

COMMON HEALTH QUESTIONS



We get a lot of questions about this, so we thought we would gather some information for everyone along with the products we suggest. THIS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR VETERINARIAN ADVICE AND YOUR PETS SHOULD SEE A VET AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR FOR AN EXAM AND ANNUAL VACCINES.

DEWORMING

The number one killer of puppies we see is worms, followed by malnutrition. Puppies should eat puppy chow, not rice or tortillas or chicken bones. Puppies must be wormed regularly starting at 2 weeks of age, every 2 weeks for several months, and regular worming should be done after that. For very young puppies, products containing pyrantel should be used. These will kill several worms including roundworms (the ones that look like spaghetti). Once a puppy is 5 weeks old they should be treated with a product that will kill flatworms like tapeworms (the ones that look like pieces of rice). Once a pup is 8 weeks old they can receive the same type of wormer as an adult dog but in a smaller dose. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO INSPECT YOUR PUPPY AND ITS POOP.** Puppies that have internal parasites will be lethargic, have runny eyes, white or gray gums from anemia, pustules on the skin of the belly, thinning fur, vomiting, and diarrhea. They can die very quickly from worms and dehydration.

Adult dogs should also be wormed every few months. The general rule is if they have fleas, they will have tapeworms. These come from the dogs eating the fleas.

We have had success with these products. They are very inexpensive and available at Reimers, agro stores and vets:

Canisan Puppy – for puppies 2-5 weeks of age. Dosing on the box.

Canisan F – for puppies 5 weeks and older. Dosing on the box.

Endopar Plus – for puppies and dogs older than 8 weeks. 1 pill for 30 lbs of weight so portion accordingly.

VACCINES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT- REGULARLY VACCINATE YOUR DOGS

Vaccination Schedule:

- 6 weeks – 1st parvo combo
- 9 weeks – 2nd parvo combo
- 12 weeks – 3rd parvo combo
- 14 weeks – 1st rabies
- 1 year – parvo combo; rabies
- 2nd year and after – Parvo shots must be done annually; rabies is generally a 3-year vaccine but will say on the label.

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTATIVES

Fleas and ticks are uncomfortable for your dogs and can make them very sick. Fleas can cause anemia and ticks carry tick fever which can be fatal. Inspect your dogs daily for ticks, checking secret spots like inside

the ears, in the armpits, and between the toes and pads of the feet. They have even been known to invade the gums in the mouth.

Our preferred product is Nexgard. It is a tablet that is given by mouth. It is pricey but absolutely the best thing for fleas and ticks and lasts at least 2-3 months. You can purchase the largest size and split it up by weight to make it more economical. Nexgard also kills ear mites and both types of mange. It is available at Reimers, agro stores and vets.

Other products such as Frontline Spot-On drops can work, but we have found in our climate that they only last 2-3 weeks. A flea and tick collar will also help but you will need to inspect your dogs daily and remove any ticks as soon as possible.

SKIN CONDITIONS

When dogs present with patches and thinning fur people usually assume mange. However, many conditions look the same and it is important for a vet to diagnose. Fungal and bacterial infections can also look very much like mange, as can flea and tick dermatitis (allergy damage) and simple malnutrition. Dogs that are fed tortillas and chicken bones are not getting enough nutrition to keep them healthy.

DO NOT EVER PUT BURNT MOTOR OIL ON YOUR PET. IT IS TOXIC AND IS ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN AND INGESTED WHEN THE PET LICKS THEMSELVES.

Please see a vet as soon as possible to diagnose the problem if your pet has skin problems. These are very often easy to cure if caught and treated early.

NUTRITION

Dog chow is the best thing for dogs. The crunchy texture helps them keep their teeth cleaned. You can add some rice and chicken meat if desired, and even veggies. **DO NOT EVER FEED YOUR DOGS COOKED BONES OF ANY KIND.** These can splinter and get caught in the mouth, throat, and stomach/intestines and also can cause intestinal blockages. Raw beef and pork bones are ok as long as they are too large for the dog to swallow.

