



**Glenway Animal Hospital**  
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## Frequently Asked Puppy Questions

Congratulations on the arrival of your new puppy! The doctors and staff of Glenway Animal Hospital are committed to making sure that your newest family member lives a long, happy, and healthy life. To help you and your puppy to start out on the right foot (and paw 😊) we've put together a list of some frequently asked questions and their corresponding answers. This list is not all-inclusive so if you have additional questions please don't hesitate to contact us!

### **What should I feed my new puppy?**

You get what you pay for when it comes to dog food. Science Diet and Eukanuba are generally recognized as the best brands on the market but they're also the most expensive. As a general rule of thumb you should feed your dog the most expensive food that will fit into your budget. Large breed puppies, however, need to be fed either Eukanuba or Science Diet "Large Breed Puppy" formula because studies suggest that these diets help to prevent hip dysplasia (hip arthritis).

### **How much and how often should I feed my puppy?**

Feed your puppy 2/3 of the amount suggested on the dog food bag. If this amount doesn't seem correct call us. No two dogs are the same and your pup may need to eat less or more depending on the situation. We like to feed puppies two to three times a day for 15 to 20 minutes at a time. If your puppy doesn't eat all of his food after the 15 minutes is over, pick up the food. Allowing your puppy to eat whenever she wants can lead to problems later. The only exception to this rule would be if you own a toy breed. Toy breeds need to eat often to prevent hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), so it's OK to feed them more frequently.

### **What should I do if I have an emergency?**

If an emergency arises, call us first at 662-0224. Our office is open from 7 AM to 7 PM Monday through Friday, and from 8 AM to 12 Noon on Saturday. If we are not available you will be directed to call The Cincinnati Animal Referral and Emergency (CARE) Center at 530-0911. The CARE Center is open twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Because it is located in Blue Ash we recommend that you take a test drive to the CARE Center so if there is an emergency you are already familiar with the location.

**What is Parvo and how do I keep my puppy from catching it?**

Parvo is a viral disease that can cause problems in puppies before their immune system has matured. Some signs of Parvo are lethargy, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea. To protect from this potentially fatal disease, do not take your puppy to public areas until he is fully vaccinated. If you have any questions about when you can take your puppy out in public areas feel free to ask.

**How many shots will my puppy need in the first year?**

The answer to this question depends on the age of your puppy when the vaccination series is started. We usually give Distemper/Parvo vaccinations every two or three weeks until a puppy is fifteen or sixteen weeks old. Rabies vaccinations can be given after twelve weeks of age and Hamilton County Law requires that puppies and kittens be vaccinated for Rabies before they are six months old. Also, if you plan to take your dog to any indoor facility in which there are other dogs, like a boarding kennel, you may need to have your dog vaccinated to prevent Kennel Cough. The Kennel Cough vaccine is only given as needed, so it's not part of our standard vaccination protocol.

**How do I know if my puppy has worms?**

There are usually no visual signs of parasite infections, so you will need to bring in a fecal sample for us to examine under a microscope. Your puppy needs to have two negative worm screens before he can be considered worm free. This is an important test to perform because some of the worms that dogs carry can be passed to people. Adult dogs need to be checked for worms annually.

**What are heartworms and how do I prevent my puppy from catching them?**

Heartworms are worms that are transmitted, by mosquitoes, to your dog's blood stream. If left untreated heartworms can lead to congestive heart failure. To prevent heartworms and other internal parasites from becoming a problem we will prescribe Interceptor or Sentinel that you will give your puppy once a month. This medication needs to be given all year round to prevent heartworms and intestinal parasites. We will draw a blood sample from your dog every other year to be sure that the heartworm medicine is doing its job.

**Is there anything I can do to prevent fleas?**

Some dogs get fleas and some don't. Some clients prefer to prevent their dogs from getting fleas while others prefer to take a "wait and see" approach. If you would like to prevent fleas there are medications that can help. Check out our spring 2002 "Flea Guidelines" letter for more details.

**Where can I get a dog license?**

Dogs are required to have a license within three months after a new owner takes possession of the dog. You can pick up the application at our office and send it in. You can also purchase a dog license at the Hamilton County SPCA.

### **Are there any obedience trainers in the area?**

We hear good things from clients that have used:

- Waggin' Tails Canine Center, (859) 572-WAGS
- Kuliga Dog Training Club (513) 245-BARK

Both of these organizations use different training methods so be sure you're comfortable with their techniques before you sign up for classes. We suggest that you call and talk with an instructor or even visit and sit in on a class before you sign up.

### **Are there any books that are available to help with learning about dog training at home?**

While there are a million (at least) different books available on this subject, three that seem to be popular with our clients are:

- Don't Shoot the Dog: The New Art of Teaching and Training, by Karen Pryor
- How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend: A Training Manual for Dog Owners, by the New Skete Monks
- The Art of Raising a Puppy, by the New Skete Monks

Both Karen Pryor and the Monks of New Skete have been very successful in their field, but they have different techniques when it comes to training. Like always, be sure you're comfortable with a training technique before starting.

### **When should I have my dog spayed or neutered?**

It is best to schedule these surgeries just before your puppy turns six months old. Female dogs go into heat at around six months of age and it is best to have their surgery done *before* they go into heat. This decreases their chance of developing mammary cancer later on, and eliminates the possibility of unwanted puppies.

### **What are microchips?**

Microchips are a form of permanent identification for your puppy. The chip itself is the size of a grain of rice and is placed under the skin above the dog's shoulders. Once the chip is in place a scanner can be used to determine your dog's ID number. More and more humane societies, veterinary offices, and most research labs scan new dogs so if your dog should get lost or stolen a microchip may help to get your pet safely home.

### **Is there such a thing as health insurance for dogs?**

There are several companies that offer pet health insurance, but because the concept is relatively new we advise a "buyer beware" attitude. Two companies that currently offer pet health insurance are:

- Veterinary Pet Insurance, 1-800-USA-PETS, [www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)
- Pet Care Pet Insurance Programs, 1-866-275-PETS, [www.petcareinsurance.com](http://www.petcareinsurance.com)

## How should I housebreak my new puppy?

The key to house breaking your puppy is to ***reward your puppy when he does well and scold him when he makes a mistake***. While this sounds simple, in some cases this can be very challenging. If after reading the following information you still have questions please give us a call. ☺

### Key Points:

- Puppies need to be watched ***constantly*** until they are old enough to be trusted!
- If they can't be watched constantly they need to be in a safe place. Crates work well for this. (Check out the "Cozy Crates" and "The Great Crate Debate" articles.)
- There are at least four times when puppies need to go outside:
  1. When they wake up
  2. Shortly after eating
  3. During or shortly after playing
  4. When their owner gets home
- During these times watch your puppy for body language changes like intense ground sniffing or walking differently. If you notice these changes take your puppy outside right away.
- When your puppy goes to the bathroom outside you need to praise him right away. To make sure your puppy understands what is right there is no overdoing the praise. The more excited you get the quicker he gets the message. ☺
- You need to find a way that you are comfortable with to use when you need to let your puppy know something has been done wrong. Please ask us for suggestions if you have trouble finding a method you're comfortable with.
- When your puppy has an accident you should let him know a mistake was made within two seconds of the incident. A puppy's attention span is so short that scolding after the fact only confuses the issue. If your puppy has an accident and you are not there to witness the event, don't waste your time with scolding, chalk it up to experience and watch more closely from that point on.
- If these tips don't help please give us a call.

Once again congratulations on the arrival of your newest family member! If all of your questions have not been answered please call us at **662-0224**. Our office is open:

**Monday through Friday 7 AM to 6 PM**  
**Select Saturdays 8 AM to 12 Noon**

You can also reach us through our email address: **[Glenwaypetdocs@fuse.net](mailto:Glenwaypetdocs@fuse.net)**