2017 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl

STUDY GUIDE

The Dog Bowl Committee has decided to continue to use this study packet for the 2017 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl competition. All the questions in the 2017 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl will be taken from the information in this packet or the links to other source information. However you will only be responsible for information in this packet.

It is also our intention to keep the questions less difficult to encourage participation by all eligible 4-H members.

Leaders, coaches, parents, or 4-H members, please feel free to contact the Dog Bowl Committee chair, Dottie Allen at 856-234-6117 or email at DottieAllen@comcast.net

Information

Teams can be formed by counties prior the entry in the Dog Bowl and/or individual 4-H members can enter and be placed on a team with other NJ 4-H members.

We will be awarding ribbons to all members of the top six Junior and the top six Senior teams as well as the top ten individuals in both the Junior and Senior divisions.

Seeing Eye Project Members

The information in this study guide is for the State 4-H Quiz Bowl ONLY. You should refer to your Seeing Eye Puppy Project Manual for specifics about your pups. (for example, the grooming section states to clean the ears with mineral oil and water, The Seeing Eye prefers the use of ear cleaning solution).
# Source Information for 2017 NJ 4-H Dog Bowl Competition

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4-H Information

4-H is the largest out-of-school youth organization in the United States with over 6 million youth members and 500,000 teen and adult volunteers. There is Cooperative Extension staff responsible for 4-H programs in every county and city - so there's probably a 4-H program near you. Whether you live in a city, suburb or rural area, there's something for you in 4-H. In most states, you can join 4-H if you are between the ages of 8-18. Some areas have special age-appropriate programs designed especially for younger kids.

Where are 4-H programs found

4-H programs are conducted in 3,150 counties of the United States, and also in the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In addition, more than 50 countries around the world have youth programs similar to 4-H, with an overall enrollment of about 7 million young people. 4-H and related programs exist in over 50 countries around the world. These programs operate independently, as there is no international 4-H organization. However, through international exchanges, global education programs, and communications, they share a common bond in 4-H.

History

4-H didn't really start in one time or place. 4-H started over 100 years ago. The seed of the 4-H idea of practical and “hands-on” learning came from the desire to make public school education more connected to country life. Early programs tied both public and private resources together for the purpose of helping rural youth.

During this time, researchers at experiment stations of the land-grant college system and USDA saw that adults in the farming community did not readily accept new agricultural discoveries. But, educators found that youth would "experiment" with these new ideas and then share their experiences and successes with the adults. 4-H clubs were preceded by corn clubs for boys and canning clubs for girls, organized in the early 1900's by public school educators who wanted to broaden the knowledge and experience of their students.

So rural youth programs became a way to introduce new agriculture technology to the adults. A.B. Graham started one such youth program in Ohio in 1902. It is considered the birth of the 4-H program in the U.S. When Congress created the Cooperative Extension Service at USDA in 1914, it included boys' and girls' club work.

Nearing its 50th anniversary, 4-H began to undergo several changes. In 1948, a group of American young people went to Europe, and a group of Europeans came to the United States on the first International Farm Youth Exchange. Since then, thousands of young people have participated in 4-H out-of-state trips and international exchanges. 4-H began to extend into urban areas in the 1950's.

Later, the basic 4-H focus became the personal growth of the member. Life skills development was built into 4-H projects, activities and events to help youth become contributing, productive, self-directed members of society. The organization changed in the 1960's, combining 4-H groups divided by gender or race into a single integrated program.
**4-H Lore**

**The 4-H Pledge**

“I Pledge my Head to clearer thinking,

my Heart to greater loyalty,

my Hands to larger service,

and my Health to better living,

for my club, my community, my country, and my world.”

**The 4-H Emblem, Colors, and the four H's**

The original symbol of the Boys and Girls Clubs was a three leaf clover with the words Head, Heart, and Hands. Nebraska clubs used the words as part of their statement of purpose: "to educate the youth of the county, town and city to knowledge of their dependence upon nature's resources, and to the value of the fullest development of hand, head and heart...."

**4-H colors**

The 4-H emblem is federally protected under Section 18 US Code 707 and belongs to the Congress of the United States. The official emblem is green with white H's - the 4-H colors. The white symbolizes purity. The green represents nature's most common color and is emblematic of youth, life, and growth.

**4-H Motto**

The 4-H motto is “To Make the Best Better”. The motto was adopted at about the same time as the 4-H Club Pledge. Its intent is to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences.

**4-H Slogan**

“Learn By Doing” This phrase sums up the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. Young people learn best when they are involved in their learning. The intent is to do, reflect, and apply.

**National 4-Week**

National 4-H week is held the first full week of October. During National 4-H Week in October, 4-H members and adult and youth volunteers celebrate their involvement in 4-H. County and state 4-H programs planned a variety of activities to promote 4-H to the public and to recognize 4-H accomplishments.
NJ 4-H

Cloverbud Program
As of September 1, 2009 the New Jersey 4-H Prep Program became the New Jersey 4-H Cloverbud Program. The 4-H Cloverbud Program is designed to provide K-3 youth with age-appropriate experiential learning activities in a small club setting. These youth may be registered members of a 4-H Cloverbud club or in a standard club. This program, in the tradition of the Prep Program, will remain non-competitive. The 4-H Cloverbud Program is a nationally recognized program for younger 4-H members.

4-H Camp
The Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp is located on 108 beautiful acres in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, N. J. The camp is operated by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and is owned by Rutgers University.

Special Interest/Short Term Programs/Day Camps - Groups of youth meeting for a specific learning experience for one or more sessions, which involves direct teaching by Extension staff or trained volunteers, including teachers. Such a program is not part of school curriculum and cannot be restricted to members of 4-H clubs. This delivery mode does not usually continue for as long as a 4-H club. Examples might be a three-week babysitting course or a weekend-long state 4-H teen conference if they are open to the public.

Overnight Camping Programs - Youth taking part in an Extension planned educational experience of group living in the out-of-doors which includes being away from home at least one night (resident, primitive or travel camping). This experience cannot be restricted to members of organized 4-H Clubs. Most 4-H summer camps fit this description if youth from the public are equally welcome to attend as 4-H club members.

School Enrichment Programs - Groups of youth receiving a sequence of learning experiences in cooperation with school officials during school hours, to support the school curriculum. An example might be a volunteer visiting a school to present a special program on science to youth during classroom hours and promoting 4-H while doing so.

School-Aged Child Care Education Programs - Educational programs offered to youth outside of school hours, usually in a school or other community center and incorporating 4-H curricula. The primary purpose is to provide care for youth while parents are working or unavailable. (Youth who are members of 4-H clubs in school age child care settings are considered members of "organized 4-H clubs."
**Dog Parts**

- **back** - the part of the body between the loin and the withers.
- **brisket** - the chest of the dog.
- **carpals** - the wrist, the bones of the pastern joint.
- **dewclaw** - the tiny, useless, fifth claw - located on the inner part of the leg above the other toes.
- **ear** - the fleshy, often triangular appendages on the head associated with hearing.
- **flews** - the hanging part of the dog's upper lips.
- **forearms** - The parts of the forelegs between the elbow and the pastern.
- **forefoot** - the front feet.
- **hindfoot** - the back feet.
- **hips** - the joints at the uppermost part of the hindlegs.
- **hock** - the bones that form the ankle/heel of the dog.
- **loin** - the parts of the body located on both sides of the backbone between the ribs and the hips.
- **muzzle** - the front parts of the jaws.
- **nose** - the tip of the muzzle.
- **pastern** - the part of the leg below the carpals (wrist) of the front leg or below the hock of the hind leg.
- **ruff** - the long, thick hair that grows around the neck.
- **shoulder** - the joint at the uppermost part of the forelegs.
- **stifle** - the dog's knee, located on the hind leg above the ankle.
- **stop** - the indented part of the skull between the eyes.
- **tail** - the hind-most part of the backbone, set on the rump.
- **thigh** - the upper part of the hind leg.
- **withers** - the top of the shoulders, just behind the neck.
Volunteers in The Seeing Eye Puppy-Raising Project have a unique opportunity to make a positive contribution to society. Since 1942, Seeing Eye puppy-raisers have helped blind men and women from across the United States and Canada to increase their independence, dignity, and self-confidence through the use of Seeing Eye dogs. Puppy-raisers’ early, hands-on attention gives the pups a firm foundation of love and security, enabling them to meet their special destiny as the eyes for blind people. Puppy raising brings family members closer together in a common cause. It builds character in children, teaching them early in life to help others. And it ultimately assists the hundreds of blind people each year who return to their families, friends, and jobs with competent, confident Seeing Eye dogs at their sides.

- The Seeing Eye Puppy-Raising Project began in 1942 in Morris County, New Jersey. About 35 puppies were placed in homes the first year.
- The program now is open to residents of New Jersey, and parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and Maryland.
- Most puppy-raisers are children between the ages of 9 and 19, or are retired adults.
- Regional coordinators stay in close contact with puppy-raiser families. They are available for assistance at all times.
- A puppy lives with a puppy-raiser for about 15 months, until its old enough to begin its formal training at the Seeing Eye.
- A puppy-raiser’s job is to provide the love and gentle guidance that teaches the puppy to be comfortable and confident in the many types of social settings it will encounter as a working dog (for example in cars, stores, public transportation, and other public accommodations).
- Puppy-raisers teach the dogs simple commands. Later, Seeing Eye instructors teach the dog how to guide a blind person.
- Puppy-raisers attend regular club meetings that provide great socialization experience for pups and people.
- Someone needs to be home for most of the day to meet the puppy’s needs.
- The Seeing Eye covers the cost of veterinary care and boarding. They also provide a quarterly allotment to defray the cost of food.
- The late Miss Evelyn Henderson holds the record for puppy raising: over 200 between 1951 and 1978. She also raised 15 foster children, each of whom was required to raise a pup. There were as many as a dozen puppies at one time in her home. In 1978, she received one of The Seeing Eye’s highest honors, the Buddy Award in recognition of her work. The book *Mine for a Year* tells the story of one of her foster sons and his puppy.
- New puppy-raisers are always welcome. For information, call your county extension office or The Seeing Eye at (973) 539-4425
- Students receiving Seeing Eye dogs pay $150 for a first dog, $50 for a subsequent dog. This includes the cost of the dog and its initial equipment, training with the dog, room and board while at Morristown, round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, and any follow-up services a graduate may need once he/she returns home. Fees are unchanged since 1929.
• The average working life of a Seeing Eye dog is 10 years. A retired dog may be kept as a pet, given to a friend or relative as a pet, or returned to The Seeing Eye, where it will be placed in an adoptive home.
• The Mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye dogs.
• It is a philanthropy supported by contributions, trusts and bequests, and receives no government aid.
• The Seeing Eye is located in Morristown, New Jersey. There is no other location. Only dogs trained at this school are properly called Seeing Eye dogs, which is a registered trademark name. The generic term for dogs that guide people who are blind is “dog guide”.
• There are 12 accredited schools in the United States. Schools are accredited by meeting standards of the International Guide Dog Foundation
• The Seeing Eye will send its newsletter, general information brochure, annual report, or other material free on request.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is The Seeing Eye supported?
A. The Seeing Eye is a philanthropy. It receives contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Because all administrative and fundraising expenses are covered by the endowment, every dollar of every donation goes to support the school’s programs. Our endowment ensures that The Seeing Eye will endure into the future and that those who want Seeing Eye dogs always will be able to obtain them.

Q. How many students does The Seeing Eye train each year?
A. The school trains nearly 300 students a year. Many are returning to obtain their second, third, or fourth dogs. There are 12 annual classes of about 24 students each.

Q. How much does it cost a blind person to obtain a Seeing Eye dog?
A. A blind person is asked to assume an obligation of $150 for his/her first visit, and $50 for each visit thereafter. This fee, unchanged since the school was founded in 1929, represents dignity and self-respect to the student, and ownership of the dog. No one has ever been denied a Seeing Eye dog for lack of funds. This payment, sometimes made in monthly installments, covers a fraction of the actual total cost.

The cost to The Seeing Eye for every dog/owner partnership is about $50,000. This includes breeding, puppy raising, and training one dog to be matched with a person. Also included is the student’s round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, room and board during the 20-to-27 day training period at the school, the dog, its initial equipment, the student’s instruction with the dog, and any follow-up services the graduate may need once he/she returns home and for the life of the partnership.

Q. Can individuals, clubs, or organizations sponsor a Seeing Eye dog for a blind person?
A. No. As a philanthropy, The Seeing Eye provides dog guides to blind people who seek greater independence and mobility. Sponsoring a dog for someone robs that person of independence by making him or her feel obligated or dependent on the sponsor. The Seeing Eye regards those who choose to come here with dignity and self-respect, and encourages independence. Therefore, all gifts support the entire program.

Q. What breeds of dogs are used?
A. The Seeing Eye breeds German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and crosses at its breeding station in Chester, NJ. Occasionally, Boxers are obtained by purchase or gift.
Q. Are only female dogs used?
A. Due to the success of our breeding program, we use both neutered male and female dogs. It is not its sex that determines a dog’s suitability for guide work, but disposition, intelligence and good health.

Q. How long does it take to train a dog?
A. Training a Seeing Eye dog is a multi-step process. When the dog is about seven weeks old, it’s placed in the home of a volunteer puppy raiser, where it’s taught basic obedience and socialization, and given lots of love. After about 15 months, the dog returns to The Seeing Eye and begins a four-month course with a sighted instructor. When the dog passes this phase, it’s matched with a blind person. Person and dog then train together under the supervision of the instructor. Someone coming to The Seeing Eye for the first time participates in a 27-day training session; someone returning for a second or subsequent dog participates in a 20-day session.

Q. What is the average working life of a Seeing Eye dog? What happens to the dogs when they get old? What happens to the dogs when their owners die?
A. The average working life of a Seeing Eye dog is 10 years. However, many have worked to the ages of 12, 13, and longer. A retired Seeing Eye dog may be kept as a pet, given to a friend or relative as a pet, or returned to The Seeing Eye, which will find it a suitable home. If the owner dies, the dog is sometimes placed with a new owner. Sometimes it remains with the family, depending on its age and other factors.

Q. Do the dogs have any free time?
A. A dog keeps the same work schedule as its owner. At home, it’s free to relax or play. Out of harness, it’s like any other dog, and sometimes may even get into mischief. When the harness is put on it eagerly accepts it, becoming more serious and responsible.

Q. Can I train dogs for the Seeing Eye?
A. New volunteer puppy-raisers who live in New Jersey, parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland are always welcome. Call The Seeing Eye or your county extension office for details.
Staff instructors are full-time employees. They have college degrees in education, psychology, or related fields, and have successfully completed The Seeing Eye three-year apprenticeship program. They relate equally well to dogs and people and are physically fit, since their job is physically demanding and involves working outdoors in all weather. Call the manager of human resources at The Seeing Eye for information.

Q. What is the puppy-raising program?
A. In 1942, The Seeing Eye, in conjunction with 4-H clubs of New Jersey, established its puppy-raising program. Since then, 4-H children and their families have raised Seeing Eye puppies during the first year of the pups’ lives. Due to the increased demand for puppy-raisers, the program is growing. When the puppies are about seven weeks old, they leave the breeding station to live with their families for about a year, until they are old enough to begin their formal training. There are equal amount of children and adults raising puppies. The responsibilities involved in raising a puppy are: providing affection, discipline, and exposure to the kinds of experiences it will encounter as a working dog.
Q. How does a dog know when to cross the street?
A. Dogs are color-blind and can’t read traffic lights. The dog’s owner learns to judge the movement of traffic by its sounds. At the appropriate time, he/she will command the dog to move forward. The dog will not carry out the command until it is safe to do so. This is called intelligent disobedience.

Q. How does a dog know where a blind person wants to go?
A. Blind people generally know their own communities and can direct their dogs wherever they want to with the simple commands left, right, or forward. In a new location, blind men and women, like sighted people, ask for directions and communicate them to the dog by using the proper command.

Q. What is the greatest difficulty dog guide users encounter?
A. Public interference. For anyone to take hold of a blind person’s arm, or the dog’s harness, or otherwise distract the dog or its owner is not only a shocking experience, but akin to grabbing the steering wheel of a moving car away from its driver. If you think a dog guide user needs assistance, calmly ask if he or she would like help. The person can accept or decline your offer.

Q. Will a dog defend a blind person who is in danger?
A. Seeing Eye dogs are dog guides, not guard dogs. The Seeing Eye breeds its dogs for good temperament, intelligence, stability, gentleness, and good health. However, given the special relationship that develops between the dog and master from many years of working and living together, we can’t predict what the dog would do. Common sense says it probably would protect its master.

Q. Are there other dog guide schools?
A. In addition to the U.S., many foreign countries have dog guide schools. There are 12 in this country, but there is only one Seeing Eye, in Morristown, New Jersey. It has no branches. Only dogs obtained there are properly called Seeing Eye dogs. The generic term for dogs trained by other schools is dog guide. Founded in 1929, The Seeing Eye is legally registered in the U.S. and Canada. The premier dog guide school in North America, it has matched nearly 15,000 Seeing Eye dogs with blind people from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Q. Other than blindness, are there special qualifications to obtain a Seeing Eye dog?
A. A person must be at least 16 years old, in good general health, and have an active enough lifestyle to need a Seeing Eye dog.
More Facts about Seeing Eye

• Since its founding in 1929, The Seeing Eye has matched about 16,000 specially-bred and trained dog guides with blind people throughout the United States and Canada.

• Active graduates of The Seeing Eye lead productive, independent lives with Seeing Eye® dogs at their sides. They include students, teachers, lawyers, musicians, factory workers, x-ray technicians, clergy, computer programmers, social workers, psychologists, writers, homemakers and volunteers.

• The Seeing Eye is the oldest dog guide school in America. It is a philanthropic organization whose primary purpose is to help blind adults achieve mobility through the use of properly trained dog guides.

• In addition to breeding German shepherds, Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers, The Seeing Eye occasionally obtains boxers. The puppies are raised by volunteer families through The Seeing Eye Puppy Raising/4-H Program. Pups live with the families for about 16 to 18 months, and then return to The Seeing Eye to enter training. During that time, The Seeing Eye pays all veterinary costs plus a quarterly allowance toward food costs.

• It takes about 16 weeks to train a dog. Instructors (who are sighted) train 10 at a time. They use a system of affectionate rewards and gentle corrections to teach each dog both obedience and intelligent disobedience—to disregard a command if it would lead to danger.

• About 300 people each year come to the Morristown campus of The Seeing Eye to be matched with a dog guide. They live with their dogs in The Seeing Eye student residence for the 20 to 27 days it takes for them to learn to become a safe and effective working team.

• Those in need of a Seeing Eye dog must be over 16 and in good health. The Seeing Eye does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, or economic status.

• Students are asked to pay $150 for their first visit to the Seeing Eye, and $50 for each subsequent visit. This is applied toward the cost of the dog and its initial equipment, round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, and meals and lodging during the training period. The actual cost to breed, raise and train a dog and instruct a student in its use is about $50,000 per person/dog team. The difference is made up through philanthropic gifts to The Seeing Eye. No one has ever been denied a Seeing Eye dog because of inability to pay.

• The Seeing Eye was founded by Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank, the first blind person to use a dog guide, in Nashville, Tennessee. It moved to Morris County, N.J. in 1931 and has been at its present Washington Valley Road location since 1965. There are no branches.

• As a philanthropy that receives no government aid of any kind, The Seeing Eye relies on contributions, trust income, bequests and endowment earnings. It welcomes public interest and will send it quarterly newsletter, The Seeing Eye Guide, in print, Braille, audiotape, or email on request.

• Blind people may apply directly to The Seeing Eye, Inc., PO Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963-0375, or call (973)539-4425. Preliminary information and application forms are sent on request.

The Seeing Eye ® is a registered trademark of dog guides of The Seeing Eye
The Canine Good Citizen Program ("CGC") is administered by the American Kennel Club. It's purpose is to ensure that our dogs become respected members of our community through training them to act well behaved in the home, in public and with other dogs.

The AKC has expanded the CGC program to include a Community CGC (considered an "advanced" CGC), and a Urban CGC (CGCU). Dogs may take the CGC and CGCU the same day. The dog owner should request the CGC title from the AKC first and after receiving the CGC certificate, the UCGC can be applied for. Dogs must have a CGC to be eligible to take the CCUGC title and UCGC. In addition AKC is offering a Farm Dog CGC open to all breeds.

All testing for the CGC is performed on a leather or fabric leash, with the dog wearing a well fitting buckle or slip collar made of leather, fabric or chain. All handlers upon check in must sign the Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge, stating that the dog gets routine veterinary care. No formal score is given for the CGC other than a pass or fail. In order to earn the CGC designation a dog must pass all ten items of the test.

The complete CGC test is made up of the following ten items: Accepting a Friendly Stranger, Sitting Politely for Petting, Appearance and Grooming, Out for a Walk (Walking on a Loose Leash), Walking Through a Crowd, Sit, Down on Command and Stay in Place, Coming When Called, Reaction to Another Dog, Reaction to Distractions, Supervised Separation.

The testing proceeds as follows:

1. Accepting a Friendly Stranger. The evaluator walks up to dog and handler, greets handler in a friendly manner, then shakes hands with handler and exchanges pleasantries. The dog must show no signs of resentment or shyness and must not break position or approach the evaluator.
2. Sitting Politely for Petting. The dog can sit on either side of the handler as the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body only. Then handler may talk to the dog throughout the exercise and the dog may stand in place once petting begins but must not show shyness or resentment.
3. Appearance and Grooming. The evaluator inspects the dog for signs of good health and then, using a grooming tool provided by the handler, will softly comb or brush the dog and gently pick up each front foot. The dog does not have to hold a specific position but must show tolerance inspection and grooming.
4. Out for a walk. The dog may be on either side of the handler but it's behavior should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive and responsive to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The team will be required to perform a left turn, right turn, about turn, and stop in between and at the end of the exercise.
5. Walking Through a Crowd. The dog and handler move around at least three people of different appearances. The dog should move politely and under control. The dog may show some interest in strangers but will continue to walk with handler in a well behaved manner.
#6 Sit and Down on Command / Stay in Place. The dog's leash is replaced with a twenty foot line. The handler makes the dog sit and then down. The handler may use reasonable time multiple commands and a light touch to instruct the dog but may not force the dog into position. On the evaluator's instruction, the handler tells the dog to stay walks forward, to the end of the line, turns around and returns to the dog, all at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the spot it was left until the evaluator instructs the handler to release it.

#7 Coming When Called. The handler walks ten feet from the dog, turns to face the dog and calls it. The handler may use the stay or wait commands, or may simply walk away without giving the dog specific instructions. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come while the evaluator provides mild distractions.

#8 Reaction to Another Dog. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other or the other handler, nor approach either.

#9 Reaction to Distractions. This item demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. Two of the following distractions are used: A person with crutches, wheelchair or walker; sudden open/closing of a door, dropping a loud item farther than five feet from the dog, a jogger, a person pushing a cart or carte dolly, a person on a bike. The dog can express natural interest or be slightly startled, but should not panic, run away, bark or show aggressiveness.

#10 Supervised Separation. The evaluator offers to hold the dog, and the handler hands the leash to the evaluator and goes out of sight for three minutes. The handler may give the dog commands to down or sit and stay, but the dog does not have to maintain it's position. The dog must maintain it's training and manners and may not continually bark, whine or pace unnecessarily, or show anything more than mild agitation.

**Advanced Level Community Canine Title**

Giving responsible dog owners a whole new level of achievement for their dogs, the American Kennel Club® (AKC®) has developed a new advanced level title – AKC Community Canine – as part of the Canine Good Citizen® (CGC®) training program. Since 1989, the CGC program has rewarded hundreds of thousands of dogs and their owners who have passed the test, which recognizes the dogs' good manners at home and in the community.

With the introduction of AKC Community Canine, the AKC's CGC program now provides a comprehensive three-level training program for you and your dog. Beginning with AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy, progressing to Canine Good Citizen and now to AKC Community Canine, the CGC program trains dogs through all stages of life to be well behaved in society.

“AKC Community Canine expands on CGC skills and lays the beginning foundation for obedience, rally and therapy dog work,” Director of the Canine Good Citizen program Mary Burch, PhD, said. “While Canine Good Citizen tests are simulations of real world skills, the goal of AKC Community Canine is to test the dog's abilities in a natural setting. Rather than the test being administered in a ring, certain elements will involve the dog walking through a real crowd, whether at a dog show or on a busy sidewalk.”
As with CGC, AKC Community Canine requires a **10-step test of skills** that dogs must pass to earn the official AKC Community Canine title:

- Dog sits or lies down and waits under control
- Walks on a loose leash in a natural situation (not in a ring) and does not pull
- Walks on a loose leash through a crowd
- Dog walks past distraction dogs present and does not pull
- Sit-stay in small group (3 other people with dogs)
- Dog allows person who is carrying something to approach and pet it
- Dog walks by food and follows owner instructions, “Leave it”
- Down or sit-stay-distance (owner’s choice)
- Recall (coming when called) with distractions present
- Dog will enter/exit a doorway or passageway with owner and remain under control

Eligible dogs for the AKC Community Canine title must have a CGC certificate or title on record at AKC and must have an AKC number (AKC registration number, PAL number, or AKC Canine Partners number). Dogs passing the AKC Community Canine test will earn the “CGCA” (advanced CGC) title.

Instructors can learn more about the program and begin training their students on AKC Community Canine skills by visiting the [AKC Community Canine](https://www.akc.org/dog-training/community-canine/) page. AKC Community Canine testing will be administered by approved [AKC CGC evaluators](https://www.akc.org/dog-training/community-canine/evaluators/) nationwide beginning in October, 2013.

### Urban Canine Good Citizen

Dogs are tested in an urban setting with suggested testing on challenges such as elevators, stairs, long down in public with strangers walking by carrying items, crossing street, etc. The owner confirms on one of the test items that the dog is house broken.

### AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program is the AKC program designed to get puppies and their owners off to a great start. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy requires that owners attend a basic training course with their puppies. All dogs need the necessary components of the program including Socialization, Training, Activity, and a Responsible owner.

Evaluators for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy must be AKC Approved Canine Good Citizen Evaluators. CGC Evaluators are automatically approved to conduct AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy testing.

One major difference in the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is that CGC Evaluators may give the CGCSM test to handlers and dogs they have not trained in classes.

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is an owner incentive program designed to get owners to attend a basic training class with their puppies. Unlike the CGC Test, the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test is given only at the conclusion of a training course that is at least 6 weeks long. The course may be called AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy, or it may simply be the evaluator’s puppy or basic training class.
The purpose of this program is to recognize AKC dogs and their owners who have given their time and helped people by volunteering as a therapy dog and owner team.

The AKC Therapy Dog™ program awards an official AKC title to dogs who have worked to improve the lives of the people they have visited.

The AKC Therapy Dog title (THD) can be earned by dogs who have been certified by AKC recognized therapy dog organizations and have performed 50 or more community visits.

AKC does not certify therapy dogs; the certification and training is done by qualified therapy dog organizations. The certification organizations are the experts in this area and their efforts should be acknowledged and appreciated.

AKC has received frequent, ongoing requests from dog owners who participate in therapy work to "acknowledge the great work our dogs are doing." Many of our constituents are understandably proud of their dogs.

Earning an AKC Therapy Dog title builds on the skills taught in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy® and Canine Good Citizen® programs which creates a sound and friendly temperament needed by a successful therapy dog.

Therapy dogs are dogs who go with their owners to volunteer in settings such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

From working with a child who is learning to read to visiting a senior in assisted living, therapy dogs and their owners work together as a team to improve the lives of other people.

Therapy dogs are not service dogs.

It is unethical to attempt to pass off a therapy dog as a service dog for purposes such as flying on a plane or being admitted to a restaurant.

Since the 1980’s, there have been significant advances in the field of animal assisted therapy and the use of therapy dogs. Organized therapy dog groups provide educational material to volunteers, they screen both volunteers and dogs, and they provide liability insurance for when the dog and handler are volunteering in a therapy setting.

Therapy dog certification organizations are the experts in this field. It is their dedication that has organized and advanced the work of therapy dogs and their efforts should be acknowledged and appreciated. The following certification organizations are recognized by the AKC. A dog must be certified by one of these organizations to be eligible to receive the AKC Therapy Dog title.

**ADD CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TO THERAPY DOG TITLES**

Dogs who are registered with an AKC recognized therapy organization and have earned an AKC Therapy Dog Title may receive the official Canine Good Citizen Title when the owner submits the CGC Therapy Dog Grandfather Application.

There is a list of Therapy dog Groups that do certify Therapy dogs at [http://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm](http://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm)
AKC Obedience

- Demonstrating the usefulness of a dog as a companion to humankind, AKC Obedience is a sport with rules, regulations, judges, conditioning, training, placements and prizes.
- Dog and handler teams are judged on how closely they match the judge's mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance as they execute a series of specified exercises.
- Accuracy and precision are essential, but the natural movement of the handler and the willingness and enjoyment of the dog are very important. Dogs are required to heel on the left side of the handler.
- You must be registered with the AKC to compete in AKC Obedience Trials
- A dog that is blind, deaf or has been changed in appearance for cosmetic reasons (other than changes customarily approved for its breed) cannot compete in any AKC Obedience Trial
- Dogs must be 6 months or older to be shown in an AKC Obedience Trial. No dog in season may be shown at an AKC Obedience or Rally Trial or at a 4-H event.
- AKC recognizes three different kinds of obedience classes: regular (Novice, Open, and Utility), optional titling (Beginner Novice and others), and non-regular (Pre-Novice and others)

Training and Warm-up on the Show Grounds

- There will be no intensive or abusive training of the dogs on the grounds or premises at an AKC licensed or member obedience trial or sanctioned match.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring, warm-up ring or exercise area and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards and when waiting in the ring before and after the group exercises.
- The leash must be made of fabric or leather and need only be long enough to provide adequate slack during the Heel on Leash exercise, except in Pre-Novice and Beginner Novice where they should be 6 feet long.
- All dogs in the obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the judge. No special training collars, such as electronic collars or prong collars will be permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog’s collar.

Performance of Obedience Exercises in General

Dogs are required to heel on the left side of the handler. The “heel position” means the dog is at the handler’s left side, with the dog’s shoulders about level with the handler’s legs, and facing the same direction as the handler. When heeling in competition, the judge tells the handler “Forward” but the verbal command used by the handler to the dog is usually “Heel.” In a Recall exercise, the dog is required to “sit front” (sit directly in front of the handler) after the “Come” command is given, and should not “finish” (return to the heel position) unless the handler gives the command to do so.

Qualifying Performance in Obedience

A qualifying score indicates that the dog has performed all the required exercises according to AKC Obedience Regulations in a regular or optional titling class and justifies the awarding of the obedience title. A perfect score in any class is 200 points. To receive a qualifying score, a dog must earn at least 170 points and more than 50% of the points for each exercise. Committing a Non-Qualifying error in any exercise means the dog cannot receive a qualifying score. All dogs that have received a qualifying score receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a “leg” or qualifying score toward their title. To earn a title, a dog must receive 3 qualifying scores from 2 different judges.
Obedience Classes

Beginner Novice Class - (AKC optional titling class. Title awarded: Beginner Novice, BN) This is the only obedience class which uses Rally signs, instead of the judge’s verbal directions, to direct the entrants through the heeling pattern. Also, unlike other obedience classes, the handler is permitted to offer verbal encouragement to the dog once without penalty during each exercise when the dog is moving. Exercises: Heel on Leash, Figure 8, Sit for Exam, Sit Stay (leash remains attached to collar, but no one holds the leash while the handler walks around the ring), Recall (leash off, distance approx. 25 feet).

Preferred Novice (AKC titling class) the Preferred novice class is an alternative titling class for dogs that have not won the CDX or PCDX (Companion Dog Excellent or Preferred Companion Dog Excellent) or higher regular or Preferred titles. this is an additional class that may be offered by clubs at obedience events. the owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. owners may enter more than one dog in this class. Dogs entered in Preferred novice may also be entered in other obedience classes. The judge will announce if the stay is a sit or a down

Novice Class. the novice A class shall be for dogs that have not won the CD (Companion Dog) title and are being handled by the owner or member of owner’s household or immediate family. and may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC regular or Preferred Novice, Open or Utility title. The Novice B class is for dogs that have not earned an AKC obedience title but are being handled by a person that has earned this title with another dog. Judged exercises include Heel on Leash and Figure 8, Heel Free, Stand for Examination, Recall, Long Sit (1 min), Long Down (3 min).

Open (AKC regular class. Title awarded: Companion Dog Excellent, CDX) Exercises: Heel Free and Figure 8, Drop on Recall, Retrieve on the Flat, Retrieve over High Jump, Broad Jump, Long Sit (3 min), Long Down (5 min).

Utility Class

Utility (AKC regular class. Title awarded: Utility Dog, UD) This is the most difficult AKC regular obedience class. Exercises: Signal Exercise, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Examination, Directed Jumping.

For the most complete list of AKC obedience classes, regulations, and scoring chapters 1 - 15 of the AKC Obedience regulations on line or in the printed rule book

All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a "leg," or qualifying score toward their title.

Definitions

Obedience implies compliance with the direction or command given by the handler
Brisk, briskly — keenly alive, alert, energetic
Command — verbal order from handler to dog
Crowding — a dog so close to the handler as to interfere with the handler’s freedom of motion
Verbal Command – verbal order from handler to dog
Hand Signal – nonverbal direction from the handler to dog
Leg – a term that is used frequently for a qualifying score
Mouthing — when a dog chews or rolls the dumbbell in its mouth unnecessarily
NJ 4-H uses the AKC obedience classes and regulations, but adds the following classes

**Intermediate Novice** (4-H class only)  Intermediate Novice is identical to Pre-Novice, except that all exercises are performed off-lead except for the Heel and Figure 8.

**Advanced Novice** (4-H class only)  This class was created for 4-H members whose dogs had perfected the Novice class skills but were not ready to face the considerable challenges of Graduate Novice. Exercises: Heel on Lead, Stand for Exam and Call Dog, Heel Free and Figure 8, Drop on Recall, Long Sit (3 min), Long Down (5 min, handler out of sight).

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**New Jersey State 4-H Dog Show Obedience Guidelines**

NOTE: These Rules and Regulations were in effect for the 2013 Rutgers Day State Dog Show and strongly recommended to be followed at the County level. They will remain in effect until officially revised

Please refer to your official New Jersey State 4-H Dog Show Obedience Guidelines

They are attached to this file and should be printed out separately. They will be the most current information, and hopefully more 4-H members will become more familiar with them and where to find them
AKC Rally®

AKC RALLY® INTRODUCTION

The Obedience Regulations and Rules Applying to Dog Shows, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of AKC rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these Rally Regulations may otherwise provide. AKC rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course of designated stations (10-20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. The dog and handler team moves continuously at a brisk but normal pace with the dog under control at the handler’s left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect heel position is not required. Any faults in traditional AKC obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the Rally Regulations. After the judge’s “Forward” order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog (unless otherwise specified by these regulations) or any physical corrections will be penalized. AKC rally is a companion sport to AKC obedience, both require teamwork between dog and handler along with similar performance skills. Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC companion events for new dogs and handlers and can provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills. All rally titles will follow the dog’s name.

RALLY SIGNS

The signs may be any color and they include descriptions as well as directional arrows of exercises. Signs are numbered to make it easy to find the next station when navigating the course. Signs will be placed to the right of the handler’s path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the team to aid in that change.

The signs are large enough to be easily recognized when going through a course. The exercises designated on the signs will be performed in close proximity to the sign itself, either directly in front of, or in front of and to the left of the sign.

Rally Competitions

Novice—this is the first level for those just getting started in competition.
- All exercises are performed with dog on leash
- There is a requirement of 10-15 stations to complete with no more than 5 stationary exercises
- The exercises performed vary from turning 360 degrees to changing paces during the course
- Exhibitors at this level may clap their hands, pat their legs, and talk to their dogs through the course
- Novice A Class - the handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family. The handler may not have previously handled any dog that has earned an AKC rally title or any AKC obedience title.
Advanced—this is the second level, which includes more difficult exercises throughout the course
- All exercises are performed off leash
- There is a requirement of 12-17 stations with no more than 7 stationary exercises
- Exercises include a jump as well as calling your dog to the front of you from a stationary position
- Advanced A class - to be eligible for this class, dogs shall have won the rally novice (RN) title but have not won the rally Advanced (RA) title or any AKC obedience title prior to the close of entries. A handler must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner’s household or immediate family.
- Advanced B class is for any dog that has completed the Rally Novice title before the close of entries and the dog can stay in this class indefinitely. In addition the owner or any other person may handle the dog in this class

Excellent—this is the third level and the most challenging
- Exercises are performed off leash.
- There is a requirement of 15-20 stations, with no more than 7 stationary exercises
- Courses shall have a minimum of two Advanced level stations and a minimum of three excellent level stations, plus the two required jumps and the sit stay exercise per class.
- Unlike in the rally novice and Advanced classes, in rally excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog.
- Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler’s arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

The Rally Advanced Excellent Title. upon completion of the rally excellent title, qualifying scores may be accumulated from the rally Advanced B class and the rally excellent B class to earn the rally advanced excellent (RAE) title. To earn a rally advanced excellent title, the dog must have received qualifying scores in both Advanced B and excellent B at 10 separate licensed or member rally trials. The RAE title will appear at the end of the dog’s name and a numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met RAE requirements, i.e. RAE2, RAE3, etc.

Qualifying Performance
A qualifying performance indicates that the dog has performed the required exercises according to the AKC Rally Regulations. Each performance is timed, but times are only counted if two dogs earn the same score. All dogs and handlers begin with a perfect 100. A dog and handler team is awarded a qualifying score if it retains at least 70 points after the course has been completed.

Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:
- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog that eliminates while in the ring for judging
- Knocking over a jump
- Bar knocked off the uprights
- Handler error**
- Station not attempted by handler
- Using a jump as an aid in going over
- Walking through or on the broad jump boards
- Dog attempts broad jump but does not clear entire jump
- Failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction

2017 Dog Bowl Study Guide
Ribbons

- Blue - awarded for first place in any regular class.
- Red - awarded for second place in each class.
- Yellow - awarded for third place in each class.
- White - awarded for fourth place in each class.

All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a "leg," or qualifying score toward their title.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Deductions:

- Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points
- Minor to Substantial deduction – 1 to 10 points
- Substantial deduction – 6 to 10 points
  - Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction
  - Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10 point deduction

Luring – the appearance of having a reward in hand. e.g. holding the thumb and first two fingers together as if holding a treat. no treat need be present.

Natural Manner – not artificial, free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places.

Pivot – turning in the circle occupied by the handler before they started

Pleading – repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to handler’s commands and/or signals.

Repeat of Station/Retry – a station that is repeated in its entirety, including the approach, before beginning the next station.

***Station Not Attempted By The Handler – a station skipped/missed by the handler before attempting the next station.

New Jersey State 4-H Dog Show
Rally Guidelines

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Please refer to your official New Jersey State 4-H Dog Show Obedience Guidelines

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AKC Agility

Purpose of Agility

The purpose of AKC® agility trials is to afford owners the opportunity to demonstrate a dog’s physical ability/soundness and willingness to work with its handler under a variety of conditions. The program begins with basic entry-level agility, and progresses to more complex levels that require dogs to demonstrate higher levels of training and interaction with their handlers.

Agility results in a better rounded, conditioned dog, provides good basic training for search and rescue dogs, demonstrates good training and citizenship and has excellent spectator appeal.

Agility trials are sporting events and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and outside the trial course.

What dogs can compete

All dogs fifteen (15) months of age or older that are registered with the American Kennel Club or that have AKC Limited Registration, Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privileges (PAL/ILP) or an AKC Canine Partners listing number, or approved Foundation Stock Service (FSS) breeds are eligible to participate.

Dogs with a Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privileges (PAL/ILP) or an AKC Canine Partners listing number must be spayed or neutered in order to compete. Wherever the word “dog” is used in these regulations it includes both sexes.

Regular Titling Classes

Novice Agility Standard & Novice Jumpers With Weaves Classes. The Novice Agility Standard class and the Novice Jumpers With Weaves class are divided into Divisions A and B. Division A is for dogs that have never acquired any AKC agility title. Additionally, a dog entered in Novice A must be handled by a person that has never put an AKC agility title on any dog, and the handler must be the owner, co-owner, or a member of the owner’s household. Handlers that co-own a dog and have never put an AKC agility title on a dog may enter the Novice A class regardless of the other co-owner’s AKC agility accomplishments. Dogs eligible for Novice A may be entered in the Novice B class at the discretion of the owner. Division B is for dogs that have acquired the Novice Agility title, or the Novice Agility Jumper title, or for persons who have handled a dog to any AKC agility title, and for dogs being handled by someone other than the owner, co-owner, or household member subject to the restrictions listed above. A dog may continue to be shown in the Novice B class until they have acquired a qualifying score towards their Open title. Whenever the Novice class is offered, both divisions A and B must be offered.

Open Agility Standard Class. Open to dogs that have acquired the Novice Agility or the Open Agility titles but have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Agility Excellent title.

Open Jumpers With Weaves. Open to dogs that have acquired the Novice Agility Jumper or the Open Agility Jumper titles but have not acquired a qualifying score towards an Excellent Agility Jumper title.

Excellent Agility Standard Class. Open to dogs that have acquired the Open Agility title, and to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent title but that have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Master Agility Excellent title.

Excellent Jumpers With Weaves Class. Open to dogs that have acquired the Open Agility Jumper title and to dogs that have acquired the Excellent Agility Jumper title but have not acquired a qualifying score towards their Master Excellent Jumper title.

Master Agility Standard Class. Open only to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent title, and to dogs that have acquired the Master Agility Excellent title.
**Master Jumpers With Weaves Class.** Open only to dogs that have acquired the Excellent Agility Jumper title and to dogs that have acquired the Master Excellent Jumper title. Whenever the Excellent classes are offered both Excellent and Master classes must be offered.

**Premier Agility Standard Class.** Open only to dogs that have acquired the Agility Excellent title.

**Premier Jumpers With Weaves Class.** Open only to dogs that have acquired the Excellent Agility Jumper title.

**Master Agility Champion - MACH**
Dogs can earn multiple MACH titles which are numbered from MACH 2 and up. The MACH title can also be earned for Preferred status for dogs that complete in the preferred level of each class.

The regular Time 2 Beat title is Time 2 Beat (T2B). Regular FAST titles are Agility FAST Novice (NF), Agility FAST Open (OF), Agility FAST Excellent (XF), Agility Master FAST Excellent (MXF).

The AKC also offers an array of Lifetime Achievement Premier titles in standard and Jumpers with Weaves but also an Agility Grand Champion Title for consistency and versatility across all classes of the AKC agility Program. Premier levels are also offered in the FAST classes.

The newest titles are the **ACT 1 & 2** which are starter type titles and courses.

**Pg #40 & 41 of the AKC agility regulations.** The courses are shorter, easier and not all the pieces of equipment are utilized, especially at the lower level of ACT 1. The dogs need only qualify twice at each level to earn a title. Clubs can offer ACT 1 & 2 on the same day, and the dogs could conceivably earn both titles in one day if they qualify in all 4 runs. Dogs can not enter or compete in ACT 2 until they have earned the ACT 1 title. It is also scored differently to facilitate success of dog and handler.

**Section 9. Collars.** At the handler’s option, dogs may run a course with or without a collar. The only collars allowed when running a course are flat buckle or rolled leather collars, but there shall be no attachments hanging or otherwise allowed on the collar. This shall not preclude painted or stitched designs or information on the collar. Dog’s names and/or identifying information may appear on the collar. No title, awards, or advertising may appear on the collar. Dogs may be brought to the start line on slip leads, choke chains, body harnesses or other collars that are permitted on the trial grounds. Pinch/prong and electrical collars (dummy or not), head halters and special training collars are not allowed anywhere on the trial grounds. When an agility trial is held on the same show grounds as other AKC venues (such as obedience and conformation), collar regulations of the other venues if more restrictive than agility shall take precedence.

**Section 10. Leashes.** Handlers shall be allowed to bring their dog to the start line on leash. Handlers shall comply with the judge’s instructions for being ready to start their run, having their dog off leash and under control in a timely manner. Dogs shall not be faulted for the act of playing tug on the leash, nor for going to or picking up a leash laid in the ring (usually laid after the last obstacle or near the ring exit). A leash may not have excess material dangling from it, nor may it have any attachments including a fleece or leather wrap. Dogs shall be on leash at all times when on the show grounds except in the ring and at the warm-up jump area.

Dogs must enter and exit the ring with the leash attached to the dog’s collar or harness, or in the case of a slip lead, with the noose completely around the dog’s neck, with the other end of the leash held by the handler. Any entry or exit chutes added to the ring for the ease of getting dogs in and out of the ring are not considered to be part of the ring.

Clubs must provide a leash holder or a container for the leash runner to place the leash in or on, which can easily be located by the handler near the ring exit. Leashes or slip leads may not be hung on the ring barrier nor placed on the ground.
Section 12. Handling Aids. Food and toys are not permitted in the course area and handlers are not permitted to use or have in their possession while running the course, whistles, stopwatches, leashes, fanny packs, or other handling/training aids.

Section 13. Handler’s Position. Dogs can be worked on any side (left, right, front or behind) and at any distance in any class however; course layout (e.g., against a ring, gate, or wall) may restrict the handler’s position.

Section 14. Starting and Completion. Judging the performance of the dog shall start as soon as the dog enters the ring. A dog’s time starts whenever any part of the dog crosses the start line, defined as the plane of the first obstacle. A dog’s time stops whenever any part of the dog crosses the finish line in the correct direction when the dog is in the closing sequence. The finish line is defined as the plane of the last obstacle. The closing sequence is defined by the completion of the second to last obstacle on the way to the finish obstacle. The dog shall be on leash when exiting the ring and not be allowed to run loose “off leash” around the trial site.

All classes except Jumpers with weaves, can or must have contact obstacles, which have yellow “contact zones” at each end. Contact obstacles include A-frame, dog walk and seesaw. At the A Frame Dogs must ascend one panel and descend the other in the direction designated by the judge and they must touch the contact zone on the down side only, with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle. At the dog walk dogs must ascend one of the ramps, cross the center section, and descend the other ramp in the direction designated by the judge. They must touch the down contact zone with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle. On the Seesaw Dogs must ascend the plank touching the “up” contact zone with any part of one foot and cause the plank to pivot. At least one paw must touch the “down” contact zone after the plank has touched the ground and prior to exiting the obstacle with all four (4) paws.

The Jumpers with Weaves class does not have contact obstacles or a pause table to slow the team’s forward momentum. This is a very fast course requiring instant decisions by the handler and close attention from the dog.

The FAST (Fifteen and Send Time) class is an additional test of strategy skill, accuracy, speed, timing and distance handling, to demonstrate a dog’s athletic ability and willingness to work with its handler in a fast-paced atmosphere over a variety of agility obstacles. As indicated by the title, the Fifteen and Send Time class uses fifteen (15) point-valued obstacles and/or obstacle combinations. The course will include a ‘Send Bonus’ or distance element that will award a bonus of twenty (20) points if completed successfully, and is identified as the ‘Send Bonus.’

The Time 2 Beat (T2B) class is a combination course from the Standard and Jumpers With Weaves classes. While dogs of any skill level (e.g. Novice, Open, Excellent, Master) are allowed to compete in T2B, to be successful dogs will need to demonstrate athletic ability and an advanced skill level. This optional agility titling class is meant to challenge the handler/dog to set a clean efficient line with an emphasis on speed and accuracy. The dog that sets the quickest time in each jump height will set the time to beat for that jump height. There will be a single class level and all dogs with any skill level (e.g. Novice, Open, Excellent, Master) will compete on the same course.
How Agility is Scored

Agility is a time and fault sport where the qualifying requirements are more challenging as the competition class levels get higher. There are two types of faults: time and penalty. Time faults are given for every second a dog goes over the Standard Course Time. This scoring information does not necessarily apply to the ACT 1 & 2 courses

Below are examples of Penalty Faults that a judge may assess a handler and dog:

- Taking an obstacle out of sequence
- Missing a contact zone
- Displacing a bar or panel on a jump
- Jumping off the pause table before the judge is through counting
- Running around or refusing the next obstacle
- Exceeding the amount of time set by the judge for running the course
- Touching either the dog or any obstacle by the handler while running the course
- Outside assistance may be penalized
- Handler failure to control the dog may be penalized

Agility Terms

**Qualifying Performance** - A perfect score in any class at any level is 100. A dog must earn 3 qualifying scores under two different judges.

**MACH** - Masters Agility Champion

**Jump Heights** - The classes are divided by jump heights in order to make the competition equal between the different sizes of dogs.

In the REGULAR class, a dog of a certain height at the shoulder jumps a specific height according to an objective measurement.

The PREFERRED class affords an opportunity for a greater variety of dogs and their handlers, to participate in the sport of agility. Handlers have the option to enter the Preferred classes with modified, but still specific standards of lower jump heights and more generous course times.

**Jump Height Card** - (See pg 28 & 29 of the AKC agility rule book for more info on measuring)

All dogs competing in agility must possess an official AKC Jump Height Card. An official AKC Jump Height Card is defined as either a permanent jump height card, a valid temporary jump height form, copies of two different measuring forms (placing the dog in the same height class) dated on or after the dog’s second birthday, or copies of three different measuring forms (two of which place the dog in the same height class) dated on or after the dog’s second birthday.

At two (2) years of age two measurements are required by two different Volunteer Measuring Officials (VMO’s) or AKC Field Reps. If these two measurements put the dog in two different jump heights, then a third measurement will be used to determine the dog’s official jump height. The handler will retain all yellow forms until the second (or third) measurement is taken and the permanent jump height card is received from AKC. No permanent height card will be issued until the second (or third) measurement is officially recorded, with the exception of dogs measuring over 22 inches whose owner may request the issuance of a permanent height card with one measurement.

For dogs between 15 months and two years of age, one measurement is required. The handler will retain the yellow measurement form. This form is the dog’s temporary jump height card; no card will be issued by AKC. A card will not be issued until the dog’s permanent measurement is recorded. This temporary jump height card form expires on the dog’s second birthday.
NOTE: These Rules and Regulations were in effect for the 2013 Rutgers Day State Dog Show and strongly recommended to be followed at the County level. They will remain in effect until officially revised.

Please refer to your official New Jersey State 4-H Dog Show Obedience Guidelines

They are attached to this file and should be printed out separately. They will be the most current information, and hopefully more 4-H members will become more familiar with them and where to find them.

AKC dog breed information

For 2017 NJ State 4-H Dog Bowl, will not be asking details about breed standards of AKC breeds of dogs relating to structure.

Questions will be limited to the following information

The AKC breed groups are:
- Herding, Working, Hounds, Sporting, Non Sporting, Toys, and Terrier
- There is a miscellaneous group but they are not included in Best in show or for AKC breed points

Name up to 7 breeds of dogs in any of the AKC breed groups
- ie - Name 3 breeds in the Hound Group -
- Answer - Bloodhound, Whippet, and Greyhound
- All the breeds are available at AKC.org.

Breeds of dogs that originated in the USA - This is not a complete list of dogs

- Alaskan Malamute
- American Eskimo Dog
- American Foxhound
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- American Water Spaniel
- Black and Tan Coonhound
- Boston Terrier
- Chesapeake Bay Retriever
- Plott Hound
- Australian Shepherd
- Treeing Walker Coonhound
- Bluetick Coonhound
- Boykin Spaniel
- Miniature American Shepherd
- Rat Terrier
- Redbone Coonhound
- Teddy Roosevelt Terrier
AKC allows spayed and neutered dogs to compete in Jr Showmanship, Performance, Obedience, Rally, Agility, and all events except conformation classes that make a dog eligible for Best in Show at an all breed show.

Mixed breed dogs are eligible for AKC registration. The AKC Canine PartnersSM Program is open to spayed/neutered mixed-breed dogs, purebred dogs not eligible for AKC registration or AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS), and dogs not currently enrolled in AKC Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL).

Mixed breed dogs that are registered with AKC will be eligible for competition in Companion events which are Obedience, Rally, and agility and the exciting new event, Coursing Ability. In addition they are eligible for the AKC Therapy Dog title and new Flyball titles

**Performance Events**

(Does not include agility, rally, and obedience - which are covered separately)

**Herding** - The purpose of the competitive herding trial program is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the herding breeds and to demonstrate that they can perform the useful functions for which they were originally bred. The herding trials are open to all breeds in the herding group as well as Rottweilers, Samoyeds, Standard and Giant Schnauzers, and Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, and non herding group breeds Bernese Mountain dogs, Boxers, Kerry Blue Terriers and Soft Coated Wheaton Terriers. Herding tests and trials can be judged with the dogs herding sheep, goats, ducks, geese, turkeys or cattle, but must be stated in the premium list.

**Earth Dog** - The purpose of non-competitive Earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small Terriers and Dachshunds a standardized gauge to measure their dogs' natural aptitude and trained hunting and working behaviors when exposed to an underground hunting situation. The noncompetitive program begins with a basic introduction to den work and quarry and progresses through gradual steps to require the dog to demonstrate that it is willing to perform the required tasks including seeking its quarry, locating and working it underground.

The behaviors tested are willingness to follow a scent to the entrance; willingness to enter a dark den; and willingness to work the quarry. The dog may work the caged rats by barking, digging, growling, lunging, biting at the protective bars or any work that the judge feels displays a desire to get to the quarry.

**Tracking** - AKC tracking events are the competition form of canine search and rescue. These Tracking events provide training for dogs and their handlers to meet some human needs for tracking and finding lost humans or other animals, as well as, demonstrating the extremely high level of scent capability that dogs possess.

A dog earns a tracking title by following a track laid by a human tracklayer and is "aged" 30 minutes to five hours, depending on the level of test, before the dog begins scenting. The goal is to use the scented track to locate an article left at the end of the trail by the tracklayer. The owner follows the dog on a long leash and can encourage the dog during the tracking test.

**Lure Coursing** - The purpose of non-competitive lure coursing tests is to offer sighthound breed owners a standardized gauge to measure their hounds' coursing instinct. The purpose of the competitive lure coursing trial program is to preserve and develop the coursing skills inherent in the sighthounds. Sighthounds are a special group of hounds that are bred to hunt by sight. The sighthound breeds are: Whippets, Basenjis, Greyhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Afghan Hounds, Borzois, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Salukis and Rhodesian Ridgebacks. These Tests and Trials utilize a 'lure'
of white plastic strung around a rope course of 600 to 800 yards in an open field. The lure is moved around
the field by a motor and pulleys to control the speed and direction of the rope with the lure attached.

Field Trials and Hunting Tests - The purpose of these events is to offer tests and events that preserve and
develop the natural instinct of the hunting breeds of pointers, hounds, any gun dog breeds or hunting breeds of
which there are many.

Coursing Ability Test (CAT) - The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is an introductory event fashioned after the
sport lure coursing. It will provide a fun and healthy activity attractive to many dog owners. The following is
a summary of how the event is structured:

1. Non-competitive pass / fail event fashioned after the sport of lure coursing.
2. Dogs run singularly.
3. Open to all dogs at least 12 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in
the FSS Foundation Stock Service program, dogs with PAL numbers or dogs enrolled in the AKC
Canine Partners program. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An
event is defined by an event number.)
4. Course distance / course design:
   1. ● Dogs under 12” at the withers and/or brachycephalic (“flat-faced”) dogs = approx. 300 yards
   2. ● Dogs over 12” at the withers that are not brachycephalic dogs = approximately 600 yards
   3. ● If there is a question whether a dog should run 300 or 600 yards, the judge will decide.
   4. ● The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary
      consideration. There shall
      be no turns more acute than 90 degrees.
   5. ● Safety is of utmost importance. Since many of the dogs running will not be as agile as a
      sighthound, this
      must be a consideration in the design of the course.

FAST Coursing Ability Test (CAT) - Dogs compete in a timed, straight course of 100 years. the 100 yard
Dash for dogs. Scored on handicapped system based on the height of the dog and applied to a dog’s MPH to
determine the number of points earned.

Complete Regulations governing CAT can be found on AKC’s Coursing Ability Test website or Chapter 15 of
the Regulations for Lure Coursing.

Barn Hunt

- The Barn Hunt Association and the American Kennel Club are pleased to announce that the AKC will
  recognize titles earned in the new sport of Barn Hunt.
- The sport of Barn Hunt is based on the hunting and teamwork skills historically used by “rat catchers” who
  traveled the countryside ridding farms of vermin. Dogs and handlers work as a team to locate and mark rats
  (safe in aerated tubes) hidden in a maze of straw or hay bales. The event is open to all dogs.
- “Barn Hunt tests the nose, speed, agility and surefootedness of dogs that have a history of above-ground
  vermin hunting,” said Robin Nuttall, founder of the Barn Hunt Association. “We quickly found out that
  many breeds and mixed breeds enjoy the search and can excel at this sport.”
- Barn Hunt events include a pass/fail Instinct class for owners who want to familiarize their dog with the test.
  The AKC will recognize titles at four testing levels above Instinct. Courses are made increasingly difficult
  by adding more obstacles, additional diversions and more rats to find. The BHA has developed the sport to
  be fun for all participants, plus easy and inexpensive to hold.
When to get help

It is helpful for you to know your dog’s normal temperature, pulse, gum color and eye appearance in determining if there is a problem or concern

Temperature
The normal temperature of a dog should be between 100.5 to 102.5.

Pulse

How to Take a Dog’s Pulse
- Move your dog to, or get your dog to lie on it’s side.
- Put your hand under the top back leg.
- Find the crease that divides the leg from the body.
- Put your index and middle fingers alongside the crease, that is where a main artery is located.
- Count the pulse beats for a full minute. If you have difficulty you can count for twenty seconds and multiply by three.

Healthy Pulse Rates
The smaller the dog, the faster it’s pulse will be. If you believe your dog is in pain, or is ill, and their pulse rate varies significantly from the chart below, bring your pet to a veterinarian for medical assistance.
* Take the pulse at least two or three times over an hour’s time, as the first few times your pet may get excited or upset at the unfamiliar handling, and that would change a normal pulse. Do Not wait an hour if it is an emergency. Get them to the vet ASAP.
* allow at least a 5 to 10 beat variance due to generality of sizing chart
* obesity and age of pet are both factors in gauging answer
  Small Dog - from 140 to 160 beats per minute
  Medium Dog - from 120 to 140 beats per minute
  Large Dog - from 60 to 80 beats per minute

As a dog owner or caretaker, you need to know when to contact your vet for help.

Contact your veterinarian Immediately if your dog:

Has signs of heart or respiratory disease including:
- No pulse or heart beat
- No breathing or severe difficulty breathing
- Bluish or white gums or tongue
- A near drowning

Has been exposed to a toxin or poison or has had trauma including:
- A broken bone, or a cut that exposes a bone
- Heavy bleeding that cannot be stopped
- An eye injury, the eye is out of the socket, or appears enlarged or protruding
- A fight, especially if it was with a cat or a wild, or unvaccinated animal
- A wound from a bullet or arrow
- Being hit by a vehicle or other large fast-moving object
- Puncture wounds to the abdomen or chest
- Any trauma to the head
- A bite from a snake, scorpion, or poisonous spider; or has bitten a toad
- Porcupine quills imbedded in the mouth, face, or body
- A broken tooth, or the loss of a healthy tooth, including the root (keep the tooth in a small jar of milk)
- A severe laceration, or an incision that has opened and the skin is gaping
- Falling or jumping from an open window, balcony, etc.
- Swelling of the face and/or hives

**Has had heat or cold related injuries including:**
- Chewing on an electrical cord and receiving a shock or burn
- Burns or inhaled smoke
- Heat stroke or a fever over 105°F (normal is less than 102.5°F)
- Frostbite or hypothermia

**Has signs of gastrointestinal distress including:**
- Straining continually, but unable to produce feces
- Bloat (abdomen appears large or dog attempts to vomit, but cannot bring anything up)
- Choking
- Vomiting blood or uncontrolled vomiting
- Swallowing a foreign body (e.g., toy)
- Diarrhea with blood, a foul smell, or that is uncontrolled
- Black, tarry stool
- A protruded rectum or bleeding from the rectum
- An overdose of medication or suspected poisoning

**Has signs of nervous system or muscular disease including:**
- Extreme lethargy or depression, unconsciousness, collapse, or coma
- Seizures
- A head tilt, nystagmus (eyes move rapidly from side to side), staggering, walking in circles, knuckling over (walking on the top of the foot), unable to use hind limbs, or other problems moving
- Severe or continuous pain
- Sudden inability to bear weight on one or more limbs

**Has signs of urinary or reproductive problems including:**
- Difficulty giving birth: no puppy after 24 hours of beginning labor; no puppy after 1 hour of active straining; over 4 hours between deliveries; weak or infrequent contractions once labor has started; failed to start delivery within 24 hours of the temperature dropping below 99°F; crying or licking the genital area excessively; abnormal bleeding or vaginal discharge; weakness
- A male in whom the penis is exposed and cannot be withdrawn back into the sheath (the hair-covered area that usually encloses the penis)
- Straining continually but unable to pass urine, or the urine has blood in it
- Crying while trying to urinate
- Bleeding from the urinary or genital area
Contact your veterinarian the same day if your dog:

Has signs of heart or respiratory disease including:
  • Some difficulty breathing, shallow breathing, or breathing at a faster rate (unassociated with physical exercise or environmental temperature)
  • Continuous sneezing or coughing

Has signs related to digestion or food and water consumption including:
  • Not eating or drinking for 24 hours
  • Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours and acting depressed
  • Drinking water excessively, unrelated to activity or environmental temperature

Has signs of nervous system or muscular disease including:
  • Sudden change in behavior
  • Crying when touched or picked up
  • Cloudy eyes, squinting, or appears to be unable to see
  • Sudden, severe lameness

Has signs of urinary or reproductive problems including:
  • A retained afterbirth for over 8 hours
  • A female who has had an unwanted breeding
  • A female who is pregnant or nursing her young and develops a red, swollen, or painful breast
  • A male with swollen testicles or scrotum

Has signs associated with the skin including:
  • A rash, excessive shedding, excessive head shaking, or persistent scratching or chewing at spots on the body
  • Abnormal lumps or bumps that are painful, red, and/or hot to the touch
  • Maggots
  • A nosebleed for no apparent reason, bruising easily, or tiny red dots on the skin

Contact your veterinarian in 24 hours if your dog has signs including:

Has signs related to digestion or food and water consumption including:
  • Not eating, but no other signs of illness
  • A soft stool, but there is no pain, blood, fetid odor, green or black color, mucus, or straining
  • Occasional vomiting (2 or 3 times), but no abdominal pain or blood
  • Foul breath
  • Sudden weight gain or loss
  • Drooling

Has signs of nervous system or muscular disease including:
  • Lameness for more than 24 hours
  • Swollen joints
  • Lethargy, depression, sleeping more than usual, unwillingness to play or exercise

Has signs associated with the skin including:
  • Moderate itching or an unpleasant odor from the coat
  • A discharge from the eye, ear, or other body opening
Bloat

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) is also known as "bloat," "stomach torsion," or "twisted stomach." Bloat is an extremely serious condition, and should be considered a life-threatening emergency when it occurs. There are not home remedies for bloat, therefore dog owners must contact their veterinarians immediately if they suspect that their dog has bloat. Dogs can die of bloat within several hours. Even with treatment, as many as 25-33% of dogs with GDV die.

Bloat is a very serious and life threatening condition. Understanding the signs, prevention, and need for prompt treatment will help reduce the risk of mortality if your dog develops this problem.

What dogs are more susceptible?

Breed - There is a definite link between the likelihood of occurrence of GDV and the breed and build of the dog. GDV is much more likely to occur in large breeds with deep, narrow chests. The problem can occur in small dogs, but only rarely. By one study, Great Danes were the highest risk of bloat by breed.

Age - Dogs over 7 years of age are more than twice as likely to develop gastric dilatation and volvulus as those who are 2-4 years of age.

Gender - Male dogs are twice as likely to develop gastric dilatation and volvulus as females.

Neutering does not appear to have an effect on the risk of bloat.

Eating habits - Dogs fed once a day are twice as likely to develop GDV as those fed twice a day. It appears that dogs who eat rapidly or exercise soon after a meal may also be at increased risk.

Temperament - Dogs that tend to be more nervous, anxious, or fearful appear to be at an increased risk of developing bloat.

What are the signs? - The most obvious signs are abdominal distention (swollen belly) and nonproductive vomiting (animal appears to be vomiting, but nothing comes up) and retching. Other signs include restlessness, abdominal pain, and rapid shallow breathing. Profuse salivation may indicate severe pain. If the dog's condition continues to deteriorate, especially if volvulus has occurred, the dog may go into shock and become pale, have a weak pulse, a rapid heart rate, and eventually collapse. A dog with gastric dilatation without volvulus can show all of these signs, but the more severe signs are likely to occur in dogs with both dilatation and volvulus.

- Owners of susceptible breeds should be aware of the early signs of bloat and contact their veterinarian as soon as possible.
- Owners of susceptible breeds should develop a good working relationship with a local veterinarian in case emergency care is needed.
- Large dogs should be fed two or three times daily, rather than once a day.
- Water should be available at all times, but should be limited immediately after feeding.
- Vigorous exercise, excitement, and stress should be avoided one hour before and two hours after meals.
- Diet changes should be made gradually over a period of three to five days.
- Susceptible dogs should be fed individually and, if possible in a quiet location.
Microchipping

Despite your best efforts, your dog can slip out an open door and disappear. If he's wearing a collar and identification tag, chances are good that you'll get him back. But what if the collar comes off? To protect their pets in this scenario, many owners turn to technology in the form of microchips implanted in their pets. But don't rely on a microchip alone to protect your pet. In the event of accidental separation, identification tags are your pet's first ticket home. Microchips provide an extra level of protection in case your pet loses his collar and tags. Providing your cat or dog with both tags and a microchip can help ensure a happy reunion if the unthinkable happens and your companion gets lost.

Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice, that use radio frequency waves to transmit information about your pet. They're implanted just under the skin, usually right between the shoulder blades. Each microchip contains a registration number and the phone number of the registry for the particular brand of chip. A handheld scanner reads the radio frequency of the chip and displays this information. The animal shelter or vet clinic that finds your pet can contact the registry to get your name and phone number.

Your pet's subcutaneous tissue usually bonds to the chip within 24 hours, preventing it from moving, although there's a small chance that the chip could migrate. But it can't actually get lost inside your pet. Microchips are designed to work for 25 years. Many veterinarians and some animal shelters implant microchips for a small fee. This is done with a large-bore needle and doesn't require anesthesia. But—and this is very important—just getting a microchip isn't enough—you also need to register your pet with the microchip company.

Complete the paperwork that comes with the chip and send it to the registry, or do it online if that option is available. Some companies charge a one-time registration fee while others charge an annual fee. You'll also receive a tag for your pet's collar with the chip number and registry phone number.

Competing microchip companies use different frequencies to send signals to scanners, and for a while there was no universal scanner that could read all the different frequencies. Many microchip companies now produce universal scanners and provide them to animal shelters and animal control agencies at no or very low cost. If your local shelters don't have scanners, they can contact some of the major manufacturers to ask about getting one.

Different chip companies maintained separate databases. Now, some chip companies will register pets with any brand of chip. Also, the American Microchip Advisory Council is working to develop a network of the registry databases to streamline the return of pets to their families.

You need to contact the company that registers the chip to update your information; otherwise, the chip will be useless. You may be charged a small fee to process the update. The microchip is of little value if you don't register the pet and keep the information updated if you move or change your phone number.

A microchip could reunite you with your pet if it is lost and better yet could save the pet's life if it ended up in a shelter.
What you should know about Spaying and Neutering

Is there a pet population problem?
Every year, millions of unwanted dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, are needlessly euthanized. The good news is that every pet owner can make a difference. By having your dog or cat surgically sterilized, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens and enhance your pet's health and quality of life.

What about pet behavior and pet reproduction?
Contrary to what some people believe, getting pregnant — even once — does not improve the behavior of female dogs and cats. In fact, the mating instinct may lead to undesirable behaviors and result in undue stress on both the owner and the animal. Also, while some pet owners may have good intentions, few are prepared for the work involved in monitoring their pet's pregnancy, caring for the puppies or kittens and locating good homes for them.

What is surgical sterilization?
During surgical sterilization, a veterinarian removes certain reproductive organs. If your cat or dog is a female, the veterinarian will usually remove her ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus. The medical name for this surgery is an ovariohysterectomy, although it is commonly called "spaying." If your pet is a male, the testicles are removed and the operation is called an orchiectomy, commonly referred to as castration or simply "neutering."

While both spaying and neutering are major surgical procedures, they are also the most common surgeries performed by veterinarians on cats and dogs. Before the procedure, your pet is given a thorough physical examination to ensure that it is in good health. General anesthesia is administered during the surgery and medications are given to minimize pain. You will be asked to keep your pet calm and quiet for a few days after surgery until the incision begins to heal.

What are the benefits of spaying and neutering?
Both surgeries prevent unwanted litters and eliminate many of the behavioral problems associated with the mating instinct.

What are the benefits to spaying my female pet?
Female dogs experience a "heat" cycle approximately every six months, depending upon the breed. A female dog’s heat cycle can last as long as 21 days, during which your dog may leave blood stains in the house and may become anxious, short-tempered and actively seek a mate. A female dog in heat may be more likely to fight with other female dogs, including other females in the same household.

Female cats can come into heat every two weeks during breeding season until they become pregnant. During this time they may engage in behaviors such as frequent yowling and urination in unacceptable places.

Spaying eliminates heat cycles and generally reduces the unwanted behaviors that may lead to owner frustration and, ultimately, a decision to relinquish the pet to a shelter. Most importantly, early spaying of female dogs and cats can help protect them from some serious health problems later in life such as uterine infections and breast cancer.

What are the benefits of neutering my male pet?
At maturity (on average, 6 to 9 months of age), male dogs and cats are capable of breeding. Both male dogs and cats are likely to begin "marking" their territories by spraying strong-smelling
urine on your furniture, curtains, and in other places in your house. Also, given the slightest chance, intact males may attempt to escape from home and roam in search of a mate. Dogs and cats seeking a female in heat can become aggressive and may injure themselves, other animals, or people by engaging in fights. Roaming animals are also more likely to be hit by cars.

Neutering male dogs and cats reduces the breeding instinct and can have a calming effect, making them less inclined to roam and more content to stay at home. Neutering your male pet can also lessen its risk of developing prostate disease and testicular cancer.

**Are there risks associated with the surgery?**

Like any surgical procedure, sterilization is associated with some anesthetic and surgical risk, but the overall incidence of complications is very low. Because changes in concentrations of reproductive hormones may affect your pet's risk of developing certain diseases and conditions in the future, your veterinarian will advise you on both the benefits and risks of the sterilization procedure.

**What is the best age to spay or neuter my pet?**

Consult with your veterinarian about the most appropriate time to spay or neuter your pet based upon its breed, age and physical condition. Keep in mind that, contrary to popular belief, it is NOT best to wait until your female dog or cat has gone through its first heat cycle.

**Will the surgery affect my pet's disposition or metabolism?**

The procedure has no effect on a pet's intelligence or ability to learn, play, work or hunt. Most pets tend to be better behaved following the surgery, making them more desirable companions. Also, this surgery will not make your pet fat. Feeding your pet a balanced diet and providing regular exercise will help keep your pet at a healthy weight and prevent the health risks associated with obesity. Ask your veterinarian to advise you on the best diet and exercise plan for each stage of your pet's life.

**Is the expense for the surgery really worth it?**

Yes! This is a one-time expense that can dramatically improve your pet's quality of life and prevent some behavioral frustrations for you. If you are still uncertain whether or not to proceed with the surgery, consider the expense to society of collecting and caring for all the unwanted, abused, or abandoned animals being housed in shelters. Having your pet spayed or neutered is a part of responsible pet ownership.
What you Should know about cancer in animals

What are Neoplasia, Tumors and Cancer?

Neoplasia (nee-oh-PLAY-zhuh) is the uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells or tissues in the body, and the abnormal growth itself is called a neoplasm (nee-oh-PLAZ-m) or tumor. It can be benign (bee-NINE) or malignant. Benign neoplasms do not grow aggressively, do not invade the surrounding body tissues, and do not spread throughout the body. Malignant neoplasms, on the other hand, tend to grow rapidly, invade the tissues around them, and spread, or metastasize (me-TAS-ta-size), to other parts of the body. The word "tumor" or "mass" is often used to describe the actual swelling or other physical appearance of a neoplasm. The word "cancer" is often confused with neoplasia, but only malignant neoplasms are truly cancers.

How Common are Neoplasia and Cancer?

Neoplasia is common in pet animals and the incidence increases with age. Cancer accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats get fewer cancers.

How is it Diagnosed?

Neoplasia is often suspected on the basis of the pet's medical history and physical exam. Additional tests, such as radiographs (x-rays), blood tests, and ultrasound exams, may be necessary to confirm neoplasia. A biopsy (BYE-op-see), taking a tissue sample from the neoplasm for examination under a microscope, is usually necessary to confirm the diagnosis and help determine if the neoplasm is benign or malignant. Additional biopsies of other tissues, such as lymph nodes, may be necessary to determine how far a malignant neoplasm (cancer) has spread.

Is Neoplasia Preventable?

Unfortunately, the cause of most neoplastic diseases is not known and, therefore, prevention is difficult. Early detection and treatment are the best ways to manage neoplasia in pets.

Common Types of Neoplasia in Pets

Skin - Skin tumors are very common in older dogs, but much less common in cats. Most skin tumors in cats are malignant, but in dogs they are often benign. Your veterinarian should examine all skin tumors in a dog or cat to determine if any are malignant.

Mammary Gland (Breast) - 50% of all breast tumors in dogs and greater than 85% of all breast tumors in cats are malignant. Spaying your female pet before 12 months of age will greatly reduce the risk of mammary gland cancer.

Head & Neck - Neoplasia of the mouth is common in dogs and less common in cats. Signs to watch for are a mass or tumor on the gums, bleeding, odor, or difficulty eating. Since many swellings are malignant, early, aggressive treatment is essential. Neoplasia may also develop inside the nose of both cats and dogs. Bleeding from the nose, breathing difficulty, or facial swelling are signs that may indicate neoplasia and should be checked by your veterinarian.

Lymphoma - Lymphoma is a common form of neoplasia in dogs and cats. It is characterized by enlargement of one or many lymph nodes in the body. A contagious feline leukemia virus can be the cause of lymphoma in some cats.

Testicles - Testicular tumors are rare in cats and common in dogs, especially those with retained testicles (testicles that did not move to their normal positions during growth, and may be located in the abdomen or between the abdomen and scrotum).
Abdominal Tumors - Tumors inside the abdomen are common but it is difficult to make an early diagnosis. Weight loss or abdominal swelling are signs of these tumors.

Bone - Bone tumors are most often seen in large breed dogs and dogs older than seven years, and rarely in cats. The leg bones, near joints, are the most common sites. Persistent pain, lameness, and swelling in the affected area are common signs of the disease.

Many of the above signs are also seen with non-neoplastic conditions but they still need prompt attention by a veterinarian to determine the cause. Neoplasia is frequently treatable and early diagnosis will aid your veterinarian in delivering the best care possible.

How is Cancer Treated?

Each type of neoplasia requires individual care and may include one or a combination of treatment therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery (freezing), hyperthermia (heating) or immunotherapy. Your pet's overall health is important too, and your veterinarian may recommend dietary changes or other things to help your pet better respond to treatment. Once you have a diagnosis, your veterinarian will discuss the best treatment option(s) for your pet and the risks and side effects associated with each option. Pain management is also an important part of treatment. In some instances, your veterinarian may refer you to a board-certified oncologist (cancer specialist) and/or specialty clinic depending upon the recommended course of treatment.

Some types of neoplasia can be cured, but other types can only be managed to decrease spread and prolong your pet's comfort and life as much as possible. How early a neoplasm is detected and the type of neoplasm are often the biggest factors determining the success of treatment.

Sometimes, euthanasia is considered when a pet has neoplasia (especially with some cancers). Before you make your decision for treatment or euthanasia, discuss the options with your veterinarian so you can make the best choice for your pet and your family.

What is the Success Rate?

This strongly depends upon the type and extent of the neoplasia, as well as the aggressiveness of therapy. Benign neoplasms are usually easier to treat, and treatment of any type of neoplasia is more likely to be successful if the neoplasms are detected early. Although some neoplasms (especially the more aggressive cancers) cannot be cured, treatment can prolong your pet's life and improve their quality of life.

What Will the Future Bring?

We are learning more about neoplasia through research and experience. Animals today have a better chance of being successfully treated for neoplasia and cancer than they did before, and the more we learn about it, the more pets' lives we can improve and save.

New diagnostic methods can help detect neoplasia earlier and improve your pet's chances, and new treatment methods are being developed to provide better success rates with less risk of side effects.

10 Common Signs of Neoplasia in Small Animals

- Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
- Sores that do not heal
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
- Offensive odor
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
- Persistent lameness or stiffness
- Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating
What you Should know about canine distemper

What is Canine Distemper?
Canine distemper is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and, often, the nervous systems of puppies and dogs. The virus also infects wild canids (e.g. foxes, wolves, coyotes), raccoons, skunks, and ferrets.

How is Canine Distemper virus spread?
Puppies and dogs usually become infected through airborne exposure to the virus contained in respiratory secretions of an infected dog or wild animal. Outbreaks of distemper tend to be sporadic. Because canine distemper also affects wildlife populations, contact between wild and domestic canids may facilitate spread of the virus.

What dogs are at risk?
All dogs are at risk but puppies younger than four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against canine distemper are at increased risk of acquiring the disease.

What are some signs of Canine Distemper?
The first sign of distemper is eye discharge that may appear watery to pus-like. Subsequently, dogs develop fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. In later stages, the virus may attack the nervous system, bringing about seizures, twitching, or partial or complete paralysis. Occasionally, the virus may cause footpads to harden. Distemper is often fatal. Even if a dog does not die from the disease, canine distemper virus can cause irreparable damage to a dog's nervous system. Distemper is so serious and the signs so varied that any sick dog should be taken to a veterinarian for an examination and diagnosis.

How is Canine Distemper diagnosed and treated?
Veterinarians diagnose canine distemper on the basis of clinical appearance and laboratory tests. No specific drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs. Treatment consists primarily of efforts to prevent secondary infections; control vomiting, diarrhea, or neurologic symptoms; and combat dehydration through administration of fluids. Ill dogs should be kept warm, receive good nursing care, and be separated from other dogs.

How is Canine Distemper prevented?
Vaccination and avoiding contact with infected animals are key elements of canine distemper prevention. Vaccination is important. Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine distemper virus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally succumb to distemper. To narrow gaps in protection and optimally defend against canine distemper during the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations is administered.
Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when taking their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations, health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs.

To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's distemper vaccination is up-to-date. Ask your veterinarian about a recommended vaccination program for your canine companion. Contact with known infected dogs should always be avoided. Similarly, contact with raccoons, foxes, skunks, and other potentially infected wildlife should be discouraged.

_Although this study guide provides basic information about canine distemper, your veterinarian is always your best source of health information. Consult your veterinarian for more information about canine distemper and its prevention._
What you should know about Canine Parvovirus

What is canine parvovirus?
Canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2) is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract of puppies, dogs, and wild canids (e.g. foxes, wolves, coyotes). It was first identified in 1978 and is seen worldwide. It also can damage the heart muscle in very young and unborn puppies.

There are several variants of CPV-2 (CPV-2a, CPV-2b, CPV-2c) based on analysis of the genetics of the virus, but they produce similar signs in animals. CPV-2b is the most common variant in the US. CPV-2c was first confirmed in the U.S. in 2006, and is becoming the second most common variant.

How is parvovirus spread?
CPV-2 is highly contagious and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces (stool), environments or people. The virus can also contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. It is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying, and can survive in the environment for long periods of time. Even trace amounts of feces containing parvovirus may serve as environmental reservoirs of the virus and infect other dogs that come into the infected environment. CPV-2 is readily transmitted from place to place on the hair or feet of dogs or via contaminated cages, shoes, or other objects.

What dogs are at risk?
All dogs are at risk, but puppies less than four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against canine parvovirus are at increased risk of becoming infected and ill.

What are some signs of parvovirus infection?
Dogs infected with the CPV-2 virus that are ill are often said to have "parvo." CPV-2 infection causes lethargy; loss of appetite; fever; vomiting; and severe, often bloody, diarrhea. Vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration, and most deaths from parvovirus occur within 48 to 72 hours following the onset of clinical signs. If your puppy or dog shows any of these signs, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

How is canine parvovirus diagnosed and treated?
CPV-2 infection is often suspected based on the dog's history, physical examination, and laboratory tests. Fecal testing can confirm the diagnosis.

No specific drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs, and treatment is intended to support the dog's body systems until the dog's immune system can fight off the viral infection. Treatment should be started immediately and consists primarily of efforts to combat dehydration by replacing electrolyte and fluid losses, controlling vomiting and diarrhea, and preventing secondary infections. Sick dogs should be kept warm and receive good nursing care. When a dog develops parvo, treatment can be very expensive, and the dog may die despite aggressive treatment. Early recognition and aggressive treatment are very important in successful outcomes.

Since CPV-2 is highly contagious, isolation of infected dogs is necessary to minimize spread of infection. Proper cleaning and disinfection of contaminated kennels and other areas where infected dogs are (or have been) housed is essential to control the spread of parvovirus. The virus is not easily killed, so consult your veterinarian for specific guidance on cleaning and disinfecting agents.
**How is parvovirus prevented?**

Vaccination and good hygiene are critical components of canine parvovirus prevention. Vaccination is extremely important. Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine parvovirus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally be infected by parvovirus and develop disease. To reduce gaps in protection and provide the best protection against parvovirus during the first few months of life, a series of puppy vaccinations are administered. Puppies should receive a dose of canine parvovirus vaccine between 14 and 16 weeks of age, regardless of how many doses they received earlier, to develop adequate protection.

To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's parvovirus vaccination is up-to-date. Ask your veterinarian about a recommended vaccination program for your canine companion.

In spite of proper vaccination, a small percentage of dogs do not develop protective immunity and remain susceptible to infection.

**Hygiene**—Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when bringing their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, kennels, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations, health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs. Contact with known infected dogs and their premises should always be avoided.

Finally, do not allow your puppy or dog to come into contact with the fecal waste of other dogs while walking or playing outdoors. Prompt and proper disposal of waste material is always advisable as a way to limit spread of canine parvovirus infection as well as other diseases that can infect humans and animals. Dogs with vomiting or diarrhea or other dogs which have been exposed to ill dogs should not be taken to kennels, show grounds, dog parks, or other areas where they will come into contact with other dogs. Similarly, unvaccinated dogs should not be exposed to ill dogs or those with unknown vaccination histories. People who are in contact with sick or exposed dogs should avoid handling of other dogs or at least wash their hands and change their clothes before doing so.
What you should know about dog bite prevention

Any dog can bite

Even the cuddliest, fuzziest, sweetest pup can bite if provoked. Most people are bitten by their own dog or one they know. Some owners actually promote aggression in their dogs or allow aggression to go unchecked.

Although media reports and rumors often give the impression that certain breeds of dog are more likely to bite, there is little scientific evidence to support those claims.

From nips to bites to actual attacks, dog bites are a serious problem. Dog bite victims requiring medical attention in the United States number approximately 800,000 annually. Countless more bite injuries go untreated. On average, about a dozen people die each year from dog bite injuries. Fortunately, there are steps we can take to address this problem.

Who's being bitten?

The number of recorded dog bite injuries is significantly higher in children than adults. The elderly and home service providers such as mail carriers and meter readers are also high on the list of frequent dog bite victims. CAUTION: Never leave a baby or child alone with a dog.

What's a dog owner to do?

- Carefully select your pet. Puppies should not be obtained on impulse. Before and after selection, your veterinarian is your best source for information about behavior, health and suitability.
- Make sure your pet is socialized as a young puppy so it feels at ease around people and other animals. Gradually expose your puppy to a variety of situations under controlled circumstances; continue that exposure on a regular basis as your dog gets older. Don't put your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.
- Wait until your child is older. Because so many dog bite injuries happen to young children, it is suggested that parents wait to get a dog until children are older than 4 years of age.

Train your dog. The basic commands "sit," "stay," "no," and "come" can be incorporated into fun activities that build a bond of obedience and trust between pets and people. Avoid highly excitable games like wrestling or tug-of-war. Use a leash in public to ensure you are able to control your dog.

Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and preventable infectious diseases. Parasite control and other health care are important because how your dog feels directly affects how it behaves.

Neuter your pet. The available science suggests neutered dogs may be less likely to bite.

Be a responsible pet owner. License your dog with your community as required. Obey leash laws. If you have a fenced yard, make sure the gates are secure. Dogs are social animals; spending time with your pet is important. Dogs that are frequently left alone have a greater chance of developing behavioral problems. Walk and exercise your dog regularly to keep it healthy and provide mental stimulation.

Be alert. Know your dog. Be alert to signs of illness. Also watch for signs your dog is uncomfortable or behaving aggressively.

How can my family and I avoid being bitten?

- Be cautious around strange dogs and treat your own pet with respect. Because children are the most common victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:
  - NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.
  - Be alert for potentially dangerous situations.
• Teach their children – including toddlers – to be careful around pets.
• Children must be taught NOT to approach strange dogs or try to pet dogs by reaching through fences.
  Teach children to ask permission from the dog's owner before petting the dog.
• Other tips that may prevent or stop a dog attack
  • Don't run past a dog.
    Dogs naturally love to chase and catch things. Don't give them a reason to become excited or aggressive.
  • Never disturb a dog that's caring for puppies, sleeping or eating.
  • Never reach through or over a fence to pet a dog.
    Dogs can be protective of their territory, and may interpret your action as a threat.
  • If a dog approaches to sniff you, stay still.
    In most cases, the dog will go away when it determines you are not a threat.
  • If you are threatened by a dog, remain calm.
    Don't scream or yell. If you say anything, speak calmly and firmly. Avoid eye contact. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly until the dog is out of sight. Don't turn and run.
  • If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your head and neck. Protect your face.

**What should I do if my dog bites someone?**
• Even if the bite can be explained (e.g., someone stepped on your dog's tail), it's important to take responsibility for your dog's actions by taking these steps:
  • Restrain the dog immediately. Separate it from the scene of the attack. Confine it.
  • Check on the victim's condition. Wash wounds with soap and water. Unseen damage can occur with bites, and can lead to complications. Professional medical advice should be sought to evaluate bite wounds and the risk of rabies or other infections. Call 911 if a response by paramedics is required.
  • Provide important information including your name, address and information about your dog's most recent rabies vaccination. If your dog does not have a current rabies vaccination, it may be necessary to quarantine it or even euthanize it for rabies testing. The person bitten may need to undergo post-exposure prophylaxis.
  • Comply with local ordinances regarding reporting of dog bites.
  • Consult your veterinarian for advice about dog behavior that will help prevent similar problems in the future.

**IF YOU are bitten**

If your own dog bit you, confine it immediately and call your veterinarian to check your dog's vaccination records. Consult with your veterinarian about your dog's aggressive action. Your veterinarian can examine your dog to make sure it is healthy, and can help you with information or training that may prevent more bites.

If someone else's dog bit you, first seek medical treatment for your wound. Next, contact authorities and tell them everything you can about the dog: the owner's name, if you know it; the color and size of the dog; where you encountered the dog; and if, where, and when you've seen it before. These details may help animal-control officers locate the dog. In addition, consider asking your physician if post-exposure rabies prophylaxis may be necessary.

*Dog are wonderful companions. By acting responsibly, owners not only reduce dog bite injuries, but also enhance the relationship they have with their dog.*
What you should know about external parasites

At some point in their lives, many pets experience discomfort caused by external parasites such as fleas, ticks, or mites on their skin or in their ears. These parasites can be extremely irritating to pets and can cause serious skin problems or even carry disease. Although this study guide provides basic information about the most common external parasites, your veterinarian is your best source of advice regarding your pet's needs. Modern medicines make treatment, control, and prevention of many external parasites much easier than in the past.

Fleas

Flea Basics
Fleas thrive when the weather is warm and humid. Depending on your climate, fleas may be a seasonal or year-round problem. Your pet can pick up fleas wherever an infestation exists, often in areas frequented by other cats and dogs. Adult fleas are dark brown, no bigger than a sesame seed, and able to move rapidly over your pet's skin.

Once the flea becomes an adult, it spends virtually all of its time on your pet. Female fleas begin laying eggs within 24 hours of selecting your pet as a host, producing up to 50 eggs each day. These eggs fall from your pet onto the floor or furniture, including your pet's bed, or onto any other indoor or outdoor area where your pet happens to go. Tiny, worm-like larvae hatch from the eggs and burrow into carpets, under furniture, or into soil before spinning a cocoon. The cocooned flea pupae can lie dormant (inactive) for weeks before emerging as adults that are ready to infest (or reinfest) your pet. The result is a flea life cycle of anywhere from 12 days to 6 months, depending on environmental factors such as temperature and humidity.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences
You may not know that your pet has fleas until their number increases to the point that your pet is obviously uncomfortable. Signs of flea problems range from mild redness to severe scratching that can lead to open sores and skin infections ("hot spots"). One of the first things you may notice on a pet with fleas is "flea dirt" — the black flea droppings left on your pet's coat. You may not actually see the fleas themselves, but they can still be on your pet and in the environment.

Fleas bite animals and suck their blood; young or small pets with heavy flea infestations may become anemic. Some pets can develop an allergy to flea saliva that may result in more severe irritation and scratching; these pets can become severely itchy from just one or two flea bites. Also, pets can become infected with certain types of tapeworms if they ingest fleas carrying tapeworm eggs (a pet using its teeth to scratch the flea bites often eats the fleas). In areas with moderate to severe flea infestations, people may also be bitten by fleas. While fleas are capable of transmitting several infectious diseases to pets and people, this is rare.

Treatment and Control
Your veterinarian will recommend an appropriate flea control plan for your pet based on your needs, your pet's needs and the severity of the flea infestation.

Pets at risk for fleas should be treated during the flea season with an appropriate preventive. Your veterinarian can recommend a product most suitable for your pet.

Because much of the flea's life cycle is spent off of your pet, treating only your pet will not eliminate the problem. If you kill the adult fleas and do not kill the eggs, larvae and pupae, your pet will become re-infested when these fleas become adults and the cycle will start all over again. Therefore, in addition to treating your pet, reduce the flea population in your house by thoroughly cleaning your pet's sleeping quarters.
and vacuuming floors and furniture that your pet comes in contact with frequently. Careful and regular vacuuming/cleaning of the pet's living area helps to remove and kill flea eggs, larvae, and pupae.

You may be advised to treat your house with insecticides to kill the fleas; consult with your veterinarian about products safe for use around pets and children. Flea larvae are more resistant than adult fleas to insecticides. With moderate and severe flea infestations, you may also be advised to treat your yard. Your veterinarian can recommend an appropriate course of action and suggest ways to prevent future flea infestations.

Ticks

Tick Basics

Ticks are commonly found in wooded areas, brush, shrubs and wild undergrowth, and any animal (or human, for that matter) that enters these environments is at risk of becoming a tick's host. Immature ticks often feed on small, wild animals found in forests, prairies, and brush. Adult ticks seek larger hosts like dogs and cats which venture into these habitats. Tick exposure may be seasonal, depending on geographic location. There are many different species of ticks that can affect dogs and cats.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Ticks are most often found around your dog's neck, in the ears, in the folds between the legs and the body, and between the toes, but they can be found anywhere on the body and are usually easily seen or felt. Cats may have ticks on their neck or face. Tick bites can cause skin irritation and heavy infestations can cause anemia in pets. An adult female tick can ingest up to 100 times her weight in blood! Ticks are also capable of spreading serious infectious diseases (such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and others) to the pets and the people on which they feed. They can also cause tick paralysis. Disease risk varies by geographic area and tick species.

Treatment and Control

Prompt removal of ticks is very important because it lessens the chance of disease transmission from the tick to your pet. Remove ticks by carefully using tweezers to firmly grip the tick as close to the pet's skin as possible and gently and steadily pulling the tick free without twisting it or crushing the tick during removal. Crushing, twisting or jerking the tick out of the skin while its head is still buried could result in leaving the tick's mouth parts in your pet's skin; this can cause a reaction and may become infected. After removing the tick, crush it while avoiding contact with tick fluids that can carry disease. Do not attempt to smother the tick with alcohol or petroleum jelly, or apply a hot match to it, as this may cause the tick to regurgitate saliva into the wound and increase the risk of disease if the tick is infected.

Pets at risk for ticks should be treated during the tick season with an appropriate preventive. Your veterinarian can recommend a product best suited to your pet's needs. Owners who take their pets to tick-prone areas during camping, sporting, or hiking trips should examine their pets for ticks immediately upon returning home and remove them from their pets. If your pet picks up ticks in your backyard, trimming bushes and removing brush may reduce your pet's exposure and risk of infestation. And, if you find ticks on your pet, don't forget to check yourself for ticks, too!

Ear Mites

Mite Basics

Ear mites are common in young cats and dogs, and generally confine themselves to the ears and surrounding area. Mites are tiny and individual mites may be seen only with the aid of a microscope. Your pet can pick up ear mites by close contact with an infested pet or its bedding.
Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Ear mites can cause intense irritation of the ear canal. Signs of ear mite infestation include excessive head shaking and scratching of the ears. Your pet may scratch to the point that it creates bleeding sores around its ears. Excessive scratching can also cause breakage of blood vessels in the earflap, causing the formation of a pocket of blood (an aural hematoma) that may require surgery. A brown or black ear discharge is common with ear mite infections, and secondary infections with bacteria or yeast can occur. A swab of the discharge is usually examined under a microscope to confirm the presence of ear mites.

Treatment and Control

Treatment of ear mites involves thorough ear cleaning and medication. Your veterinarian can recommend an effective treatment plan.

Sarcoptic Mange Mites

Mite Basics

Microscopic sarcoptic mange mites cause sarcoptic mange, also known as scabies. Sarcoptic mange can affect dogs of all ages and sizes, during any time of the year. Sarcoptic mange mites are highly contagious to other dogs and may be passed by close contact with infested animals, bedding, or grooming tools.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Sarcoptic mange mites burrow through the top layer of the dog's skin and cause intense itching. Clinical signs include generalized hair loss, a skin rash, and crusting. Skin infections may develop secondary to the intense irritation. People who come in close contact with an affected dog may develop a skin rash and should see their physician. Sarcoptic mange is usually confirmed by taking a skin scraping and examining it under a microscope.

Treatment and Control

Dogs with sarcoptic mange require medication to kill the mites and additional treatment to soothe the skin and resolve related infections. Cleaning and treatment of the dog's environment is also necessary.

Demodectic Mange Mites

Mite Basics

Demodectic mange caused by demodectic mange mites is mainly a problem in dogs. Demodectic mange mites are microscopic and not highly contagious. In general, demodex mites are not spread to other animals or across species. A mother dog, however, may pass the mites to her puppies.

Diagnosis, Risks and Consequences

Localized demodectic mange tends to appear in young dogs (usually less than 6 months old) as patches of scaly skin and redness around the eyes and mouth and, perhaps, the legs and trunk. Itching is not common with this type of mite infestation unless a secondary infection has occurred. Unlike other types of mange, demodectic mange may signal an underlying medical condition, and your pet's overall health should be carefully evaluated. Less commonly, young and old dogs experience a more severe form of demodectic mange (generalized demodecosis) and can exhibit widespread patches of redness, hair loss, and scaly, thickened skin. Dogs with demodecosis can develop secondary bacterial infections which require additional treatment.
Cats are rarely infected with demodex mites, and the cat demodex mite is not the same as the dog demodex mite. Affected cats develop hair loss, crusts and scaly skin around the face, neck and eyelids, and may excessively groom the areas. They may also be more itchy than dogs affected by demodex.

Demodectic mange is usually confirmed by taking a skin scraping and examining it under a microscope.

Treatment and Control
Your veterinarian will discuss treatment options with you. Treatment of dogs with localized demodectic mange generally results in favorable outcomes. Generalized demodecosis, however, may be difficult to treat, and treatment may only control the condition, rather than cure it.

**Important Points**

- Look for fleas, ticks, and coat abnormalities any time you groom your dog or cat or when you return home from areas that are likely to have higher numbers of these parasites.
- Consult your veterinarian if your pet excessively scratches, chews, or licks its coat, or persistently shakes its head or scratches its ears. These clinical signs may indicate the presence of external parasites or other conditions requiring medical care.
- Prompt treatment of parasites lessens your pet's discomfort, decreases the chances of disease transmission, and may reduce the degree of home infestation.
- Discuss the health of all family pets with your veterinarian when one pet becomes infested. Some parasites cycle among pets, making control of infestations difficult unless other pets are considered. Consult your veterinarian before beginning treatment.
- Tell your veterinarian if you have attempted any parasite remedies, as this may impact your veterinarian's recommendation.
- Be especially careful when applying insecticides to cats, as cats are particularly sensitive to these products. Never use a product that is not approved for cats because the results could be lethal.
- Follow label directions carefully.
- Leave treatment to the experts. Your veterinarian offers technical expertise and can assist you in identifying products that are most likely to effectively and safely control your pet's parasite problem.
What you should know about internal parasites in cats and dogs

Most internal parasites are worms and single-celled organisms that can exist in the intestines of dogs or cats. The most common worms are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. Common single-cell parasites are coccidia and Giardia.

What are roundworms and how are they spread?
Roundworms are the most common intestinal parasite in dogs and cats in the world. Animals with roundworms pass the infection to other animals when the worm eggs develop into larvae and are present in the animal's feces (droppings). Your pet can pick up the infection by eating infected soil, licking contaminated fur or paws, or by drinking contaminated water.

Infected female dogs may pass the infection to their puppies before birth or afterwards when they are nursing. Infected female cats cannot infect their kittens before birth, but can pass on the infection through their milk when kittens are nursing.

What are the health risks to pets and people?
Puppies and kittens are the most prone to roundworm infection. Because roundworms live in the small intestine, they steal the nutrients from the food your pet eats and that can lead to malnutrition and intestinal problems. As the larvae move through your pet's body, young animals may develop serious respiratory problems such as pneumonia.

Roundworm infections are zoonotic (pronounced zoe-oh-NOT-ick) diseases, meaning that they are animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans. While direct contact with infected dogs and cats increases a person's risk for roundworm infection, most infections come from accidentally eating the worm larvae or from larvae that enter through the skin. For example, children are at risk for infection if they play in areas that may contain infected feces (such as dirt piles and sandboxes), and they pick up the larvae on their hands.

Left untreated, roundworms in people can cause serious health problems when the larvae enter organs and other tissues, resulting in lung, brain, or liver damage. If the roundworm larva enters the eyes, permanent, partial blindness can result.

What are hookworms and how are they spread?
Hookworms are the second most common intestinal parasites found in dogs, but they are less commonly found in cats. Your pet can become infected when larvae penetrate the animal's skin or the lining of the mouth. An infected female dog can pass the infection to her puppies through her milk, but this does not occur in cats.

What are the health risks to pets and people?
Hookworms are dangerous parasites because they actually bite into the intestinal lining of an animal and suck blood. As with roundworms, puppies and kittens are at high risk of infection and developing severe diseases. Left untreated, hookworm infections can result in potentially life-threatening blood loss, weakness, and malnutrition.

Like roundworms, hookworm infections are zoonotic, and infections usually occur by accidentally eating the larvae or by the larvae entering through the skin. In humans, hookworm infections cause health problems when the larvae penetrate the skin. The larvae produce severe itching and tunnel-like, red areas as they move through the skin and, if accidentally eaten, can cause intestinal problems.
What are whipworms and how are they spread?
These worms get their name from their whip-like shape. Animals with whipworms pass the infection along to other animals when the worm eggs develop into larvae and are passed in their feces (droppings). Your pet can pick up the infection by eating infected soil or licking their contaminated fur or paws.

What are the health risks to pets and people?
Like hookworms, whipworms bury their heads in the lining of an animal's intestine and suck blood, but they are generally less harmful and usually do not cause health problems. Occasionally, severe infections can develop and lead to diarrhea, weight loss, and blood loss. Whipworm larvae rarely infect humans when they are accidentally eaten.

What are tapeworms and how are they spread?
Tapeworms got their name because they are thin and flat, like strips of tape. Unlike the smooth-bodied roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms, tapeworms' bodies are actually made up of joined segments. Dogs and cats become infected with tapeworms when they eat infected fleas or lice. They can also get certain types of tapeworms by eating infected rodents.

What are the health risks to pets and people?
Tapeworms live in the small intestine and steal the nutrients from the food your dog or cat eats. An infection is usually diagnosed when the eggs sacs are seen under the pet's tail or on its stool. These sacs look like flattened grains of rice. While there are several dewormers available that are effective against tapeworms, keeping your pet free of fleas is the best preventative. Rarely are tapeworms a risk to people.

How can I prevent/treat worm infections?
Healthy pets may not show outward signs of a worm infection. However, if you notice a change in your pet's appetite or coat, diarrhea, or excessive coughing, see your veterinarian. In most cases, a simple fecal test can detect the presence of worm eggs or adults and, if present, your veterinarian will recommend a deworming program. A good way to prevent worm infections is by using one of several monthly heartworm preventatives available from your veterinarian.

Nursing female dogs and cats and their litters are also major sources for the spread of infective eggs and larvae. If you have a new puppy or kitten, or a pregnant pet, consult with your veterinarian about a deworming program that will reduce your family's risk of infection.

Worm infections in humans can be easily prevented by practicing good hygiene and sanitation. Children should be discouraged from eating dirt and should not be allowed to play in areas that are soiled with pet feces. Sandboxes should be covered when not in use. Adults and children should always wash their hands after handling soil and after contact with pets. Shoes should be worn when outside to protect feet from larvae present in the environment, and raw vegetables should be thoroughly washed because they may contain parasites from infected soil.

Dog droppings should be immediately picked up from public areas and from your yard to reduce the chances of contaminating the soil. Keeping cats indoors is an effective way to limit their risk of exposure to roundworms.
Other internal parasites

Coccidia
Coccidia (cok-SID-ee-ah) are single-celled parasites and are not visible to the naked eye. Your pet can become infected by eating infected soil or licking contaminated paws or fur. Once swallowed, the parasites damage the lining of the intestine and your pet cannot absorb nutrients from its food. Bloody, watery diarrhea may result, and the animal may become dehydrated because it loses more water in its stool than it can replace by drinking. Young pets are most often infected because their immune systems may not yet be strong enough to fight off the parasite. Coccidia can be very contagious among young puppies and kittens, so households with multiple pets should be especially careful to practice good hygiene and sanitation.

A routine fecal test by your veterinarian will detect the presence of coccidia. Treatment with medications will prevent the parasite from multiplying and allow time for your pet's immune system to kill the parasites.

Giardia
Giardia (gee-AR-dee-ah) is also a single-celled parasite that, if swallowed, damages the lining of the intestine and reduces the absorption of nutrients from the food your pet eats. While most Giardia infections do not cause illness, severe infections can lead to diarrhea.

Giardia is harder to diagnose than other intestinal parasites, and several stool samples may have to be tested before it is found. If necessary, your veterinarian will recommend treatment with medications to eliminate the infection. Because it is highly contagious among animals, good hygiene and sanitation are important when there are multiple pets in the household.

Important points about internal parasites

- See your veterinarian if your pet has diarrhea, weight loss, increased scooting, a dull coat, or if you see worms under its tail, in its bedding, or on its stool.
- Prompt treatment of internal parasites lessens your pet's discomfort, decreases the chances of intestinal damage, and decreases the chance that your pet will infect humans or other animals.
- Good hygiene and sanitation reduce the chances that your pet will infect people or animals. You can help prevent the spread of infection by always cleaning up your pet's droppings immediately.
What you should know about heartworm disease

Heartworm is a preventable, but serious and potentially fatal, parasite that primarily infects dogs, cats and ferrets. It can also infect a variety of wild animals, including wild canids (e.g., foxes, wolves, coyotes), wild felids (e.g. tigers, lions, pumas), raccoons, opossums, and pinnipeds (e.g., sea lions and seals), as well as others. There have been documented human infections, but they are thought to be rare and do not usually result in signs of illness.

How is heartworm disease transmitted and what does it cause?

Heartworms can only be transmitted from animal to animal by mosquitoes. When a mosquito bites an infected animal, young heartworms called microfilariae enter into that mosquito's system. Within two weeks, the microfilariae develop into infective larvae inside the mosquito; these infective larvae can be transmitted to another animal when this mosquito takes its next blood meal. Unlike dogs, infected cats do not often have microfilariae circulating in their blood, and an infected cat is not likely to transfer the heartworm infection to another mosquito.

The infective larvae mature into adult heartworms in approximately six months. During the first three months, the larvae migrate through the animal's body, eventually reaching the blood vessels of the lungs. During the last three months, the immature worms continue to develop and grow to adults, with females growing to lengths of up to 14 inches. The worms damage the blood vessels, and reduce the heart's pumping ability, resulting in severe lung and heart disease. When the animal shows signs of illness due to adult heartworm infection, it is called heartworm disease.

If adult worms (5-7 months post-infection) of both sexes are present, they will mate and produce new microfilariae. The microfilariae can cause the animal's immune system to mount a reaction; this immune reaction can actually cause damage to other organs. This life cycle continues when a mosquito bites the infected animal and becomes infected by the microfilariae. After development of the microfilariae to infective larvae within the mosquito (10 days to 2 weeks later) the infective heartworm larvae are capable of infecting another animal. Adult heartworms can survive for 5 to 7 years in dogs and several months to years in cats.

Where is heartworm disease found?

Geographically, heartworms are a potential threat in every state as well as in many other countries around the world. All dogs, regardless of age, sex, or living environment, are susceptible to heartworm infection. Indoor, as well as outdoor, cats are also at risk for the disease. If you plan to travel with your dog or cat to a different part of the country, or another country, ask your veterinarian about the risk of heartworm infection in the area where you are going to relocate or visit.

What pets should be tested for heartworm?

Because heartworms are spread by mosquitoes, any pet exposed to mosquitoes should be tested. This includes pets that only go outside occasionally.

How can I tell if my pet has heartworm disease?

If your dog has been recently or mildly infected with heartworms, it may show no signs of illness until the adult worms have developed in the lungs and signs of heartworm disease are observed. As the disease progresses, your dog may cough, become lethargic, lose its appetite or have difficulty breathing. You may notice that your dog seems to tire rapidly after only moderate exercise.
Numerous diagnostic tests are available for your veterinarian to detect the presence of adult heartworm infection (> 6 month old infections) in your dog. Antigen tests detect the presence of adult female heartworms, and antibody tests determine if your pet has been exposed to heartworms. The antigen test is most commonly performed, and is very accurate in dogs. Further tests, such as chest radiographs (x-rays), a blood profile and an echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart), may be necessary to confirm the diagnosis, to evaluate the severity of the disease, and to determine the best treatment plan for your dog.

**How can my pet be treated?**

As with most medical problems, it is much better to prevent heartworm infection than to treat it. However, if your dog does become infected with heartworms there is an FDA-approved treatment available. There is substantial risk involved in treating a dog for heartworms. However, serious complications are much less likely in dogs that are in good health and when you carefully follow your veterinarian's instructions.

The goal of heartworm treatment is to kill the adult worms and microfilariae present in your dog, as safely as possible. However, when a dog is treated it is important to consider that heartworms are dying inside the dogs lungs. While your dog is treated, it will require complete rest throughout hospitalization and for some time following the last treatment. Additionally, other medications may be necessary to help control the body's inflammatory reaction as the worms die and are broken down in the dog's lungs.

**Can heartworms be surgically removed?**

Surgical removal of heartworms from dogs and cats is a high-risk procedure and is typically reserved for severe cases. However, in many cases surgical removal of heartworms may be necessary to afford the best opportunity for survival of the pet.

**Can heartworm disease be prevented?**

Heartworm infection is almost 100% preventable in dogs and cats. There are several FDA-approved heartworm preventives available in a variety of formulations. Your veterinarian can recommend the best method of prevention based upon your pet's risk factors and lifestyle. Of course, you have to remember to give your pet the preventive in order for it to work!

The preventives do not kill adult heartworms, and will not eliminate heartworm infection or prevent signs of heartworm disease if adults are present in the pet's body. Therefore, a blood test for existing heartworm infection is recommended before beginning a prevention program to assess the pet's current heartworm status. Because it is more difficult to detect heartworms in cats, additional testing may be necessary to make sure the cat is not infected.

Testing must then be repeated at appropriate intervals. The next test should be performed about 6 months after starting the preventive treatment, to confirm that your pet was not infected prior to beginning prevention (remember, tests only detect adult worms). Heartworm tests should be performed annually to ensure that your pet doesn't subsequently become infected with the disease and to ensure the appropriate amount of medication is being prescribed and administered. There have been reports of pets developing heartworm infection despite year-round treatment with a heartworm preventive, so having your pet tested regularly is the best way to keep them protected.
What you should know about vaccinations

Pets, like people, can be protected from some diseases by vaccination. Although this study guide provides basic information about vaccinations for your dog or cat, your veterinarian is your best source for advice regarding individualized care.

Q: What are vaccines?
A: Vaccines are products designed to trigger protective immune responses in pets and prepare them to fight future infections from disease-causing agents.

Vaccines can lessen the severity of future diseases and certain vaccines can prevent infection altogether. Today, a variety of vaccines are available for use by veterinarians. Some vaccines are administered via injections using a syringe and needle, and others are administered into the animal's nose or directly into the skin (transdermally). Other methods of administration are currently under development.

Q: Is it important to vaccinate?
A: Yes! Pets should be vaccinated to protect them from many highly contagious and deadly diseases. Experts agree that widespread use of vaccines within the last century has prevented death and disease in millions of animals. If an unvaccinated pet develops one of these diseases, treatment can become very expensive and many of these diseases can be fatal despite treatment. Even though some formerly common diseases have now become uncommon, vaccination is still highly recommended because these serious disease agents continue to be present in the environment.

It is also important to remember that pets can be vaccinated for some zoonotic (pronounced ZOE-oh-not-ick) diseases, which are diseases that can be spread from animals to people. For example, rabies is a serious, often fatal, disease that can spread from infected animals to people. By vaccinating your pets for rabies, you are protecting your family as well as your pet.

Q: Does vaccination ensure protection?
A: For most pets, vaccination is effective in preventing future disease. Occasionally, a vaccinated pet may not develop adequate immunity and, although rare, it is possible for these pets to become ill if exposed to the disease. These gaps in protection should be as short as possible to provide optimal protection against disease for the first few months of life. It is important to remember that although breakdowns in protection do occur, most appropriately vaccinated pets are able to successfully fight off disease — reinforcing the importance of vaccines in your pet's preventive health care program.

Q: Are there risks?
A: Any treatment carries some risk, but these risks should be weighed against the benefits of protecting your pet from potentially fatal diseases. Most pets respond well to vaccines. The most common adverse responses are mild and short-term, including fever, sluggishness, and reduced appetite. Pets may also experience temporary pain or subtle swelling at the site of vaccination.

Although most adverse reactions will resolve within a day or two, any excessive or continued pain, swelling, or listlessness should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Rarely, more serious adverse reactions can occur. Allergic reactions appear within minutes or hours of a vaccination and may include repeated vomiting or diarrhea, whole body itching, swelling of the face or legs, difficulty breathing or collapse. Contact your veterinarian immediately if any of these symptoms are seen. In very rare instances, death could occur from an allergic reaction. There are other uncommon but serious adverse reactions, including injection site tumors (sarcomas) in cats, which can develop weeks or months after a vaccination. The best advice is to always tell your veterinarian about any abnormalities you notice after your pet has been vaccinated.
Q: Why do puppies and kittens require a series of vaccinations?
A: Very young puppies and kittens are highly susceptible to infectious diseases because their immune systems are not fully mature. While nursing, their mother's milk contains antibodies (special proteins) that provide some immunity to diseases; however, these maternal antibodies do not last long, and there may be gaps in protection as the milk antibodies decrease and the puppies' or kittens' immune system isn't yet capable of fighting off infection. In many instances, the first dose of a vaccine serves to prime the pet's immune system against the virus or bacteria while subsequent doses help to further stimulate the immune system to produce the antibodies needed to protect a pet from specific diseases. To keep these gaps in protection as small as possible and to provide optimal protection against disease in the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations are scheduled, usually 3-4 weeks apart. For most puppies and kittens, the final vaccination in the series is administered at about 4 months of age; however, in some situations, a veterinarian may alter this schedule based on an individual animal's risk factors. Remember that an incomplete series of vaccinations may lead to incomplete protection, making puppies and kittens vulnerable to infection.

Q: Which vaccines should my pet receive?
A: Not all pets should be vaccinated with all available vaccines. "Core" vaccines are recommended for most pets in a particular area because they protect from diseases most common in that area. "Non-Core" vaccines are reserved for individual pets with unique needs. Your veterinarian will consider your pet's risk of exposure to a variety of preventable diseases in order to customize a vaccination program for optimal protection throughout your pet's life. Talk with your veterinarian about your pet's lifestyle including its expected travel to other geographic locations and/or contact with other animals (such as exposure at kennels, obedience classes, shows, and dog parks) since these factors impact your pet's risk of exposure to certain diseases. For older pets, make sure your veterinarian is aware of any previous adverse reactions to vaccines.

Q: How often should my pet be vaccinated?
A: For many years, a set of annual vaccinations was considered normal and necessary for dogs and cats. There is increasing evidence to support that immunity triggered by some vaccines provides protection beyond one year while the immunity triggered by other vaccines may fail to protect for a full year. Consequently, one vaccination schedule will not work well for all pets. Your veterinarian will determine a vaccination schedule most appropriate for your pet.

Q: What are antibody titers, and do they replace vaccination?
A: Antibody titers are blood tests that measure the amount of antibodies in the blood. Following exposure to a disease-causing organism (such as a virus) or a vaccine, the body generates antibodies that help to destroy the organism and prevent or minimize illness if the body is exposed to the same organism again.

Antibody titers do not replace vaccination programs, but in some instances may help your veterinarian determine if your pet has a reasonable expectation of protection against disease. However, there are only a limited number of disease-causing organisms for which antibody titers can suggest your pet's level of protection and those antibody tests have limitations. Consequently, a higher antibody titer does not necessarily mean your pet will be protected if exposed to the disease, and a lower titer may not mean your pet's protection is lacking.

A final thought
Many factors are taken into consideration when establishing a pet's vaccination plan. Your veterinarian will tailor a program of vaccinations and patient health care that will help your pet maintain a lifetime of infectious disease protection.
What you should know about rabies

What is rabies?
Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is secreted in saliva and is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal. Less commonly, rabies can be transmitted when saliva from a rabid animal comes in contact with an open cut on the skin or the eyes, nose, or mouth of a person or animal. Once the outward signs of the disease appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.

What animals can get rabies?
Only mammals can get rabies; birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians do not. Most cases of rabies occur in wild animals — mainly skunks, raccoons, coyotes, bats, and foxes. In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies. This is because many cat owners do not vaccinate their cats before the cats are exposed to rabid wildlife outdoors. Rabies also occurs in dogs and cattle in significant numbers and, while not as common, has been diagnosed in horses, goats, sheep, swine and ferrets.

Improved vaccination programs and control of stray animals have been effective in preventing rabies in most pets. Approved rabies vaccines are available for cats, dogs, ferrets, horses, cattle and sheep. Licensed oral vaccines have been used for mass immunization of wildlife.

What are the signs of rabies in animals?
Once the rabies virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain. Dogs, cats, and ferrets with rabies may show a variety of signs, including fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, staggering, and seizures. Rabid wild animals may only display unusual behavior; for example, an animal that is usually only seen at night may be seen wandering in the daytime. In addition to those signs seen in dogs and cats, horses, cattle, sheep, and goats with rabies may exhibit depression, self mutilation, or increased sensitivity to light.

How great is the risk of rabies to humans?
Rabies vaccination and animal control programs, along with better treatment for people who have been bitten, have dramatically reduced the number of human cases of rabies in the United States. Most of the relatively few, recent human cases in this country have resulted from exposures to bats. A few rabies cases have resulted from corneal or organ/tissue transplants from an infected donor, but these have been extremely rare. Dogs are still a significant source of rabies in other countries, so travelers should be aware of this risk when traveling outside of the United States.

What can I do to help control rabies?
• Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, ferrets, and select horses and livestock. Your veterinarian will advise you on the recommended or required frequency of vaccination in your area.

• Reduce the possibility of exposure to rabies by not letting your pets roam free. Keep cats and ferrets indoors, and supervise dogs when they are outside. Spaying or neutering your pet may decrease roaming tendencies and will prevent them from contributing to the birth of unwanted animals.
• Don't leave exposed garbage or pet food outside, as it may attract wild or stray animals.

• Wild animals should never be kept as pets. Not only may this be illegal, but wild animals pose a potential rabies threat to caretakers and to others.

• Observe all wild animals from a distance. A rabid wild animal may appear tame but don't go near it. Teach children NEVER to handle unfamiliar animals — even if they appear friendly.

• If you see a wild animal acting strangely, report it to the city or county animal control department.

• Bat-proof your home and other structures to prevent bats from nesting and having access to people. (See www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/bats_&_rabies/bats&.htm for more information.)

What if my PET HAS BITTEN someone?

• Urge the victim to see a physician immediately and to follow the physician's recommendations.

• Check with your veterinarian to determine if your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date.

• Report the bite to the local health department and animal control authorities. If your pet is a cat, dog or ferret, the officials will confine the animal and watch it closely for ten days. Home confinement may be allowed.

• Immediately report any illness or unusual behavior by your pet to the local health department and to your veterinarian.

• Don't let your pet stray and don't give your pet away. The animal must be available for observation by public health authorities or a veterinarian.

• After the recommended observation period, have your pet vaccinated for rabies if it does not have a current rabies vaccination.

What if my PET HAS BEEN BITTEN?

• Consult your veterinarian immediately and report the bite to local animal control authorities.

• Even if your dog, cat or ferret has a current vaccination, it should be revaccinated immediately, kept under the owner's control, and observed for a period as specified by state law or local ordinance (normally 45 days or more). Animals with expired vaccinations will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

• Dogs, cats and ferrets that have never been vaccinated and are exposed to a rabid animal may need to be euthanatized or placed in strict isolation for six months.

• Animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets that are bitten by a rabid or potentially rabid animal may need to be euthanatized immediately.
What if I am bitten?

- Don't panic, but don't ignore the bite. Wash the wound thoroughly and vigorously with soap and lots of water.

- Call your physician immediately and explain how you were bitten. Follow the doctor's advice. If necessary, your physician will give you the post exposure treatment recommended by the United States Public Health Service and may also treat you for other possible infections that could result from the bite.

- If possible, confine or capture the animal under a large box or other container if that can be done safely. Once captured, don't try to pick up the animal. Call the local animal control authorities to collect it. If the animal cannot be captured, try to memorize its appearance (size, color, etc.) and where it went after biting you.

- If it is a wild animal, only try to capture it if you can do so without getting bitten again. If the animal cannot be contained and must be killed to prevent its escape, do so without damaging the head. The brain will be needed to test for rabies.

- Report the bite to the local health department. Prompt and appropriate treatment after being bitten and before the disease develops can stop the infection and prevent the disease.

For more information on rabies, contact your veterinarian, or your local health department, or visit the following sites:

American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avma.org)
United States Centers for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov)
What you should know about household hazards to pets

Every home contains a variety of everyday items and substances that can be dangerous or even fatal if ingested by dogs and cats. You can protect your pet's health by becoming aware of the most common health hazards found in many pet-owning households.

HAZARDS IN THE KITCHEN

Foods

Many foods that are perfectly safe for humans could be harmful or potentially deadly to dogs and cats. To be safe, keep the following food items out of your pet's menu:

- coffee grounds
- grapes/raisins
- chocolate
- onions
- yeast dough
- tea
- macadamia nuts
- alcohol
- fatty foods
- salt
- avocado
- garlic
- chewing gum, candy and breath fresheners containing xylitol

Always keep garbage out of a pet's reach, as rotting food contains molds or bacteria that could produce food poisoning.

Cleaning Products

Many household cleaners can be used safely around cats and dogs. However, the key to safe use lies in reading and following product directions for proper use and storage.

For instance, if the label states "keep pets and children away from area until dry," follow those directions to prevent possible health risks. Products containing bleach can safely disinfect many household surfaces when used properly, but can cause stomach upset, drooling, vomiting or diarrhea, severe burns if swallowed and respiratory tract irritation can occur if inhaled in a high enough concentration. In addition, skin contact with concentrated solutions may produce serious chemical burns. Some detergents can produce a similar reaction, and cats can be particularly sensitive to certain ingredients such as phenols.

As a general rule, store all cleaning products in a secure cabinet out of the reach of pets and keep them in their original packaging, or in a clearly labeled and tightly sealed container.

Insecticides/Rodenticides

As with household cleaners, read and follow label instructions before using any type of pesticide in your pet's environment. For example, flea and tick products labeled "for use on dogs only" should not be applied to cats or other species, as serious or even life-threatening problems could result. Always consult with your veterinarian about the safe use of these products for your pet.

If a pet ingests rat or mouse poison, potentially serious or even life-threatening illness can result; therefore, when using any rodenticide, it is important to place the poison in areas completely inaccessible to pets.
HAZARDS IN THE BATHROOM

Medications
Medications that treat human medical conditions can make pets very sick. Never give your pet any medication unless directed by your veterinarian. As a rule, the following medicines should be tightly closed and stored in a secure cabinet above the counter and away from pets:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin, ibuprofen or naproxen
- acetaminophen
- diet pills
- antihistamines
- cold medicines
- vitamins
- antidepressants
- prescription drugs

Soaps and other Sundries
Bath and hand soaps, toothpaste and sun blocks should also be kept away from your pets. They can cause stomach upset, vomiting or diarrhea. Keep toilet lids closed to prevent your pets from consuming treated toilet bowl water that could irritate their digestive tract.

HAZARDS IN THE BEDROOM AND LIVING ROOM

While they may smell good, many liquid potpourri products contain ingredients that can cause oral ulcerations and other problems, so keep them out of the reach of your pets. Just one mothball has the potential to sicken a dog or cat and mothballs that contain naphthalene can cause serious illness, including digestive tract irritation, liver, kidney and blood cell damage, swelling of the brain tissues, seizures, coma, respiratory tract damage (if inhaled) and even death (if ingested). Tobacco products, pennies (those minted after 1982 contain zinc) and alkaline batteries (like those in your remote controls) can also be hazardous when ingested.

HAZARDS IN THE GARAGE AND YARD

Antifreeze, Herbicides and Insecticides
Ethylene glycol-containing antifreeze and coolants, even in small quantities, can be fatal to both dogs and cats. While antifreeze products containing propylene glycol are less toxic than those containing ethylene glycol, they can still be dangerous. In addition to antifreeze, other substances routinely stored in the garage including insecticides, plant/lawn fertilizers, weed killers, ice-melting products and gasoline also pose a threat to your pet's health if ingested.

When chemical treatments are applied to grassy areas, be sure and keep your pet off the lawn for the manufacturer's recommended time. If pets are exposed to wet chemicals or granules that adhere to their paws, they may lick it off later; stomach upset or more serious problems could result.

Paints and Solvents
Paint thinners, mineral spirits, and other solvents are dangerous and can cause severe irritation or chemical burns if swallowed or if they come in contact with your pet's skin. While most latex house paints typically produce a minor stomach upset, some types of artist's or other specialty paints may contain heavy metals or volatile substances that could become harmful if inhaled or ingested.

Plants – Inside or Around the House
There are many household and yard plants that can sicken your pet. Some of the most commonly grown greenery that should be kept away from pets include:
• Lily of the Valley, oleander, azalea, yew, foxglove, rhododendron and kalanchoe may cause heart problems if ingested.

• Rhubarb leaves and shamrock contain substances that can produce kidney failure. Certain types of lilies (Lilium and Hemerocallis species) are highly toxic to cats, resulting in kidney failure — even if only small amounts are ingested.

• Sago palms (Cycad species) can cause liver damage, especially if the nut portion of the plant is consumed. Additionally, fungi such as certain varieties of mushrooms can cause liver damage or other illnesses.

A few other potentially harmful plants include philodendron, corn plant, castor bean, mother-in-law's tongue, Hibiscus and hydrangea.

For a complete listing of common toxic and non-toxic plants, visit www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/.

OTHER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

Small items that fall on the floor can be easily swallowed by a curious cat or dog. Such items include coins, buttons, small children's toys, medicine bottles, jewelry, nails, and screws. The result may be damage to your pet's digestive tract and the need for surgical removal of the object.

While electrical cords are especially tempting to puppies who like to chew on almost anything, even an adult dog or cat could find them of interest; burns or electrocution could result from chewing on live cords. Prevent this by using cord covers and blocking access to wires.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

Don't forget that holidays and visitors can pose a special challenge to your pets. Discourage well-meaning guests from spoiling pets with extra treats and scraps from the dinner table. Fatty, rich or spicy foods can cause vomiting and diarrhea and lead to inflammation of the pancreas. Poultry or other soft bones can splinter and damage your pet's mouth or esophagus.

While trick or treating is fun for children, it can be hazardous to pets. Halloween treats such as chocolate or candy sweetened with xylitol can make a harmful snack. Certain Halloween and Christmas decorations (especially tinsel, ribbons and ornaments) also pose a hazard to pets, so make sure nothing is left on the floor or on tables within reach.

String-like items can damage your pet's intestine and could prove fatal if not surgically removed. While poinsettia is not deadly as popular legend would have it, it could still cause an upset stomach if consumed. Holly and mistletoe are especially dangerous plants. Christmas tree water treated with preservatives (including fertilizers) can also cause an upset stomach. Water that is allowed to stagnate in tree stands contains bacteria that, if ingested, could lead to nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS POISONED

Don't wait! Time is critical for successfully treating accidental poisoning. Pick up the phone and call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435; a consultation fee may apply). Be prepared to state your pet's breed, age, weight and any symptoms. Keep the product container or plant sample with you to assist in identification so the appropriate treatment recommendations can be made.

For more information about pet poisons, visit the ASPCA Poison Control Center www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/.
8 things you can do to protect your dog in the summer

1. Never, ever leave your dog in the car;
2. Make sure your dog has unlimited access to fresh water;
3. Make sure your dog has access to shade when outside;
4. Take walks during the cooler hours of the day;
5. When walking, try to stay off of hot surfaces (like asphalt) because it can burn your dog's paws;
6. If you think it's hot outside, it's even hotter for your pet – make sure your pet has a means of cooling off;
7. Keep your dog free of external parasites (fleas, ticks) and heartworms – consult your veterinarian about the best product for your pet;
8. Consider clipping or shaving dogs with long coats, and apply sunscreen to your dog's skin if she or he has a thin coat.

Cold Weather Pet Safety

You’re probably already aware of the risks posed by warm weather and leaving pets in hot cars, but did you know that cold weather also poses serious threats to your pets’ health?

Winter wellness: Has your pet had his/her preventive care exam (wellness exam) yet? Cold weather may worsen some medical conditions such as arthritis. Your pet should be examined by a veterinarian at least once a year, and it’s as good a time as any to get him/her checked out to make sure (s)he is ready and as healthy as possible for cold weather.

Know the limits: Just like people, pets’ cold tolerance can vary from pet to pet based on their coat, body fat stores, activity level, and health. Be aware of your pet’s tolerance for cold weather, and adjust accordingly. You will probably need to shorten your dog’s walks in very cold weather to protect you both from weather-associated health risks. Arthritic and elderly pets may have more difficulty walking on snow and ice and may be more prone to slipping and falling. Long-haired or thick-coated dogs tend to be more cold-tolerant, but are still at risk in cold weather. Short-haired pets feel the cold faster because they have less protection, and short-legged pets may become cold faster because their bellies and bodies are more likely to come into contact with snow-covered ground. Pets with diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, or hormonal imbalances (such as Cushing’s disease) may have a harder time regulating their body temperature, and may be more susceptible to problems from temperature extremes. The same goes for very young and very old pets. If you need help determining your pet’s temperature limits, consult your veterinarian.

Provide choices: Just like you, pets prefer comfortable sleeping places and may change their location based on their need for more or less warmth. Give them some safe options to allow them to vary their sleeping place to adjust to their needs.

Stay inside. Cats and dogs should be kept inside during cold weather. It’s a common belief that dogs and cats are more resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but it’s untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia and should be kept inside. Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

Make some noise: A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it’s deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.
Check the paws: Check your dog’s paws frequently for signs of cold-weather injury or damage, such as cracked paw pads or bleeding. During a walk, a sudden lameness may be due to an injury or may be due to ice accumulation between his/her toes. You may be able to reduce the chance of iceball accumulation by clipping the hair between your dog’s toes.

Play dress-up: If your dog has a short coat or seems bothered by the cold weather, consider a sweater or dog coat. Have several on hand, so you can use a dry sweater or coat each time your dog goes outside. Wet sweaters or coats can actually make your dog colder. Some pet owners also use booties to protect their dog’s feet; if you choose to use them, make sure they fit properly.

Wipe down: During walks, your dog’s feet, legs and belly may pick up deicers, antifreeze, or other chemicals that could be toxic. When you get back inside, wipe down (or wash) your pet’s feet, legs and belly to remove these chemicals and reduce the risk that your dog will be poisoned after (s)he licks them off of his/her feet or fur. Consider using pet-safe deicers on your property to protect your pets and the others in your neighborhood.

Collar and chip: Many pets become lost in winter because snow and ice can hide recognizable scents that might normally help your pet find his/her way back home. Make sure your pet has a well-fitting collar with up-to-date identification and contact information. A microchip is a more permanent means of identification, but it’s critical that you keep the registration up to date.

Stay home: Hot cars are a known threat to pets, but cold cars also pose significant risk to your pet’s health. You’re already familiar with how a car can rapidly cool down in cold weather; it becomes like a refrigerator, and can rapidly chill your pet. Pets that are young, old, ill, or thin are particularly susceptible to cold environments and should never be left in cold cars. Limit car travel to only that which is necessary, and don’t leave your pet unattended in the vehicle.

Avoid ice: When walking your dog, stay away from frozen ponds, lakes and other water. You don’t know if the ice will support your dog’s weight, and if your dog breaks through the ice it could be deadly. And if this happens and you instinctively try to save your dog, both of your lives could be in jeopardy.

Provide shelter: We don’t recommend keeping any pet outside for long periods of time, but if you are unable to keep your dog inside during cold weather, provide him/her with a warm, solid shelter against wind. Make sure that they have unlimited access to fresh, non-frozen water (by changing the water frequently or using a pet-safe, heated water bowl). The floor of the shelter should be off of the ground (to minimize heat loss into the ground) and the bedding should be thick, dry and changed regularly to provide a warm, dry environment. The door to the shelter should be positioned away from prevailing winds. Space heaters and heat lamps should be avoided because of the risk of burns or fire. Heated pet mats should also be used with caution because they are still capable of causing burns.

Recognize problems: If your pet is whining, shivering, seems anxious, slows down or stops moving, seems weak, or starts looking for warm places to burrow, get them back inside quickly because they are showing signs of hypothermia. Frostbite is harder to detect, and may not be fully recognized until a few days after the damage is done. If you suspect your pet has hypothermia or frostbite, consult your veterinarian immediately.

Be prepared: Cold weather also brings the risks of severe winter weather, blizzards and power outages. Prepare a disaster/emergency kit, and include your pet in your plans. Have enough food, water and medicine (including any prescription medications as well as heartworm and flea/tick preventives) on hand to get through at least 5 days.

Feed well: Keep your pet at a healthy weight throughout the winter. Some pet owners feel that a little extra weight gives their pet some extra protection from cold, but the health risks associated with that extra weight don’t make it worth doing. Watch your pet’s body condition and keep them in the healthy range. Outdoor pets will require more calories in the winter to generate enough body heat and energy to keep them warm – talk to your veterinarian about your pet’s nutritional needs during cold weather.
Diabetes mellitus, or diabetes, is a condition that occurs when the body can not use glucose (a type of sugar) normally. Glucose is the main source of energy for the body’s cells. The levels of glucose in the blood are primarily controlled by a hormone called insulin, which is made by the pancreas.

As food passes through the intestines during digestion, sugars are one of the nutrients absorbed from the food. The sugars are transported into the cells that line the intestines and are converted into simple sugars (including) glucose. The simple sugars are then absorbed into the bloodstream for circulation and delivery to the whole body’s tissues and cells. Insulin is required for the transfer of glucose from the bloodstream to the cells. If there is not enough insulin or the body is unable to use the insulin, glucose accumulates in high levels in the blood—a condition called hyperglycemia. When the blood glucose reaches a certain level, the glucose overflows into the urine (this is called glucosuria) and draws large volumes of water with it. This is why diabetic pets often drink more water and urinate more frequently and in larger amounts.

In diabetics, regardless of the source of the sugar or the amount of sugar in the blood, there is not enough glucose transported into the body’s cells. As a result, there is not enough energy for the cells to function normally, and, the tissues become starved for energy. This state of metabolic “starvation” causes the body to breakdown fat and muscle tissue, which is then converted by the liver to sugar. (This breakdown of body tissues results in the weight loss often seen in diabetic patients.) In human patients, diabetes is classified as Type I or Type II. Type I occurs when the pancreas does not make enough insulin, and type II occurs when the body can not respond normally to the amount of insulin made by the pancreas. Although diabetes in pets is sometimes classified as Type I or II, the difference between the types is less clear in pets than it is in humans.

Diabetes in dogs and cats can occur at any age. However, diabetic dogs are usually 4 – 14 years of age and most are diagnosed at roughly 7 – 10 years of age. Most diabetic cats are older than 6 years of age. Diabetes occurs in female dogs twice as often as male dogs. Certain breeds of dogs may be predisposed to diabetes, such as Australian terriers, schnauzers, dachshunds, poodles, keeshonds and Samoyeds. Diabetes occurs more often in neutered male cats than in females.

Obesity is a significant risk factor for development of diabetes. As dogs and cats age, they may also develop other diseases that can result in diabetes or could significantly affect their response to treatment for diabetes, including overactivity of the adrenal gland in dogs (hyperadrenocorticism) or overactivity of the thyroid gland in cats (hyperthyroidism), pancreatitis, heart disease, kidney disease, urinary tract infections and skin infections. The long-term use of medications containing corticosteroids is also a risk factor for diabetes.

Noticing the early signs of diabetes is the most important step in taking care of your pet. If you see any of the following signs, your pet should be examined by a veterinarian. The earlier the diagnosis, the better chance your pet may have for a longer and healthier life.
• excessive water drinking and increased urination
• weight loss, even though there may be an increased appetite
• decreased appetite
• cloudy eyes (especially in dogs)
• chronic or recurring infections (including skin infections and urinary infections)

Diabetes may be suspected based on the signs a pet is showing, but the diagnosis is confirmed by your veterinarian by finding consistent hyperglycemia and glucosuria. Although a diagnosis of diabetes is often relatively straightforward, your veterinarian may run additional blood tests to rule out other medical conditions seen in older pets. A urine culture might be recommended to rule out a urinary tract infection.

Once the diagnosis is confirmed, your veterinarian will prescribe an initial dose and type of insulin for your pet. Insulin cannot be given orally—it must be given by injection under the skin. Your veterinarian or veterinary technician will teach you how to give the insulin injections, which involve a very small needle and are generally very well tolerated by the pet. It is not a one-size-fits-all treatment, and there is no precise dose of insulin, and no one type of insulin, that is perfect for an individual pet based on weight, gender, breed, age, etc. Dietary recommendations are an important part of treatment.

Successful treatment of diabetes requires regular examinations, blood and urine tests, and monitoring your pet’s weight, appetite, drinking and urination.

Dogs and cats with diabetes usually require lifelong treatment with special diets, a good fitness regimen and, particularly in dogs, daily insulin injections. The key to managing diabetic pets is to keep your pet’s blood sugar near normal levels and avoid too-high or too-low levels that can be life-threatening. A treatment that works for one pet might not work as well for another pet, and patience is important as you and your pet adjust to the new diet and medications. Management of your diabetic pet may include some or all of the following:

**Dogs**

• A high-fiber diet is often recommended.
• Daily exercise is strongly recommended. Consult your veterinarian about an appropriate exercise program for your pet, considering factors such as weight, overall health and age.
• Owners should consider spaying female dogs diagnosed with diabetes.

It is very important to maintain the proper insulin and feeding schedules recommended for your pet. It is also very important that your pet maintains a normal appetite while on insulin therapy, or you risk hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) if your pet is not eating and absorbing enough sugars to balance the insulin’s effect of removing the sugars from the bloodstream. You will also need to regularly check your pet’s blood and urine sugar levels. Most blood and urine glucose monitoring is done in the veterinary clinic but some owners will monitor their pet’s blood and urine glucose levels at-home. These at home results are then discussed with the veterinarian, who will make the final decision on any changes to insulin therapy.
Watch for the signs of an insulin overdose, which can include weakness, tremors or seizures, and loss of appetite. Contact your veterinarian or an emergency clinic immediately if you observe any of these signs, and consult your veterinarian about what you should do in the meantime to help your pet until it can be examined by a veterinarian. As signs of an insulin overdose can sometimes be very similar to signs of an insulin underdose, it is important that changes in dosage and frequency of insulin injections only be made by a veterinarian.

Because older dogs and cats are more likely to develop age-related diseases or conditions, some of which could be confused with diabetes, regular examinations by a veterinarian can keep your pet healthy and detect problems before they become severe.

If you have any questions about your pet’s health or management, contact your veterinarian. In addition, diabetic pets should be monitored for long-term complications such as cataracts, which commonly develop in diabetic dogs and cats. Other problems that can occur include hind leg weakness due to low blood potassium (hypokalemia), high blood pressure (hypertension), or lower urinary tract infections.

Diabetic dogs and cats can live long and healthy lives with proper management and veterinary care. If you notice any changes in your pet’s behavior or weight, consult your veterinarian.

**Leptospirosis**

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by infection with *Leptospira* bacteria. These bacteria can be found worldwide in soil and water. There are many strains of *Leptospira* bacteria that can cause disease. Leptospirosis is more common in areas with warm climates and high annual rainfall but it can occur anywhere. Exposure to slow-moving or stagnant water is a major risk factor for leptospirosis, although it can also be contracted from wet, shaded grass or along the banks of rivers or lakes.

In the United States, the southwestern states appear to have lower risk of leptospirosis. The highest number of leptospirosis cases occurs in the late summer and fall in the United States, but seasonality can vary in different parts of the country.

Dogs are most commonly affected. Leptospirosis in cats is rare and appears to be mild although very little is known about the disease in this species.

In some parts of the United States where the bacteria are widespread in the environment, almost every dog is at risk of developing leptospirosis, regardless of whether they live in the country, suburbs or city. Any age, breed or sex of dog can be affected. Common risk factors for leptospirosis in dogs residing in the United States include:

- Exposure to or drinking from rivers, lakes or streams;
- Roaming on rural properties (because of exposure to potentially infected wildlife, farm animals, or water sources);
- Exposure to wild animal or farm animal species, even if in the backyard;
- Contact with rodents or other dogs (such as in urban areas, dog parks or multi dog working facilities).
Traveling with Your Pet

- Make sure your pet is comfortable with travel
  ◦ Some pets cannot handle travel because of illness, injury, age or temperament.
  ◦ If your pet is not good with travel, you should consider a reliable pet-sitter or talk to your veterinarian about boarding facilities in your area.
- Make sure your pet has identification tags with up-to-date information.
- Having your pet implanted with a microchip can improve your chances of getting your pet back if it becomes lost. The microchip must be registered with your current contact information, including a cell phone number. A tag is included when you have a microchip that has the microchip number and a mobile contact of the owner, so if the pet is found, they can use the tag to determine ownership without having to contact a veterinarian. Contact the microchip company for a replacement tag if you've lost yours, and for information on how to update your personal information when traveling.
- If you are taking your pet across state or international borders, a health certificate is required. The health certificate must be signed by a veterinarian after your pet has been examined and found to be free of disease. Your pet's vaccinations must be up to date in order for the health certificate to be completed.
- Make sure that your pet is allowed where you are staying. Some accommodations will allow pets and some will not, so check in advance. Also, when traveling, you should bring a portable kennel with you if you have to leave your pet unattended.

4-H Dog Showmanship
Taken from the Indiana 4-H Dog Showmanship Guide, found at: http://home.comcast.net/~4hdogclub/Files/4-H-716-W-Showmanship.pdf

Objectives for the 4-H Participant:
- To develop leadership, initiative, and responsibility.
- To develop self-confidence and patience.
- To learn show procedures, rules, and etiquette as a dog handler.
- To develop high standards of sportsmanship when dealing with judges, competitors, and the public.
- To learn about the positive experience of dog ownership and of presenting the dog in the show ring.
- To learn how to win and how to lose gracefully.

Showmanship Philosophy
Showmanship is concerned with how well the dog is shown by the handler. The dog’s conformation or its being purebred is of no importance. The emphasis is on the handler’s presentation of the dog standing still and in motion. The handler must convey knowledge and understanding of the dog’s breed, or the breed chosen as that which the dog most resembles. The handler should present the dog according to the chosen single breed standard. The handler and dog appear to be part of a team. They work well together, move fluidly, and give an overall picture of being one unit. If a dog moves out of place or makes an error, a good handler is aware of this. The handler quickly and efficiently adjusts for the fault and resumes his/her presentation of the dog.
Guidelines and Procedures for Showmanship

Appearance of the Handler
The entire picture of the dog and handler should be one of symmetry and be appealing to the judge. The handler should appear neat and well groomed. Girls and boys must wear dress outfits that are modest and appropriate for drawing attention to the dog, not the handler. Clothing color should complement the dog, but not necessarily match the dog. Recommended shoes include tennis shoes or soft-soled shoes. Blue jeans are not considered appropriate attire for any handler. Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge’s view of the team. Handlers are to use good judgment concerning any makeup or accessories, and in styling hair away from their face.

Attitude of the Handler
The handler must be a good sport in the ring and outside the ring. He/she must exhibit a positive attitude toward other exhibitors as well as the judge. Courtesy to the judge and the other handlers is important. Handlers must be alert and attentive to what is going on in the ring, as well as to their dog, and its behavior. Smoothness and continual control of the dog is mandatory. Handlers should listen to the judge’s directions. If a handler is unable to hear what the judge says for directions, he/she should ask the judge to please repeat what was said. Handlers should not stare at the judge with an exaggerated smile. Staring at the judge makes most judges uneasy, and the exhibitor gains no advantage. Handlers need to be aware of the judge’s presence at all times and should occasionally make brief eye contact with the judge. It is important for a handler to convey that he/she is enjoying showing his/her dog. Smiling is good, but it should not be overbearing or have the appearance of insincerity. Double handling is not allowed. There should be no help from outside the ring to coach a handler or distract a dog.

Appearance of the Dog
The dog should be well groomed with clean, mat-free hair, toenails cut to the proper length, teeth cleaned, and void of fleas and ticks. Its eyes should be clear, and its coat free of tear stains. Its ears should be clean with no excess earwax or dirt. Whiskers and hair on the legs, feet, and ears can be trimmed if it is appropriate. Not all dog breeds should be trimmed and void of whiskers. Dogs should be groomed before the competition without the use of dyes, talc powder, or other cosmetics. Dogs should not wear scarves or have painted nails. Bows or bands should be worn only by appropriate breeds.

Show Ring Procedures
Armbands should be worn on the left arm with the number visible to the judge. Before judging begins, the procedure for entering the ring should be made known. The procedure used is entirely at the judge’s discretion; he/she may call handlers in as a group or individually. Judging will begin when the handler and dog enter the ring. The handler should set up (stack) the dog quietly and quickly, ideally leaving three to four feet between them and the dog and handler directly in front of them. Do not crowd. The judge needs room to walk between dogs if he/she prefers.

To stack a dog, it is best to set up the dog’s front end first. The handler should lift a front foot if necessary by grasping the leg at the elbow. Position the rear legs by grasping the stifle or hock to place the feet. Should matting be provided, the dog should be stacked near the inside edge of the mat. Allow room for the judge to walk between the dog and the ring fence. Keep moving forward and restacking the dog as the dogs in front are individually gaited and moved to the end of the line. When a class is very large, the judge may divide it and
tell some handlers to relax their dogs. Relaxing does not mean not paying attention. While relaxing, it is not necessary to stack your dog or keep it alert at all times. Be alert for the judge to call your group back again.

Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and when used properly, capture and hold the dog’s attention. These should be used without distracting other exhibitors or the judge. Talking to the dog is permissible providing discretion is used. For breeds normally examined on the table at conformation shows, the handler should follow the judge’s instructions about when to table the dog. Unless indicated otherwise, the handler should place the dog on the table while the preceding dog is being gaited. Stack the dog facing the judge, with the front feet approximately one inch away from the edge of table.

During the individual exam, the judge will normally ask the exhibitor to “show the bite” (teeth). To show the bite, gently pull up the lips to reveal the bite of the dog with the mouth closed, keeping the leash out of the way. Premolars may be shown by raising the flews on each side of the dog’s mouth. If the breed standard indicates the necessity to count teeth, the mouth should be opened wide enough to do so. If required, the mouth should be opened to display the color of the gums or tongue.

As the judge begins to examine the dog’s front, the handler should move out of the way. The handler needs to adjust his/her position as needed during the exam, while keeping control of the dog. Should a judge disturb the coat, or misplace a foot, the handler should reposition the coat or foot.

**Gaiting**
Gaiting means to move the dog in the pattern requested by the judge. Movement should be smooth, in a straight line, and at the correct speed according to the dog’s size and breed standard.

The acceptable gait is a controlled trot. Remember, the speed for the “pattern” may be different than for the “go around.” Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge. It is permissible for a handler to momentarily block the judge’s view of the dog when making turns in gaiting patterns. If matting is provided, keep the dog centered on it while gaiting. Handlers should have the proper lead and lead placement when moving their dog. Adjust the lead to the right length by gathering the excess lead in the hand closest to the dog so that no part of the lead is dangling while gaiting.

Handlers and dogs should move in unison with each other and look like a well-trained team. Allow the dog to move freely and naturally. At the beginning of the individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy turn is optional. A properly executed courtesy turn will allow the handler to align with the judge and the path to be taken. This small turn in front of the judge is also called honoring the judge.

Handlers should maintain good posture when moving their dog. Handlers should constantly be aware of their dog, the route, and the judge’s position in the ring. It is not necessary to look at the judge and smile all the time. Occasional quick glances and a smile at the judge will indicate that the handler is being attentive.

**Gaiting Patterns and Diagrams**
Patterns are a systematic way of moving the dog around the ring. The most common patterns are: the Go Around, the Triangle and Reverse Triangle, the L, the T, the Diagonal, the Down and Back Alone, and the Down and Back with Another Handler. The judge will instruct exhibitors about the pattern that he/she wants completed. The pattern is to be consistent within the class. The pattern is at the discretion of the judge, but it is recommended that initially the Triangle and the Down and Back be used for the junior class. More difficult patterns may be used if the competition warrants.
Jobs for Dogs

Service dogs:
A service dog is a type of assistance dog, specifically trained to help people who have disabilities other than visual or hearing impairment.

Hearing Dog-
A hearing dog is a specific type of assistance dog specifically selected and trained to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired by alerting their handler to important sounds, such as doorbells, smoke alarms, ringing telephones, or alarm clocks. They may also work outside the home, alerting to such sounds such as sirens, forklifts and a person calling the handler's Dog Guide/Guide Dog. Guide dogs are assistance dogs trained to lead blind or vision impaired people around obstacles.

Assistance dog
An assistance dog is a dog trained to aid or assist a person with a disability. Many are trained by a specific organization, while others are trained by their handler (sometimes with the help of a professional trainer). There are three general "types" in which an assistance dog may be further classified.[1] Most assistance dogs will be trained for only one of these, though "combination" dogs do exist.

- **Guide dogs** assist the blind and the visually impaired.
- **Hearing dogs**, or signal dogs, help the deaf and hard of hearing.
- **Service dogs** refers to dogs not specifically trained for visual or hearing impairment, but trained to do other work, such as mobility assistance dogs, seizure alert dogs or other medical alert dogs, and psychiatric service dogs. In the United States, the term "service dog" may be used synonymously with "assistance dog," and is occasionally used for other types of working dogs as well. In most of the rest of the world a distinct separation between service dogs and assistance dogs is observed.

Search and Rescue-
The National Association for Search and Rescue, Inc., (NASAR) is a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to advancing professional, literary, and scientific knowledge in fields related to search and rescue. NASAR is comprised of thousands of paid and non-paid professionals interested in all aspects of search and rescue - the humanitarian cause of saving lives - throughout the United States and around the world. "...that others may live."

Beagle Brigade-
"The Beagle Brigade" is responsible for sniffing out and confiscating fruits, vegetables, and meats that are banned from crossing the country's borders. The dogs and their human partners form a critical barrier against the entry of plant and animal diseases into the United States.
Police Dogs-
A police dog is a dog that is trained specifically to assist police and other law-enforcement personnel in their work. Police dogs are often referred to by the term "K9", which is a homophone of "canine", a word that generally refers to dogs and dog-like animals.
Roles police dogs fill include:

- **Public order enforcement dog** - The traditional image of a police dog is one used to enforce public order by chasing and holding suspects, or detaining suspects by the threat of being released. German Shepherd Dogs and Belgian Malinois are most commonly used because of their availability (see Popular Police Dog Breeds); however other dog breeds have also contributed, such as Dutch Shepherds, Rottweilers, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, American Pit Bull Terriers, and American Staffordshire Terriers.
- **Search and rescue dog** - This dog is used to locate suspects or find missing persons or objects. Bloodhounds are often used for this task.
- **Detection dog** - Some dogs are used to detect illicit substances such as drugs or explosives which may be carried on a person in their effects. In many countries, Beagles are used in airports to sniff the baggage for items that are not permitted; due to their friendly nature and appearance, the Beagle does not worry most passengers\[10\].
- **Cadaver dogs** - Some dogs are trained in detecting the odor of decomposing bodies. Dogs' noses are so sensitive that they are even capable of detecting bodies that are under running water\[11\] Pioneering work was done by Dr. Debra Komar (University of Alberta) in Association with the RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association in this area. The result was the development of training techniques that resulted in near 100% accuracy rates.\[12\] Her research has been published in the Journal of Forensic Anthropology.

Therapy Dogs
A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, with people with learning difficulties and stressful situations such as disaster areas. Therapy dogs are not service or assistance dogs. Service dogs directly assist humans, and have a legal right to accompany their owners in most areas. In the United States, service dogs are legally protected at the federal level by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Therapy dogs do not provide direct assistance and are not mentioned in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Grooming

**General**
Proper grooming is an important part of pet care. It not only makes a companion animal look better, but contributes to his or her physiological and psychological health.

**Coat**
Brush your pet thoroughly every day. This helps keep his or her hair in good condition by removing dirt, spreading the natural oils throughout the coat, preventing tangles from forming and keeping the skin clean and free from irritation.
It is best to start brushing your pet at an early age, but do not despair if he or she is an older animal. It is possible to train one to enjoy grooming. Proceed slowly, and be sure to use treats and plenty of praise to make the experience fun!

**Nails**
Trim your pet's nails about once per month. You'll need a clipper designed specifically for the kind of companion animal you have. Either a scissor- or guillotine-style clipper can be used. You should also purchase a small bottle of blood-clotting powder.

**How to Cut Your Pet's Nails**
1. Have your companion animal sit beside you. Then place one of his or her paws in your hand and gently pull it forward. If your pet dislikes being handled this way, slowly accustom him or her to it by offering treats and praise.
2. Gradually shorten one nail. Be sure to stop before you reach the quick, which is the part of the nail that contains nerves and blood vessels. If you cannot see the quick clearly, stop cutting just behind the point at which the nail begins to curve downward.
3. If you cut into the quick, do not panic. Put some clotting powder on a moist cotton swab and press it firmly against the nail for several seconds.
4. Repeat the process until all of your companion animal's nails have been trimmed.
5. Do not forget to trim the dewclaw, which is located on the inside of each front leg just above the paw. (Some dogs do not have dewclaws.)

**Ears**
Ear care is an important part of grooming. Ear infections can not only be painful, but lead to permanent hearing loss. The signs of a problem with a companion animal's ears include redness, constant scratching, head shaking and odor.

**How to Clean Your Pet's Ears**
1. Check your companion animal's ears twice per month. The skin inside and on the flaps should be pale pink. If there is a foul odor and/or any red, brown or black skin, have a veterinarian examine your pet's ears.
2. Moisten a cotton ball with an ear cleaning solution and use it to clean the opening into the canal and the flaps. Do not probe too deeply into the canal.
**Teeth**

Companion animals can get cavities and develop periodontal disease, so their teeth should be cleaned with a pet toothpaste at least twice per week. It is best to use a small toothbrush that has soft bristles. Cleanings performed by a veterinarian may also be required.

**Bathing**

Bathe your companion animal once every two months or as often as needed. Be sure to brush him or her before each bath in order to get all of the mats out of his or her coat.

How to Bathe Your Pet

1. Place a rubber mat in your bathtub, or a towel in your sink, for secure footing. Then place a cotton ball in each of your companion animal's ears to prevent water from entering.
2. Rinse your pet with warm water. Use a spray hose if one is available, but be sure to keep the nozzle very close to your companion animal's body. Never spray him or her in the face.
3. Apply a shampoo designed especially for pets in small amounts, working from the head to the tail. Be sure to clean the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under the chin. Try to avoid getting shampoo in your companion animal's eyes.
4. Thoroughly rinse your pet with warm water.
5. Dry your companion animal with a towel and/or hair dryer.
Reproduction

Puppies, both male and female, are born with their reproductive organs present but not fully developed. The ovaries of the female puppy do not become fully developed until the puppy matures, usually after six months of age. At birth in the male, the testicles are not usually fully descended within the scrotal sac. They are generally positioned inside the abdominal cavity or located within muscles in the abdominal wall.

Heat Cycles
The heat cycles of the female (bitch) are caused and controlled by hormones that are produced and released by the ovaries and other glandular structures within the body. Females come into “heat” usually from between five and eighteen months of age depending on the individual and the size of the animal. In the toy and small breeds, heat cycles occur as early as five months of age, while in the giant breeds, this may not occur until the animal is fourteen to eighteen months old. Typically, these cycles will occur every six to nine months throughout the life of the animal. In the very young and very old, there may be 'silent heats' with no outward signs that are detectable by the owner or sometimes even other dogs. Dogs do not undergo any form of menopause. There have been rare cases of heat cycles resulting in pregnancies at fifteen years of age.

At what age can a dog have her first litter?
Puberty (the age at which animals can reproduce) in the dog is usually between 5 and 12 months of age. This is when a dog will have her first heat. Some large breed dogs may not have their first heat until they are almost 2 years old.

How often does a dog come into heat?
Most dogs come into heat every 6 to 7 months.

How can I tell if a dog is in heat?
Just prior to coming into heat, the dogs' vulva and breasts may enlarge and a bloody discharge will be seen coming from the vulva. At this point, she is not yet ready to accept a male dog. When the vaginal discharge becomes more yellow in color, generally in 4 to 13 days, she will accept the male. She will accept the male for another 4 to 13 days.

How long is pregnancy in the dog?
Dogs generally have their puppies 58 to 68 days after they are bred. The average is 63 days. This equates to 9 weeks (compared to humans have a gestation period of 9 months)

How many puppies are in the average litter?
The average size of a litter is generally 6 to 10 puppies. The number of puppies in a litter often varies with the size of the dog. Smaller dogs tend to have smaller litters.

How many litters can a dog have in a year?
The average dog could have 2 litters a year.