



# PUPPY CARE GUIDE



---

# HEALTH IS LIFE'S FOUNDATION

## Tailored nutrition for their healthy development

Congratulations on your new family member! Bringing home a new puppy is wonderful, but we know it can be a bit hectic. That's why we've put together this guide with valuable information on **nutrition, training and health care**.

We're so excited for all the new experiences you and your puppy will have together, and we also recognize the challenges that may occur throughout your puppy's life. This is why we have put pets at the heart of our research and development and innovation processes for more than 50 years. From playtime to nap time, from puppy to senior years, we know there are many **important life stages** ahead, each with their own **unique nutritional support requirements**. That's why our focus on health nutrition is proactive, and why we created formulas combining the precise amount of nutrients based on your puppy's size, age, breed and physiological stage in a single diet.

- **Palatability** is critically important to your pet's nutritional needs. Royal Canin develops diets that will appeal to a puppy's highly developed sense of smell and kibble that are the appropriate size, shape and texture for your puppy's mouth.
- **Digestibility** is also very important to your pet's nutritional needs. You can depend on the quality, source and manufacturing techniques of our highly digestible nutrients. These allow maximum absorption of vital nutrients by your puppy's body.

Royal Canin uses a special blend of antioxidants to promote healthy growth by supporting immune system development. Our diets are enriched with omega-3 fatty acids to promote **active learning development** and are naturally preserved to protect nutrients and maintain palatability.

Whether you're a new or experienced pet owner, this is an exciting time because of the advances in veterinary health care and nutrition that can help your new puppy lead a long, healthy life. As we learn more about cats and dogs by continuously studying them, we share and collaborate with those who spend their days with pets: veterinarians, breeders and pet owners. You can trust Royal Canin to provide optimal nutrition to help support your pet throughout a long, healthy life.

We know you have many options when choosing the appropriate nutritional solution for your pet. Thank you for your support of Royal Canin and the innovations we have developed and will continue to develop in the future. Please contact our Customer Care team at 1-800-592-6687 with questions and comments or visit our website [www.royalcanin.com](http://www.royalcanin.com) to learn more about our company, partners and diets.

---

# CONTENTS

## 4

---

### Care •

- 6 Preparing for Your New Puppy
- 8 At Home Together
- 8 Puppy Supervision
- 9 Puppy Hygiene
- 10 Puppy Grooming

## 11

---

### Nutrition ••

- 12 Nutrition for Health
- 13 How to Feed Your Pet for a Healthy Life
- 14 Small and Medium Breed Dogs
- 15 Large and Giant Breed Dogs

## 16

---

### Training •••

- 17 Behavior and Training
- 18 Training Tips

## 20

---

### Health Care ••••

- 21 Preventive Health Care
- 22 Disease Prevention
- 23 Parasite Prevention
- 24 Spaying and Neutering

## 25

---

### First Aid •••••

- 26 First Aid for Dogs
  - Checking Vital Signs
  - Normal Vital Signs
  - Handling and Transporting
- 27 Poisonous Substances
- 28 Emergency Action Steps
  - Bee or Wasp Sting
  - Choking
  - Bleeding
  - Heat Stroke
  - Limping
  - Unconsciousness
  - Vomiting
- 31 Your Pet's Health and Immunization Record



**Care •**

## Preparing for Your New Puppy



This is an exciting time for you, but it can also be a time of adjustment for your new puppy. The puppy will be leaving the security of its mother and littermates, and will experience a multitude of new sights, sounds and smells.

To help you with this transition, the team at Royal Canin has gathered essential information to assist in welcoming your new pet home.

### Choosing a Veterinarian

Your veterinarian can help you ensure your puppy maintains optimum health throughout their life, and choosing the right veterinarian is your first step to transitioning your puppy into your home.

It is important to have an initial checkup and to be prepared for emergencies as well as ongoing care, so selecting a veterinarian before your puppy comes home can save time and reduce stress.

#### PREFERENCE

Pick a veterinarian and friendly staff you're comfortable with, and visit the facilities.

#### PROXIMITY

Choose a veterinarian that's close to your home for safety, security and convenience.

#### HOURS

Many veterinarians have extended evening or weekend hours. Make sure your vet's hours of operation work with your schedule.

#### EMERGENCIES

Does the veterinarian answer after-hours emergency calls or work with a local emergency clinic that's close to you?

### Making Your Home Safe

Just as with a baby, you will need to make sure the whole house is safe from anything the puppy could get into. By puppy-proofing now, you can avoid a lot of heartache later.

- 1 Get down at the puppy's level to assess if there are any exposed electrical cords that could be chewed on. Is there any place that your puppy could get stuck, or maybe fall?
- 2 Secure your yard, especially if your puppy will be spending time outdoors unsupervised. Look around your yard. Are there holes or gaps in your fence where your puppy could escape?
- 3 Are your yard and house safe for your puppy? Are there chemical fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides within reach? What about poisonous plants? Are cleaning products and household chemicals stored safely?

Check under the "Health Care" section of this booklet and with your veterinarian for a list of poisonous substances.

Ask family and friends for veterinarian recommendations

Schedule a veterinary visit soon after bringing your puppy home

Keep emergency veterinary clinic numbers handy

Trust Royal Canin to provide nutrition for your pet's needs



## Take Care of These Basic Equipment Needs Before Your Puppy's Arrival

### FOOD AND WATER BOWLS

Stainless steel food and water bowls are durable and do not rust, break or chip. More sanitary than plastic, teething puppies also cannot chew through a stainless steel bowl.

### COLLAR AND LEASH

ALWAYS choose a collar with tags that are snug enough not to slip over puppy's head. Most cities have leash laws, so make sure you have a leash before taking your puppy for a walk.

### BRUSH AND COMB

Everyday grooming teaches your puppy to like being handled by people. The best time to do this is when the puppy is sleepy and will enjoy your gentle touch.

### PUPPY TOYS

Rubber toys are almost indestructible and may last years. Choose a smaller size for young puppies (helpful during teething), a larger size for large puppies, and squeaky toys and balls for teaching your puppy obedience.

Make sure it is a safe toy! Your puppy can be left to play with toys unsupervised—ONLY IF THEY CANNOT BE SWALLOWED.



## At Home Together



- ❑ An adult should always be present when children play with a puppy
- ❑ Introduce dogs outside the home in a neutral area
- ❑ Take precautions to keep your new puppy from being scared or injured

### Introducing Children

Children often don't realize the need to be very careful with a small puppy. A responsible adult should always be there to supervise when children are playing with or meeting a puppy.

When you bring your puppy home, it's always a good idea to have the children sit down and let the puppy come to them. Explain that they should not scare the puppy by moving quickly or making loud noises, and let them know that if they're sitting on the floor, the puppy will probably climb on them anyway!

### Introducing Older Dogs

An older dog that's lived in the house for a long time may have a hard time adjusting to sharing their space with a new puppy and may be unhappy to see somebody new. Older dogs may growl, bark or try to hurt the puppy. Or your dog may be easygoing and friendly

and may like the new puppy. Some dogs become friends right away and even play or sleep together.

Until you know how your resident dog is going to react, you should take precautions so that your puppy doesn't get hurt or scared. Try introducing the dogs in a neutral area (not your home) where your resident dog may not be so protective. A friend's yard is a good option for a first introduction.

Give your dog plenty of time to get used to the new puppy. Make sure both dogs are on a leash and that they can be controlled by you. Let them sniff and investigate each other. Do not yell at the older dog for not reacting the way you want. Dogs have their own rules, and your older dog will certainly let your young puppy know what the rules are—in the same way that the pup's mother helped them to learn.

## Puppy Supervision

- ❑ Confine the puppy to the areas of the house where you spend the most time
- ❑ Block off your puppy's special area with baby gates

Can you imagine leaving a three-year-old child alone in your house? Don't be in a hurry to allow your dog total freedom all over the house. It may take months or even a year to reach that goal.

### Confining Your Puppy

Confinement in an area of the house where you normally spend time will prevent many housebreaking and chewing accidents. When you are in the kitchen, you cannot see that the puppy in the bedroom has to "go." And you can't see the puppy chewing on the living room carpet while you are busy making the beds.

### Supervised Exploration

Let your dog explore their new home, but only under your supervision, and block off your puppy's special area with baby gates. If you must be away from the house or can't supervise the special area, put the puppy in a crate. Reinforcing acceptable behavior often just means preventing misbehavior.





### Trimming Nails

All puppies need proper nail care. Please don't let your fear of hurting your puppy stop you from taking care of their nails. Handle your puppy's feet at a young age and trimming won't be as uncomfortable. Always use nail clippers made for dogs.

Hold your puppy's foot and gently push down with your thumb at the base of each nail. This will cause the nail to extend slightly, making it easier to see your puppy's nail.

Be sure to avoid cutting the quick at the nail bed. The quick is visible in clear nails as a pink triangle. In dark nails, the quick can be detected by looking for traces on the underside of the nails. Cut each nail back just a little at a time until you get close to the quick.

### Dental Care

It is best to start dental care early with your puppy, so they grow accustomed to having their teeth brushed. The most efficient way is to use a toothbrush and toothpaste specially designed for dogs and to brush several times a week. After a while, tartar removal by a veterinarian may be the only solution.

Dogs are rarely cooperative when it comes to handling their mouths. The teeth should be white and should not have tartar buildup.

A puppy's temporary teeth fall out easily and are often not found, but occasionally, temporary teeth persist and may need to be extracted by your veterinarian.



The frequency of baths varies according to your puppy's coat texture:

- Shaved coats only need to be washed when they are dirty
- Short-haired puppies tend to need fewer baths and grooming than long-haired puppies

### Bathing

Use lukewarm water and shampoo for puppies, as human products irritate the skin. Before bathing your puppy, brush out the coat to remove any tangles. Wet your puppy's entire body, lathering the shampoo while being careful to avoid the ears and eyes.

Rinse thoroughly, saving the head area for last as the puppy will want to shake, then wipe the puppy down thoroughly in a warm room. If your puppy tolerates a hair dryer, use the low or cool setting only and brush the coat while drying.

### Brushing and Combing

No matter what type of coat a dog has, hair dies and new hair grows in its place, and regular brushing and bathing will help remove dead hair.

Outdoor dogs shed their coat twice a year (spring and fall), corresponding to the changes in daylight. Indoor dogs are not as affected by changes in light, so they shed hair throughout the year, with two periods of increased shedding in spring and fall.

---

For puppies with silky coats (like a Yorkshire Terrier), using a bristle brush will add sheen to the coat.

For puppies with a lot of hair (Cocker Spaniel, Scottish Terriers, etc.) debris can be removed with a wire brush.

---

#### SHORT-HAIRED PUPPIES

Short coats should be brushed once or twice a week, but may not require frequent grooming.

- Use a rubber brush and work against the line of the coat to loosen dead skin and hair
- Use a bristle brush and work with the line of the coat, brushing the puppy's entire body; finish off by polishing with a damp chamois cloth to add sheen to the coat

#### MEDIUM-HAIRED PUPPIES

Because of the coat density (both undercoat and a topcoat), the puppy should be brushed every other day.

- Use a bristle brush and work against the line of the coat to loosen as much dead skin and cells as possible
- Use the same brush and work with the normal lay of the hair to remove the loosened debris

#### LONG-HAIRED PUPPIES

Long coats require daily brushing. In the case of Afghan Hounds, for example, brushing can take up to an hour per day!

- Use a slicker brush to brush along the normal lay of the coat to remove tangles and mats
- Work delicately to avoid hurting the puppy or pulling the skin when untangling knots

A wide-toothed comb can be used to finish untangling the hair behind the hocks. Use scissors to even out the coat length and to trim away hair that is likely to become tangled or trap debris (underneath the front legs, belly, interdigital spaces and the footpads).



**Nutrition** ..

### The Science of Nutrition

Veterinary nutrition is a science committed to the identification of the most effective combination of nutrients essential to the health and well-being of pets.



#### ADVANCES IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF NUTRITIONAL HEALTH

The concept of the complete diet was developed to provide nutrition that helps your puppy maintain a healthy, active lifestyle.

With ever-increasing knowledge of the health benefits of individual nutrients (plant extracts, minerals, unique proteins, etc.), you can provide your puppy with optimal balance of nutrients to help maximize their ability to use food for energy, cell growth and healthy development.

#### ADVANCES IN THE FORMULATION OF PET FOOD

Advances in commercially prepared pet foods have had a positive effect on canine health.

Today, pet foods are formulated according to specific needs, well-identified deficiencies or other specificities discovered by ongoing research. Your veterinarian can be a valuable resource in helping you to choose the appropriate diet for your pet.

### Good Nutrition Can Help Increase a Dog's Life Expectancy

Royal Canin foods meet the specific needs of different breeds, sizes and specificities. A veterinarian can advise you on the appropriate diet if your puppy has special needs.



## GIVE YOUR PUPPY SEVERAL SMALL MEALS

Your puppy should be given at least three meals a day at scheduled times. Always give the food in the same bowl placed in the same spot. This will train your puppy to have good eating habits.

## MAKE SURE WATER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Your puppy must always have access to a bowl of fresh water. Change the water regularly, as puppies tend to play with it.

## DON'T OVERFEED

Follow the guidelines recommended on the bag. Avoid giving table scraps. They do not meet any of the puppy's nutritional needs and can lead to obesity, which could affect the puppy later in life.

## Respect the Puppy-to-Adulthood Transition

As your puppy reaches adulthood, it is important to provide your dog with a diet that will meet their changing nutritional requirements and needs.

When changing your dog's diet, gradually mix the food over a seven day period, increasing daily the amount of the new food and reaching 100% by day seven. This will help to minimize any digestive stress.

- Don't feed table scraps or human food
- Make sure there is always access to fresh water
- Keep feeding times consistent

## Minimum Number of Meals Per Day

### Extra Small and Small Breeds

Up to 4 months	3-4 meals per day
From 4 to 10 months	2-3 meals per day
Adult dogs	2 meals per day

### Medium Breeds

Up to 6 months	3 meals per day
From 6 to 12 months	2 meals per day
Adult dogs	2 meals per day

### Large and Giant Breeds

Up to 6 months	3 meals per day
From 6 to 15 months	2 meals per day
Adult dogs	2 meals per day



## Small and Medium Breed Dogs

### Small Breed Dogs

Extra Small and Small breed dogs weigh up to 22 pounds at adult weight, are lively and energetic, and can be fussy eaters.

Miniature and toy dogs (up to 8 pounds at adult weight) have much higher energy requirements per unit of body weight than larger dogs, and are also noted for their long life spans (up to 14 to 16 years).

Small puppies require the correct levels of protein, carbohydrates and fat necessary for optimal skeletal and muscular growth in a short space of time, as they reach adulthood more quickly than their larger counterparts.

It is important to take small mouths and jaws into account when choosing a food for your puppy. Royal Canin X-SMALL and SMALL dry foods are specially formulated and palatable for the small breed puppy.

A small dog's digestive tract is longer relative to body size compared to larger breeds. It is critical to adapt the digestibility of your dog's food to the size of its digestive tract.

### Medium Breed Dogs

Medium-sized dogs weigh 23 to 55 pounds at adulthood and were bred for their energy and physical ability to work outdoors.

Medium breeds can perform brief intense efforts while also being fast runners with a courageous, enterprising nature and a very well-developed sense of smell.

It is essential for medium dogs to get frequent exercise so that they can expend energy, whether they're working dogs or household pets.

Medium dogs require high amounts of nutrients and balanced amounts of calcium and phosphorus for good bone mineralization and healthy development as they increase their birth weight approximately 40 to 50 times by maturity.

While growing, a medium dog's digestive system is quite sensitive, requiring a highly digestible food to ensure balanced intestinal flora and a regular intestinal transit.

- Examples of extra small or small breed dogs include: Chihuahua, Dachshund, Shih Tzu, Miniature Schnauzer, Poodle, Yorkshire Terrier
- Examples of medium breed dogs include: Bulldog, Cocker Spaniel, Husky, Australian Shepherd





### Large Breed Dogs

**Large breed dogs weigh 56 to 100 pounds at adulthood.** They are faithful, affectionate and make ideal pets as well as trackers, rescue dogs, guard dogs or guide dogs for the blind.

**Large breed dogs can withstand tests of endurance** such as long walks, working under extreme conditions or keeping guard.

**While some large breed dogs are prone to digestive sensitivities,** all can benefit from highly digestible proteins to maximize nutrient absorption, as large dogs can be more prone to having poor stool quality compared to smaller dogs.

**Large breed dogs take approximately 15 months to reach full growth**—almost seven months longer than small breed dogs, and the right food helps maintain optimal body condition.

**Large breed puppies multiply their birth weight by 70 to 90 times,** and proper nutrition is important to prevent any malformation of the skeleton during this developmental stage.

### Giant Breed Dogs

**Giant breeds weigh over 100 pounds at maturity,** have a life expectancy of up to nine to twelve years, and can be used to protect families or livestock, or as rescue dogs in cold climates.

**A giant breed puppy needs 18 to 24 months to reach full size,** and their birth weight will increase by 80 to 100 times. This longer growth period must be monitored carefully to prevent any malformation in the skeleton and muscles.

**Larger and heavier dogs start the aging process earlier** than other breeds, and addressing nutritional considerations early will help promote optimal health.

**A giant breed's size and active temperament puts their joints under daily stress.** Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA, glucosamine and chondroitin, can help protect joints.

**Giant breed dogs have reduced digestive capacity** and are very sensitive to their food. Heavy meals and indigestible food can lead to digestive disorders.



- *Examples of large breed dogs include:* Boxer, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Pointer
- *Examples of giant breed dogs include:* Great Dane, Mastiff, Rottweiler, St. Bernard

**Training ...**





### Houstraining Your Puppy

Puppies under three or four months have little bowel or bladder control, but you can limit the number of accidents by not allowing too much freedom, too soon.

#### Guidelines

- Confine the puppy to the one or two rooms in the house where the family spends the most time
- Crate the puppy when you are not with them to supervise behavior
- Have regularly scheduled feeding times
- Take your new puppy outside first thing in the morning, after naps and meals, and before you go to bed
- Reward your puppy for eliminating outside. In order to give immediate praise, you should go outside with your puppy.
- Don't wait for your puppy to signal to you the need to go out, take them out on a regular schedule
- Never punish or reprimand a puppy that has an accident
- Remember, most accidents happen by allowing too much freedom, too soon



### Basic Commands

#### TEACHING YOUR PUPPY TO SIT

- 1 Hold a treat over the puppy's nose and slowly move it up and over the puppy's head, the puppy will sit down as they follow the food
- 2 When your puppy does this, say the word "sit" with the action
- 3 If your pet lifts their front legs up or jumps, you are holding the food treat too high
- 4 As soon as your puppy sits, say "good sit" and give the treat
- 5 Practice with your puppy in many places throughout your home, as well as outside

*Many repetitions will be necessary for your puppy to learn to associate the treat with the sit. As your puppy understands what you want them to do, only give the treats intermittently. Treats should not exceed 10% of total daily caloric intake.*

#### TEACHING YOUR PUPPY "DOWN"

- 1 Once you have taught your puppy to sit, you can start teaching the "down" command
- 2 Start in a "sit" position and then have the puppy lie down by taking a treat, lowering it between your pet's front paws and pulling the treat forward while saying "down"
- 3 If your puppy does not lie all the way down, slowly push the treat between the paws
- 4 When the puppy lies down, give it the treat and of course add "Good dog!"

*If the puppy stands up, start over with the puppy sitting again.*





## TRAVEL TRAINING

- 1 Practice by sitting in the car, playing and giving a treat to your puppy to increase comfort
- 2 Take a few short rides before any long trips, go for a walk or play in the yard before leaving
- 3 Always keep proper identification and current tags on your puppy
- 4 Keep your pet on a leash, even if they normally respond to voice commands, as they may spook easily in new environments
- 5 Bring an adequate supply of your pet's regular food and medication, as well as bowls, waste pick-up bags and a jug of cold water
- 6 To prevent risk of injury or discomfort, dogs should not be allowed to ride with their heads outside car windows

*If you have further training aspirations, you may check with your local obedience training facility, veterinarian or breeder for the best websites, training books and videos.*



## CONTROLLING CHEWING BEHAVIOR

- 1 Help establish a chewing preference by controlling what a puppy can chew on
- 2 Don't use old shoes or socks because the puppy will not be able to tell the difference between an "ok" shoe versus your brand-new ones
- 3 Ask your veterinarian or breeder which toys are appropriate for your new pet; make that toy the focus of fetch and play sessions

**Health Care** ....



Good health starts with good hygiene. Take care of the ears and eyes, as well as provide proper nutrition, to keep your puppy healthy.

### CARING FOR YOUR PUPPY'S EARS

- Check your puppy's ears for signs of irritation often during grooming
- Long-eared dogs need to have their ear canals checked more frequently because a portion of their ear (the pinna) covers the external auditory canal, keeping it from being well ventilated
- The type of hair growing on the ear (long, curly, short, etc.) is also an important factor
- To clean the ears, talk to your veterinarian about the best ear cleaner and method for your dog

### CARING FOR YOUR PUPPY'S EYES

- Clean your puppy's eyes of any discharge. There will always be some amount of tear-staining, which comes from the hair absorbing moisture produced by the eyes.
- When clearing your puppy's eyes of discharge, the preferred method is to use saline solution on a cotton ball or tissue. Ask your veterinarian about cleaning your puppy's eyes.

### PREVENTING LOSS

- Consider a microchip for your puppy
- Veterinarians insert microchips, which contain information on both the dog and owner, under the skin of the animal
- Many shelters scan dogs for chips, which will aid in a quick return home if a dog were to get loose

- Weekly ear inspections and prompt veterinary treatment at the first sign of infection are important—don't wait until your puppy is in pain or scratching at their ear
- Eye care is important for every breed of puppy



### Natural Defenses

Your puppy was born with natural defenses against disease, like the skin and coat, and intestinal mucosa. Their immune system defenses go through a critical period of development from 4-12 weeks old.

- ❑ Vaccinations supplement the natural defenses of a dog
- ❑ Natural defenses are affected by stress, injuries and weather conditions
- ❑ Vaccinations can be started as early as six to eight weeks
- ❑ Use a Health and Immunization Record to keep track of your pet's vaccinations

#### COAT AND SKIN

The body needs to be protected from temperature changes, traumas, UV radiation and infectious organisms.

#### INTESTINAL MUCOSA

The intestinal mucosa acts as a natural barrier against some adverse external factors in the digestive tract. A dog's intestinal flora multiplies to prevent potentially dangerous bacteria from developing.

#### IMMUNE SYSTEM

As with humans, the puppy's immune system is a powerful defense mechanism that protects against free radicals, weather conditions, infectious agents, pollution and stress.

#### VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations help prevent contagious and sometimes fatal diseases. Some are mandatory while others are only recommended, and all are most effective when they are given at fixed dates with booster vaccinations as directed by your veterinarian. Puppies usually begin a vaccination program at the age of six to eight weeks.

Your veterinarian will help you choose the right vaccinations for your puppy, depending on lifestyle and environment risks. Tell the veterinarian where your puppy will spend time (boarding kennels, in the woods, traveling outside the country, etc.) and what activities the two of you will participate in (such as sporting events), as special vaccinations may be required.

*For your convenience, we have included a Health and Immunization Record in your new Puppy Kit.*

*Keep this with your other pet records, and take them with you when you go to see your vet.*





## Ticks

Ask your veterinarian about flea and tick preventatives.

- Ticks attach to a puppy's skin, preferring the most delicate areas
- Ticks pierce the skin, inject special saliva to create a strong attachment, consume their blood meal, and then drop off
- To remove a tick from your pet, wet a cotton ball with alcohol and rub on the tick and the surrounding skin of your dog
- Grasp the tick carefully with a pair of tweezers and gently work the tick off your pet
- Make sure you remove the tick's head to prevent abscess formation
- Use a new cotton ball to clean the bite area after the tick is removed

## Worms

- Puppies can be dewormed after they are two weeks old as a preventive measure
- A multipurpose dewormer is used, usually consisting of several anthelmintics providing a broad spectrum of protection
- The dose should be adjusted for the puppy's weight
- Ask your veterinarian about deworming treatments. Heartworm preventative usually includes dewormer.
- Stool analysis can reveal worm eggs, which can be more specifically targeted
- Your veterinarian can take your puppy's characteristics into account to decide if pills, paste or liquid treatment is best
- Some treatments can be given in one dose, others require several doses

## Fleas

To effectively combat fleas, the puppy owner must understand how to intervene in the various stages of the parasite's life cycle.

- Flea larvae hide from the light: in nooks and crannies, under rugs, in cushions and between floorboards
- At one or two weeks, larva forms a treatment-resistant cocoon and can lie dormant for up to five months
- The presence of animals or humans triggers adult fleas to hatch, leading to flea infestation in a matter of hours
- Adult fleas jump onto a dog and bite to consume blood
- Treatments take one of three forms: preventing reproduction, halting the development of larvae and killing adult fleas
- Insecticides kill all the adult fleas on the dogs living in the area
- Antiparasitic sprays or "spot on" treatments kill fleas as they feed, but must be repeated monthly
- Pills that kill the fleas as they infest must also be repeated monthly
- Insect growth regulators (IGRs) prevent fleas from developing in the environment and kill adult fleas
- Insect growth regulators can be harmless to some domestic animals and humans, but the entire area must be dusted and thoroughly cleaned before application
- The vacuum cleaner and the closet where it is kept should also be treated
- In good weather, it may be necessary to treat the yard as well
- Your veterinarian is the best source of flea and tick preventatives (see above)

### An Important Decision

Deciding whether to spay or neuter is an important choice that must be considered carefully. It is important to weigh any potential benefits of spaying or neutering against the possibility of being able to breed your dog in the future. Health concerns may also influence your decision to spay or neuter your puppy.

### Potential Benefits of Spaying or Neutering Your Puppy

#### MALES

- Reduces roaming behavior and fighting with other dogs
- Eliminates or reduces the risk of certain kinds of cancer, including testicular and prostate cancer
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors
- Reduces or eliminates marking from other males
- Prevents unwanted litters
- Eliminates the spread of sexually transmitted diseases

#### FEMALES

- Eliminates male dogs entering or trying to get into your yard during heat
- Eliminates or reduces the occurrence of certain kinds of cancer, including mammary, ovarian and uterine cancer
- Eliminates bleeding that would otherwise last three weeks every six months
- Prevents unwanted litters



- Spaying or neutering is an important choice that you should consider carefully
- May reduce aggressive behavior
- Will prevent unwanted litters



**First Aid** .....  
.....

## Supplies for Your Puppy First-Aid Kit

- Bandaging materials: gauze, pads and rolls, rolled cotton and self-adhesive elastic wraps
- Cotton balls
- Extra blankets
- Rectal thermometer
- Scissors
- Towels
- Tweezers

Even if you provide your puppy with everything they need—regular grooming and veterinarian check-ups, an appropriate diet, lots of love and care—accidents can still happen. It's important to be prepared for these situations, and knowing what to do may save your pet's life.

Read this section carefully and review it periodically. Please keep this guide and your veterinarian's phone number handy in the event of an emergency.

### CHECKING VITAL SIGNS

- Use rectal thermometers for pets—newer human digital thermometers are best
- Heart rate can be checked by placing a hand over the dog's chest
- Respiration can be measured by observing the flanks or holding a wet finger in front of the nostrils
- Measure both rates for 15 seconds, then multiply by four to get the rate per minute
- Make sure the dog is in a calm, resting state to ensure normal rates

### HANDLING AND TRANSPORTING

- Don't assume a dog won't bite or scratch, even if the dog is normally gentle
- Don't try to comfort an injured dog by hugging and don't put your face near their head
- Muzzle dogs if necessary with gauze or soft towel strips, wrap small dogs in a towel
- Perform any examinations slowly and gently; stop if the pet becomes agitated
- Don't attempt to lift or drag a large injured dog. Improve a stretcher out of a board, throw rug, child's sled, etc.
- Before transporting, try to stabilize injuries—rolled magazines or newspapers can serve as impromptu splints
- Pad the injured limb and splint generously with rolled cotton and gauze, if available, or improvise with pillows, pieces of blanket, towels, etc.
- Make sure the splint immobilizes joints above and below the site of the injury



### Normal Vital Signs

**Heart Rate:**  
80–160 beats/minute

**Respiration:**  
10–20 breaths/minute

**Temperature:**  
101°–102.5° F

**Abnormal Temperatures:**  
Below 100° F, Above 103° F



There are many items that are known poisons to dogs. Just like with children, make sure these items are locked up so your puppy can't get into them.

For more information on poisonous substances, or for an item that isn't listed here, please consult **ASPCA's Animal Poison Control at 1-800-548-2423** (fee charged for certain services).

## Signs of Poisoning

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Salivation

- Abnormal urine  
*(color, aroma or odor, frequency)*

- Weakness

*If your dog ingests harmful foods or chemicals, contact a veterinarian or poison control center immediately.*

## TOXIC FOODS

- Almonds
- Apricots
- Avocados
- Balsam pears
- Chocolate
- Coffee grounds
- Fatty foods
- Grapes
- Japanese plums
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Mushrooms *(if also toxic to humans)*
- Onions and onion powder
- Pear and peach kernels
- Raisins
- Xylitol-sweetened products
- Yeast dough

## COMMON POISONOUS HOUSEHOLD SUBSTANCES

- Alcohol
- Acetaminophen
- Antifreeze and other car fluids
- Bleach

- Boric acid
- Cleaning products
- Compost piles
- Deodorants
- De-icing salts
- Detergents
- Disinfectants
- Drain cleaners
- Flea products *(used incorrectly or due to individual hypersensitivity)*
- Fertilizers
- Furniture polish
- Gasoline
- Hair colorings
- Insecticides
- Kerosene
- Matches
- Mothballs
- Nail polish and remover
- Paint
- Pennies, post 1982 *(due to the high concentration of zinc)*
- Prescription and non-prescription medicine
- Potpourri, liquid

- Rat poison
- Rubbing alcohol
- Shoe polish
- Sleeping pills
- Snail or slug bait
- Turpentine
- Vitamins *(human or overdose of pet vitamins)*
- Weed killers
- Windshield washer fluid

## TOXIC PLANTS

- Azaleas
- Dieffenbachia
- Lilies
- Rhododendrons
- Rhubarb
- Sago palm
- Spinach
- Tomato and potato leaves and stems
- Tulip and narcissus bulbs
- Mistletoe
- Mushrooms and toadstools *(if also toxic to humans)*
- Wild cherry

\*This list is not comprehensive of all poisonous substances



## Emergency Action Steps

The following situations generally require veterinary attention. These action steps are designed to help you stabilize your pet while veterinary help is being obtained.

### Bee or Wasp Sting

- 1 Apply cold pack.
- 2 Call your veterinarian.
- 3 In case of severe swelling or difficulty breathing, transport to clinic immediately.

### Choking

- 1 Gently pull tongue forward and inspect mouth and throat.
- 2 If foreign object is spotted, hold the mouth open and attempt to remove it by hand, with tweezers, or a pair of small pliers. Take care not to push the object farther down the dog's throat.
- 3 If dog is not breathing, start CPR. Ask your vet about CPR.

#### *Possible causes:*

Foreign object (needle, bone, food, plant material) lodged in throat, esophagus or teeth; allergic reaction.

### Bleeding

- 1 Arterial bleeding requires immediate veterinary attention.

Arterial blood will be bright red, will bleed in spurts and will be difficult to stop.

- 2 Apply a clean cloth or sterile gauze to the wound.
- 3 Apply direct pressure for at least five to seven minutes to stop bleeding.

Don't apply a tourniquet unless absolutely necessary.

### Heat Stroke

- 1 Place in cool shaded area. Immediately bathe dog with tepid water; do not use ice or very cold water.

Do not leave pet unattended while soaking, even if conscious.

- 2 Monitor rectal temperature. When temperature drops to 103° F, dry your pet off.
- 3 Transport to clinic. Continue to monitor temperature.

Do not allow animal to become excessively chilled.

#### *Possible causes:*

Excessive heat and/or lack of shade, overexertion, lack of water (dogs differ in how much heat they can tolerate—even mildly warm, humid temperatures can stress some pets).



## Limping

- 1 Attempt to localize injury through gentle inspection.

Once localized, examine affected area to check for pain, heat, injury and swelling.

- 2 If a fracture is suspected, gently stabilize limb for transport. See Handling and Transporting Tips on page 26.
- 3 Cover any wounds with a clean cloth. See Bleeding.

### *Possible causes:*

Broken limb or digit, injury to footpad, dislocation, sprain, muscle soreness.

## Unconsciousness

- 1 In case of drowning, clear the lungs of fluid. Lift dog's hindquarters high over their head and squeeze chest firmly until fluid stops draining.
- 2 In case of electrical shock, DO NOT touch the pet until they are no longer in contact with electricity source.
- 3 In case of airway obstruction, the object will need to be gently removed. See Choking.
- 4 If dog is not breathing, start CPR. Ask your vet about CPR.

### *Possible causes:*

Drowning, electrocution, trauma, drug ingestion.

## Vomiting

- 1 Examine vomit for blood or other clues as to cause.
- 2 Gently press on stomach to detect any abdominal pain.

Withhold all food and water until a veterinarian has been consulted.

- 3 If poisoning is suspected, bring a sample of the suspected poison, preferably in its original packaging, to the veterinarian.

**Abdominal pain, enlarged stomach and unproductive vomiting are serious signs. Call your veterinarian immediately.**

### *Possible causes:*

Poisoning, abdominal injury, motion sickness, disease, overeating, fear, brain injury, parasites.





# Your Pet's Health and Immunization Record



## PET'S INFORMATION

Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pedigree Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Acquired: \_\_\_\_\_

Where Acquired: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH EXAM DATES

Distemper/Hepatitis/ Parainfluenza					
Parvovirus					
Rabies (1yr.)					
Rabies (3yr.)					
Bordetella					
Leptospirosis					
Coronavirus					
Lyme Disease (Borrelia)					
Deworming					
Fecal Exam					
Heartworm Exam					
Body Condition Score					
Other					



## What Makes Royal Canin Different?

- Nutritional philosophy **based on the science of nutrients over ingredients**
- Product philosophy of **precise nutrition for breed, size, age and therapeutic condition**
- Founded by a veterinarian, Royal Canin continues to **collaborate and partner with leading veterinary colleges and universities**, breeders and other pet experts to better understand pet health nutrition
- Royal Canin Healthy Pet diets are **manufactured exclusively in company-owned plants**
  - **100% satisfaction guaranteed**

Want to learn more? Visit [www.royalcanin.com](http://www.royalcanin.com)



1-800-592-6687 • [www.royalcanin.com](http://www.royalcanin.com)

