

Animal Care and Maintenance

I. Routine Health Care

- A. Vaccinations – DHLPP Corona Bordetella Rabies
 - 1. DHLPP (Puppy and Adult Shots)
 - 2. Rabies – Required by law in most areas
 - 3. Corona (a concern mainly for very young or very old dogs)
 - 4. Kennel Cough (needed if dog will be around hoards of unknown dogs)
 - 5. Lyme Disease
- B. Heartworm check/Preventative
 - 1. Year-around vs. seasonal
 - a. Kills most internal and external parasites
- C. Worm Checks – Cestodes Nematodes
 - Roundworm, Hookworm, Whipworm, Tape Worm
- D. Flea/Tick Prevention/Removal (Pro-Spot/Advantage/ Revolution)
- E. Neutering reduces the likelihood of cancer
 - 1. Earlier is better

II. Nutrition

- A. Clean, Fresh Water Daily
- B. Nutritious, Food (complete and balanced for dogs) Daily
 - a. All commercially prepared foods are not equal
- C. Safe, Healthy snacks, treats, and bones
 - a. Onions, Raisins, Grapes, Chocolate, Various Houseplants are Poison.
 - b. Some people have had problems with Asian rawhides.
 - c. Some people have had problems with Greenies.
 - d. No cooked bones (they splinter). Knuckle bones are best.

III. General Maintenance

- A. Ears
 - 1. Clean and infection free
 - a. Don't probe deeper than you can see.
 - 2. Remove fur in "fuzzy" breeds
 - a. Pluck with fingers or hemostats
- B. Teeth
 - 1. Regular brushing
 - 2. Periodic scaling
 - a. You can do this, or your vet can...
- C. Eyes
 - 1. Normal discharge is clear or brown
 - a. If discharge is green something is wrong
 - b. Sometimes just water or eye drops will clear it up
- D. Feet
 - 1. Healthy pads
 - a. Take care in extreme climates

- b. Dogs sweat through their pads
 - 2. Trim hair
 - a. Avoid matting, less to get dirty
 - 3. Clip or dremel nails
 - a. Watch out for quick
 - b. You can use a flashlight to spot it
 - c. Use a good pair of clippers or a dremel
 - d. Don't inhale nail filings
 - e. Make your own nail file.

E. Grooming

- 1. Combing & Brushing Weekly (more often in shedding season)
 - a. Distributes natural oils through fur
- 2. Bathing as needed
 - a. Too much bathing dries the coat
- 3. Trimming every 6 weeks to 2 months
 - a. Tools (use, maintenance)
- 4. Anal Sacs

IV. Housing

- A. Should be Warm, Dry, Clean, Safe, Comfortable.