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CONGRATULATIONS!

You have a new puppy.

We are pleased that you have chosen our team to care for this newest member of your family.

You've anticipated the new arrival by "puppy-proofing" your home and had lots of fun choosing a carrier, bed, blanket, toys, and other supplies he/she will need. This frisky creature is sure to bring you much joy. In return, you can make a major contribution to your dog's longevity, happiness and quality of life by providing him/her with good nutrition, loving attention in a safe environment and regular visits to us.

In the coming weeks and months, as you watch your puppy grow, you will most likely have questions. In this puppy pack, we have compiled some information that we hope will help answer those questions. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, please do not hesitate to call us- we are an enormous resource for you.

We enjoy watching puppies grow and mature from little balls of fur into all their adult glory, so please bring your puppy in anytime for a weight check, treats or just for some love from us. We look forward to see you again.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmen Chan and the team at the Point Grey Veterinary Hospital

604-228-9633

www.pointgreyvet.com



VACCINES

Protecting your best friend

One of the most important things you can do to give your dog a long and healthy life is to ensure that he/she is vaccinated against common canine diseases. Your dog's dam (mother) gave her puppies immunity from disease for the first few weeks of existence by providing disease-fighting antibodies in her milk. After that period, it's up to you, with our help and advice, to provide that protection.

When should my dog be vaccinated?

The immunity that a puppy has at birth begins to diminish sometime between 6 and 12 weeks of age. The first set is usually given by the breeder between 6 and 8 weeks. The general rule of thumb is a set of vaccines is required every 4 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks of age or older. Thereafter, your dog will require vaccines at a regular interval, typically once yearly. Some of the vaccines we give only need boosters every 3 years once the dog has reached full maturity. You will need to follow our puppy vaccine schedule quite closely; if you wait too long between vaccine boosters, you may have to start all over again.

Which vaccines should my dog receive?

We believe that dogs should be protected against those diseases which are most common, highly contagious and can cause serious illness/death. Such diseases include Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Canine Parvovirus and Rabies. Other vaccines may be recommended based on risk factors such as heredity, environment and lifestyle.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines contain small quantities of altered or "killed" viruses, bacteria or other disease causing organisms. When administered, they stimulate your dog's immune system to produce disease-fighting cells and proteins (called antibodies) to protect against disease.

How effective is vaccination?

Like any drug treatment or surgical procedure, vaccinations cannot be 100% guaranteed. However, used in conjunction with proper nutrition and acceptable sanitary conditions, vaccination is clearly your dog's best defense against disease.

Types of Vaccination

a) Canine Distemper

Vaccination against this often fatal, hard to treat disease is absolutely essential. Highly contagious, it is spread by discharge from the nose and eyes of infected dogs. Symptoms can include listlessness, fever, coughing, diarrhea and vomiting. Convulsions and paralysis may occur in the final stages before death. The virus attacks many organs, including the nervous system, which may be permanently damaged. While not common here in Vancouver, an outbreak could devastate the local dog population if enough dogs are not vaccinated.

b) Canine Parvovirus

Very contagious, debilitating and widespread, parvovirus has a mortality rate of up to 90% in puppies. Spread through feces, the highly resistant virus can remain in the environment for many months. Symptoms include high fever, listlessness, profound vomiting and diarrhea. Vaccination is the only certain method of preventing this terrible disease. We see cases of parvovirus every year at our practice and many do not survive.

c) Infectious Canine Hepatitis

Caused by Adenovirus type 1, this disease is transmitted by secretions such as saliva, infected urine or feces. Its symptoms are similar to those of the early stages of distemper. Causing liver failure, eye damage and breathing problems, the course of this disease can range from mild to fatal. We don't see a lot of this disease here in Vancouver and we'd really like it to stay that way.

d) Rabies

This vaccine is required by law. You have the right to decline this vaccine, but we will always recommend it. Rabies is a highly fatal virus that causes neurological disease in affected animals. Dogs, cats, bats, skunks, raccoons and many other animals can get this disease. Humans can become infected and die from this disease as well. Once a person/animal shows signs of this disease, it is fatal and there is no treatment. In British Columbia, the primary source of rabies is bats and we definitely have bats in Vancouver! In 2007 around Maple Ridge, an indoor unvaccinated cat died from Rabies after playing with a rabid bat that flew into the house.

e) Canine Cough

Any dog that goes to dog parks, kennels, daycares, groomers or interacts with other dogs should be vaccinated annually. We see many dozens of cases of Canine Cough each year in our own practice here in West Point Grey. The vast majority are unvaccinated dogs. Canine cough is characterized by a harsh, hacking cough which most people describe as sounding like "something stuck in my dog's throat." It is an airborne, highly contagious disease. Some dogs get better without treatment, but some dogs may develop pneumonia without antibiotics.

f) Leptospirosis

This vaccine is given annually only to dogs deemed "at risk." Any dog that has access to stagnant water (puddles, even in the back yard/slow moving water/ditches) should be vaccinated against this serious disease that may be transmitted to humans. There are generally a few dozen cases a year in GVRD. The most common areas of disease have been Pacific Spirit Park, North Shore mountains, Stanley Park and the Fraser Valley!

The signs of the disease can vary, but usually include vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, dehydration, lethargy and fever. The Leptospirosis bacteria cause liver and kidney failure and those affected often die. As stated above, humans can get this disease as well.

WE FOLLOW THE AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES FOR OUR VACCINATION PROTOCOLS. Ask us if you'd like more information about vaccines and your dog.



FEEDING GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUPPIES

1. Do not leave food out all day.
2. Feed controlled portions 3-4 times/day until the puppy is 6 months of age. Thereafter, 1-2 meals/day are acceptable. Remove any uneaten food after 20-30 minutes. Ideally, keep a log of food intake to monitor how much he/she eats and weighs.
3. Weigh and monitor body condition every 1-2 weeks. Use a “walk-on” scale, like the one we have for larger puppies. Rapidly growing, large and giant breed puppies have a very steep growth curve; food requirements can change quickly in a short time.
4. Monitor body condition score (BCS). It is the easiest if you stand over the puppy and look for an obvious waist behind the ribcage. With an ideal BCS, you should be able to feel the ribs but not see them very well and the waistline should be obvious. If too thin, the ribs and pelvic bones are easily seen. If overweight, the waistline disappears and the ribs are hard to feel.
5. Feed in a quiet place. Some dogs eat too much or too quickly, especially in the presence of other pets/people.
6. Avoid feeding just prior to or just after exercise.
7. Feed healthy treats. Most treats are very high in calories (and salt). Treats have to be taken into account when calculating how many calories your puppy needs daily, particularly for those pups that may be receiving lots of “rewards” at obedience class. MediCal Treats are a great option.
8. Avoid supplements. There are currently more health problems encountered by “overdoing” nutrition than by “under-doing” nutrition.
9. Do not feed raw meat. These diets are not well balanced and are a health hazard to you and your pet.
10. Do not feed bones because they may splinter and pieces may become lodged in the digestive system. They may also fracture teeth.



PUPPY MANNERS

Bite Inhibition

Much of a puppy's early life is spent roughhousing and play fighting with littermates. Typically, the pups roll around try to bite each other's legs, ears, tail and scruff. Eventually, one puppy bites too hard and the one that was bitten lets out a sharp, high-pitched yelp. The biter is usually startled by the sudden, loud noise and the play session momentarily ends. After a while, the puppy learns that it is his/her own rambunctious and aggressive behavior that causes the frightening noise and the end of a fun game. This is how dogs learn to play and bite each other gently. Using this same method, we can teach our puppy that biting humans is inappropriate. Play with your puppy. Each and every time he/she bites, let out a loud, high pitched screech, then walk away and ignore him/her for a while. Do not hit your puppy. The scream and end of play are enough punishment. You want your puppy to learn to be extremely gentle, so anytime your puppy's teeth touch you, immediately "yelp," even if it doesn't hurt.

Another way to teach and remind your dog to be gentle with his/her teeth is to offer a food treat and ask him to "take it gently." If the attempt is gentle, give lots of praise and let him/her have the treat. If teeth even touch your hand, act as though you've been hurt and don't let him have the treat until she/he is more gentle.

Confidence Building

When it comes to confidence building or helping your dog overcome insecurities, your only option is to teach your dog through experience. You must show and prove to your dog over and over that certain things are not threatening and there is no need to feel insecure, defensive or aggressive.

Dogs do not naturally like to be held, squeezed or grabbed. They need to learn not to squirm and bite while being groomed, examined by a veterinarian or just touched and petted by overly affectionate people, especially children. While performing a handling exercise, if your dog objects or acts frightened, proceed more slowly. It is better to go too slowly and succeed, than to go too quickly and fail. Every time the experience is unpleasant, it will take longer to convince your dog that there's no reason to be concerned. Here are some examples.

EAR CLEANING: It is important to be gentle and patient while gradually building your dog's confidence to accept and enjoy an ear exam. First, playfully scratch him/her behind the ears then gently hold the ear for one second. If she/he doesn't object, praise profusely and perhaps reward with a food treat. Then try holding the ear for two seconds, three seconds and so on before giving a treat. Your dog should soon get the idea that having the ears handled is a good thing.

BRUSHING TEETH: Proper oral hygiene is one of the foundations of a long and healthy life. Spend time getting your pup accustomed to having his/her mouth handled. Use a similar technique as you would for training for ear cleaning. Flavored toothpastes that don't need to be rinsed help make the process very rewarding. Ask us how.

TOE NAIL TRIMMING: By following a positive reward system as for ear cleaning, you should be able to make nail trims easy and quick. Ask for a demonstration if you need help.

Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions at 604-228-9633.



BASIC OBEDIENCE TRAINING FOR YOUR DOG

Dogs are naturally attentive to the body language and voices of their owners. By observing us, a dog learns to anticipate our intent. By consistently associating a certain word with a dog's specific action, you can communicate with your dog.

Obedience commands allow you to teach your dog a desirable behaviour in any given situation. Practicing obedience is also good exercise and provides him/her with mental stimulation. In addition, your dog will enjoy the constructive social interaction, for which she/he is rewarded with your praise. Skills should be practiced everywhere; in your house, on walks, wherever you take your dog. This provides additional practice, but also ensures your dog will obey you wherever you are.

Obedience training is not punishment, but an enjoyable interaction for both you and your dog. Various commands should be practiced during training and applied throughout the routine of each day and over the course of a dog's lifetime.

When to Begin Training

The best time to begin obedience training is the moment you acquire your dog. As soon as your puppy begins exploring his/her environment, she/he begins to learn what types of behaviour are acceptable and which are not. They start learning the second they walk through the door.

Behaviour learned early, desirable or not, is the basis for all future patterns as an adult. This does not mean that adult dogs are not trainable, however, appropriate habits should be instilled from the start. The earlier you start the better. Once your puppy is vaccinated against the common puppy diseases, puppy classes provide essential training for you and your pup. In addition, your puppy will be able to interact with other pups and become a good canine citizen later in life.

Basic Obedience Commands

The five basic commands you should teach your dog are "sit, down, come, heel" and "stay."

Issue the command the same way each time to avoid confusion. This is particularly important when your dog is first learning. Use the command alone, not in the middle of the sentence. Precede each command by saying the dog's name in a firm, but gentle tone. This will get your dog's attention. If you don't say his/her name first, your dog may not realize that you are addressing him/her. The commands should also be said in a firm, low tone.

Exhibit a calm but controlled attitude, conveying authority without anger. There is one exception. The command "come" should always be said in a light and happy tone. Your dog must never anticipate any problems when you issue this command, otherwise he/she may not respond to the command and learn to avoid you.

Inform all family members and frequent visitors of your rules. Everyone's consistent commands will avoid confusion when interacting with your dog. Review command words and their meaning with other people. Practicing obedience training with your dog and visitors can be an enjoyable activity for all.

Hand Signals

Consistent use of hand gestures in conjunction with verbal commands is useful to basic training. By making the hand signal each time you pronounce the corresponding voice command, your dog will eventually make the association between the hand signal and the behaviour. Some even opt to use hand signals only. This is a more advanced level of obedience.

Praise and other Positive Reinforcement

At your dog's first sign of obedience (within ½ second), offer immediate and generous praise. Do not wait until your dog has complied. Praise as the dog begins to obey to associate your command with that action.

Praise may be verbal and the tone should be soft and soothing. "Good dog" and "yes" are 2 commonly used praises. You may also praise your dog using an affectionate gesture, such as a caress or a pat on the head.

A food treat can help improve a dog's motivation to cooperate but should not be used continually, particularly for puppies. If you are retraining a misbehaving or recently acquired adult dog, his/her cooperation may be better by supplementing your praise with a small food treat. A food reward, unlike other forms of praise, need not be given at every command.

Your dog can learn which behaviour is acceptable and which is inappropriate depending on your response. For example, when a young dog hears a noise in the yard, his/her first reaction may be to jump at the windowsill and bark. This may be acceptable to some owners. If you respond to this by saying "good dog" and pat her/his head, chances are that your dog will bark the next time it hears a noise. If you say nothing, the barking will likely continue. If you respond sternly by saying "no" and not following with a new command, the dog will probably resume barking. If you respond by saying "no" and follow this immediately with an alternative and appropriate command such as "sit," your pet will learn not only what you disapprove of, but what you do approve of.

Be patient and never punish. The opposite of reward is no reward. Punishment may interfere with your bond with the dog. If your dog is doing something he/she shouldn't, then distract your dog and use a reward for responding to a command which is incompatible with the unwanted behaviour.

Choosing a Leash and Collar

Nylon leashes and collars are adequate and effective for most dogs. For those with a medical condition, a harness may be used. Metal choke chains are not necessary unless other collars are ineffective to control misbehaviour. For large dogs, with muscular necks and those that resist training, a "toothed" choke chain may be used. All types of choke chains need to be used firmly, but without excessive force or injury will likely ensue.

A less severe, more preferred option to the choke chains is the head halter. Available in several models, a nylon lead encircles both the neck and muzzle of the dog. This halter can be used on dogs that pull on the leash, jump up on people and bark at other dogs during the walks. These halters work particularly well because they turn the dog's head in the direction of the pull, enabling the handler to more easily divert the dog's attention to themselves.

As far as leashes go, for training sessions a short leash is best. Retractable leashes and harnesses are not suitable for training.

Daily Training Sessions

During the initial phase of obedience training, you should practice obedience training in 1 or 2 daily sessions of 15 to 30 minutes each. For young puppies, 10-15 minutes is enough. During these formal training sessions, practice the 5 basic commands in each room of your home. Then, your dog will learn to obey you regardless of where you are. Use a leash at first so your dog will be more compliant and understand that you are in control. Once your dog is reliably obedient, then stop using the leash.

In addition to indoor training, practice obedience when out for walks. This will teach your dog obedience, regardless of distractions. Use a leash outdoors until your dog is extraordinarily obedient.

Learning occurs more rapidly if one person does the training first, then get other members involved.

The leash is not intended to prevent your dog from enjoying life. It should be viewed as a life-line between you and your dog. If there is any question whether or not your dog will listen to you, use a leash; it could save his/her life.

In addition to formal training sessions, obedience skills should be continually reinforced by applying them to your interactions throughout the day. From the moment you acquire your dog, make him/her earn the rewards.

Do not feed, walk, brush or play with your dog without asking the dog to perform an obedience skill. For example, if your dog follows you to the kitchen, ask her/him to "heel" as she/he walks by your side. Ask for a "sit" as you prepare her/his meal. Make her/him, "sit/stay" when putting the leash on or taking it off.

Obedience must be practiced throughout a dog's lifetime, so the skills are not lost. In the absence of clear and consistent behavioural guidance, your dog could regress to unacceptable activities at any age.

View every episode of misbehaviour as an opportunity to teach obedience. Just as wild and undisciplined behaviour can be intentionally or unintentionally taught, appropriate, calm and controlled behaviour can be taught. Do not just scold your dog when it misbehaves. Rather, ask for a desirable alternative activity by giving a command, such as "down/stay." If your puppy is chewing on your favourite chair, say "no" and immediately place an acceptable chew toy in his/her mouth. If your dog greets guests by jumping up on them, place your dog in a "sit" or "down/stay" position when visitors arrive.

Training should be consistent in a variety of situations. If you want your guests to be greeted calmly, train your dog to greet you in the same way. Double standards of behaviour will only confuse your dog and create behaviour problems. Consistency is fundamental for a well trained and socially acceptable dog.

Professional Trainers

Professional trainers are there to help you train your dog, not to train your dog for you. Please do not simply send your dog away to be trained. If you need help finding a great trainer, we may be able to provide you with some suggestions.

COMMAND (precede always with dog's name)	USE AND RESPONSE	SUGGESTED HAND SIGNAL	LEASH CUE	MANUAL REINFORCEMENT
"Sit"	Dog sits on haunches, a submissive position with dog on a lower plane	Move hand upwards by flexing wrist, with arm held still	Short firm and gentle upward tug to get dog's attention	Firmly and gently press on dog's lower back to collapse rear legs
"Down"	Dog rests on haunches and chest, most submissive position	Move hand downward or point one finger downward	Short and gentle downward tug, you may pull down to keep dog's head down as he/she assumes this position	With dog sitting, firmly and gently grasp front legs above paws and pull forward to collapse chest to floor or press downward on dog's shoulders
"Come"	Dog approaches from any distance	Gently pat your thighs or widely open your arms in greeting	Gently pull your dog toward you	If dog hesitates, gently pull dog toward you, use a happy voice, use a treat
"Heel"	Dog assumes position at your left side with nose at your left knee, while moving about	Pat your left leg at the hip using your left hand	Short upward tug to get your dog's attention	Keep dog on a very short leash by your left side, with no slack
"Stay"	Holds dog in current position, best understood when used after "sit" or "down"	Hold open palm directly in front of dog's face with fingers pointing upward, back slowly away and keep palm open to maintain dog's attention	None needed	If dog leaves stay, firmly and gently repeat the first command (eg: "sit") then repeat the "stay" command, begin with very brief stays at short distances and over several weeks slowly increase the time and distance



FIRST AID FOR YOUR PET

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

Bleeding

Possible causes: Car accident, animal fight, fall, severe wound, clotting problem, rat poisoning

Action steps

- Arterial bleeding is an immediate life-threatening situation if the vessel is large. Arterial blood will be bright red, will bleed in “spurts,” will be difficult to stop and requires immediate veterinary attention.
- For any type of bleeding, place a clean cloth or sterile gauze over the injured area.
- Apply direct pressure for at least 5-7 minutes to stop bleeding.

Unconsciousness

Possible causes: Drowning, electrocution, trauma, drug ingestion

Action steps

- In case of drowning, clear the lungs of fluid. Lift animal’s hindquarters high over head and squeeze chest firmly until chest stops draining.
- In case of electrical shock, DO NOT touch the pet until it is no longer in contact with electricity source.
- In case of airway obstruction, the object will need to be gently removed. See “Choking.”
- If animal is not breathing and has no pulse see “CPR.”

Vomiting

Possible causes: Poisoning, abdominal injury, motion sickness, disease, overeating, fear, brain injury, parasites

Action steps

- Examine vomit for blood or other clues as to cause.
- If poisoning is suspected, bring a sample of the suspected poison, preferably in its original packaging.
- Gently press on stomach to detect any abdominal pain.
- Withhold all food and water until you call us or another veterinarian.

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

Choking

Possible causes: Foreign object (needle, bone, food, plant material) lodged in throat, oesophagus or teeth, allergic reaction

Action steps

- Gently pull tongue forward and inspect mouth and throat.
- If a foreign object is spotted, hold the mouth open and attempt to remove it by hand, with tweezers or pair of small pliers. Take care not to push the object farther down the throat.
- If animal is not breathing, see “CPR.”

Heat Stroke

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

Action Steps

- Place in a cool and shaded area.
- Immediately bathe animal with tepid water (do not leave pet unattended while soaking even if conscious).
- Monitor rectal temperature. When temperature drops to 103 F/38 C, dry pet.
- Continue monitoring temperature and transport to a veterinarian.

Do not allow the pet to become excessively chilled.

Limping

Possible causes: Broken limb or digit, acute arthritis, injury to foot pad, dislocation, sprain, muscle soreness, neurological disease

Action Steps

- Attempt to localize injury through gentle inspection.
- Once localized, examine affected area to check for pain, heat, injury and swelling.
- If fracture is suspected, gently stabilize limb for transport. See "Handling and Transportation Tips."
- Cover any wounds with a clean cloth. See "Bleeding."

Bee or Wasp Sting

Action Steps

- Bee stings are acid; neutralize with baking soda.
- Wasp stings are alkaline; neutralize with vinegar or lemon juice.
- Apply cold pack.
- Apply calamine or antihistamine cream.
- In case of severe swelling or difficulty breathing, transport to a veterinarian right away.

HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION TIPS

- Don't assume your pet won't bite or scratch.
- Don't try to comfort an injured pet by hugging it. Don't put your face near its head.
- Muzzle dogs if necessary with gauze, soft towel strips, or stockings. Wrap cats or other small animals in a towel or place in a carrier.
- Perform any examinations slowly and gently. Stop if pet becomes agitated.
- Don't attempt to lift or drag a large dog. Improvise a stretcher out of a board, throw rug or child's plastic toboggan, etc.
- Before transport, try to stabilize injuries. Rolled magazines or newspapers can serve as impromptu splints. Pad limb generously with rolled cotton and gauze if on hand, or improvise with pillows, pieces of blanket, towels etc. Make sure splint immobilizes joint above and below injury.

CPR (CARDIO PULMONARY RESUCITATION)

- Lay animal on side and remove any obstructions in airway (open mouth, pull tongue forward, extend neck and sweep mouth with finger).
- If airway is clear, extend neck, hold tongue out of mouth and gently close animal's jaw over tongue.
- Holding jaw closed, breathe into animal's nostrils for 5-6 breaths. If no response, continue artificial respiration. If there is no pulse, begin cardiac compressions.
- Cardiac compressions: Depress widest part of chest wall 1.5 to 3 inches with one or 2 hands.
 - Dogs over 30kg = 60 times/min
 - Animals 5-30kg = 80-100 times/min
 - Animals less than 5kg = 120-140 times/min (place hand around rib cage and apply cardiac massage)
- Continue artificial respiration
 - Dogs over 30kg = 12 breaths/min
 - Animals 5-30kg = 16-20 breaths/min
 - Animals less than 5kg = 30+ breaths/min

VITAL SIGNS

a) What should they be?

- Normal temperature: dogs and cats = 38-39.2 degrees Celsius (100.4-102.5 F)
- Normal heart rate: dogs = 60-160 beats/min, cats = 160-200 beats/min
- Normal respiratory rate: dogs = 10-30 breaths/min, cats = 20-30 breaths/min

b) How do you check them?

- Use rectal, not oral, thermometers for pets. Human digital thermometers are best.
- Heart rate can be checked by placing a hand over pet's chest just behind elbows.
- Respiration can be measured by observing the flanks or holding a wet finger in front of nostrils
- Measure both rates for 15 seconds, then multiply by 4 to get rate/min. Make sure pet is calm and resting to get normal rates.

c) HELPFUL ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND

- Gauze pads/rolls, rolled cotton and veterinary self-adhesive elastic wrap
- Thermometer
- Tweezers and pliers
- Antibiotic cream and antiseptic solution
- Calamine lotion
- Cotton swab sticks
- Blunt end scissors, to cut bandages or cut hair away from a wound
- Extra blankets, towels, pillows and tube socks for slipping over injured paw
- Eye dropper
- Transportation materials, such as a crate. A child's toboggan or a flat piece of board can be used to carry a larger dog.

**Our number: 604-228-9633
Vancouver Animal Emergency: 604-879-3737
Poison Control: 604-682-5050**

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PLEASE CALL US/THE EMERGENCY CLINIC TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING SO WE CAN BE PREPARED FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.



PLAY BEHAVIOUR IN DOGS

Puppies begin to play as soon as they can walk. Littermates commonly wrestle and chase each other, pulling on ears and tails. Through play with littermates, pups learn just how strong they are or how to turn circumstances to their advantage.

By the time he/she is weaned, each pup has formed an impression of its own abilities and social standing within the ranks of the litter. This forms the basis for adult behaviour, such as achievement of dominance, in relation to people and other dogs.

Play allows a young dog to practice important life skills without adult consequences. Play is one of the best ways to teach desirable behaviour to a pet by setting standards for a lifetime. By tolerating subtle, or not so subtle dominance behaviour even in young puppies, you may encourage inappropriate social patterns.

Undesirable Forms of Play

Wild and uncontrolled forms of play frequently lead to undesirable behaviour in juvenile and adult dogs. Games that encourage chasing and jumping on people promote aggressiveness. Don't encourage your puppy to mouth, chew, nip or nibble any article of clothing or part of person's body, even if he/she is behaving playfully. Avoid games that arouse your puppy's aggressive instincts, such as wrestling or tug of war with any object.

Forms of play that do not focus your puppy's attention on you or reinforce your authority may lead to misdirection of the puppy's energy.

Obedience Training During Appropriate Play

Use food treats if you believe this will keep your puppy's attention and give additional incentive to obey. Food treats should not become habitual, or they can actually work against you. Your puppy may not pay attention without them or could become finicky and work only for particular treats.

Your puppy will enjoy obeying your command to "sit," if this will earn the right to chase after a ball. Call your puppy to "come" as she/he retrieves the ball and to "sit" again once returned. Say "drop it" as she/he gives the ball back to you. This is a chance to practice obedience skills and provides your puppy additional opportunities to earn your praise.

Once your puppy is old enough, you may consider agility training, or dancing to continue to challenge and keep your puppy interested in obeying you through adulthood and beyond.



POISONOUS PLANTS

There are a great many plants that can be extremely dangerous or irritating to dogs when chewed. It is essential to dog-proof your house and garden by identifying these potentially toxic plants. These plants should be removed or carefully contained so that your dog cannot get to them. Here is a partial list of common plants reported to be toxic to dogs/cats. Please check with a plant nursery if you have any questions about the identity of any plants your dog may have access to.

<i>Aconitum</i> (Monkshood)	<i>Cycas revolute</i> (Sago Palm)	<i>Lilium</i> (Easter Lily)
<i>Actae</i> (Baneberry)	<i>Daphne</i> (Spurge Laurel)	<i>Lobelia</i> (Cardinal Flower)
<i>Allium</i> (Onion/Garlic)	<i>Datura</i> (Stinkweed)	<i>Lophophora</i> (Cactus)
<i>Amarylles</i>	<i>Delphenium</i> (Larkspur)	<i>Malus sylvestris</i> (Apple)
<i>Anemone</i>	<i>Dicentra</i> (Bleeding Heart)	<i>Melia azedarach</i> (China Tree)
<i>Argemone</i> (Prickly Poppy)	<i>Dieffenbachia</i> (Dumbcane)	<i>Monstera</i> (Mother-in-law Plant)
<i>Arisaema</i> (Jack in the Pulpit)	<i>Digitalis</i> (Foxglove)	<i>Narcissus</i> (Daffodil)
<i>Arum</i> (Black Calla)	<i>Epiprenum</i> (Pothos)	<i>Nerium</i> (Oleander)
<i>Astragalus</i> (Locoweed)	<i>Eupatorium</i> (Snakeroot)	<i>Nicotinia</i> (Tobacco)
<i>Atropa belladonna</i> (Nightshade)	<i>Euphorbia</i> (Crown of Thorns)	<i>Philodendron</i>
<i>Aucula japonica</i> (Japanese Laurel)	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> (Trumpet Flower)	<i>Phoradendron</i> (Mistletoe)
<i>Baptisia</i> (Indigo)	<i>Gloriosa</i> (Glory Lily)	<i>Pieris</i> (Japanese Andromeda)
<i>Brassica</i> (Mustard)	<i>Hedera helix</i> (English Ivy)	<i>Prunus</i> (Choke Cherry, Peach, Plum)
<i>Caesalpinia</i> (Bird of Paradise)	<i>Hemerocallis</i> (Day Lily)	<i>Ranunculus</i> (Buttercup)
<i>Calla palustris</i> (Will Calla)	<i>Hyacinthus</i> (Hyacinth)	<i>Rhododendron</i> (Azalea)
<i>Caltha</i> (Crowslip)	Hydrangea	<i>Ricinus communis</i> (Castor Bean)
<i>Caulopyllum thalictroides</i> (Blue Cohosh)	<i>Ilex</i> (Holly)	<i>Solanum</i> (Love Apple)
<i>Chenopodium</i> (Lamb's Quarters)	<i>Ipomeoa tricolour</i> (Morning Glory)	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i> (Bird of Paradise)
<i>Cicuta</i> (Water Hemlock)	Iris	<i>Symplo carpus</i> (Skunk Cabbage)
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i> (Autumn Crocus)	<i>Juglans</i> (Black Walnut)	<i>Taxus</i> (Japanese Yew)
<i>Colocasia</i> (Elephant's Ear)	<i>Kalmia</i> (Bog Laurel)	<i>Toxicodendron</i> (Poison Ivy)
<i>Conium</i> (California Fern)	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i> (Bean Tree)	<i>Urtica</i> (Nettle)
<i>Convallaria majalis</i> (Lily of the Valley)	Lantana	<i>Zantedeschia</i> (Calla Lily)
<i>Croton</i>	<i>Ligustra</i> (Privet)	<i>Zygadenus</i> (Death Camas)



WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS

- www.pointgreyvet.com Get to know us better!
- www.veterinarypartner.com Veterinary Information Network....a continuing education organization for veterinarians, this is their pet owner site.
- www.dentalvet.com Great site for information and pictures regarding dental disease in dogs and cats....Diagnosis, treatment and home care.
- www.BCVMA.org British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association web site
- www.CVMA-ACMV.org Canadian Veterinary Medical Association web site
- www.upei.ca/~cidd University of Prince Edward Island College of Veterinary Medicine Canine Inherited Disorders Database
- www.napcc.asPCA.org/ American SPCA National Animal Poison Control Center web site
- www.ckc.com Canadian Kennel Club
- www.growingupwithpets.ca Pet preventive health care, training tips, children and pets
- www.animaler.com Web site for the Vancouver Animal Emergency Clinic
- www.pethealthnetwork.com Web site about pets health, behavior and care