

Overview

Congratulations on your new dog! Whether this is your first dog or you've always had a canine companion, this pamphlet will give you useful information on how to care for your dog and meet all of your pet's medical needs.



You & Your New Dog

A health guide for the newest member of your family

Pet parent education series

The Usdan Institute for Animal Health Education at the Schwarzman Animal Medical Center is the leading provider of pet health information. Our mission is to educate and empower pet owners and to promote the human-animal bond.

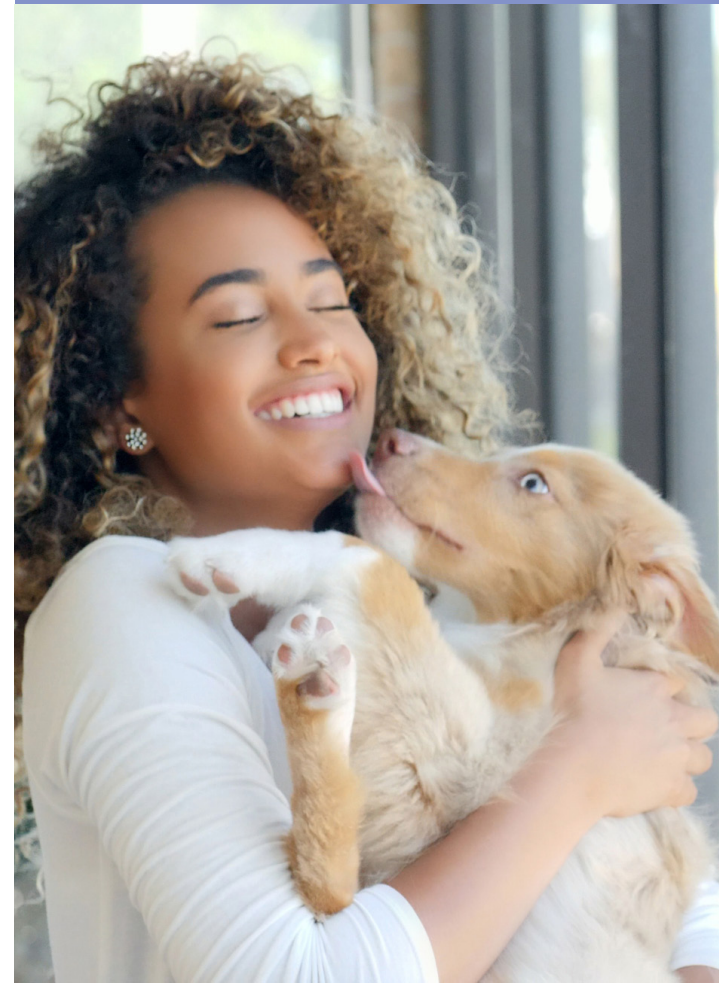
With AMC's staff of more than 130 doctors and the knowledge gained from more than 112 years of experience, we are uniquely positioned to deliver the most reliable and up-to-date information for all your pet health needs.



For access to our resources and events, go to www.amcny.org/usdaninstitute

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Wellness Visits



- Visit your veterinarian as soon as you get your dog and continue so that your dog is seen at least once a year.
- Puppies need several vaccines to protect them from disease and need to be checked regularly for internal and external parasites. Adult dogs need regular boosters, parasite checks, and monitoring for any developing health issues.
- If you adopt or buy a dog from another part of the country or internationally, tell your veterinarian so they can check for diseases or illnesses that are common in those areas.

Guard Against Parasites



- The best way to protect your dog is with year-round use of a veterinarian-approved preventative product. There are topical treatments, collars, and pills that can keep fleas and ticks from harming your dog and infesting your home.
- Heartworms are transmitted through the bite of a mosquito and are extremely dangerous and can be fatal. Give your dog heartworm medication as directed by your veterinarian. If you miss a dose, contact your veterinarian.

Dental Health



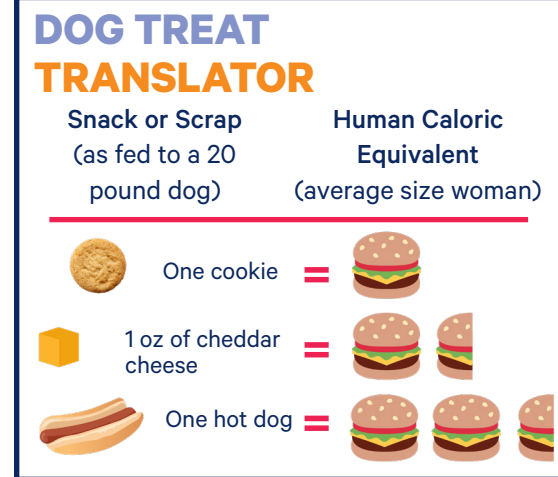
To keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy, remember to:

- Brush their teeth daily with a soft-bristled toothbrush and pet toothpaste.
- Check the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) which has a list of recommended products for pet dental health.
- Schedule regular appointments for complete dental cleanings.

Nutrition & Weight Management



- Dogs need a complete and balanced diet to ensure they're getting the vitamins and minerals their body needs. Unfortunately, the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention estimates that 59% of dogs in the U.S. are overweight or obese.
- Dogs don't need nearly as many calories as humans do. Though the average woman needs 2,000 calories a day, a 20-pound dog only needs 300-400 calories a day. A 50-pound dog needs only 700-900 calories per day.
- If you're wondering what or how much to feed your new dog, speak with your veterinarian.



- Just like you, your dog needs regular, daily exercise. You should aim to give your dog at least two 15-minute walks a day, and more if possible.
- Exercise gives your dog physical and mental stimulation and is important for their health. If you're struggling to find the time to walk your dog, enlist a trusted dog walker who can give your dog the exercise they need.

Pet-Proofing Your Home



Keep your home safe by avoiding the following situations around your house:

- Cabinets and drawers that are easily opened
- Trashcans and laundry hampers without lids
- Decorative items that can be knocked over
- Loose cords and wires, including cords on curtains and blinds

Medication storage

Your dresser, nightstand, and bathroom counter are all places medications usually sit and that your dog can access. Keep your medications in a cabinet with a tight latch.

Keep in mind that childproof doesn't mean pet-proof. Don't count on a safety lid to protect your pet. Your dog may be able to open a medication bottle more easily than you can by using their teeth and nails!

Travel inspection

When traveling, friends and family may not have their homes pet-proofed or pet-friendly, even if they have pets of their own. Take a quick look for food, medications, or other potentially hazardous items that your dog could easily reach and limit your dog to a safe area.

Prepare for Emergencies



Keep important phone numbers handy in case of an emergency:

- **Schwarzman Animal Medical Center ER**
212-838-8100
- **Pet Poison Helpline**
800-213-6680 (fee applies)
- **ASPCA Animal Poison Control**
888-426-4435 (fee applies)