



*Trouble-Free Puppy Raising Series.*

# Keeping Your Puppy Healthy: A Proactive & Pre-emptive Approach.

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Bringing home a new puppy is always exciting, even magical, and no doubt about it, you're going to have so much fun together..... As a pet owner you should be prepared to deal with and be able to recognize some of the conditions and hazards that can be avoided and may save you a trip to the Vet's office or even ER.



## Hypoglycemia

It's a low blood glucose level and is a life threatening condition, especially common in small/toy or medium breeds of puppies.

**What causes it?** By skipping even one meal, your puppy could fall victim to hypoglycemia. Other conditions that could speed up the onset of hypoglycemia are

stress, change in diet, infections, poor nutrition, and low body temperature- to name some.

**What to look for?** Your puppy may show signs of laziness, lethargy, shivering, unresponsiveness, stumbling, and worst of all, comatose.

**What to do if you suspect hypoglycemia?** We encourage a pre-emptive

strategy to keep your puppy from this life threatening, yet treatable and avoidable, condition. Keep handy a high calorie paste to be used to elevate your pet's glucose level. Please ask Family Pet Hospital's team for more info or to pick up the right product.



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## Vaccine Associated Soreness

Puppies may run a fever, become sore, or have muscle aches (like your arm after a flu shot) after receiving vaccinations. **What to look for? Mild signs:** Puppies may become grouchy and nippy. They may lay around, or complain when you touch sore muscles. These side effects are common and usually run their course within 24-48

hours. **Severe signs:** Vaccines, though very safe, may rarely cause local adverse reactions likes swelling around the eyes, face, lips, and hives on the body or life-threatening conditions of collapsing/ shock. **What to do if you suspect vaccine associated soreness or reaction?** We strongly recommend pre-

emptive use of Benadryl (diphenhydramine) before and or after any vaccine shots are given. This strategy has been proven to be very effective against vaccine associated soreness or reactions. In the event your pet is excessively lethargic, including the adverse reaction, call Family Pet Hospital immediately to determine whether your pet needs further treatment.

## Puppy Hazards

### Do You Know Our SavingPlans®?

You can SAVE more than **64%** on annual preventative care of your NEW puppy. Learn more by visiting: [www.FamilyPetsHospital.com](http://www.FamilyPetsHospital.com)



Preparing your home for the arrival of a new puppy is important for the safety of your new family member. Keep your puppy's perspective in mind – your new family member is only a few inches off the ground.

#### Physical hazards.

Furniture/stair/electrical wires are the most important ones- falling may cause trauma or chewing on wires may pose electrocution.

**Ingestion hazards.** Trash can, clothes (undergarments, socks, nylon, or pantyhose), fish hooks, fishing equipment, needles, coins, office supplies, rubber bands, hair ties, kids' toys, especially stuffed animals- not all toys are safe for every puppy, and cat litter boxes.

**Chemical hazards. Indoors:** Household cleaners, toilet bowl sanitizers, paints, varnishes, drain openers, batteries, car anti-freeze (ethylene glycol will cause death even if a small amount

is ingested).

**Outdoors:** Herbicides, pool water/chemicals, certain mulches, and lawn fertilizers, cigarettes (including the butts).

**Table scraps:** Chocolate, grapes and raisins, any human food.

**Medications:** Any medications that you may have at home, child proof containers can easily be chewed through, vitamins and supplements in excess.

**Insect and other critters:** Insect bites/stings, ingesting rats or snails that were poisoned with rat or snail bait.

**Holiday hazards:** Tinsel, ornaments, tree water, climbing trees, decorations, candles, and extra candy around the home.

**What to look for Puppy Hazards:** Decreased appetite, increased water consumption, excessive salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, skin redness, seizures,

limping, crying, or any other sign that your pet is not acting like herself.

**What to do if you suspect your pet may have ingested an abnormal substance?** Call Family Pet Hospital immediately.

**Note:** There is specific information that you will need to provide to us if you do think that your pet has gotten into something poisonous: Any packaging that lists active and inactive ingredients in the suspected products. When was the incident occurred? How much of the item your pet could have gotten into. If you have questions about items in your house or the health of your pet please contact us.

For after-hours care call 1-888-426-4435 to begin a consult with the ASPCA or call area ER.

## Ear Infection (Otitis)

Ear infection is very common in puppies and such puppies are noticeably unhappy.

#### What causes it?

Conditions conducive for ear infection are high humidity, high ambient temperature, hair in the ear canals, and anatomy of ear – floppy ear breeds are more prone to such infections. Moisture trapped in the ear canal and warm moist environment creates favorable condition for bacteria and yeast fungus

to grow rapidly.

#### What to look for?

Excessive ear scratching, rubbing or head shaking, head tilting, redness/swelling in the inner ear flap or canal of the ear, and unusual ear smell.

#### What to do if your puppy has ear infection?

If suspected, your puppy may need an "ear swab test" to diagnose the cause of the infection and to appropriately treat the ears.

**Pre-emptive guard against ear infection.**

- Plucking hair and cleaning your puppy's ear on regular basis.
- Avoid getting water into your puppy's ears when bathing or cleaning after any bathing and swimming.
- Check your puppy's ears at least once a week for wax buildup or debris, especially if he plays outdoors in windy conditions.

Discuss with Family Pet Hospital's team how you can keep your puppy's ear healthy.

**Watch a video to learn more about cleaning your puppy's ears?** Visit Pet Health Resource Center at [www.FamilyPetsHospital.com](http://www.FamilyPetsHospital.com)

## Oral Hygiene Now!

The road to good quality of life, great health, and longevity of your puppy starts now with good oral hygiene. Small/toy/medium sized breeds are more susceptible to contract oral diseases as early as 9 month of age.

**Why is Oral Hygiene Important?** "Prevention is better than cure". Poor dental hygiene in pets can cause problems such as inflammation of the gums,

periodontal disease (where support structures of teeth are chewed up), abscesses, tooth loss, and infections. Also, bacteria from the mouth can get into the pet's blood stream and affect certain organs such as the liver, kidneys and the heart.

**What to look for?** Halitosis, aka bad breath and tartar or calculus are easy to spot. Oral ailments can be detected by changes in the

gums- redness, bleeding, recession etc.

**Preemptive is the way to go.**

- Get your puppy trained for dental brushing.
- Use CET chews or water additive
- Get professional teeth cleaning once a year.



**Watch a video to learn more about brushing your puppy's teeth?**

Visit [Pet Health Resource Center at www.FamilyPetsHospital.com](http://Pet Health Resource Center at www.FamilyPetsHospital.com)

## Motion Sickness

As you've probably already figured out, puppy *motion sickness* is real and it can make even the shortest trips stressful for you and your pooch.

**What to look for?** Inactivity, listlessness, uneasiness, yawning, whining, excessive drooling, and vomiting.

**What to do if your pet has motion sickness.** The best way to prevent travel sickness is to make the car ride as comfortable as possible for your puppy.

**Tips to alleviate or prevent motion sick:**

- Face your puppy forward while you're

traveling – your puppy will experience fewer nauseating visual cues.

- Lowering your car windows a couple of inches while the car is moving. This helps balance the air pressure inside the car with the air pressure outside. Also, be sure to keep the car cool and well ventilated, as a hot or stuffy vehicle can contribute to unpleasant sensations for your puppy.
- Limiting your puppy's food consumption prior to travel.

**Stress alleviating tips:**

- Gradually building your puppy's tolerance to car trips; start by getting your puppy used to

approaching the car, then spend some time in the car with the engine off. When your dog is ready, take short trips (around the block, for example) to build tolerance before progressing to longer car rides. Using treats to make the car a fun place for your dog (but be careful you don't give too many and make your dog nauseated).

- Take a break from car trips for a week or two or change cars etc.

## Prevention is the way to go against:

**Fleas & Ticks.** Fleas are a terrible nuisance to pets and humans alike. Fleas reproduce quickly, are difficult to control, and can cause flea allergy dermatitis, tapeworm infestation, or even anemia in pets. Ticks can also transmit Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Ehrlichiosis.

**Heartworm Disease.** Heartworm is a condition in dogs caused by a certain type of parasite transmitted through mosquitoes. Heartworm is a fatal disease and expensive to treat. Even more disturbing is the fact that this disease is very prevalent in the US.

**Good News.** There are several options to keep your pet free of fleas/ticks and heartworm disease – ask us which product is best for your pet.

**Monthly- Year round Prevention Works Better!**





### What SavingPlans® is best for my puppy?

For helpful tips visit:

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

## Dry Flaky Skin

Healthy skin for your puppy is a natural guard against skin diseases.

**What causes it?** Several factors can make your pet's skin dry – low production of natural lubricant, low quality diet, excessive bathing, inappropriate bathing products, low humidity etc.

**What to look for?** Puppies often have dry skin, which is indicated by dandruff flakes, scratching, hair loss, redness, or pustules under the belly and on the inner thighs.

**What to do if my puppy has dry skin?**

*First*, brush your puppy every day. This will spread the natural oils out over the entire coat, and will also help your puppy get used to

being groomed.

*Second*, use a mild shampoo, such as an oatmeal-based product and moisturizing rinse after you've washed the shampoo out of the puppy's hair. After you bathe your puppy, be sure to dry him very well, and then brush his coat.

**How Often Should I bathe my puppy?** In general, fewer baths are better- "*more bathing does more harm than good*". No matter how gentle any shampoo could be, it may strip the skin of its natural oil. Your puppy may need more baths while not completely house broken. Once potty trained we recommend bathing every 2-3 months based on the breed and life

style of your puppy.

Alternatively, puppy wipes or a mouse, in lieu of full baths, may be beneficial.

**What if nothing works?** If you've followed these suggestions and your puppy's skin is still very dry, or he starts losing a lot of hair, he may have allergies or a parasitic infestation such as lice, mange, or fleas. Skin nutritional supplements containing Omega 3, 6 & Vitamin E will help rejuvenate your puppy's skin. Ask Family Pet Hospital's team to determine what's causing the problem and about what treatments are available.



### Family Pet Hospital

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Perry Hall, MD 21128

#### Call or schedule online:

(410) 529-7297 (PAWS)  
[www.FamilyPetsHospital.com](http://www.FamilyPetsHospital.com)  
[info@FamilyPetsHospital.com](mailto:info@FamilyPetsHospital.com)

#### For after hour ER:

**Animal ER Belair**  
(410) 420-7297

#### Harford ER Belair

(410) 420-8000

#### Pet+ER Towson

(410) 252-8387

#### Falls Road ER

(410) 846-0846

#### Catonsville ER

(410) 788-7040

#### Poison control (ASPCA)

1-888-426-4435

## Must have items-May save you a trip to ER!

- 1. Nutri- Plus Gel-** a calorie dense paste to keep your pet from hypoglycemia (low blood glucose level).
- 2. Benadryl syrup-** a Pre-emptive tool against vaccine associated muscle

ache and/ or reaction & motion sickness.

- 3. Ear cleansing solution-** irritant free solution to keep your pet's ears healthy.

- 4. Mouse/dry Shampoo-** to keep your pet's skin

healthy.

- 5. Dental training kit-** for dental brush training of your puppy and oral hygiene.

- 6. Skin supplement-** to help rejuvenate dry, flaky skin.

- 7. Lots of love-** to keep your puppy spoiled.

## Family Pet Hospital: A New Mission

Family Pet Hospital is a full service, state-of-the-art pet hospitals that caters to the needs of the pet owners as a one stop pet care needs.

*Preventative care and early diagnosis of fatal*

diseases are the hallmark of FPH. We provide convenient extended evening hours and on *weekends*.

We offer quality affordable Pet care where you can save more than 64% or

more on annual puppy care. Ask about our *SavingPlans®*. We are committed to provide warm family-like welcoming experience and Wow customer service to our clients.