



# New Puppy Care

Thank you for choosing Bigger Road Vet; We look forward to partnering with you in the care of your new puppy!





# BIGGER ROAD VETERINARY CENTER

www.biggervet.com

*"Two Locations, One Passionate Team."*



## BIGGER ROAD VETERINARY CENTER: KETTERING

**(937) 435-3262**  
5655 Bigger Rd.  
Kettering, OH 45440

## HOURS: PHONE LINES OPEN AT 7:30AM

Monday - Friday: 7am - 6pm  
Saturday: 7:45am - 1pm  
Sunday: Closed

## BIGGER ROAD VETERINARY CENTER: SPRINGBORO

**(937) 514-7702**  
718 North Main St  
Springboro, OH 45066

## HOURS: PHONE LINES OPEN AT 7:30AM

Monday - Friday: 7am - 6pm  
Saturday: 7:45am - 1pm  
Sunday: Closed

## DAYTON CARE CENTER

**(937) 428-0911**  
6421 Clio Rd.  
Centerville, OH 45459

## HOURS:

24 hours a day  
7 days a week

## MEDVET DAYTON EMERGENCY

**(937) 293-2714**  
2714 Springboro West Rd  
Morgantown, OH 45439

## HOURS:

24 hours a day  
7 days a week

## PET POISON HELPLINE

**(855) 764-7661**  
Poison control services for pet owners and veterinarians.  
A credit card will be required for consult.

## HOURS:

24 hours a day  
7 days a week

### WE OFFER MANY VALUABLE SERVICES FOR YOUR PET:

- Acupuncture
- Pet Laser Therapy
- Diagnostics
- Dental Care
- Surgery
- Vaccinations
- Spay and Neuter
- Microchipping
- Wellness Exams
- Grooming
- DNA Testing
- Behavior Consults

Scan the QR code to learn more about our team, services, and all things Bigger Road Veterinary Center!

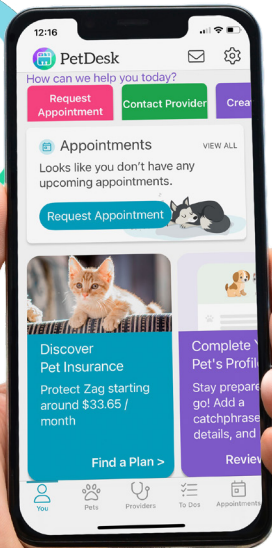
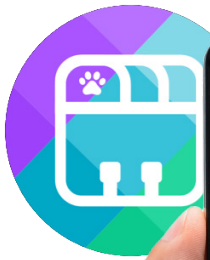


*A new puppy is a commitment, emotionally, physically, and financially. We do our best to make our services as accessible as possible by providing a variety of payment options.*





# SETTING YOUR PET UP FOR SUCCESS



At Bigger Road, we utilized and recommend **PetDesk**, a mobile app that supports client and veterinary provider communication, medication management, appointment requests, and pet health reminders.

To sign up:

- Open the **App Store** on your Mobile Phone
- Type in **"PetDesk"** in the Search Bar
- Install **"PetDesk - Pet Health Reminders"**
- Click **"Create Account"**
- Enter your name, the email you have on file with us, a password and the phone number you have on file with us
- Search **"Bigger Road Veterinary Center"** to link your account to our hospital.

At Bigger Road, we utilized the most up-to-date **Fear Free** practices to ensure your pet is comfortable in our hospital environment.



- If medically appropriate, reduce the amount of food your puppy eats before the visit. This can help prevent nausea with car travel as well as make the treats at the vet visit more appealing.
- Bring your puppy's favorite treats to use during the appointment, especially if your puppy is particular about what treats they enjoy.
- Budget plenty of time to avoid rushing.
- Provide your pet with an opportunity to relieve themselves prior to leaving your home and again before you come into the clinic.





# PUPPY SERVICE BREAKDOWN

## PHYSICAL EXAM

A comprehensive examination allows the doctor to evaluate your puppy's temperament, heart, ears, eyes, lungs, abdomen, nose, throat, teeth, lymph nodes, bones, and skin. Please take this opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your pet's care.

## FECAL (INTESTINAL PARASITE TEST) AND DEWORMING

A fresh stool sample is evaluated to detect the presence and type of parasite infection by microscopic evaluation and the detection of parasite antigens.

Over 99% of puppies have parasites (whether we see them or not), many of which they get from their mother (sometimes through her milk), and some of these parasites can be spread to humans, especially children. For this reason, we need to check several fecal samples to determine if any parasites are present and treat your puppy, if needed. In addition, we commonly do preventative deworming during puppy vaccine visits for some of the more common parasites found in puppies.

## DAPP VACCINATION

This is a core vaccination, often referred to as the Canine Distemper Vaccine, that protects your dog against serious diseases, including Canine Distemper, Adenovirus (Hepatitis), Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus.

**Canine Distemper** is a highly contagious viral disease that is spread to dogs by sneezing and coughing, through body fluids, and from the mother to her puppies. It affects your dog's intestinal, respiratory, and neurological systems. Affected dogs can have permanent damage to their nervous systems. It can also cause seizures, respiratory symptoms, tooth decay, hardening of foot pads, and blistered irritations on the skin. If the dog acquires distemper, the outcome of the disease is 90% fatal. If the dog does survive, neurological signs can occur later in life caused by inflammation in the brain.

**Hepatitis** is a viral disease known as adenovirus that attacks and destroys the liver in dogs. It can cause eye complications, organ failure, and even sudden death. It is transmitted by inhalation or ingestion of infected urine, feces, or saliva. If a dog acquires adenovirus, there is no cure. With supportive therapy, recovered dogs can spread this disease for up to 6 to 12 months.

**Parvovirus** is a viral disease-causing inflammation of the digestive tract. It is transmitted by contact with fecal matter, saliva, or vomit from an infected dog. Dogs can develop severe bloody diarrhea, vomiting, and fever which can lead to death within 1 - 2 days

**Parainfluenza** is a respiratory viral disease. Similar to Bordetella, parainfluenza causes upper respiratory tract signs in dogs. It is the viral portion of what is commonly known as "Kennel Cough." Parainfluenza causes a hacking cough. They can acquire this virus from any dog-to-dog contact and can pick it up from the environment.



## RABIES

Rabies is a very serious viral disease that can not only affect animals but can also affect humans. Rabies causes inflammation in the brain which can cause changes in behavior, paralysis, and even death in all mammals.

Rabies is most commonly spread by a bite from an infected animal through their saliva. Animals that are likely to carry this disease include, but are not limited to: fox, wild canines, raccoons, and bats. If your animal has exposure to or has been bitten by a wild animal of any type, it is very important that you take your pet to see the veterinarian immediately regardless of vaccination status.

Because rabies can be spread from animals to humans, it is required by law that pets be vaccinated.

## BORDETELLA

The Bordetella immunization protects the dog against the bacteria whose symptoms are commonly known as "Kennel Cough." This contagious respiratory disease causes a dry, hacking cough and is spread through respiratory secretions. If untreated, kennel cough can progress to bronchitis and pneumonia.

## LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection in dogs caused by Leptospira bacteria, leading to severe kidney and liver damage, respiratory issues, and potential fatality. It spreads through contaminated water, soil, or urine from infected animals. This bacteria is also zoonotic, meaning it can be spread to people. Fortunately, this disease is preventable with a vaccine, which helps protect dogs from contracting and spreading leptospirosis. Early vaccination, along with good hygiene practices, can significantly reduce the risk to puppies.

## VACCINE REACTIONS

After vaccination it is common to have the following symptoms. These signs are common and usually resolve within 24 hours.

- Mild Lethargy
- Reduced Appetite
- Soreness/Swelling at the injection site

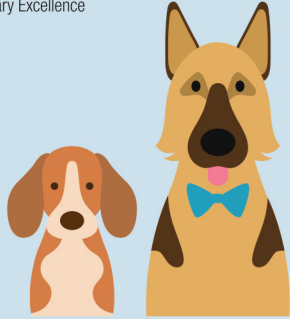
Please contact us if any of the reactions below occur:

- Generalized Weakness
- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Hives
- Facial Swelling

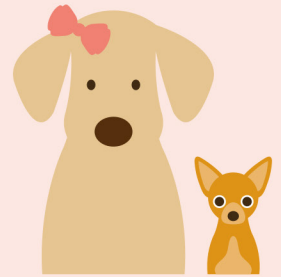
It is recommended to watch your canine companion for these reactions for up to 48 hours after vaccinations.



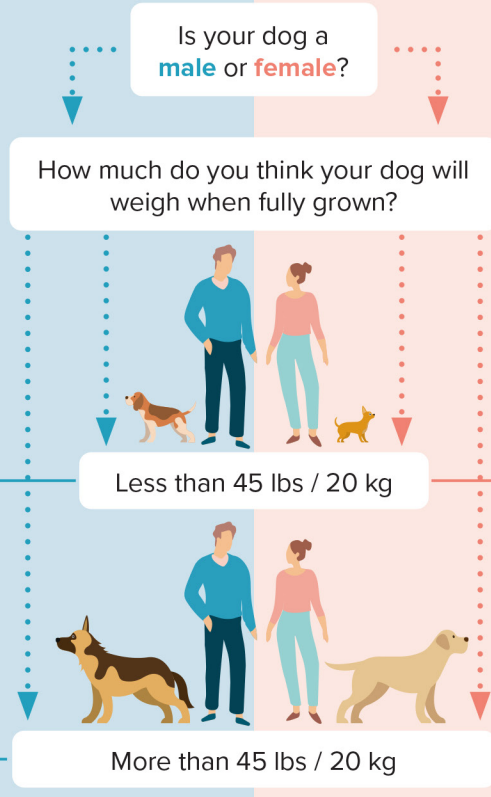
## WHEN SHOULD MY DOG BE NEUTERED OR SPAYED?



**MALE**



**FEMALE**



Neuter at 6 months of age

Spay before first heat cycle (5-6 months of age)

Neuter after growth stops (9-15 months of age)

Spay between 5-15 months of age

### WHY IS THE RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE SO WIDE?

Different breeds stop growing at different ages.

In addition to differences in the age of maturity among breeds, there are **competing risks** depending on your female dog's breed and lifestyle.

Delaying neutering until after growth stops may decrease the risk of certain cancers and bone, ligament and joint problems in some breeds of male dogs.

### WHAT ARE THE COMPETING RISKS?

Spay before first heat cycle (5-6 months of age)

Spay after growth stops, but likely after first heat cycle (5-15 months of age)

- ↓ risk of breast cancer
- Prevents unwanted litters

- ↑ risk of breast cancer
- ↓ risk of certain other cancers and bone, ligament and joint problems
- May ↓ risk of urinary incontinence

Talk to your veterinary team about how this evolving information can be applied to your dog as an individual.



# CHOOSING A DIET

We recommend picking a dog food with the AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) label. The label ensures that a particular food meets the health and nutrition guidelines set forth by the AAFCO.

In 2018, veterinarians and the FDA started recognizing an increased number of pets with dilated cardiomyopathy (a form of heart disease) that appears to be linked to the animal's diet. The FDA report can be easily found online by searching "FDA grain-free dog food."

Since this information has become known, the doctors at Bigger Road Veterinary Clinic are recommending the following diet brands for our patients:



We recommend **AVOIDING** grain-free diets and recommend that the following ingredients not be in the top 5 ingredients of your pet's food.

- Peas
- Legumes
- Potatoes



# DANGEROUS FOODS

## For Dogs



### Alcohol

- Intoxication
- Coma
- Death



### Avocado

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



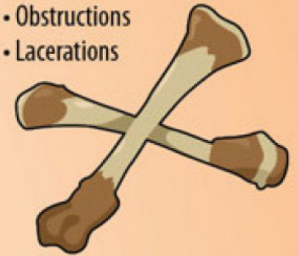
### Chocolate & Caffeine

- Toxic to Heart & Nervous System



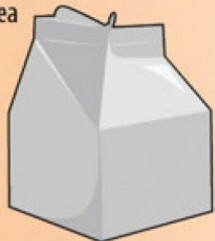
### Cooked Bones

- Obstructions
- Lacerations



### Too Much Dairy

- Diarrhea



### Fruit Pits & Seeds

- Digestive Tract Obstructions



### Grapes & Raisins

- Kidney Failure



### Human Vitamins & Medications

- Damage to Kidneys & Liver



### Onions & too much Garlic

- Blood Cell Damage
- Anemia



### Raw Meat & Eggs\*

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



\* Unless part of a raw diet with correct handling & preparation procedures.

### Spoiled Food

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



### Sweets

- Diabetes
- Obesity



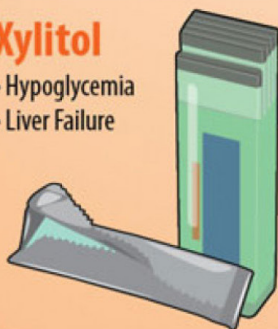
### Walnuts & Macadamias

- Nervous System & Muscle Damage



### Xylitol

- Hypoglycemia
- Liver Failure



### Yeast Dough

- Stomach Rupture
- Intestinal Rupture



Brought to you by the experts at [thatpetplace.com](http://thatpetplace.com)

If you believe your pet has consumed something poisonous, please call the ASPCA poison hotline at (888) 426-4435 immediately.





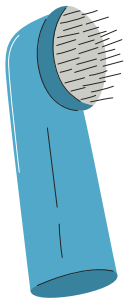
# HOW TO BRUSH YOUR DOG'S TEETH



1. Start slowly with handling your dog's mouth by lifting the lips and touching the teeth and gums with your fingers.



2. Once your dog is good about having the mouth handled, start putting a little toothpaste on the gums to get him/her used to the taste. You **MUST** use a dog/cat toothpaste as it does not contain fluoride or xylitol (which are highly toxic to pets), does not foam, and has a more appealing taste than human toothpaste. Enzymatic pet toothpastes are best because the enzymes can help dissolve the plaque.



3. Once your dog has acclimated to using toothpaste on your finger, you can try applying it to a gauze pad or washcloth to slowly expose them to different textures in the mouth.

4. After they are used to the toothpaste, progress to brushing with a soft brush. Concentrate on the canine teeth and the upper molars. You do not need to brush the inside of the teeth; they are usually kept clean by the roughness of the tongue.

*We recommend brushing your dog's teeth daily. Daily teeth brushing can make a substantial difference in your dog's oral health and save you money as it will decrease the frequency of teeth cleanings.*





# SOCIALIZATION & ACCLIMATION

## SOCIALIZING YOUR PUPPY

### **What do socialization and acclimation mean?**

Socialization in puppies takes place from birth until 16 weeks of age. This is the process of exposing your puppy to a wide variety of new things while their brain is still flexible. Once they are over 16 weeks, the process of teaching a dog to be more comfortable with different situations and stimuli is called, acclimation. Dogs can only acclimate based on previous experiences, so only systematic behavior modification can create positive association with something the dog did not experience as a puppy.

### **Why is socialization important?**

It is important that young puppies are exposed to a variety of new people, places, and objects when they are young, especially when they are in a safe setting and are getting rewarded. Dogs that aren't exposed to these things, or who have a bad experience while they are puppies, may develop permanent fears which can lead to anxiety and aggression later in life.

### **What can I do to socialize my puppy?**

It is important that your puppy gets used to stimuli in day to day life, as well as stimuli that he won't be seeing on a regular basis. For example, a puppy that has grown up in the country might be scared of the sounds of construction or city traffic. We've included a check-list of the most common people, places, noises, and objects to help guide your training.

### **How do I make sure my puppy isn't scared?**

Anytime your puppy is introduced to something new, it is important to reassure the puppy that it is safe. Give the puppy small treats or his favorite toy so he can associate the new experience with a happy feeling. For example, whenever your puppy meets a new person, have that person give the puppy treats. You can also encourage your puppy with a happy or soothing voice.

If your puppy seems afraid, then stop right away, and try again later. Remember, a puppy that is afraid of something now could be afraid of it for his whole life. Make sure to have very delicious treats on hand, and go very slowly the next time you try to introduce your puppy to something he is scared of. Never push him farther than he is willing to go.

### **How old should my puppy be?**

A puppy is driven to explore and be social in the first three months of life. After this, puppies have a tendency to be more cautious of new experiences.

Most puppies will stay with their mother and littermates until they are 6-8 weeks old, then you should make sure the puppy has regular socialization and exposure to new things for the rest of his puppyhood. It is important that all dogs continue training and socialization until they are adults.

### **How old does my puppy need to be for puppy classes?**

Puppies can start puppy classes as early as 8 weeks of age. Contact your local puppy class before enrolling to see what their vaccination policy is. Most puppy classes require that your puppy has been dewormed, and has had the first set of vaccines at least 7 days before the first class session. Your puppy will need to stay up to date with the appropriate booster vaccines while enrolled in the class.





# Body Language of Fear in Dogs



**Slight Covering**



**Major Covering**



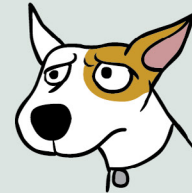
## More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



**Licking Lips**  
when no food nearby



**Panting**  
when not hot or thirsty



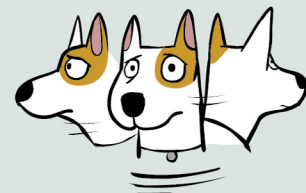
**Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side**



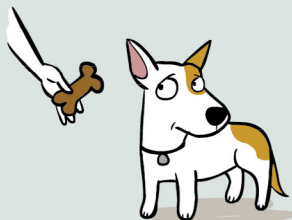
**Moving in Slow Motion**  
walking slow on floor



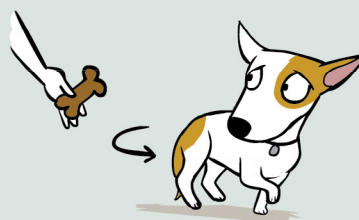
**Acting Sleepy or Yawning**  
when they shouldn't be tired



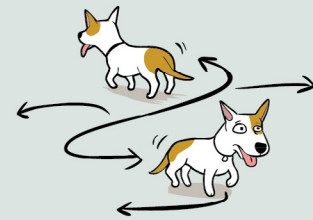
**Hypervigilant**  
looking in many directions



**Suddenly Won't Eat**  
but was hungry earlier



**Moving Away**



**Pacing**





# PUPPY'S RULE OF TWELVE

A puppy is most willing to try new things before she reaches the age of five (5) months. The Puppy's Rule of Twelve is handy guideline for puppy owners to ensure that a puppy is exposed to a variety of things during this critical time-period. It is very important to ensure all experiences are positive – so be ready to reward your puppy with lots of super, yummy treats and praise. If your puppy is scared or frightened of something slow down, decrease distance or intensity and reassure her.

## **By the time your puppy is five (5) months old, your puppy should have:**

**Experienced** twelve (12) different surfaces – Wood, woodchips, grass, asphalt/cement, tile, wet grass, rocks, gravel, dirt, mud, puddles, grates, uneven surfaces, metal, on a table, on a chair, etc.

**Played** with twelve (12) different objects – Fuzzy toys, hard toys, big & small balls, funny sounding toys, wooden items, paper/cardboard items, milk jugs, metal items, etc.

**Experienced** twelve (12) different locations – Front yard, other people's homes, lake, pond, river, boat, elevator, stairs, car, moving car, veterinarian (just to say "hi" & get lots of treats – no vaccinations), kennel, grooming salon (just to say "hi" & to get lots of treats – no grooming), etc.

**Met & Played** with twelve (12) different people (outside of the family) – Include children, adult men, adult women, elderly adults, people in wheelchairs, people on crutches, people with hats, people with sunglasses, etc.

**Exposed** to twelve (12) different noises – Garage door opening, doorbell, sirens, children playing, babies crying, loud/big trucks, motorcycles, laundry machines, skateboards, shopping carts rolling, motorboats, clapping, loud singing, vacuums, lawnmowers, pan dropping, etc.

- It is very important to observe your puppy's body language during this exercise to ensure she is not frightened or uncomfortable. Reduce the distance to the object or the level of the noise until she is comfortable and reward her with lots of super, yummy treats and praise. See Canine Body Language tip sheet for more information on body language.

**Exposed** to twelve (12) fast moving objects (don't allow to chase) – Skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, cars, trucks, boats, people/children running, cats, wild critters, scooters, vacuums, horses running, etc.

**Experienced** twelve (12) different challenges – Climbing stairs, climbing off/in/around a box, going through a tunnel, climb over obstacles, going in & out of doorways, walking on a wobbly table, play hide-n-seek, jump over something, getting a bath, etc.

**Handled** by owner & family members twelve (12) times a week – Hold under arm, hold to chest, hold on floor near owner, hold in-between owner's legs, hold head, look in ears, hold paws, hold and take temperature (with veterinarian's assistance), hold like a baby, hold & trim toenails (with veterinarian's assistance), hold in lap, look in mouth, etc.

**Eaten** from twelve (12) different containers – Wobbly bowl, metal, cardboard, paper, coffee cup, pie plate, plastic, frying pan, KONG, dog-safe puzzle toy, spoon fed, etc.

**Eaten** in twelve (12) different locations – Back yard, front yard, crate, kitchen, basement, bedroom, laundry room, friend's house, car, school, bathtub, up high (supervised), under an object, etc.



**Played** with as many puppies and safe adult dogs as possible.

**Left alone** safely, away from family and other animals twelve (12) times a week for a period of 5 to 45 minutes.

- Start with a short time period and gradually increase the amount time your puppy is alone. See Crate Training tip sheet for more information.

**Experienced** a leash and collar twelve (12) different times in twelve (12) different locations.







# AVSAB

(American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior)

# TRAINING

## **Humane Dog Training Position Statement:**

Based on current scientific evidence, AVSAB recommends that only reward-based training methods are used for all dog training, including the treatment of behavior problems. Aversive training methods have a damaging effect on both animal welfare and the human-animal bond. There is no evidence that aversive methods are more effective than reward-based methods in any context. AVSAB therefore advises that aversive methods should not be used in animal training or for the treatment of behavior disorders.

## **Puppy Socialization Position Statement:**

The time for puppy socialization is the first three months of life. During this time puppies should be exposed to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments as can be achieved safely and without causing overstimulation manifested as excessive fear, withdrawal or avoidance behavior. For this reason, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated.

## **Trainers We Trust**

Pawsitive Pet Behavior, llc  
Joann Hughes  
Phone: 937-572-3436  
Website: [www.pawsitivepetbehavior.com](http://www.pawsitivepetbehavior.com)

Life With Pup  
Katie Schalk  
Phone: 937-985-4336  
Website: [www.lifewithpup.com](http://www.lifewithpup.com)

Pups Grow Up  
Leeann Holloway  
Phone: 937-572-9284  
Website: [www.pupsgrowup.com](http://www.pupsgrowup.com)





# HOUSE TRAINING

## 10 EASY STEPS TO HOUSETRAIN YOUR DOG

You can easily teach your dog to eliminate in an acceptable location by keeping a close eye, recognizing his signals, understanding his instincts, and rewarding his appropriate behavior.

1. Prevent undesirable elimination by not allowing your dog to wander all over the house without supervision and by keeping your dog confined in a small area when you can't observe him constantly.
2. When your dog sniffs the ground or circles around, quickly but calmly take him to the desired elimination area. Ideally, don't wait for these behaviors. Take your dog outside regularly as described below.
3. Feed your dog a measured amount of food at the same time every day. When your dog walks away, or after about 10 to 15 minutes, pick up the bowl.
4. Be aware that puppies instinctively desire to eliminate after eating, drinking, playing, resting, sleeping, or being confined. These rules apply to most adult dogs as well.
5. Five to 30 minutes after any of the above activities, take your dog to the selected place for elimination.
6. Use a specific verbal cue that you want your dog to associate with desirable elimination, such as "Go potty" or "Do your business."
7. When your dog begins to eliminate, quietly praise him.
8. When your dog is done, praise him enthusiastically, pet him, and reward him with food immediately. Don't wait until he heads for the house. If he doesn't eliminate, return him to his confinement area, and take him outside again in about 15 minutes.
9. Reward each time with praise, but as your dog learns, give food rewards intermittently.
10. Remember, it is your responsibility to prevent accidents! Prevention is the key to success, but if someone fails to prevent your dog from having an accident, don't scold the dog, and quietly clean up and deodorize the soiled area. Preventing accidents requires that you become aware of how often your puppy needs to eliminate. Young puppies (8 to 10 weeks of age) may need to be taken outside every 30 to 60 minutes.



# CRATE TRAINING YOUR PUPPY

Crates, when introduced properly, build off a dog's natural den instincts to become a:

- Home
- Place to Sleep
- Refuge

A crate should NEVER be used as punishment.

## WHY CRATE TRAIN?

Aside from providing your new puppy with a comfortable place to feel safe, crating can also help with:

- **Housetraining;** Dogs don't like to soil their sleeping space.
- **Reducing destructive behavior;** Crating your puppy when they are not being actively watched or interacted with reduces the chance of naughty puppy behavior – like chewing on shoes or furniture.
- **Safe transport;** just like humans, dogs should be secured when in the car.
- **Vet Visits;** there are times your pet may need to stay at the vet in a kennel. Being accustomed to a crate will help keep this experience positive.
- **Natural Disasters;** should one ever happen, your puppy may need to be crated more than normal.

## CRATING CAUTION!

A crate isn't a magical solution. If not used correctly, there can be lifelong consequences.

- **Never use the crate as a punishment.** Your dog will come to fear it and refuse to enter it.
- **Don't leave your dog in the crate too long.** A dog that's crated day and night doesn't get enough exercise or human interaction and can become depressed, anxious, or even aggressive.
- **Ensure time spent in the crate aligns with the age of the dog.** Puppies under six months of age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can't control their bladders and bowels for that long. The same goes for adult dogs that are being housetrained. Physically, they can hold it, but they don't know they're supposed to.







# SELECTING A CRATE

To determine which crate to purchase for your puppy, you should take his size, breed, and lifestyle into consideration.

## CRATE MATERIALS

### Collapsible Wire Crates

- Good for dogs that get hot easily.
- Many models come with divider.
- Fold flat for carrying or storage.
- Easy to clean removable floor tray.

### Plastic Crate (often called “travel kennels”)

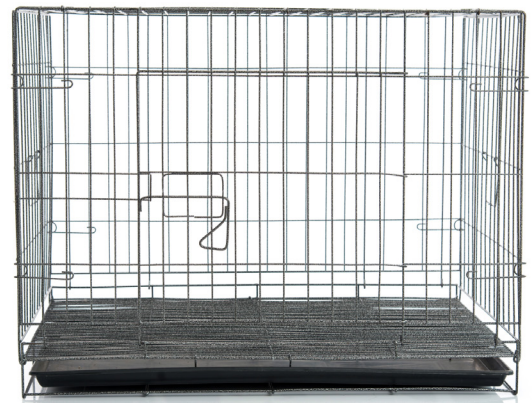
- Good for dogs who like cozy spaces and tend to sleep in corners or under tables.
- Can be used for airline travel.
- Available in different colors.
- Top half of crate comes off and can be stacked inside bottom half for storage.

### Soft Sided Crates

- Very lightweight and portable.
- Good for light use with small, non-destructive dogs.
- Good for car travel, camping, picnics, etc.
- Very easy to store when folded.

## WHAT SIZE CRATE IS THE RIGHT SIZE?

Your dog’s crate should be large enough for him to stand up and turn around in. Choose the size of the crate based on the estimated adult size of your dog and block off the excess crate space so your dog can’t eliminate at one end and retreat to the other. For some dogs, it may be necessary to change crate sizes several times until they are fully grown.



**Collapsible Wire Crate**



**Plastic Crate**



**Soft Sided Crate**



# THE CRATE TRAINING PROCESS

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog's age, temperament, and past experiences. It's important to keep two things in mind while crate training:

- The crate should always be associated with something pleasant.
- Training should take place in a series of small steps. Don't go too fast.

## **Step 1: Introduce your dog to the crate.**

Place the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. Put a soft blanket or towel in the crate. Take the door off and let the dog explore the crate at his leisure. Some dogs will be naturally curious and start sleeping in the crate right away. If yours isn't one of them:

- Bring him over to the crate and talk to him in a happy tone of voice. Make sure the crate door is open and secured so that it won't hit your dog and frighten him.
- Encourage your dog to enter the crate by dropping some small food treats nearby, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If he refuses to go all the way in at first, that's okay; don't force him to enter.
- Continue tossing treats into the crate until your dog walks calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. If he isn't interested in treats, try tossing his favorite toy in the crate. This step may take a few minutes or as long as several days.

## **Step 2: Feed your dog his meals in the crate.**

After introducing your dog to the crate, work towards creating a pleasant association with the crate using your puppy's meals.

If your puppy is cautious of the crate after introduction, start at step one. If your puppy seems comfortable with / in the crate, start at step five.

- 1.** Begin feeding him his regular meals a couple of feet away from the crate, or as close to it as your puppy seems comfortable.
  - 2.** Slowly move it closer to the crate with each meal until the food dish is directly next to the crate.
  - 3.** Once your puppy is comfortable with eating directly next to the crate, move the bowl just inside the door and let your puppy eat standing outside the of the crate reaching his head in.
  - 4.** Each mealtime, slowly push the bowl further back into the crate until it's all the way in the back.
  - 5.** If he remains reluctant to enter the crate, put the dish only as far inside as he will readily go without becoming fearful or anxious. Each time you feed him, place the dish a little further back in the crate.
- Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat his meal, you can close the door while he's eating, but don't latch it. The first time you do this, open the door as soon as he finishes his meal. With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer, until he's staying in the crate for ten minutes or so after eating.

- If he begins to whine to be let out, you may have increased the length of time too quickly. Next time, try leaving him in the crate for a shorter time period. If he does whine or cry in the crate, don't let him out until he stops. Otherwise, he'll learn that the way to get out of the crate is to whine, so he'll keep doing it.

### **Step 3: Lengthen the crating periods**

After your dog is eating his regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine him there for short time periods while you are home.

- Call him over to the crate and give him a treat.
- Give him a command to enter, such as "kennel." Encourage him by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand.
- After your dog enters the crate, praise him, give him the treat, and close the door.
- Sit quietly near the crate for five to ten minutes, and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, and then let him out of the crate.
- Repeat this process several times a day, gradually increasing the length of time you leave him in the crate and the length of time you're out of his sight.
- Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving him crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting him sleep there at night. This may take several days or several weeks.

### **Step 4, Part A: Crate your dog when you leave**

After your dog can spend about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin leaving him crated for short periods when you leave the house.

- Put him in the crate using your regular command and a treat. You might also want to leave him with a few safe toys in the crate.
- Vary at what point in your "getting ready to leave" routine you put your dog in the crate. Although he shouldn't be crated for a long time before you leave, you can crate him anywhere from 5 to 20 minutes prior to leaving.
- Don't make your departures emotional and prolonged—they should be matter-of-fact. Praise your dog briefly, give him a treat for entering the crate, and then leave quietly.

When you return home, don't reward your dog for excited behavior by responding to him in an excited, enthusiastic way. Keep arrivals low key to avoid increasing his anxiety over when you will return. Continue to crate your dog for short periods from time to time when you're home so he doesn't associate crating with being left alone.

### **Step 4, Part B: Crate your dog at night**

Put your dog in the crate using your regular command and a treat. Initially, it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby in a hallway, especially if you have a puppy. Puppies often need to go outside to eliminate during the night, and you'll want to be able to hear your puppy when he whines to be let outside.

Older dogs, too, should initially be kept nearby so they don't associate the crate with social isolation.

Once your dog is sleeping comfortably through the night with his crate near you, you can begin to gradually move it to the location you prefer, although time spent with your dog—even sleep time—is a chance to strengthen the bond between you and your pet.







# POTENTIAL CRATE PROBLEMS

## WHINING

If your dog whines or cries while in the crate at night, it may be difficult to decide whether he's whining to be let out of the crate, or whether he needs to be let outside to eliminate. If you've followed the training procedures outlined above, then your dog hasn't been rewarded for whining in the past by being released from his crate. If that is the case, try to ignore the whining. If your dog is just testing you, he'll probably stop whining soon. Yelling at him or pounding on the crate will only make things worse.

If the whining continues after you've ignored him for several minutes, use the phrase he associates with going outside to eliminate. If he responds and becomes excited, take him outside. This should be a trip with a purpose, not play time. If you're convinced that your dog doesn't need to eliminate, the best response is to ignore him until he stops whining. Don't give in; if you do, you'll teach your dog to whine loud and long to get what he wants. If you've progressed gradually through the training steps and haven't done too much too fast, you'll be less likely to encounter this problem. If the problem becomes unmanageable, you may need to start the crate training process over again.

## SEPARATION ANXIETY

Attempting to use the crate as a remedy for separation anxiety won't solve the problem. A crate may prevent your dog from being destructive, but he may injure himself in an attempt to escape from the crate. Separation anxiety problems can only be resolved with counter-conditioning and desensitization procedures. You may want to consult your veterinarian or a professional animal-behavior specialist for help.





# PLAY

## Normal Play Behavior

In normal play, a puppy may play bow (lower its head and raise its hind end), present its front end or side to the owner, hold the front part of its body up, wag its tail, dart back and forth, emit high-pitched barks and growls, and spontaneously attack. Even normal play can become too intense. You may notice some raised hair on your puppy's neck or back while playing. This is known as piloerection, or more commonly, "raised hackles". This is a sign of your puppy being stimulated. While it can be normal, you should also monitor to ensure that your puppy doesn't become overstimulated.

## Teaching your new puppy the right way to play

Puppies can play rough. So to ensure a lifetime of safe and happy interactions, learn how to play appropriately with your new puppy from the start.

Most puppy play consists of chasing, pouncing, barking, growling, snapping, and biting. So how can you tell the difference between normal play and possible signs of true aggression in your new puppy?

## Aggressive Behavior

Behaviors that may indicate a problem include prolonged, deep-tone growling; a fixed gaze; a stiff posture; and aggression that is situational or stimulus dependent (not spontaneous). These aggressive behaviors may be related to fear, possessiveness, conflict, or pain. Talk to your veterinarian if your puppy is exhibiting these behaviors.

## Nipping Bad Play Behavior in the Bud

If your puppy plays inappropriately, here are the right ways to handle it.

- Distract the bad behavior. Always have a toy on hand that your puppy can transfer its attention to.
- Speak up and step out. If your puppy is biting hard, yell "Ouch!" and stop playing.
- Interrupt problem behaviors. A shake can or a water gun will startle puppies and stop the behavior. But don't use these techniques if a pet has a sensitive temperament or if they seem to make things worse.
- Set up a dragline. Both indoors and outdoors during supervised play, put the puppy on a leash that you can quickly grab to stop the behavior.
- Use head halters. These halters provide a more natural sense of control than ordinary collars do and limit the chances of biting.
- Consider muzzles. In extreme cases, muzzles may be used for short periods to prevent biting behavior.
- Give the puppy a time out. If your puppy won't stop a bad behavior, put it in a room or in its kennel with toys to keep it busy until it calms down.

## WHAT NOT TO DO

You and your family should never use physical punishment, such as scruff shakes, alpha rollovers, squeezing the puppy to the floor, thumping its nose, or swatting.



# PLAY

## 7 steps to proper play

Follow these steps to prevent inappropriate play:

- 1. Provide plenty of exercise.** New puppies are bundles of energy. So, give them productive ways to expend that energy such as going on walks or playing.
- 2. Provide mental stimulation.** Rubber toys that can be filled with treats, such as Kong (Kong company) or Busy Buddy puzzle toys (Premier), offer puppies a chance to chase and bite the toys and obtain a food reward.
- 3. Play with your pup.** Playing fetch or throwing a soccer ball for your pet to push around will sap some of your pup's energy.
- 4. Teach and review basic obedience commands.** A well-trained dog is more likely to follow orders when behaving inappropriately.
- 5. Conduct leadership exercises.** Follow three rules to maintain overall order:
  - a. Nothing in life is free.** Ask your puppy to respond to a command such as "sit" before it receives any thing it wants or needs.
  - b. Don't tell me what to do.** It's OK to give your puppy the love and attention it needs, but if it becomes too pushy about getting attention, such as by nudging, whining, barking, or leaning, pull your hands in, lean away and look away. Walk away if your puppy is too difficult to ignore. Once the puppy stops soliciting attention for 10 seconds, ask it to sit and give it attention.
  - c. Don't move without permission.** Anytime you begin to move from one area of the home to another, ask your puppy to sit and stay for a second or two before you give it a release command to follow you.
- 6. Don't sit on the floor with your pup.** This tends to get puppies excited, puts family members in a vulnerable position, and makes it more difficult to control the puppy.
- 7. Promote socialization.** Puppies must have frequent, positive social experiences with all types of animals and people during the first three or four months of life to prevent asocial behavior, fear, and biting. Continued exposure to a variety of people and other animals as the puppy grows and develops is an essential part of maintaining good social skills.

Everybody wins when you take the time and effort to teach your new puppy how to play appropriately. You'll gain a well-behaved pet, and the puppy is more likely to remain a happy, important part of the family





# How Kids SHOULD Interact with Dogs

Use common sense.

Be polite and kind to pets

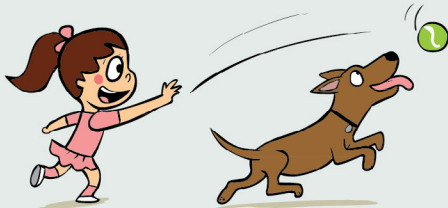


Learn to recognize when your dog is scared or anxious



## Play appropriate games with pets, such as:

Fetch



ROLL OVER



Training tricks (like roll over, shake, beg, etc.)

Walking and running with a dog



SMIFF  
SMIFF



Playing hide-n-seek

## Always remember:

**Supervise all interactions. Accidents can happen in a split second.**



Train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences so he'll be more likely to tolerate your child in case she accidentally interacts inappropriately.



















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# How Kids SHOULD NOT Interact with Dogs

It's common sense. Just imagine how people should interact with each other.

<p>Avoid taking people's food</p> 	 <p>Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating</p>
<p>Avoid stealing other people's toys</p> 	 <p>Avoid taking a dog's bones or toys</p>
<p>Avoid putting your face right up to someone else's face</p> 	 <p>Avoid putting your face right up to a dog's face</p>
<p>Avoid bothering when asleep</p> 	 <p>Avoid bothering animals when they are resting. Let sleeping dogs lie.</p>
<p>Avoid pestering</p> 	 <p>Avoid grabbing tail/ears</p>
<p>Avoid climbing on or trampling</p> 	 <p>Avoid climbing on or trampling</p>
<p>Avoid pinching</p> 	 <p>Avoid hugging. Most dogs dislike it.</p>
<p>Avoid screaming around</p> 	 <p>Avoid hollering and shouting. Use your "inside" voice instead.</p>

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# SAFE TOYS

## Safe Chew Toys For Your Dog

Chewing is a necessity for puppies. They need it for stress relief, mental stimulation and to develop proper dentition. What can my dog chew on?

- Kongs are our favorite way to provide a safe treat for your dog. A Kong is a hollow, rubber, stuffable chew toy. You can put almost any type of food in a Kong, such as treats, canned food, or small amounts of peanut butter.
- When a Kong is filled with a yummy treat, it can be used in a lot of different ways. A Kong can be used...
  - To prevent boredom
  - To keep anxious dogs busy
  - To distract from undesirable behaviors like barking
  - As a reward for good behavior
  - As a way to feed your dog a meal instead of out of a bowl
- Kong filling tip: once you have filled the Kong, freeze it for a few hours to make a popsicle. This will make your dog's treats last longer!
- [www.kongstuffing.com](http://www.kongstuffing.com) has a lot of recipes and ideas to create unique treats for your dog. When creating a special Kong stuffing recipe for your dog, be sure to avoid any foods that could be harmful. Also, be cautious if your dog has a sensitive stomach, use only bland and low fat foods in these cases.

## What kinds of treats and toys are not safe?

- Avoid toys that do not bend or are harder than your dog's teeth. Treats and toys to avoid include:
  - Animal bones
  - Cow hoofs
  - Nylabone's
  - Ice cubes

To keep your dog's teeth safe, the toy or treat has to be able to bend. This ensures the toy is not so hard that it will break your dog's teeth

## What about rawhides?

- Traditional rawhide is not hard enough to break teeth. However, one thing to keep in mind is if your dog is a chewer or a gulper. Dogs that are gulpers can get rawhide pieces stuck in their throat. Rawhide doesn't dissolve in the throat and this can become a big safety issue.
- The best way to use rawhide is to give the rawhide to your dog to chew on for 20 minutes, then put it away. The next day, offer it for 20 minutes again. Your dog will think it is a new toy each time! This also gives you the chance to look at the rawhide and trim off any loose ends or to throw it away if it is getting small enough to be a choking hazard.
- Rawhide can cause some dogs to have diarrhea, if this happens with your dog, try a different toy.
- Avoid "compressed" rawhide, which is artificially treated to make it rock hard, so it is not safe for your dog's teeth!





# LOST PET

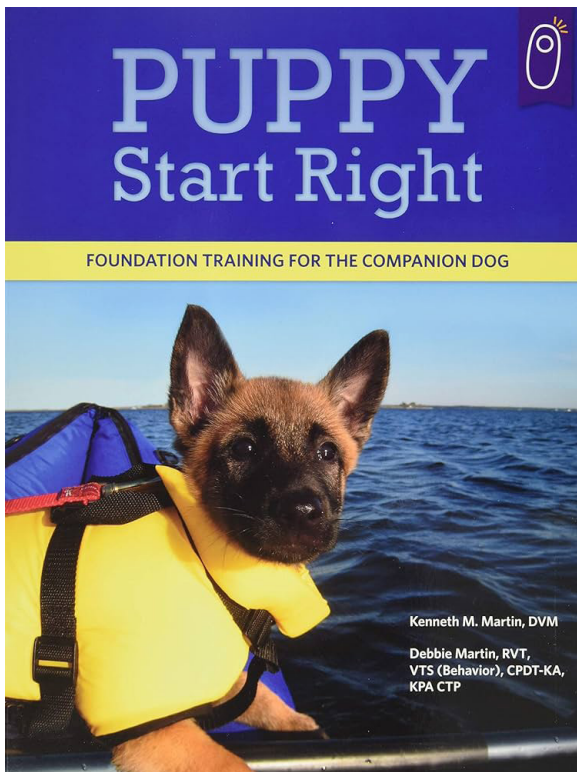
## 11 THINGS TO DO IF YOUR PET IS LOST

Nearly one in five lost pets goes missing after being scared by the sound of fireworks, thunderstorms or other loud noises, according to a survey by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. And, while losing your pet can be a traumatic experience for both you and your pet, have hope as 93 percent of dogs and 75 percent of cats reported lost are returned safely to their homes, according to another survey. If you do lose your pet, here are 10 top tips to help reunite you with your furry friend as quickly as possible:

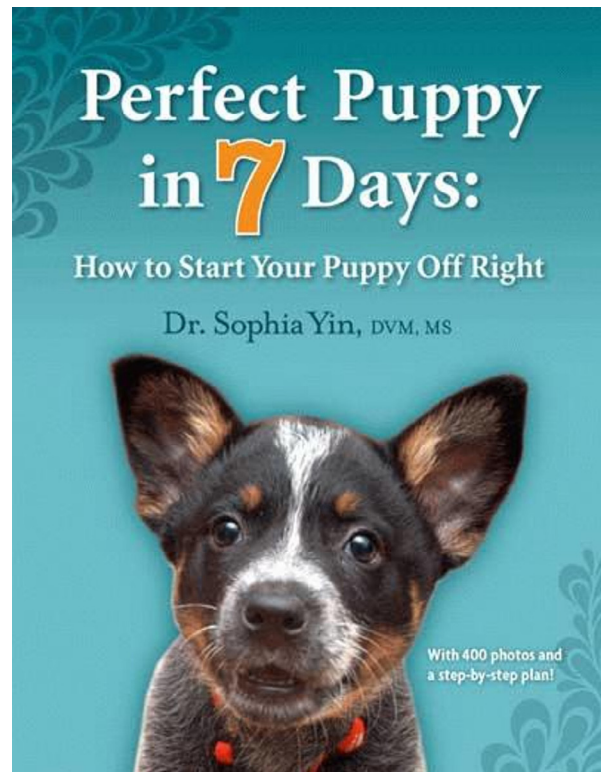
1. Microchip your pets and make sure to keep your information current any time you move or change phone numbers.
2. File a lost pet report with every shelter and animal control office within a 60-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible.
3. Get the word out to all veterinarians in the area. Sometimes people pick up a stray and drive it to a distant clinic.
4. Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Enlist friends and family to help. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and your contact information.
5. Speak with your neighbors. The more people know you have lost a pet and that you are desperately trying to find your pet, the more people will call you if they see a loose animal.
6. Place flyers in the neighborhood and public places. To avoid scams, when describing your pet, leave out one characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.
7. Post about your pet on all pet recovery websites and services. Sites such as [Craiglist.org](https://www.craigslist.org), [TheCenterForLostPets.com](https://www.thecenterforlostpets.com), [FidoFinder.com](https://www.fidofinder.com) and the Facebook page "Dayton, Ohio and Surrounding Area Lost and Found Pets" are good places to broadcast your missing pet quickly.
8. Consider a lost pet recovery service. There are numerous lost pet alert services that will contact homes, veterinarians, shelters and animal control organizations for a reasonable fee.
9. Place food and water outside your home. Your pets may return to your home when they get hungry or thirsty. Consider placing food in a humane pet trap to capture them.
10. Tell everyone you see about your pet and ask them to keep their eyes open. The more people you alert, the greater the chance someone will recollect seeing your pet in their area.
11. Don't give up. Be aggressive in your search, get lots of help and get the word out right away. You need those early hours to put up posters and start your search.



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Puppy Start Right  
by: Kenneth M Martin, DVM and  
Debbie Martin , RVT, VTS (Behavior),  
CPDT-KA, KPA CTP



Perfect Puppy in 7 days  
by: Sophia Yin

Websites:  
[indoorpet.osu.edu/dogs](http://indoorpet.osu.edu/dogs)  
[familypaws.com](http://familypaws.com)  
[cattledogpublishing.com](http://cattledogpublishing.com)



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