

Prince Frederick Animal Hospital  
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[www.princefrederickanimalhospital.com](http://www.princefrederickanimalhospital.com)

### **Dog Vaccine Schedule**

The first 4 months are often the most critical in the life of a dog. Many devastating diseases strike early, therefore preventative medicine is essential. It is strongly recommended to initiate a vaccine program by 8 weeks of age, earlier if the mother is not current on vaccines. Law mandates current rabies vaccinations, whether the animal goes outdoors or not. Females planned for breeding should be current on vaccines BEFORE breeding. Vaccines are not administered to pregnant or debilitated animals. Prince Frederick Animal Hospital follows the vaccine recommendations of the American Animal Hospital Association.

### **DOG VACCINATIONS**

**DHPP** Distemper is a respiratory/brain disease, hepatitis is a liver disease, parainfluenza is a respiratory disease, and parvovirus is a gastrointestinal disease. Give at 8 weeks old or older, then boost in 2-4 weeks, until at least 16 weeks old. Adult dog that have received the puppy series get a booster one year later then every 3 years. Administer over right shoulder.

**Rabies** 1 year vaccine at 12 weeks old or older, then 3 year vaccine thereafter. Administer in right rear leg.

**Lyme** STRONGLY recommended, is a disease carried by ticks. Repeat after 2-4 weeks, then yearly. First vaccine is given after 12 weeks old. Administer over left shoulder.

**Bordetella (kennel cough)** REQUIRED for boarding and STRONGLY recommended for grooming and frequent dog contact. Upper respiratory disease. Injectable or intranasal, both given after 8 weeks old. Injectable must be boosted in 2-4 weeks, unless an intranasal has been done in the past, then is a yearly booster.

**Canine Influenza Virus** STRONGLY recommended for grooming, boarding, and frequent dog contact. Lower respiratory disease. First vaccine is given after 6 weeks old. Injectable boosted in 2-4 weeks, then yearly. Administer left rear.

**Lepto4** This has 4 serovars of leptospirosis, a kidney disease. This disease is present on the east coast and is contagious to people. First vaccine is given after 12 weeks old. Boost in 2-4 weeks, then yearly. Administer between shoulder blades.

### **Microchip**

A microchip is a permanent source of identification that is implanted just beneath the skin. Veterinarians, shelters, humane societies and animal control officers all have microchip scanners, so if a microchipped animal is found, it can be traced back to its owner without delay. The fee to insert a microchip here covers *lifelong* PFAH (local) and online (nationwide) activation, and *1-year* premium coverage for insurance/alerts if pet lost. Note that the microchip company will send a bill after one year to continue this yearly premium coverage. If you opt not to continue the yearly premium coverage, your pet will *still be activated lifelong in the microchip database*.

### **Heartworm Protection**

Heartworms are parasites that are easily transmitted to dogs (and cats) by mosquitoes. Chronic heartworm infestation causes heart and lung disease and is fatal if left untreated. Because heartworm treatment is expensive, it is recommended to start prevention at 8 weeks but no later than 6 months of age (the sooner the better). Monthly prevention is available through your veterinarian. Dosage is according to weight. It is recommended to check a heartworm test yearly to catch the disease as early as possible. If the test result is positive, the treatment should start as soon as possible. A negative heartworm status is essential for all anesthetic events because heartworm disease increases the risk of complications under anesthesia, including death. We recommend monthly heartworm preventative year-round.

**Heartworm test** Puppies started on heartworm preventative then tested at first yearly.

If dog is over 6 months old, test then RETEST in 6 months.

If dog off heartworm preventative for less than 6 months, then refill heartworm preventative and retest at next yearly.

If dog off heartworm preventative for more than 6 months, then test before refilling heartworm preventative.

We use a combination test for: heartworms, lyme, ehrlichia and anaplasma.

### **Intestinal Parasites**

Puppies should have feces analyzed for intestinal parasites (roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, giardia, and coccidia) starting at 8 weeks of age. Up to 90% of puppies have worms! Worms can be acquired before birth, while nursing, from the environment, or from fleas. Two consecutive fecal samples are recommended initially, in order to identify eggs that are shed intermittently. Parasite infestations can cause a wide variety of clinical signs including itchy skin, poor hair coat, stunted growth, pot-bellied appearance, vomiting, bloody or discolored diarrhea, and death. A fecal should also be checked during routine yearly visits. Deworming treatment depends on the parasites identified. In order to prevent re-infestation of the environment, feces should be disposed of.

### **Fleas and Ticks**

Fleas can cause anemia and death in very young animals. Itching, especially of the hind end and pepper-like specks of “dirt” in the hair can indicate flea infestation. Ticks can cause very serious debilitating diseases. Ticks must feed for several hours in order to transmit disease. To reduce the chance of infection, remove the tick promptly with tweezers, tissue or gloves, and clean the area. If the dog exhibits a rash, sudden joint pain and lameness, fever, anorexia or lethargy have your pet to the vet as soon as possible. Flea and tick preventatives available from your veterinarian are safe, easy and effective in killing both fleas and ticks for dogs and cats 8 weeks of age and older. Topicals are applied to the skin on the neck area once a month. Swimming, bathing and humidity does not lower the efficiency of these preventatives as long as dogs are dry 2 days prior and 2 days after application. We recommend monthly flea and tick control year-round. Fleas and ticks are active and biting at temperatures over 55 degrees!

### **Weather and Outdoor Pets**

If your dog is housed outdoors, provide a warm, insulated, and draft-free shelter that is slightly elevated, so water does not accumulate. A plastic or canvas door should be used to keep out winter winds. If the weather becomes severe or temperatures drop below freezing, bring your pet inside. Water needs to be fresh and checked frequently for freezing. Snow removal substances may be toxic; read labels before use. Remove salt, snow, and ice from paws immediately. If you suspect frostbite, call your veterinarian. Antifreeze is very deadly (1 teaspoon can kill a small dog or any size cat) and has a sweet taste, so clean up spills immediately. During hot weather, dehydration and heat stress can be life threatening. Heat stress causes panting, high fever, rapid heart rate, fatigue, shock and collapse. Heat stress is more likely in older or overweight pets, and pets with heart or lung conditions. Minimize the possibility of heat stress by providing clean water, shade, and adequate ventilation at all times, especially for animal kept outdoors. Avoid overheating, and **NEVER** leave a pet in a parked vehicle. Hot surfaces can irritate or burn your pet's feet. Walk or play on grass or light colored surfaces where the temperatures are cooler.

### **Surgical Sterilization**

Dog and cat overpopulation is a huge problem in the United States. Breeding can be costly, messy, and frustrating. Females should be spayed at 6 months, and males should be neutered at 6 months. The first heat may occur in females as early as 6 months or as late as 1½ years. The occurrence of serious disease (such as testicular and breast cancer, prostate and uterine infections) are greatly reduced when pets are fixed.

### **Feeding**

Puppies should be fed a good quality puppy food until they are 1 year old: giant breeds until 2 years old. Most puppies need to eat about 1 cup per 10 lb body weight per day. Some toy breeds will nibble all day, but most puppies prefer three feedings a day until 12 weeks, then two meals daily thereafter. Once a dog is over 1 year old (giant breeds over 2 years old), puppy food can gradually (over 1-2 weeks) be switched to adult food. Adult dogs should eat 1 cup per 20 lbs body weight per day. **WE RECOMMEND PURINA PROPLAN DIET!**

### **Grooming/Hygiene**

Frequent bathing can dry out skin. Do not bathe your dog more than every 2 weeks unless instructed by your veterinarian. Rinse well, otherwise skin can become irritated and itchy. Dogs with long hair may require professional grooming, anywhere from once a month to once a year. Trim nails once a month. Gentle manipulation on the paws at an early age will help your puppy get used to handling and trimming nails. Clean ears every 2 weeks. Do not use Q-tips in the ear, only at the opening. Cleaning solutions are available through your veterinarian. You should also clean your dog's teeth 3 times a week. There are toothbrushes and finger covers available to brush the teeth, and dog toothpaste should be used (human toothpaste has too much fluoride).

### **County Tags**

All dogs and cats, fixed or not fixed, indoor or outdoor, are required by law to have a county license and tag. This county license is required by law to be renewed yearly. We sell the county licenses here, but they also available for sale at the same price at the sheriff's office.

## **Pet Insurance**

PFAH does not have a financial stake in any pet insurance, but we **STRONGLY** recommend pet insurance for your pet! It is only a matter of time before an illness or an injury will happen to your pet. Wouldn't it be great to have an insurance policy in place in advance, so cost is NOT an issue when something happens?

### **TRUPANION PET INSURANCE**

1-877-589-1863 or [www.trupanion.com](http://www.trupanion.com)

*Trupanion Plan* provides 90% coverage for accidents and illness, hereditary and congenital conditions, diagnostic tests, surgeries, meds and pet supplements, and hospital stays.

Flexible deductible.

There is NO annual payout limit.

Only dogs and cats.

You can activate a FREE 30-day trial, make sure you get a trial certificate from our staff! This FREE 30-day trial **MUST** be signed by your veterinarian **AFTER** your pet has been examined.

**ASK FOR YOUR TRUPANION TRIAL CERTIFICATE TODAY!**

### **VPI PET INSURANCE**

1-866-VET-PETS or [www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)

*Major Medical Plan Comprehensive* covers accidents, illnesses and hereditary conditions.

*Medical Plan Economical* covers accidents and illnesses.

*Injury Plan Emergency* covers accidents only.

*Feline Select Plan* covers the 15 most common cat conditions.

*Wellness Rider* covers a portion of wellness exams, vaccinations, routine testing, microchip, flea/heartworm preventive, dental cleaning, spay/neuter.

Flexible deductible.

There is an annual payout limit (\$14,000).

Dogs, cats, avian and exotic pets.

10-day, money-back guarantee.

**ASK FOR YOUR VPI PET INSURANCE BROCHURE TODAY!**

# How to housebreak your new puppy

Follow these guidelines to make housebreaking as easy as possible for you and your pet.

**Start at the Ideal Age.** The best time to begin housebreaking a puppy is when it is 7 ½ to 8 ½ weeks old. At this age, you can teach the puppy where to eliminate before it has established its own preferences. But don't worry if your puppy is older when you start housebreaking, it will still learn, though it may take a little longer.

**Six to eight times a day, take your puppy outdoors to eliminate.** Choose an appropriate spot to take the puppy immediately after it wakes up, after play sessions and 15 to 20 minutes after meals. If you take your puppy to the same spot everyday, previous odors will stimulate it to urinate or defecate. Many puppies need 15 to 20 minutes of moving around and sniffing before they eliminate. Stay with the puppy the whole time. Housebreaking problems can result if you're unsure whether the puppy actually eliminated and you let it return to the house too soon. And remember the puppy needs to focus on the job at hand, so don't play with it until it has eliminated.

**Use a key phrase while your puppy eliminates.** If you repeat the same phrase (e.g. "go potty" or "take care of business") every time your puppy eliminates outdoors it will learn that this phrase means that it is the right time and place to eliminate.

**Once the puppy eliminates outdoors, immediately reward it.** Reward the puppy by praising it, giving it a treat, or playing with it. But remember to reward it right away. The puppy will not learn to eliminate outdoors if the reward comes when it returns to the house. Instead, the puppy will think that it's being rewarded for coming inside.

**Supervise the puppy indoors as well as outdoors.** Find a room in your house that allows you to watch your puppy as much as possible. This will help you catch the puppy if it starts to eliminate indoors. You can also leash the puppy or place a bell on its collar to help you keep track of it.

**When you leave home, put the puppy in a crate.** When you can't supervise the puppy, leave it in a small puppy-proof area such as a crate. If the crate is large enough to accommodate the puppy as an adult, partition it to avoid having the puppy eliminate at one end and sleep at the other. And remember that young puppies' bladder and bowel capacities are limited, so let the puppy out at least every four hours.

**Don't punish after the fact.** If your puppy has an accident in the house, don't go get the puppy and rub its nose in it. This doesn't do any good because the misbehavior has already occurred. Instead, try to catch the puppy in the act. If you see the puppy getting ready to housesoil, don't swat it, but stomp your foot, shake a can filled with pennies, or startle the puppy by yelling "outside". The puppy will likely stop what it's doing, and you can take it outdoors to eliminate.

**Don't leave food out all day.** Feed your puppy at set times every day, and remove the food bowl after 20 minutes. This will create regular intervals at which the puppy will need to eliminate.

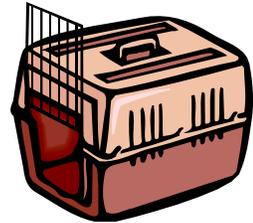
**Thoroughly clean areas where the puppy has eliminated in the house.** Your Veterinarian can recommend a safe, effective product that removes both odors and stains. It's important to clean a soiled area completely, otherwise your puppy may return to it and housesoil again.

**Stick with the training program.** Most puppies can be successfully housebroken by 14 to 20 weeks of age. But a pet may take longer to housebreak for several reasons. Consult your veterinarian if you are having difficulty.

Taken from the February 1999 issue of Veterinary Medicine

# Crate Training:

## Well worth the trouble



Wondering how to begin crate training your puppy or dog or even whether you should?

Crate training gets a dog used to being in a crate, so that he or she can safely be left for hours at a time. Crate training can speed up potty training! But crate training isn't suitable for all dogs. Some dogs may become very upset and the dog may never overcome this. Dogs with separation anxiety may become more upset in a crate. An anxious dog can hurt himself in a crate, so use your best judgment. Crate training makes many training problems easier to solve. A dog who has been properly introduced to his crate considers it his own private haven and many dogs will go into their crates on their own when they just want to be alone.

**Important:** Always remove all collars and other equipment from the dog before putting him in his crate. He may get caught by the collar and panic.

### Benefits of Crate Training:

\*\* Crate training helps tremendously in potty training. Dogs usually will not soil in their haven.

\*\* Your dog can be confined when necessary, without undue wear & tear on your home.

\*\*Less stress when your dog goes to a boarding kennel or is hospitalized at a veterinarian's hospital.

\*\*Many dogs seek out their crates to relax or get away (their private haven).

Select a good location for the crate (or more than one location). Bedrooms are good at night.

During the day position the crate near people. Either move the crate around or use multiple crates. Allow something soft (towel/blanket/bed) for your dog to lie on.

### Crate Training:

\*\*Tie open or remove the door. Let your dog sniff and examine the crate while the door is open.

\*\*Gradually make the crate interesting. Throw toys or treats in it. A *kong toy* or a hollow bone filled with peanut butter, cheese or milk bones can be used. Talk lovingly to him if he goes in. Pet him while he is in the crate.

\*\*When he is comfortable going in and out of the crate (this can take minutes or weeks), close the door while you are there. Once he accepts the closed door go elsewhere in your home. Gradually lengthen the time you are gone.

\*\*If he whines to get out, don't let him out and don't sweet talk him. You may let him out and sweet talk to him when he's not whining (*if you let him out while he is whining, you are teaching him that whining works!*).

\*\*Crate training is most effective when it isn't rushed. Pay attention to your dog's comfort and anxiety.

\*\*Exercise your dog before and after going in the crate. *Many behavior problems diminish with exercise.*

**THANK YOU**



Thinking of breeding your pet? Here are 7 good reasons **not** to:

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ou probably know that there are too many dogs and cats in the world and too few homes for them. In fact, an estimated eight to ten million dogs and cats enter animal shelters each year, and roughly half are euthanized. While you may not breed your own pets, it's likely you sometime encounter people who are considering breeding *their* pets. What should you tell this well-meaning but misinformed pet owner about breeding? You can offer them seven reasons to decide against it.

**1. The Tragedy of Overpopulation**

Breeding your pet compounds the problem of too many pets for too few homes. Even if you find homes for your litter, you've taken away potential homes from other pets who need them. And in less than a year, animals from your litter could have litters of their own. Pet overpopulation happens one litter at a time.

**2. Purebreds Are Homeless, Too**

Many people believe that the only way to get a purebred dog is to go to a breeder or a pet store, or to breed their own purebred dog. In fact, at least one of every four shelter dogs is purebred! Before you breed your pet visit your local animal shelter or breed-rescue group. To find shelters and rescue groups near you, contact our Companion Animals staff at 202-452-1100 or [hsusca@hsus.org](mailto:hsusca@hsus.org).

**3. You Can't Clone Your Pet**

Some people feel their pet is so special that they want a puppy or kitten just like her. But breeding her does not mean you'll get a carbon copy. Even professional breeders who follow generations of bloodlines can't guarantee that they will get just what they want out of a particular litter.

**4. Good Breeding Is Hard**

Responsible breeding is a complicated process. Breeding your female pet puts her health at risk, and her offspring can fall victim to a variety of genetic defects. That's why, in addition to researching bloodlines, responsible breeders test their animals for genetic defects that can be passed to offspring from seemingly healthy parents. A pedigree does *not* guarantee good health or temperament.

**5. A Litter Is a Handful**

The idea of having cute puppies and kittens around can be tempting. But in reality caring for mom and her litter requires a great deal of time and energy. Because you shouldn't take an animal from his mother before eight weeks of age, you must care for these needy newborns for at least two months.

**6. A Litter Is Expensive**

From food and basic supplies to veterinary exams and vaccinations, raising a litter isn't cheap. And difficult births are not only life threatening for the animals but also costly for you. Even professional breeders are lucky if they break even financially.

**7. A Litter Needs Good Homes**

If you decide to breed your pet, the welfare of the offspring is your responsibility. You must screen potential adopters to ensure that they will provide a safe and permanent home for your pet. And you must watch out for animal hoarders and dog fighters who routinely answer classified ads posing as people who want family pets. Proper screening involves making phone calls and home visits, creating a contract that states your terms and obtaining a signed agreement from the new owner.

For these reasons, most pet owners choose to have their pets spayed or neutered. These procedures involve a relatively small, one-time expense, which is greatly outweighed by their many health and other benefits. To have your pet spayed or neutered, call your veterinarian or local animal shelter. Shelters often offer low-cost spay/neuter services or vouchers.

**Baby animals are adorable, but they are also a major responsibility, and each new litter adds to the problem of pet overpopulation.**



**Support Your Local Animal Shelter**



**Celebrate Shelters!**



## **DOG AND CAT TRAINING**

**Prince Frederick Animal Hospital Puppy Classes  
Thursday 5:30PM**

**Weekly classes meet here at PFAH!**

**Take one class OR take all five classes:**

- 1. Socialization and Communication**
- 2. Basic Commands**
- 3. Housebreaking and Crate Training**
- 4. Advanced Commands**
- 5. Puppy Care and Hygiene**

**SIGN UP AT EASEL IN LOBBY VESTIBULE**

**PFAH also offers dog and cat training DVDs. These DVDs may be rented for \$10.  
When the DVD is returned you will get a credit of \$10!**

**APPLEJACK K-9 ACADEMY**

**301-884-7547**

**800-390-BARK**

**PETCO  
410-535-2648**



## **Kennel Cough (Bordetella) and Canine Influenza**

**Kennel cough** is the common name for canine infectious bronchitis. It is contagious (similar to the human common cold) and can be spread to dogs who are in close contact with an infected animal. Kennel cough is caused by the bacteria *Bordetella*, as well as several viruses (including parainfluenza, adenovirus and distemper). Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, runny eyes and nose, lethargy and fever. Dogs can be contagious for up to 3 months, and the incubation period can be as short as 5 days.

**Canine Influenza** is much more severe disease, with a higher incidence of pneumonia and death. This disease is a virus.

Both kennel cough and canine influenza are spread where dogs congregate: grooming parlor, boarding kennel, dog park, pet stores, veterinary hospitals, dog and puppy training classes. We also see a large number of cases in pets that come from a shelter or rescue organization.

### **Treatment:**

Some dogs with a mild case of kennel cough or flu may need no treatment, and the disease will run its course for up to 3 weeks.

- Antibiotics: We use antibiotics to treat for the secondary bacterial infection to help the animal more quickly recover.
- Cough Suppressants: These are given on a case by case basis, depending on the severity of the cough.

Vaccination for kennel cough, and sometimes canine flu, is required by most boarding kennels and grooming parlors.

- Intranasal: The advantage of this vaccine is providing local immunity at the location of the infection ( the upper respiratory system). This vaccination takes 4 days to work, so should be given some time before bringing the dog around other dogs.
- Injectable: This vaccine is given to dogs who become overly stressed with the intranasal vaccine, it conveys the same protection.