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## Puppy Information Guide

Congratulations on your new puppy! Although it is a very exciting time, we realize that new dog owners have many questions. We have put together a **Puppy Information Guide** to help get you off to a good start. Included are some basic tips on:

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For further information on anything concerning your puppy, please do not hesitate to contact any one of our knowledgeable staff here at Landing Animal Clinic.

## Vaccinating Your Puppy

When puppies are born, their immune systems are not mature enough to make antibodies. Nature provides for temporary immunity in the form of colostrum (milk from the mother), which is very rich in antibodies. It is variable when a puppy develops the ability to form their own antibodies. As a result, it is VERY important they receive the full series of vaccines at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks.

We recommend the following vaccine schedule:

### **First visit - 8 weeks old:**

- Parvovirus, distemper virus, adenovirus and parainfluenza combination
  - (first of three)

### **Second visit - 12 weeks old:**

- Parvovirus, Distemper virus, adenovirus and parainfluenza combination
  - (second of three)
- Bordetella (also known as kennel cough)

### **Third visit - 16 weeks old:**

- Parvovirus, Distemper virus, adenovirus and parainfluenza combination
  - (third of three)
- Rabies

A few comments about vaccines:

1. A puppy is not fully vaccinated until they have had the FULL series ending at 16 weeks. **We strongly advise that you do not take your puppy to any dog parks or corridors where lots of dogs congregate and go the bathroom.** One of the biggest concerns in Calgary is parvovirus. Parvovirus leads to lethargy, decreased appetite, profound dehydration, vomiting and diarrhea. It can be fatal if not treated. Treatment usually requires hospitalization and can be quite costly. It can affect dogs of all ages that are not fully vaccinated. Parvovirus is transmitted by feces and can survive in the environment for a long time, even after the stool is long gone.
2. At each puppy vaccination visit, we will perform a full physical examination. When puppies are growing rapidly, things can change from month to month. For example, we might hear a heart murmur at one visit, but not at a subsequent visit.
3. Your pet needs to be vaccinated for rabies to enter the United States. **Please advise us if you are planning on travelling to the United States with your puppy.** The rabies vaccine is licensed for dogs 12 weeks of age and older. If your

dog or puppy is being vaccinated against rabies for the first time, you must wait 30 days before bringing them into the United States.

4. Adverse reactions to vaccines are very rare. Some pets will be a bit lethargic or seem tired the day following the vaccines. Some pets will be painful over the site of the vaccine. Please call us if you think your pet is painful and we will prescribe medication for the pain. If you notice an unlikely severe allergic reaction (such as hives, vomiting, swollen muzzle), please call a veterinarian right away. If we are closed, please call an emergency clinic.
5. **If your puppy was first vaccinated at less than 8 weeks of age**, we will likely recommend 3 more puppy vaccines in their series. It is very important that the last vaccine for parvovirus be given at 16 weeks of age. Stopping too early may leave them susceptible to the disease.

## **Deworming Your Puppy**

Your puppy will need to be dewormed several times. This is important to protect your pet against internal parasites. Internal parasites are very common in puppies, and puppies usually acquire them from their mother. It is particularly important to deworm your puppy or dog regularly in households where there are small children or immunosuppressed adults (adults receiving chemotherapy, adults with autoimmune disease or the elderly). Occasionally worms can be transmitted between dogs and people. Children and immunosuppressed people are more susceptible to this.

## **Nail Trims**

1. All puppies and adult dogs need to have their nails trimmed periodically (usually every 4-6 weeks). You will know when it is time if you hear their nails clicking on the wood or tile floor.
2. We are happy to show you how to trim your dog's nails.
3. It is worth purchasing a pair of nail trimmers. These are available at pet stores, or we can special order a pair for you.
4. While your puppy is getting used to the process, don't attempt to do all four feet at once.
5. Pick a time when your puppy is sleepy to do the nail trim sessions.
6. If you would rather the nails trims be done by a groomer or a veterinary technician, it is important for you to get your puppy used to having their feet

handled. Puppies who have never had their feet handled find nail trims very stressful.

**Below is a link to a video by the Pet Collective on how to trim your dog's nails:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P3S0V2EUpo>

## **Spaying and Neutering**

Dogs become sexually mature after six months of age. Females also begin their reproductive cycle at this age. This cycle involves recurrent periods of heat or estrus, during which males are attracted from great distances by an odor coming from the females. It is only during heat that females will accept a male. This period of intense desire to get out and find a mate is correlated with egg release from the ovaries. In the bitch, heat occurs about every six months and lasts for two or three weeks. It is accompanied by swelling of the vulva and a bloody discharge from the vagina. Maximum fertility usually occurs from the ninth to the thirteenth day after onset of bleeding (1 to 2 days after bleeding stops).

### **When to spay and neuter?**

This is a controversial topic at this time. There is some evidence to suggest that large breed dogs should be spayed or neutered after they have reached skeletal maturity. Recent scientific evidence suggests they may have a lower chance of developing orthopedic problems if their surgery is delayed until the skeleton is fully grown.

### **Ovariohysterectomy (Spay) Females**

The surgery is performed under sterile operating room conditions with the animal under a general anesthetic, and involves the removal of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus (womb) through an abdominal incision. After this operation, the female will not come into heat, and will have neither the interest nor the capacity to breed. Apart from sexual activity, spaying has no effect on a female's temperament. A bitch will not be ruined for obedience training or hunting.

### **Advantages of Ovariohysterectomy:**

1. Males are not attracted to your property.
2. Less tendency to wander from home.
3. No bloody discharge from the bitch in heat.
4. No unwanted pregnancies, thus contributing to the control of the pet population and the problem of unwanted litters.

5. No reproductive problems in later life, e.g. false pregnancies, uterine infections, pyometra, birth complications, including cesarean sections, milk fever, breast tumors.
6. Significant reduction in the chances of breast cancer, which is common in bitches that are not spayed.
7. Reduced rate dog license after spaying.
8. Longer life span.

### **Orchyectomy (Neuter) Males**

This operation involves removing the testicles, thereby eliminating the source of sperm and male hormone. It is routinely recommended for all male dogs that are not intended for breeding purposes. Neutering helps to control the following problems: wandering, mounting other dogs and people, aggressiveness and excessive territorial marking with urine. Neutering at a young age also decreases the possibility of prostate diseases.

### **Questions to ask about your pet's spay or neuter surgery**

Unless being used for breeding, we strongly recommend that all dogs and cats be spayed or neutered. These procedures are major surgical interventions that should never be taken lightly. That being said, with proper attention to technique, anesthetic monitoring and pain management, pets typically handle these procedures with minimal stress or complications. Prices for these procedures vary considerably from clinic to clinic, so we would like to suggest several questions that should be posed to a clinic when a cost estimate for the price of a spay or neuter is obtained. For your convenience, the answers to each of these questions from Landing Animal Clinic are provided. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions.

**Q. Are intravenous fluids administered to my pet?**

**A.** At Landing Animal Clinic all patients are administered intravenous fluids during their surgical procedure. We do not think this should be optional as these fluids help to support your pet's blood pressure while anesthetized, and allow for quick intravenous access for the administration of various medications if needed during the procedure. Intravenous fluid administration also allows us to optimize your pet's pain medications during the surgery.

**Q. Who monitors my pet while they are anesthetized?**

**A.** Though the surgery is performed by a veterinarian who also supervises your pet's anesthesia, at Landing Animal Clinic we also have several Registered

Veterinary Technologists (RVT – a licensed “veterinary nurse” who is a graduate of a two year college program), one of whom is dedicated to continuously monitoring your pet while they are anesthetized. This maximizes the safety of the procedure as the RVT is superbly trained to monitor for any changes in the pet’s well-being while anesthetized as well as in the post-operative period.

**Q. What anesthetic monitoring equipment is utilized?**

**A.** The level of monitoring and monitoring equipment varies greatly between clinics. At Landing Animal Clinic we are proud to utilize some of the most modern monitoring equipment, including constant monitoring of ventilation (breathing) status via capnography. We also continuously monitor your pet’s blood pressure, heart rate, blood oxygenation and body temperature.

**Q. How is pain managed?**

**A.** Surgical intervention is painful, so at Landing Animal Clinic we use multi-modal pain management methods to maximize your pet’s comfort level. In our minds, making pain management optional is inhumane so we include optimal pain management before, during and after every procedure.

**Q. Why do we recommend permanent identification for your pet?**

**A.** On average, 30% of pets are lost at least once in their lifetime. Our goal is to increase your chances of finding your pet if this ever happens. Collars with tags are very helpful but can be removed or torn off. There are two forms of permanent identification available for your pet: tattoos and microchips. Ideally, your pet would have both.

Tattoos:

- This is a letter-number sequence that is put in your pet’s right ear while they are under general anesthesia
- The tattoo number is traced back to Landing Animal Clinic, so it is important that you keep your contact information current with Landing Animal Clinic.
- Tattoos are only useful for pets remaining in the local area (Calgary) and can only be traced during regular clinic business hours.

Microchips:

- This is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades using a needle.
- The microchip number is connected to an electronic database with your contact information. The microchip is not a GPS device.

- A staff member at a veterinary clinic or animal shelter is able to scan the microchip and contact the microchip company for your contact information.
- Microchips can be traced internationally any time of day.

With both forms of identification, it is very important that you **keep your contact information up to date** so that your pet can be traced back to you.

## **Helpful Suggestions for Feeding Your Puppy**

1. It is important that you feed your **puppy a diet formulated for growth** (a puppy diet, **NOT** an all stages diet).
2. If you have a **large breed puppy**, it is important that you choose a large breed puppy diet. To minimize the risk of orthopedic diseases like elbow or hip dysplasia, lean growth is the goal. This means a diet with lower energy.
3. There is excessive misinformation in the market regarding puppy foods. It can get very frustrating for an owner that just wants to pick a healthy diet for their puppy! **Please don't hesitate to call and ask about any issues you may have regarding your puppy's diet** - we are not interested in selling you food you don't need. We are interested in your puppy's health and well-being, and helping you understand the differences in food and how they impact your puppy.

4. **Do not "free choice feed" your puppy.**

Free choice feeding is essentially feeding your puppy as much as it wants to eat. Free choice feeding can contribute to digestive upset (vomiting and diarrhea), bloating, difficulty in house training, and obesity. The best approach is to feed your puppy's daily allotment of food in two or three measured meals a day. If your puppy hasn't eaten its measured amount of food within 15 minutes, remove it. Continue on with the same measured portion at the next meal. If you find your puppy consistently isn't finishing its meal but is otherwise doing well, cut back on the total daily allotment. On the other hand, even if your puppy devours the meal in a few minutes, do not give more food. Watch their body condition and review this with us at each visit.

5. **What does a healthy body condition look like?** You want to easily feel their ribs, see an obvious tuck in the abdomen when you view them from the side and an obvious indentation at the waist when you view them from the top.

6. **Avoid feeding your puppy “human food”.**

Establishing right from the start that “human food” is “off-limits” will reduce begging and decrease the risk of obesity. It also helps minimize the chance of dogs becoming very picky eaters. If you must feed some “human food”, stick to small amounts of low calorie options such as vegetables. Remember to always put them in your puppy’s bowl! **Never** feed your puppy from the table.

**Some human foods can be toxic to pets.** Do not feed your pet onions, garlic, chocolate, grapes, raisins or baked goods with artificial sweeteners in them.

7. **Many puppies cannot digest milk,** and it ends up giving them diarrhea. This can also interfere with the absorption of nutrients from the intestinal tract.

8. **What about treats?**

We all like to treat our puppies. It helps us in socializing, training and just plain loving them.

We recommend having a few types of treats:

- Low calorie treats for less stimulating situations. These can be used when the puppy is not distracted.
- Smelly or soft treats for distracting situations. For example, a puppy at a socialization class is going to be very distracted by the other dogs and people. You may need to pull out a very special “stinky” treat to bring their attention back to you.

Remember to watch the calorie content as they can vary widely. We have seen treats that range from 1.5 calories to 75 calories **PER TREAT**. Don’t hesitate to ask our staff about treats. We carry a variety of different treats at Landing Animal Clinic.

9. **Use meals as a house training opportunity!**

Puppies normally eliminate 5 to 15 minutes after eating a meal. Therefore, after the feeding, take your puppy outside to the appropriate place in your yard where you would like them to eliminate, and wait for the magic moment. Praise your puppy for a job well done! Puppies also need to eliminate after nap and play sessions. Use this to your advantage in training and avoiding “accidents”!

10. **Feed your puppy in a quiet place. Avoid feeding just prior to or just after exercise.**

This helps establish consistency, reduces excitement around a meal, and reduces the incidence of stomach upset.



## 11. Change diets slowly.

If you are changing your puppy's diet, mix the new food with the previous diet in small amounts the first day or two. Then the portion of the new diet can be gradually increased over a week or so until your puppy is completely on the new diet. This will reduce the likelihood of vomiting and diarrhea. Your puppy should make a formed stool, which is easy to pick up. Please inform us if this is not the case. Also let us know how many times a day your puppy has a bowel movement. This information will help us to assess the health status of your puppy, the quality of the food it is eating and will help you in your house training efforts.

We also carry a probiotic at Landing Animal Clinic. This can help prevent diarrhea during a stressful time such as adjusting to a new home or new diet.

## 12. Bones

Please do not feed your puppy any bones. Digestive disturbances, bone fragments and their resulting damage can require the use of medication and possibly surgery.

We see A LOT of dogs with broken teeth due to bones. A broken tooth can be very painful and may require surgical treatment.

**Remember good nutrition is about nutrients NOT ingredients. It is very hard for you as a consumer to evaluate the quality of the food by reading the label. The chemical analysis on the label tells you nothing about the quality or digestibility of the ingredients. We want to help you make decisions about nutrition based on science and not on marketing.**

If you would like a science based website for reliable information on pet nutrition, go to <http://www.petfoodnutrition.com/>

## **A Step-by-Step Guide for House Training Your Puppy**

1. Ensure that the outdoor location is practical and easy to access.
2. Go out with your puppy every time and immediately praise ("good dog") and give a treat for elimination in the desired area. Eventually the treat can be replaced with just praise.
3. During initial training, take the puppy out to eliminate each hour during the daytime when home to supervise. If it does not eliminate within 5 minutes, return indoors, supervise closely for 15 - 30 minutes and try again.
4. Take your puppy out when it is most likely to need to eliminate, such as:

- Following play, exercise, naps, and being released from confinement.
  - After eating and drinking. Supervise closely after feeding and take the puppy out to eliminate within 15 – 30 minutes.
  - Prior to confinement or bedtime.
5. Consider teaching your puppy to “go” on command by saying a command word, such as “hurry up,” or “go pee” in a positive tone as they squat to eliminate.
  6. Maintain a consistent schedule.
  7. Consider taking up the water bowl 1 to 2 hours prior to bedtime.
  8. Prevent mistakes – puppies will need constant supervision until they have completed 4 consecutive weeks without soiling in the home. If you are too busy to supervise them, confine them to a safe puppy proof area. Every “accident” is a step backwards in their training.
  9. Most puppies can control elimination through the night by 3 – 4 months of age.
  10. If the puppy eliminates in their cage, they may have been left there longer than they can be confined or the crate may be large enough that your puppy sleeps in one end and has room to eliminate in the other; in this case a divider might be used temporarily to decrease the overall size of the crate.
  11. If you are having difficulty, consider the “umbilical cord technique” where you leave a leash attached during supervision. That way you can quickly take them outside to void if they are showing pre-elimination signs such as circling and sniffing.
  12. Punishment should not be used. The goal is to interrupt your puppy if they are caught in the act of eliminating indoors, and direct them to the appropriate location so that they can be rewarded when they eliminate there. If you catch your puppy in the act of eliminating indoors, call them over and if they do not immediately cease say “no,” clap your hands, or pull on the leash to interrupt the behavior. Then take the puppy outside and immediately reward upon completion.
  13. If urine or stool is found on the floor after the puppy has eliminated, do not consider any form of correction since the puppy will not associate the correction with the elimination.
  14. Odor elimination – make sure you clean up any odors from indoor elimination. You don’t want to inadvertently draw them back to the same place to void.

15. A few comments on puppy pads and paper training. While it is best to avoid indoor training techniques (if the goal is to teach the pet to eliminate outdoors), this approach is sometimes necessary for apartment dwellers or when it is not practical to take the puppy outside frequently enough. For paper training, the puppy can be confined to a room or pen with paper covering the floor opposite to their crate, water bowl, and toys when they cannot be supervised. Paper training can be combined with outdoor training so that the puppy learns that there are two appropriate places to eliminate. The puppy can be placed in their crate (which can be placed inside the pen) for short-term confinement and placed in the full pen or room with paper for longer departures.

## **Crate Training Your Puppy**

### **First of all, why do I want to Crate Train my puppy?**

1. In the wild, dogs are den animals. Crates provide a safe and secure spot for the puppy to rest.
2. Safety for the pet. A crate helps keep your puppy out of trouble! Whether it be chewing something in your house, eating something in your house or voiding in your house!
3. Studies show that crate training is the most reliable way to houstrain your puppy.
4. Future travel. If your puppy is used to a crate – they will much less stressed about being put in a kennel for future travel or boarding at a kennel.

## **Step-by-Step Guide for Crate Training Your Puppy**

1. Introduce the puppy to the crate as early as possible. Place a variety of treats, toys, or food in the crate so that the puppy is motivated to enter voluntarily. Training to respond to a cue (e.g., “ Go to your kennel ” ) can also be useful.
2. The first confinement session should be after a period of play, exercise, and elimination (i.e., when it is time for the puppy to rest). Place the puppy in the crate with a toy and a treat and close the door. If you remain nearby and the puppy is tired he/she might soon settle and nap. Alternatively, if the puppy lies down to take a nap, move the puppy to the crate for the duration of the nap.
3. Leave the room but remain close enough to hear the puppy. Some degree of distress vocalization may be expected the first few times the puppy is separated from its family members. Always reward the puppy when he/she is calm with quiet praise. Try not to let the puppy out when he/she cries or whines. Release

the puppy when the crying stops, when the puppy awakes from his/her nap, or if it is time for you to wake the puppy for feeding, play, or elimination (e.g., prior to your departure).

4. If the crying does not subside on its own, a mild interruption may be useful. Any interruption that causes fear or anxiety must be avoided since it is not psychologically healthy for the pet and could aggravate the vocalization or cause elimination in the crate. During the interruption, you should remain out of sight, so that the puppy does not learn to associate the interruption with your presence. A sharp noise, such as that provided by shaking a can containing a few coins, can be used to interrupt barking. Then, after 5 seconds of quiet behavior, reward the puppy for being quiet by softly praising.
5. Repeat #3 a few more times during the day, including each naptime and each time your puppy is given a toy or chew with which to play. Always give the puppy exercise and a chance to eliminate before securing it in the crate.
6. Prior to bedtime, the puppy should be exercised, given a final chance to eliminate for the night, and secured in the crate. Do not go to the pup if he/she cries but ensure that the puppy is not hurt or overly distressed. If the puppy cries in the middle of the night, the puppy should not be ignored if he/she is indicating that it needs to toilet. Release the puppy when it is quiet and time to get up.
7. Puppies under 4 months of age may not be able to keep their crate clean for the entire night, so it may be necessary to get up during the night initially as well as provide an early-morning walk for the first few weeks. Sometimes the best way to reduce distress vocalization is to locate the crate in the bedroom.
8. Never leave the puppy in his/her crate for longer than the puppy can control itself or it may be forced to eliminate in the crate. If the pup must be left for longer periods, a larger confinement area with paper for elimination should be utilized.
9. Until a puppy has been housetrained (no accidents for at least 4 – 6 consecutive weeks) and no longer destroys household objects in your absence, he/she should not be allowed out of the confinement area except under supervision.

## **Puppy Play Biting**

### **Why is my puppy nipping and biting family members?**

- Nipping, mouthing, and biting in young dogs are generally forms of social play.
- Teething is more likely to involve gnawing or chewing on household objects.

## A Step-by-Step Guide for Avoiding Play Biting

1. The first thing you must do is to provide a regular daily routine that includes ample opportunity for play. Social play with people could involve controlled chase and retrieve games, as well as going for walks.
2. Learning bite inhibition
  - Puppies need to learn to limit the force and strength of their bite.
  - This is something they start to learn while with their littermates. It is one reason that puppies should not go to new homes until 7 – 8 weeks of age so that they have had time to practice social skills with other dogs.
  - Often littermates play very rough and may even seem loud and aggressive. Sometimes one puppy bites another one too hard and screams out; this startles the offending puppy and teaches him/her how hard to bite during play.
  - After puppies have been adopted into the new home, it can be extremely beneficial to have regular interactive social play periods with other dogs or puppies in the home or in the neighborhood. One of the things that puppies need to learn is how much pressure from their jaws causes pain. Without this feedback, a puppy does not learn to inhibit the force of its bite.
3. How do I stop my puppy from biting people?
  - Make sure your puppy has adequate play, exploration and exercise opportunities.
  - Provide lots of toys for oral stimulation
  - Do not allow the puppy to nibble on a person's hands or clothing even when they are very young.
  - If your puppy begins to bite or chew and tug on clothing, immediately stopping play is the preferred response, or walk away if the puppy persists. The message is that all social interactions with you will stop as soon as biting begins. Sometimes a sharp "off" command can be helpful to indicate that social interactions will cease if the biting continues.
  - Another technique is to emit a sharp "Yip" or "Ouch" as soon as biting begins so that the puppy backs off. Remember, any contact with the skin should lead to an immediate cessation of play and attention. This sends the message to the puppy that the bites are painful and that biting will cause the end of play.

- If the puppy persists, chases or immediately repeats the behavior, closing a door and walking out of the room can help to teach the puppy that biting leads to immediate inattention.
- Playing with the puppy when it is not attention seeking, nipping, or biting is the goal. In fact, all forms of play and attention-soliciting behavior should be ignored, as these might escalate into more intense biting.

## **Socialization Tips for Puppy Owners**

1. The most sensitive period for successful socialization is during the first 3 - 4 months of life. The experiences the puppy has during this time will have a major influence on its developing personality and how well he/she gets along with people and other animals when it grows into adulthood.
2. It is very important for puppies to have frequent, positive social experiences during these early months in order to prevent asocial behavior, fear, and biting. Puppies that are inadequately socialized may develop irreversible fears, leading to timidity or aggression.
3. It is also extremely important that your new puppy be exposed to new environments and stimuli at this time (e.g., sounds, odors, locations, sights, surfaces) to reduce the fear of the unfamiliar that might otherwise develop as the pet grows older.
4. Begin with calm introductions to one or two people at a time. If the pet handles this well, then more people, increased noise, and more activity can be added.
5. It can be beneficial to ask each person who meets the puppy to give him/her a small piece of kibble or a tiny treat. This will teach the puppy to look forward to meeting people. It will also discourage "hand shyness", since the puppy will learn to associate new people and an outstretched hand with something positive.
6. How do I stop my puppy from jumping on people when excited? Once the puppy has learned to sit on command, have each new friend ask it to sit before giving the treat. This teaches a proper greeting and will make the puppy less likely to jump up on people.
7. In particular, every effort must be made to see that the young pup has plenty of opportunities to learn about children. They can seem like a completely different species to dogs since they walk, act, and talk much differently than adults.
8. Attending puppy classes during the primary socialization period (which begins to wane by 12 - 14 weeks of age) is another excellent way of ensuring multiple contacts with a variety of people and other dogs.

9. Go slow with socialization exposure, and if the puppy ever seems anxious, take some time out and then re-expose the puppy to slightly calmer situations.
10. Avoid all physical punishment. Harsh scolding or punishing a young pet will damage their bond with you and weaken their trust in people. Techniques such as swatting the pup, shaking it by the scruff, rubbing its face in a mess, and roughly forcing it onto its back should never be used. Pets that are raised using these methods may grow up to fear the human hand, and are more likely to display avoidance or become fear biters.

Below is a link to a great video on puppy socialization by [ThatDogGeek](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPGd7EIMCJ8>

### How to Pick a Dog Trainer

Unfortunately in Canada, anyone can call themselves a dog trainer. We strongly encourage you to take your dog to a socialization class, but we want to help you make sure that the class is appropriate for you and your dog. We have compiled a list of recommendations to help you make a good choice:

1. Look for trainers who use **positive reinforcement** for good behavior, rather than punishment for unacceptable behavior. Positive reinforcement means using treats and praise for good behavior.
2. Ask about the instructor's qualifications and level of experience.
3. Observe an obedience class without your pet and see if people and animals are having a good time. If you are not permitted to observe, don't enroll.
4. Don't be afraid to tell a trainer to stop if he/she is doing something to your dog that you are not comfortable with.
5. If a trainer tells you to do something you don't feel good about, don't do it.
6. Avoid trainers who offer guarantees.
7. Avoid trainers who won't let you use a training collar other than a choke collar. Head collars (and some harnesses) are humane alternatives to choke and pinch collars
8. Avoid trainers who object to using food as a training reward. Food is an acceptable positive reinforcement-training tool.
9. Avoid trainers that want to "train" your pet without you being in attendance.

The list of schools below has been compiled for our clients as a courtesy. Please keep in mind the above recommendations before registering your dog in one of them.

1. Sit Happens (NE Calgary), (403)295-6337 [www.sithappens.org](http://www.sithappens.org)
2. Calgary Humane Society (SE Calgary), (403)723-6019, <http://www.calgaryhumane.ca/what-we-do/animal-training/classes/>
3. Dogma Training and Pet services (SW Calgary), 587-352-6738 <http://www.dogmatraining.com>

**Puppies:** We recommend that you take your puppy to a socialization class as soon as they have received their second puppy vaccine (approximately 12 weeks of age). Prior to the start of their class, we suggest that you try to socialize your puppy as much as possible. This means exposing them to friendly and fully vaccinated dogs, children, adults, different places and a variety of social situations.

**Older Dogs:** Older dogs can benefit from obedience classes as well.....if the dog is new to you or if your mature dog needs a refresher. You CAN teach on old dog new tricks!

### **Emergency Veterinary Care**

If you have an after hour emergency with your new puppy, we recommend contacting one of the following emergency clinics:

- 1) C.A.R.E. Center (403) 520-8387
- 2) Western Vet. Specialist Center (403) 770-1340
- 3) Fish Creek 24hr Pet Hospital (403) 873-1700
- 4) Calgary North Vet Hospital (403) 277-0135
- 5) McKnight 24hr Vet Hospital (403) 457-0911

### **Poison and Toxins:**

Unfortunately, it is common for pets (especially dogs) to ingest things that they shouldn't. We want to help you be prepared!

If you think that your pet has ingested something potentially poisonous, please call us or an emergency clinic right away!



There are two pet poison hotlines available to call. For a fee, you can have a telephone consult with an expert.

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 1-888-426-4435**  
<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

**Pet Poison Helpline: 1-855-764-7661**  
<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-owners/emergency/>

Both hotlines have very useful websites with information about poisonous substances. They also have a list of toxic plants.

**The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center even has a mobile app.** The app includes a toxicity calculator for many toxins, such as chocolate, allowing you to quickly determine if your pet ingested a toxic amount.

What are the most common poisonings in dogs?

1. Chocolate
2. Prescription medications (such as antidepressants, heart medications, cold medications, anti-inflammatories)
3. Mouse poisons (rodenticides)
4. Marijuana
5. Xylitol (artificial sweeteners)
6. Grapes or raisins

## **Pet Insurance**

There are several companies in Canada that provide pet health insurance. We encourage you to consider pet insurance for your new puppy. For the most part, their policies include coverage for accidents and illness. These are the items that people find it difficult to budget for. It is not uncommon for a veterinary bill to be more than \$2000 for a serious medical accident or illness. We recommend that you review the pamphlets included with this package and consider if pet insurance is right for you.

*Several companies offer free 30 day trials for pet insurance. Our staff would be happy to assist you with setting up a free insurance trial.*