pyometra, a serious infection of the uterus
- For intact **males**: testicular cancer and prostatic disease
- Unintended reproduction



Ways to Avoid the Risks of Early Spay/Neuter:

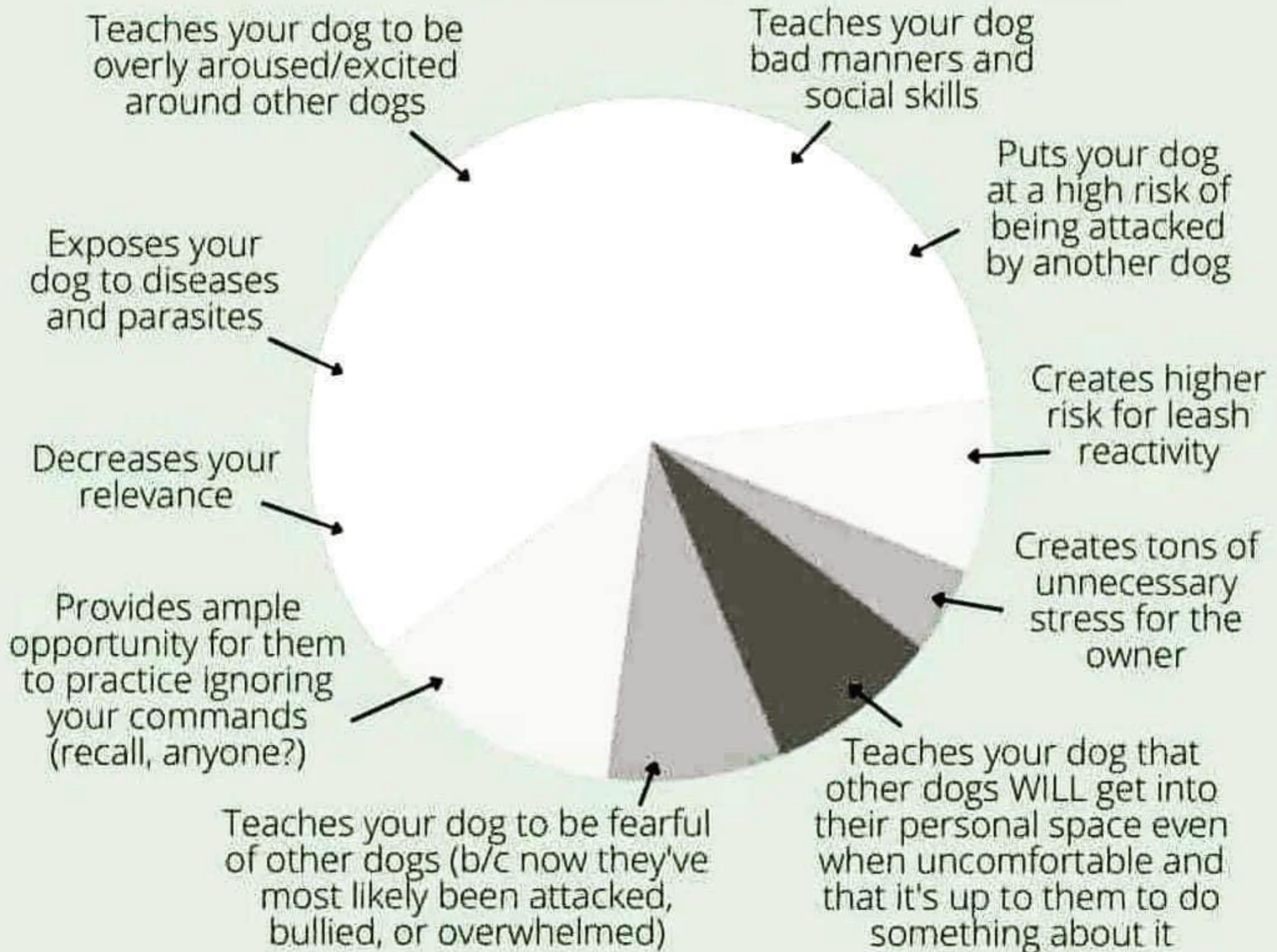
- Alter your dog after puberty; a recent study provided breed-specific guidelines on ideal spay/neuter ages.
- Alternative surgical procedures can control reproduction while retaining beneficial effects of hormones (ovary-sparing spay and vasectomy).
- Keep your dog intact - some dog owners prefer or don't mind keeping intact dogs.



The decision if and when to spay or neuter a dog may depend on intention to breed, dog's breed, an owner's ability or interest in managing an intact dog, or the environment a dog is living in. It's important to be aware of the benefits and risks of spay/neuter and find a veterinarian who can help make the right decision for you and your dog.

SOURCES: [Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence](#)
[Aggression toward Familiar People, Strangers, and Conspecifics in Gonadectomized and Intact Dogs](#)

WHAT TAKING YOUR DOG TO THE DOG PARK ACTUALLY DOES





Planet Paws (<https://www.planetpaws.ca/>)

MENU



*****NEW T-SHIRT
RELEASE*** The 'Pet
Parent' T-shirt!**

ARE THERE PEAS IN YOUR PET FOOD?



Pet Nutrition Blogger
Rodney Habib

[DISEASE PREVENTION \(/TAG/DISEASE-PREVENTION\)](#) | [HEALTHY FOOD \(/TAG/HEALTHY-FOOD\)](#)

[HUMAN FOOD \(/TAG/HUMAN-FOOD-FOR-PETS\)](#) | [JEAN DODDS \(/TAG/JEAN-DODDS\)](#)

[KIBBLE \(/TAG/KIBBLE\)](#) | [NUTRITION \(/TAG/PET_NUTRITION\)](#) | [PET FOOD \(/TAG/PET-FOOD\)](#)

THE PEA PROBLEM IN PET FOOD

Do you feed your pets peas day in and day out? Do you even know if they're in your bag or can of pet food? Well if you figured it out and are feeding peas, you'll want to read the latest research from Dr. Jean Dodds:

“Food intolerances/sensitivities are typically chronic conditions that build up over time—perhaps even after months or years of exposure to the offending ingredient(s)—and they often do not involve an immunological response.

Although they are generally not life threatening, food intolerances/sensitivities can affect many different aspects of a pet's physical and emotional wellbeing. Common signs include:

- GI tract issues similar to IBD.
- Chronic itching.
- Chronic burping and gas rumblings (borborigmi).
- Chronic skin, ear and foot infections (especially with the presence of yeast).

Peas, which are a legume (the seeds of plants), are the so-called “answer ingredient” for consumers who are demanding grain-free dog and cat food formulas.

According to the Petfood Industry Community

(<https://www.facebook.com/PetfoodIndustryCommunity>): “[...] the lowly pea (*Pisum sativum*) has been gaining in popularity. Not to be confused with the fresh or succulent green pea, the type that is being used in an ever widening array of applications is the dried pea.”

these pet foods have concentrated pea proteins and, when fed on a daily basis, have the potential to tear up the digestive tract and lead to inflammatory disease

So what is the main problem with your pet consuming too many dried peas?

The lectins in the peas! “Lectins are sugar-binding proteins that act as natural insecticides and fungicides to protect plants from predators.

Lectins are sticky molecules, enabling them to effectively bind to their sugars. The problem is that this stickiness can also cause lectins to bind onto the lining of the small intestine. This can cause damage to the intestinal lining, including disruption of the intestinal villi, resulting in a decreased ability to absorb nutrients. Lectin can also harm the gut microflora, the trillions of beneficial bacteria that live inside the mucosal tissue lining of the gut, resulting in leaky gut syndrome (Sisson, 2013).” – CanineNutrigenomics, 2015

Kimberly Kalander (<https://www.facebook.com/kimberly.kalander>)

explains:

“Once lectins from the peas are in the blood stream they can attach themselves to tissues such as joints, thyroid, pancreas, and the intestinal villi therefore blocking the absorption of nutrients at a cellular level. The body’s immune system can then send out antibodies to attack the protein along with the tissue it is attached to.

Researchers believe this inflammatory process can lead to a multitude of inflammatory diseases including thyroid, diabetes, arthritis, and cardiovascular disease. These conditions are quite the opposite of what we have been taught about the musical fruit. The fact that legumes cause so much gas should have given us a clue as to their ability to disrupt the gut. I am not saying that a bowl of legumes here and there will cause havoc. Consider this: these pet foods have concentrated pea proteins and, when fed on a daily basis, have the potential to tear up the digestive tract and lead to inflammatory disease."

Remember, the pet food manufacturer cannot get kibble to stick without starch. At 410g of starch per KG, peas seem like the golden answer in manufacturing kibble, especially a grain-free one at that! However, seeing our pets were not designed, on an evolutionary level, to consume peas daily, you may want to consider the information above when selecting a good food for your pet.

Want to know what else are full of lectins? Wheat, beans, soy and corn! So you may want to watch for those on an ingredient panel as well!

If you ask me, well, nothing beats a fresh food diet and if you are hell bent on adding peas, at least you can control the level of fresh organic peas you might want to add into your pet's bowl!

- [Rodney Habib \(https://www.facebook.com/planetpaws.ca\)](https://www.facebook.com/planetpaws.ca)

BLOG TYPES

Raw Bones For Safe Feeding, Healthy Teeth and Play

F= Food

D= Dental

P= Play

Small  Medium  Large 

F D P F D P F D P

Chicken neck 	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Duck neck 	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Chicken back 	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Chicken or duck wings 	✓			✓			✓		
Chicken or duck legs & feet (with nails cut off) 	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Lamb or goat shank 		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beef ribs 		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medium knuckle bones 			✓			✓			✓
Marrow bone 			✓	⚠ Do not feed			⚠ Do not feed		
Quail bones 	✓			✓			✓		
Rabbit carcass 	✓			✓			✓		

For more info,
visit the
recipemaker.
peterdobias.com

Xylitol: A Hidden Danger

This sugar substitute can be found in a wide range of products and is often listed under other names, including "birch sugar," "birch extract," and "wood sugar."



Ice cream and baked goods



Chewing gum



Candy and mints



Nut butters, jelly, and jams



Gummy vitamins and supplements



Toothpaste and mouthwash



Schwarzman
Animal Medical Center
Usdan Institute for
Animal Health Education

If you think your dog has ingested a product containing xylitol, take them to your veterinarian or an animal ER immediately!

SCHNAUZERS & PANCREATITIS

Miniature Schnauzers are extremely prone to bouts of pancreatitis caused by consistently high fat diet or even one high fat meal or treat.



Daily diet fat content should be 12% or lower



Use a nutritional calculator to ensure your dog's food will metabolize within the acceptable fat range



Avoid fatty treats or people food like pork/bacon, cheese, fries, chicken skin



Early signs include mucus in feces, vomiting, and abdominal pain, usually shown by shaking, panting, hunching



Immediate veterinary treatment is vital to survival - left untreated, pancreatitis can be deadly



Choking Hazards

- ❖ Avocado pits
- ❖ Baby bottle nipples
- ❖ Baby carrots
- ❖ Balls (tennis, rubber)
- ❖ Bully sticks
- ❖ Buttons
- ❖ Cellphones
- ❖ Corncobs
- ❖ Dental floss
- ❖ Diapers
- ❖ Fishhooks
- ❖ Food wrappers
- ❖ Game pieces
- ❖ Hair ties
- ❖ Hot dogs
- ❖ Jewelry
- ❖ Kibble pieces
- ❖ Rawhide chews
- ❖ Refrigerator magnets
- ❖ Rocks
- ❖ Rubber bands
- ❖ Sewing supplies

Here is a rundown of some everyday items a dog can swallow that cause choking and even trigger unconsciousness:



- ❖ Shoelaces
- ❖ Socks
- ❖ Squeakers from plush toys
- ❖ Sponges
- ❖ Sticks
- ❖ Tampons
- ❖ Tinsel
- ❖ Underwear
- ❖ Window blind cords
- ❖ Yarn



CONSUMER
ALERT

Rope Toys Are Dangerous

Rope toys are terrific for playing tug with dogs, but you should never allow your dog to chew on one – and never leave your dog unsupervised with one for even a minute.

Most dogs love playing tug of war, and rope toys provide a nearly perfect vehicle for this game. But rope toys should be used *only* as an interactive tool; you should always be on the other end of the rope, or at the very least, watching your dog like a hawk while waiting for him to bring it back to you in a game of fetch. It is *never* safe to leave rope toys with an unsupervised dog, especially if he chews or tears apart his toys.

Why do we sound so vehement about this? Because swallowing strings or thread can quickly become a veterinary emergency.

String can cause a blockage in your dog's intestines – or, worse, strangulate sections of the intestine, which would cut off the blood supply to those sections. If this happened, an expensive surgery and extensive aftercare might be necessary to save his life.

If you notice – or even guess, based on missing pieces of the toy – that your dog ate some of his rope toy, schedule an emergency appointment with your veterinarian immediately. It may be necessary for your vet to perform emergency surgery to remove threads or string from your dog's gut.

Note: If you look in your dog's mouth and see string that appears to be stuck to a tooth

or wrapped around his tongue, do *not* pull on the string. Pulling on it could cause it to become entrapped in the digestive tract – or to saw through his intestines.

When you take your dog to the vet, he or she *may* make the dog vomit or may recommend adding canned pumpkin to the dog's diet to help him pass the string safely. Even then, however, if the string becomes entangled, you're looking at surgery.

SUPERVISION REQUIRED

It's not just string: Chewing and swallowing part of *any* toy can quickly become a veterinary emergency. No dog should be unsupervised when chewing on any type of toy.

A study from *The Journal of Small Animal Practice* looked at 499 cases where dogs had swallowed either a linear foreign body (in other words, string-like objects) or a non-linear foreign body (like anything else). They found that dogs with a linear foreign body had more severe clinical signs and an increased duration of hospitalization and cost of the procedure.

Interestingly, however, the study found survival rates in both types of obstructions to be similar. Swallowing anything but food is a bad idea.

YOU SAY YOUR DOG DOESN'T SWALLOW STRING?

OK, whether your dog chews off some of the rope might depend a little on your dog's personality. Some dogs chew more aggressively than others. And size matters. A little Shih Tzu or Pomeranian probably will take a lot longer to destroy a rope toy than a big Doberman Pinscher or Rottweiler. Dogs are individual, creative chewers, but they all need to be supervised. 🐾

John Strassburger is an award-winning journalist from Santa Rosa, Calif. He writes with the help of his Doberman Pinschers Boreas and Rhaegal, and a Livestock Guardian Dog named Isis.

This puppy is right at the soft end where it is all too easy to chew off string and consume it. Never allow a dog or puppy to chew a string toy.

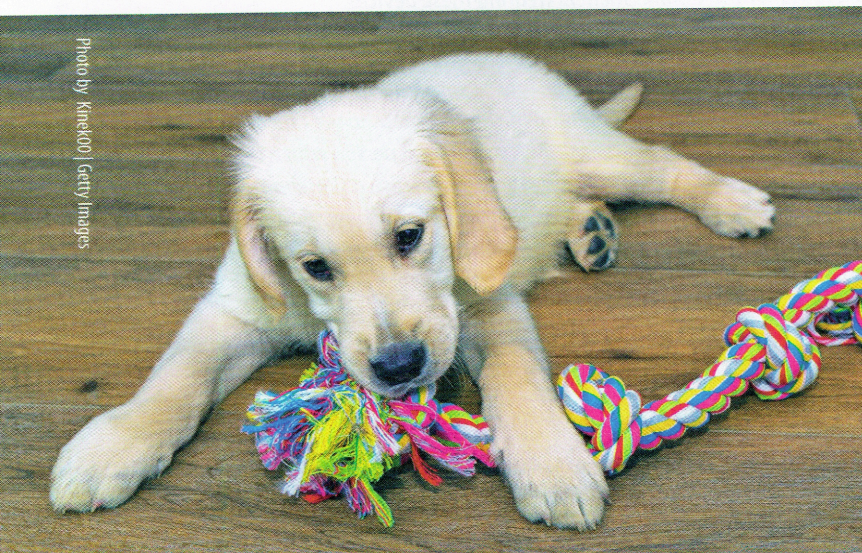


Photo by Kineko | Getty Images



PREVENT PET SUFFOCATION

Be Aware – Spread the Word!



ISSUES

Food bags can be deadly to your pets!
Dogs suffocate daily in chip/snack bags,
pet food bags, and plastic bags within minutes.
Learn how to protect your pets!

Bag seals around
pet's head and neck.
Can suffocate in
3 to 5 minutes.



*This also
affects wildlife.*

Can happen if person is home or
not. 50% of events happened
with person at home. 19% of
survey respondents were gone
less than 15 minutes. 40% were
gone less than 1 hour.

Pet size, breed, or age
doesn't matter.
89% were dogs.
52% were
between 25
and 75 lbs.

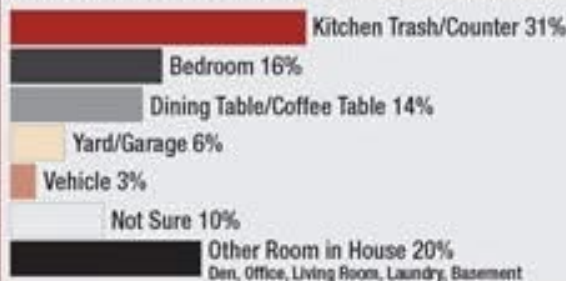


FACTS

TYPE OF FOOD BAG OR CONTAINER INVOLVED



WHERE PETS FOUND THE FOOD BAG OR CONTAINER



SOLUTIONS



Serve snacks
in a bowl



Destroy
all bags



Store food/snacks
in containers



Secure
kitchen trash

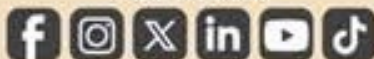
Learn Pet CPR!
10% of attempts
were successful



Use this QR code
to learn more
about Pet CPR

SHARING SPREADS AWARENESS!

Follow us on:



PreventPetSuffocation.com
info@preventpetsuffocation.com

Source: Prevent Pet Suffocation Survey 2021–2023: 4,455 respondents.

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Symptoms often develop within 30 minutes but can appear up to 24 hours after being bitten. Signs include:

- ✔ A swollen muzzle (dogs are often bitten on the face or head)
- ✔ Dual puncture wounds (may be hard to spot; may ooze red)
- ✔ Dilated pupils
- ✔ Shaking, muscle twitching, and difficulty blinking
- ✔ Slow or ragged breathing
- ✔ Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- ✔ Whimpering
- ✔ Vomiting
- ✔ Loss of bladder and bowel control
- ✔ Local discoloration
- ✔ Neurological symptoms such as the inability to 'smile', open the mouth properly or protrude the tongue

HOW TO TREAT A DOG SNAKE BITE

How to ID a snake bite and what to do if your dog was bitten

If you live in a region known to have poisonous snakes, it's important to know what to do if your dog is bitten by a snake.

Pit vipers, a group of venomous snakes that includes rattlesnakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths/water moccasins, are responsible for almost all venomous snakebites in the US and Canada. Identifiable characteristics of these snakes include retractable fangs, heat-sensing "pits" below the eyes, and elliptical-shaped pupils. (Thanks for the nightmares.) Rattlesnakes are responsible for most snakebite fatalities in North America.

HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR DOG WAS BITTEN BY A SNAKE

Bite locations tend to differ between dogs and cats. In cats, snakebites are more common on the front limbs, as cats are more likely to bat at snakes with their front paws. Dogs, in contrast, are more likely to sniff the snake and thus are often bitten on the face or head. A swollen muzzle is frequently a telltale sign.

TREATMENT

It is important to not be complacent – dogs can be asymptomatic up to 24 hours after a bite, and even trivial-looking bites can result in lethal envenomation, notes Australia's Animal Emergency Services. If you think a venomous snake bit your dog, seek immediate veterinary assistance. Call your vet to tell them you are enroute. Try to keep your dog quiet and limit activity. Attempt to keep the bite site below heart level if possible. Do not attempt to treat your pet with tourniquets, suction, hot or cold packs, incisions, or anything else—these approaches are ineffective. Urgent, intensive veterinary treatment is necessary to limit the long-term effects of the venom. Once at the vet, treatment recommendations may include administration of antivenin and supportive care, such as IV fluids and pain management.

If you live in a region where venomous snakes are common, check to see if your vet carries lifesaving Rattler Antivenin from MG Biologics (mgbiologics.com). It neutralizes venom from rattlesnakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths/water moccasins. Pre-mixed and ready-to-use, it counteracts the snake venom, decreases swelling, minimizes pain, and decreases temperature. Ask your vet to stock this in case of emergencies.



NATIONAL SNAKEBITE SUPPORT

VETERINARY SNAKEBITE MANAGEMENT

Pre-Hospital for Dogs and Cats

- Distance yourself and pets from the snake
- Take a photo of the snake, if possible
- Do not attempt to capture, kill, or transport the snake
- Remove collars, leashes, or harnesses
- Avoid excitement or strenuous activity

Do not administer any medications, especially NSAIDs

Seek veterinary care immediately! If possible, call ahead to confirm antivenom is in stock.

**IF NIGHT OR
WEEKEND**

24-hour specialty, critical care,
or emergency hospital

**IF OFFICE
HOURS**

Nearest veterinary hospital
that can assess and stabilize
your pet

Request a transfer if:

- Provider does not stock antivenom and opiates and/or does not have capability for monitoring overnight
- or-
- Patient's condition is deteriorating

Keep in mind:

- After hours, do not waste valuable time trying to find a local veterinarian to treat your pet. Proceed to the nearest regional after-hour emergency clinics as soon as possible (even if it is several hours away).
- Antivenom is helpful as long as there are ongoing venom effects. Even if you do not find your injured pet until the next day, you should still take the above steps.
- Many practices can deliver excellent care during the day, but may need to transfer to a regional emergency clinic for overnight care.

JOIN NATIONAL SNAKEBITE SUPPORT FACEBOOK GROUP FOR PROMPT SNAKEBITE SUPPORT

NATIONAL SNAKEBITE SUPPORT

VETERINARY PIT VIPER ENVENOMATION FOR DOGS AND CATS

INDICATED / RECOMMENDED TREATMENT

- Antivenom** The only thing that can neutralize venom. Nothing else addresses swelling, bruising, tissue damage, pain, hematologic changes, and long-term effects from envenomations.
- IV Fluids** Precise control of patient hydration.
- Pain management** Pit viper envenomation is an extremely painful condition.
- Bloodwork** Helps assess the progression or regression of hematologic changes.

CONTRAINDICATED / DO NOT ADMINISTER

- NSAIDs** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, including, but not limited to, carprofen and meloxicam, can increase bleeding tendencies. Bleeding risks are already increased due to venom effects. NSAIDs can also cause significant kidney injury.
- Corticosteroids (aka steroids)** Corticosteroids, including, but not limited to, dexamethasone and prednisone, increase the risk of delayed healing and gastric ulceration/perforation. When combined with NSAIDs, the risk of septic peritonitis and potentially fatal GI bleeds is even higher.
- Subcutaneous fluids** Administering fluids under the skin causes some bleeding. The tendency to bleed is already increased due to the venom.
- Human Medications** Human medications can be fatal to pets and should never be administered except as instructed by a veterinarian.
- Home Remedies** There are no effective home remedies for pit viper envenomation. Some home therapies may cause additional harm and complicate or prolong proper veterinary treatment.

NOT INDICATED / OF NO BENEFIT

- Benadryl** Benadryl is an antihistamine that is useful in treating swelling and inflammation mediated by a body chemical called histamine. Histamines are released by the body in cases of allergic reactions and in response to bee, wasp, and hornet stings.
- Swelling from pit viper envenomation is caused by massive tissue damage mediated by hemotoxins, cytotoxins, and myotoxins, not by histamine release.
- Using antihistamines to address swelling related to snake venom is of zero benefit, and may cause dangerous altered mentation in patients experiencing shock.
- Antibiotics** Antibiotics prescribed during the initial treatment of envenomation are unnecessary. Antibiotics should be prescribed only if infection has been diagnosed.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THE VETERINARY MANAGEMENT OF PIT VIPER ENVENOMATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Pit viper envenomation is a common emergency throughout a large portion of the United States. Pit vipers are snakes in the subfamily Crotalinae and include rattlesnakes, copperhead, and cottonmouths. Envenomations can range from mild to severe. Dry bites can occur, but are rare and happen in fewer than 15% of cases. This information sheet will focus on identification of pit viper bites, diagnostics, common misconceptions, contraindications, and management.

Key Points

- The most common signs of envenomation by a pit viper include puncture wounds, swelling, bruising, bleeding, and pain.
- The only way to treat the signs and prevent further tissue damage is with administration of antivenom. Three different brands are currently approved in the US.
- Steroids, Benadryl, and antibiotics are not indicated in the acute phases of a snake bite. NSAIDs are contraindicated due to risk of bleeding, gastrointestinal ulcers, and kidney injury.

Pathophysiology

- Swelling is due to cytotoxins, hemotoxins, and myotoxins that cause tissue destruction. A common misconception is that swelling is due to histamine release, but there is virtually no histamine release in pit viper envenomations. Some species of rattlesnakes' venom contain neurotoxins.
- Severe cases can go into distributive and/or hypovolemic shock. Anaphylactic shock from snake bites is extremely rare from the bite itself.
- Hemotoxins can lead to coagulopathies and thrombocytopenia (ranging from mild to severe).
- Cytotoxins and myotoxins lead to tissue and cell destruction.
- Neurotoxins can lead to tremors, fasciculations, paresis/paralysis, and mentation changes.

Clinical Signs

- Swelling, bruising, bleeding, pain, erythema, hypotension, vomiting, diarrhea/hematochezia, and tissue necrosis in later stages

Diagnostics

- CBC: Monitor for anemia and thrombocytopenia
- Chemistry if possible to monitor for signs of organ injury
- PT (Prothrombin time)/aPTT (activated Partial Thromboplastin Time), or Activated Clotting time (ACT)
- Blood film: Check for echinocytosis, which is common in snake envenomations. (Especially important if it is not immediately apparent that an envenomation has occurred.)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THE VETERINARY MANAGEMENT OF PIT VIPER ENVENOMATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Treatment

- Antivenom: the only thing that can neutralize circulating venom.
 - Sometimes one vial is needed, sometimes 20 vials are needed. This depends on the severity of the bite, the patients clinical and vital signs, as well as lab work findings.
 - Typically, most cases will require 1-2 vials of antivenom, which is a good place to start.
 - In cases with more severe signs such as severe coagulopathy, bleeding and hypotension, loading doses of 4-6 vials may be indicated.
- Fluid therapy: this will help correct hypovolemia/hypotension and dehydration. This will also help keep kidneys perfused as pigmenturia is common after hemolysis and rhabdomyolysis. Starting with a fluid bolus of 10-20ml/kg can be helpful, then placing the patient on a maintenance or 1.5-2x maintenance can help prevent further hypovolemia, correct dehydration, and maintain renal perfusion.
- Opioids: Snake bites are extremely painful. Strong but reversible opioids are recommended. This should be withheld until severe signs of hypotension or bleeding are controlled.
- In severe cases, blood products such as packed red blood cells, fresh whole blood, or fresh frozen plasma may be indicated.
- Oxygen therapy if dyspnea/hypoxemia is present.
- After a patient is discharged, pain medications such as tramadol, gabapentin, fentanyl patches, and acetaminophen with codeine (not cats) is indicated.
- Wound care may be needed in cases of necrosis.

Additional important information

- NSAIDs can lead to worsening coagulopathies as they are platelet inhibitors. NSAIDs can also lead to acute kidney injury in cases of hypotension or severe hemolysis or rhabdomyolysis. They should be avoided as well to prevent GI ulceration.
- Multiple studies show that glucocorticoids are of no benefit. In some snake bites it can worsen the outcome and potentiate venom effects as well as immunosuppress. Additional considerations are that steroids can lead to GI ulceration.
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is of no benefit. As stated above, the swelling is not histamine-mediated. It can also lead to altered mentation which could be dangerous in shocky patients.
- Antibiotics are not indicated unless signs of necrosis or infection are present. Snake venom kills most bacteria in the injection site, so infections are not an issue in the acute stage. If tissue necrosis occurs, antibiotics could be indicated at that time.

NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY PIT VIPER TREATMENT ALGORITHM



1 Assess Patient

- Perform full physical exam
- Shave bitten area if known
- Obtain initial lab studies (CBC [platelets], chemistry, coags [PT/PTT, ACT], blood film [confirm platelets, echinocytes], creatine kinase)
- Blood pressure

2 Check for Signs of Envenomation

- Puncture wounds, pain, bleeding, bruising, swelling, redness
- Hemotoxicity (prolonged coags, low platelets)
- Systemic signs (hypotension, shock, neurotoxicity, bleeding, severe pain, vomiting and/or diarrhea)
- Early/immediate necrosis
- Monitor for pigmenturia (avoid cystocentesis for urinalysis)

3 Check for Indications for Antivenom

- Progressive swelling or significant local tissue injury
- Hemotoxicity (prolonged coags, low platelets)
- Any systemic signs

<p>Mild (see Box 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild to moderate pain • Mild to moderate swelling/bruising • Normal coags/platelets • No acute bleeding • No hemolysis • No GI signs 	<p>Moderate (see Box 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to severe pain • Moderate to severe swelling/bruising • Prolonged coags • Marked thrombocytopenia • Mild to moderate bleeding 	<p>Severe (see Box 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable patient • Hypotension • Obtunded/neurotoxicity • Dyspneic • Severe bleeding/coagulopathy • Vomiting/hematemesis • Diarrhea/hematochezia
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4 Administer Antivenom

- Prepare antivenom according to manufacturer instructions

<p>Venom Vet™ or ACP: Dose based on severity of envenomation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild: Administer 1-2 vials over 1 hr • Moderate: Administer 2-4 vials over 30-60 mins • Severe: Administer 2-6 vials over no more than 30 mins 	<p>Rattler Antivenin™ (must be given through blood filter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild: Administer 1 bag over 1 hr • Moderate: Administer 1 bag over 30-60 mins • Severe: Administer 1-2 bags over no more than 30 mins
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- Monitor for adverse reactions (rare)
- For suspected shock/allergic reaction, see Box 14**

5 Determine if Control is Achieved

- Swelling and tenderness not progressing
- Bloodwork improving/resolved
- Clinically stable
- Neurotoxicity improving/resolved

Yes

6 Monitor Patient

- Perform serial examinations
- Recheck swelling/wound
- Pain scale
- Blood pressure
- Recheck labs in 4-6 hrs (coags, platelet count, and PCV/TS or CBC)

If patient develops new or worsening symptoms, return to Box 3

11 Additional Antivenom

- Repeat steps 4 and 5 until control is achieved

Be cautious of fluid overload in cats and small dogs when administering multiple doses of diluted VenomVet™ or ACP, or multiple bags of Rattler Antivenin™

7 Determine if Patient Meets Discharge Criteria

- No progression of venom effects
- No unfavorable laboratory trends

9 Apparent Dry Bite/No Bite

- Do not administer antivenom
- Observe patient ≥ 8 hrs
- Repeat labs prior to discharge

If patient develops signs of envenomation, return to Box 2

10 Apparent Minor Envenomation

- Do not administer antivenom
- Observe patient 12-24 hrs
- Repeat labs at 4-6 hrs and prior to discharge

If patient develops progression of any signs of envenomation, return to Box 3



8 Discharge Instructions

- Monitor for swelling, bleeding, redness, necrosis (blackening of skin), infection (pus, pain), serum sickness (rash, vomiting, diarrhea, joint pain, fever)
- Pain medications: gabapentin, tramadol, fentanyl patch, codeine
- Wound care with primary vet or referral to specialist
- Antibiotics are indicated where evidence of active infection is present
- For patients with severe envenomation, recheck bloodwork 48 hrs post-discharge

Things to Avoid

- NSAIDs
- Steroids
- Benadryl
- Fasciotomy
- Ice
- Tourniquets
- Cutting/suctioning of bites
- Electric shock
- Prophylactic antibiotics

12 If Patient is Stable

- IV catheter
- Administer analgesia (fully reversible opioids preferred)
- IV fluids

Administer antivenom per instructions in Box 4

13 If Patient is Unstable

- Bolus IV crystalloids 10-20 ml/kg, repeat PRN
- Oxygen supplementation or ventilation if needed
- Vasopressors if unresponsive to antivenom and fluid boluses
- Blood products only if severe acute hemorrhage or severe hemolysis
- Antiarrhythmics (lidocaine, procainamide)
- Benzodiazepines (for seizures)

Administer antivenom per instructions in Box 4

14 Adverse Reactions

- Monitor for urticaria, angioedema, circulatory collapse
 - GI signs more common in dogs
 - Respiratory distress more common in cats

Treat allergic/anaphylactic reaction (0.01ml/kg epinephrine IM, then CRI @ 0.05 mcg/kg/min and titrate as needed)

Diphenhydramine 2-4 mg/kg IM +/- anti-inflammatory dose of steroid

Contact National Snakebite Support for additional guidance: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/national.snakebite.support>
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NATIONAL SNAKEBITE SUPPORT

*"The sole purpose of National Snakebite Support is to connect snakebite victims with experts who practice the proper management of snake envenomations."
- Albert Coritz, NSS Creator*

From a DVM with National Snakebite Support:

PSA: For any pet parents that are owners of brachycephalic (smushy-faces) breeds such as bulldogs, pugs, shitzus, boxers, mastiffs, etc.!

If your pet is bitten by a venomous snake, ESPECIALLY to the face, it is extremely important to advocate for antivenom even with normal lab parameters. These breeds are already predisposed to respiratory disease, and are more likely to become compromised with any swelling associated with their face/neck due to their "special" anatomy. I would also argue that it is more important for these breeds to stay hospitalized for monitoring in case there is any sign of respiratory distress, as it is important to be able to intubate to secure an airway if the swelling gets to the point of causing an upper airway obstruction. Learn more at www.facebook.com/groups/national.snakebite.support