



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Ears, Teeth, Heartgard, and Frontline

EAR CARE

Ear care is one of the most commonly overlooked areas in dog grooming. Because of this, many ear conditions requiring veterinary treatment could have been avoided by using proper preventative ear cleaning methods. The most common conditions of the ear that require veterinary treatment are infections (otitis). Infections are most commonly caused by either bacteria or yeast which have multiplied to high levels. Each of these problems requires different treatment. Ear mites, which are parasites, are not as commonly found in dogs as they are in pet cats.

Most dogs will let you know when they are experiencing discomfort in the ear. Shaking or tilting of the head, frequent or prolonged scratching of the ears or back of the head, or rubbing the side of the head along the floor are usually indicative of an ear infection or a foreign object in the ear flap such as a tick or a foxtail. Sometimes the only symptom is a bad odor or dark wax.

To avoid unnecessary veterinary treatment and discomfort to our puppies, we ask that puppy raisers clean their puppy's ears once weekly with the ear cleansing/drying solution provided in your puppy packet.

It is also important to check the puppy's ears daily when you groom him for any signs of redness, odor, or an increase in wax. If any of these signs are present, contact your veterinarian to determine if the puppy needs to be seen.

Ear Cleaning Instructions:

- Once a week squirt a small amount of a GDB approved ear cleaning solution onto a cotton ball so that it becomes "drippy" with the solution.
- Using the cotton ball, massage the base and inside of the ear gently for approximately 10 seconds to clean and loosen debris from the ear canal. Be careful not to occlude (plug) the ear canal with cotton or apply pressure into the ear.
- Use a dry cotton ball or gauze strip to remove any excess liquid and debris from the ear canal.
- Please DO NOT use a Q-tip as it may only push wax further down the ear canal.

TEETH CLEANING

If you have never cleaned the puppy's teeth, start by spending a few minutes each day gently handling the puppy's mouth. Lift up his lips and touch the outside of the puppy's teeth and gums to get him used to this new experience. After several days of doing this, introduce the puppy to the oral cleansing gel following the instructions below. Never use human toothpaste - it can be harmful and can upset your puppy's stomach.

Teeth Cleaning Instructions:

- Put a small amount of oral cleansing gel on the soft-bristled toothbrush (use the one given in the puppy's packet) or on a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger.
- Holding the brush head at a 45-degree angle to the gum line, gently brush in circular strokes from the gum line to the tip of each tooth.
- Only clean the outside surfaces of the puppy's teeth and gums.
- Day by day, slowly work towards the back of the mouth, until the puppy is comfortable and will allow you to lift his lips and hold his head steady for several minutes.
- Please be careful to not let the puppy bite your finger or toothbrush while brushing his teeth.
- We recommend that you clean the puppy's teeth at least once weekly (and as frequently as once daily) to acclimate the puppy to being handled this way and to be more accepting later in life.

HEARTGARD

You have two different size packages:

- The first package (GREEN) is for when your puppy weighs up to 50 lbs.
- The second (BROWN) is for when your puppy weighs 51-100 lbs.
- Please read the package label and directions before each use.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Heartgard is a once-a-month heartworm prevention pill. The following directions for administering Heartgard are provided to ensure that each puppy receives the appropriate dose. In addition to these instructions, please read the packaging materials regarding usage and storage directions. All puppies should receive their cube/cubes on the first of every month.

Heartgard Instructions

Effective heartworm prevention is very important to your puppy's health. Please follow these directions exactly.

- Place heartworm preventative cube in feed pan prior to feeding a meal. If your pup will not eat the cube, contact your leader for advice.
- **Pups weighing up to 50 lbs.:** give 1 cube from the GREEN box. EVEN IF YOUR PUPPY WEIGHS LESS THAN 26 LBS., GIVE 1 WHOLE CUBE FROM THE GREEN BOX ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH.
- **Pups weighing 51-100 lbs.:** Give 1 cube from the BROWN box. If you still have cubes left in the green box, you can double the dose and give 2 cubes from the GREEN box.
- **Pups weighing more than 100 lbs.:** Give 2 cubes from the BROWN box.
- NOTE: ALL CUBES LOOK THE SAME! ONLY THE COLOR OF THE BOX IS DIFFERENT.
- REMEMBER: TWO CUBES FROM THE GREEN BOX EQUAL ONE FROM THE BROWN BOX. NEVER, EVER CUT A CUBE IN HALF. YOU CAN GIVE MORE, BUT NEVER GIVE LESS.

FRONTLINE

You have two different size doses:

- The first size (BLUE) is for when your puppy weighs 23-44 lbs.
- The second size (PURPLE) is for when your puppy weighs 45-88 lbs.
- Please read the package label and directions before each use.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Frontline is a once-a-month flea & tick treatment for dogs and puppies. It is easy to use and one treatment prevents further flea infestation for at least four weeks and kills fleas before they lay eggs; it also kills ticks for at least one month.

Frontline remains effective following a shampoo treatment (although you should wait 24 hours after a bath to apply), swimming or after exposure to rain or sunlight. This means your puppy can have a bath, go swimming, or otherwise get wet, after 24 hours has passed, without affecting Frontline's strength or durability.

It is not necessary to use Frontline all year - only during flea/tick season, or if your puppy is having a flea/tick problem. Puppies residing in Colorado, Utah, and parts of Nevada may not need to use any flea control product; puppies in Texas may receive a different type of flea control. Each puppy is treated with Frontline® before leaving GDB, so it is not necessary to begin use for at least 30 days after you receive him.

Your leader will be able to help you identify when to use Frontline. Applied once a month, Frontline gives complete protection against fleas. Each pipette is one application. Any flea product has a potential for toxicity if applied improperly or overused, so it is very important to follow the directions exactly. Use only on dogs. Do not use on other animals. If you run out of Frontline and need more, let your leader know. Please return any unused products to your leader.

Frontline Instructions:

- Remove applicator tube from the package. Hold upright and snap applicator tip away from face and body. The dog should be standing for easy application. Place the applicator tip through the dog's hair to the skin level between the shoulder blades. Squeeze the applicator, doing your best to apply the vial evenly from shoulder to tail.
- It is best to apply Frontline and then take your puppy for a walk or play with him for 30 minutes or so. This allows the product to disperse over the coat.
- Frontline is VERY bitter. If your puppy licks the product, it may produce a large amount of salivation due to the taste. Try to keep your puppy from licking until the product has had a chance to dry.