



NOVEMBER 2023



Current Board Members
Jodie Jeweler pvpresident@pviwc.org
Kathy Lewis pvveep@pviwc.org
Christina Buckner pvtreasurer@pviwc.org
Susan Wine pvsecretary@pviwc.org
Carole Silverthorne pvboard1@pviwc.org
Judy Chantelois pvboard2@pviwc.org
Susan Montgomery pvboard3@pviwc.org
Linda King pvboard4@pviwc.org
Virginia Thackston pvboard5@pviwc.org

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Lewis.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Did you know there are titles you can earn with your hound, that have nothing to do with the show ring?!

Wolfhounds EXCELL as therapy dogs, and AKC has titles you can earn for completing certain numbers of therapy visits through a therapy dog organization.

There are quite a few organizations in the MD/VA area... Most require you to take a short training/obedience course before certifying you. Once certified, you can participate in reading programs, nursing/rehab center visits, and more!

If more active pursuits are your thing the AKC has Fit Dog titles, which can be earned by participating in club-sponsored events like walks, hikes, parades, and even breed specific like coursing or CAT events. YES! Our St. Patrick's Day parades will count!

CGC, CGCA and CGCU

Canine Good Citizen is a basic obedience test, proving you and your dog are polite in public.

President's Corner continued

The test has 10 components, including polite greetings, loose leash walking, coming when called and not reacting to other dogs.

The CGCU adds tests related to living in a city, like riding an elevator and in a car! CGCA adds even more polite, neighborly behaviors.

Farm Dog might seem strange for IWs, but most will easily succeed. 12 tests demonstrate that the dog can behave appropriately in a farm environment, including meeting livestock, jumping on hay bales, over logs, walking on strange surfaces.

CAT, and FAST CAT, are forms of coursing. CAT is a short 4 turn course, demonstrating a dog's aptitude. FAST CAT is a 200 yard long, straight run, for speed. And of course, lure coursing!

I hope you and your hound will try at least one of these! *Jodie*

Announcing the Third Annual 2023 AKC FIT DOG Turkey Trot

It's almost Thanksgiving! We are pleased to announce the third annual AKC FIT DOG Turkey Trot.

What is it?

The AKC FIT DOG Turkey Trot is a virtual 5K (3.1 miles) that people do with their dogs. This non-competitive 5K Turkey Trot can be done all at one time, or in smaller segments on multiple days so that everyone (people and dogs) can participate at their own pace. This can be a walk or run activity.

This year, Turkey Trot proceeds will be used to support programs for AKC Juniors. Juniors participate in multiple AKC events, and they can earn scholarships for their education.

Details

Between September 1, 2023, and December 15, 2023, you and your dog can walk/run your 5K.

The 5K (3.1 miles) can be walked/run all at once for people and dogs who are fit, or you may break your 5K into as many days/sessions as you need to keep you and your dog safe.

You and your dog can do the Turkey Trot on your own, with a group of friends and their dogs, or with your AKC FIT DOG club.

This Turkey Trot can be done anywhere that you and your dog are welcome to walk/run – in a local park, on a trail, or in your neighborhood.

We are keeping the Turkey Trot open past Thanksgiving for those who are running/walking in segments.

Registration Fee

\$20 donation, includes the 3" Turkey Trot medal with a ribbon.

How It Works

Between September 1, 2023, and December 12, 2023, complete the 5K (3.1 miles) with your dog. This can be all at once, or in as many days/sessions as you need.

Document your distances and times on a smartphone, smartwatch (or similar device), or on a written log.

Order your attractive AKC FIT DOG Turkey Trot medal.

The AKC FIT DOG Turkey Trot is done on an honor system. We are allowing medals to be ordered now so that AKC FIT DOG clubs and participants have them in time for Thanksgiving Turkey Trot photos.

The Turkey Trot counts toward AKC FIT DOG title points!

LIMITED SUPPLIES – ORDER YOUR MEDAL SOON!

Website link

https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/turkey-trot/?sc_src=email_289825&sc_lid=15808307&sc_uid=yaSRyvwpv&sc_lid=167233&sc_eh=a8fc8fd66f2a91af1&utm_campaign=20231012-nibble-health-chewy&utm_source=emarsys&utm_medium=email&utm_term=READ+MORE+%C2%B#~:text=DOG%20Turkey%20Trot-Announcing%20the%20Third%20Annual%202023%20AKC%20FIT%20DOG%20Turkey%20Trot,The%20Turkey%20Trot%20counts%20toward%20AKC%20FIT%20DOG%20title%20points!,-LIMITED%20SUPPLIES%20%E2%80%93%20ORDER

The Kennel Club of Philadelphia's National Dog Show

From the dog show webpage

Some 33,000 beautiful dogs and 21 years later, The Kennel Club of Philadelphia's National Dog Show has become a beloved part of Americana, a popular television viewing experience for families across the country on Thanksgiving Day.

The NBC two-hour special is a holiday tradition attracting a total audience of over 20 million each November. Many think it's been around as long as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that precedes it on NBC and few are aware of its unusual beginnings. It was actually inspired by the critically acclaimed parody movie, *Best In Show* – a hysterical and satirical look into the world of dog shows, which premiered to rave reviews in September 2000.

The Eugene Levy/Catherine O'Hara film is celebrated by entertainment media as a pop-culture favorite. The fictional "Mayflower" competition in the movie was modeled after the famed Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, then at Madison Square Garden, but writer/director Christopher Guest placed it in Philadelphia instead of New York. Now, because of its prominence, The National Dog Show, which coincidentally takes place in Philadelphia, is often mentioned in conjunction with the Christopher Guest gem.

The idea for The National Dog Show was born in 2001 out of a movie night with neighbors hosted by NBC Sports President of Partnerships and

Acquisitions Jon Miller. The very next day, Miller came up with the concept of a major dog show on NBC Thanksgiving Day following the Macy's Parade. Miller had to sell his idea to NBC executives in New York and Burbank and the show turned out to be a stroke of genius and proved to be an immediate ratings blockbuster.

WATCH FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME!

That two-hour special – from noon-2 p.m. in all time zones – is the beneficiary of the massive parade audience leading into two hours of dogs and handlers competing and frolicking in a celebration of the wonderful attributes of man's best friend. Dog lovers (latest statistics show that America has over 86.9 million pet-owning households) sit in front of their televisions, rooting for their favorite breeds, many with their pooch watching along with them.

That two-hour time slot also fits perfectly between the parade and the tradition of football watching that dominates the rest of the afternoon and evening on Turkey Day.

As it approaches its 22nd edition, the show is rare in all of television because it has the same audience-attracting power as it did when it debuted in 2002 with over 20 million viewers and what makes The National Dog Show so unique is its special place in America's consciousness. Thanksgiving Day is the Parade, The National Dog Show and football...three traditions likely to be with us for decades to come.

THE ACTUAL SHOW DATES ARE NOVEMBER 18 – 19, 8 am AT THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO CENTER, tickets \$39

Buy Tickets: https://www.eventticketscenter.com/the-national-dog-show-oaks-tickets/771838/e?gclid=CjwKCAjw-KipBhBtEiwAWjgwrD8J5t75J6-fGP1h2KFU7XTyTsxejvrwVblxCD_-2DtF6xa8bXsVfxoCkqMQAvD_BwE

Tips on How to Safely Use Cleaning Products Around Your Dog

By Anna Burke, Sponsored by SwifferPublished: Feb 10, 2022, Updated: Mar 13, 2023



Life with dogs gets messy. Keeping an arsenal of cleaning products and supplies on hand is essential for our sanity as dog owners, but using these cleaning products safely can get tricky. Now more than ever, people are doing their best to keep their homes clean to prevent COVID-19. Here are some tips to help you keep your home clean *and* safe for your dog.

Read the Label

As simple as it sounds, reading the label is the first step you should take toward safe cleaning. The label tells you whether or not the product is safe to use around pets and children, and it will also give you instructions for safe use. For example, some cleaning products are not safe for pets until the product dries after you use them. This means that you can use them safely around your dog, if you keep your dog away from the area until the product is dry, but you should not allow your pet to walk on, sniff, or lick the product while it is wet. If you are unsure about the safety of a product, you can always view our list of dangerous household products or contact your veterinarian.

Use Non-toxic Products

Some pet owners prefer to use non-toxic cleaning supplies, just to be on the safe side. However, as with all household cleaners, be sure to read the

directions, as even non-toxic products can cause problems if consumed or used incorrectly. Bear in mind that some natural products, such as essential oils, can also cause problems for dogs. Research “natural” products the same way you would any other cleaning product, chemical, or air freshener.

Store Products in a Safe Place

Dogs like to mouth, taste, and occasionally chew on things that take us by surprise. You can avoid accidents by storing all cleaning products in a place your dog can't access, such as a cupboard with a child safety lock or on the upper shelves of a closet or pantry. Check out this list of household hazards to make sure there aren't any other potentially harmful products lying around while you are at it.

Keep Pets Away While Cleaning

Perhaps the easiest solution to cleaning dilemmas is putting your pets in a safe place while you clean. This will prevent them from chasing after the vacuum or tracking paw prints over your freshly mopped floor, and it will keep them away from any potentially harmful chemicals. Crating your dog away from the area where you are cleaning or simply closing him off in a separate room while you clean will keep him safe from cleaning products.

Remember, any questions you have about cleaning products can always be directed to your veterinarian.

In an emergency, call the [Pet Poison Helpline](#).

FUN DAY OCTOBER 15TH







Lyme Disease in Dogs: Symptoms, Tests, Treatment, and Prevention

By Harriet Meyers, Published: Apr 12, 2023, Updated: Aug 28, 2023 AKC

Lyme disease, also known as Lyme borreliosis, is a bacterial illness that can be transmitted to humans, dogs, and other animals by certain species of ticks. It is caused by the spiral-shaped bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is carried inside a tick and gets into a dog or person's bloodstream through a tick bite. Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria can travel to different parts of the body and cause problems in specific organs or locations, such as joints, as well as overall illness.

Given the seriousness of Lyme disease, it's important to be aware of tick prevention and treatment for dogs.

Where Do Ticks Live?

The ticks that carry Lyme disease are especially likely to be found in tall grasses, thick brush, marshes, and woods — waiting to latch onto your dog when they pass by. A tick can transmit the disease once it has been attached to a dog for 24 to 48 hours.

First named when a number of cases occurred in Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975, the disease can be hard to detect and can cause serious, ongoing health problems in both dogs and people.

Lyme disease happens in every state, but infection risks vary. Over 95% of cases are from the Northeast, the Upper Midwest, and the Pacific Coast, although with recent changes in deforestation, migrating deer, and bird populations, percentage rates in these areas are constantly changing.

A small number of cases crop up each year along the West Coast, especially in Northern California. In Canada, Lyme-positive dogs are found mostly in southern Ontario and southern Manitoba. A smaller number of cases are reported each year in southern Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.



Geoff Hardy via Getty Images

How Do Ticks Get on People and Dogs?

Ticks don't jump or fly—they can only crawl. They get onto their host by waiting at the tips of vegetation. When a dog or person brushes against a bush, for example, the tick quickly grabs on and then crawls to find a place to bite.

What Are the Symptoms of Lyme Disease in Dogs?

Lyme disease is, unfortunately, a fairly common canine disease. Typical symptoms in dogs include:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Reduced energy
- Lameness (can be shifting, intermittent, and recurring)
- Generalized stiffness, discomfort, or pain
- Swelling of joints

Symptoms can progress to kidney failure in dogs, which can be fatal. Serious cardiac and neurological effects can also occur.



The primary carrier of Lyme disease is the black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), also called the “deer tick” or “bear tick.” The tick acquires the Lyme disease bacterium when it feeds on an animal that has been infected, such as a mouse, deer, or another mammal, and then transmits the bacterium to the next animal it feeds on. Image: CDC

How Are Dogs Tested for Lyme Disease?

Diagnosis is made by a combination of history, physical signs, and diagnostics. For dogs, the two blood tests for diagnosing Lyme disease are called the C6 Test and Quant C6 test. Veterinarians perform both.

The C6 test detects antibodies against a protein called “C6.” Presence of the antibodies suggests an active Lyme infection. The C6 antibodies can be detected three to five weeks after an infected tick bites a dog and may be found in the bloodstream, even before the dog shows signs of illness.

The next step is to do a Quant C6 test. This, along with urinalysis, will help determine if antibiotic treatment is necessary.

How Is Lyme Disease Treated?

Treatment includes antibiotics, usually for at least 30 days. This often resolves symptoms quickly, but in some cases, the infection will persist and prolonged medication may be needed. Treatment can also include other therapies aimed at resolving or relieving specific symptoms.

Can I Catch Lyme Disease From My Dog?

Dogs are not a direct source of infection for people. Lyme disease can't be transmitted from one pet to another, nor from pets to humans, except through tick bites. However, a carrier tick could come into your house on your dog's fur and get on you.

If your dog is diagnosed with Lyme disease, you and any other pets have probably been in the same outdoor environment and may also be at risk. So it is a good idea to consult with your physician and veterinarian to see whether you should test other pets or family members.



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Other Canine Diseases Carried by Ticks

Other less common—but serious—bacterial tick-borne diseases in dogs include anaplasmosis and babesiosis.

Anaplasmosis can involve symptoms similar to those of Lyme disease. Babesiosis can present with a wide range of symptoms, from sudden and severe shock, high fever, and dark urine to a slowly progressing infection with more subtle clinical signs. Diagnosis of both diseases includes blood tests similar to those used to check for Lyme disease.

Sometimes, dogs and people can become sick with “co-infection” of multiple tick-borne diseases, where more than one type of disease-causing bacteria is transmitted through a tick bite. This situation can make diagnosis and treatment even more challenging and difficult.

Preventing Lyme Disease and Other Tick-borne Illnesses

Recommendations on preventing ticks include these from Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC:

- **Inspect your dogs and yourself daily for ticks.** After walks through the woods or grassy settings, check yourself and your dog for ticks. When inspecting your dog for ticks, look especially on the feet (and between toes), on lips, around eyes, ears (and inside ears), near the anus, and under the tail.
- **Remove ticks immediately.** The quicker you find them, the less likely your dog will be to contract a secondary illness related to tick bites. Learn the proper method of removing ticks from dogs. Invest in a pair of fine tweezers designed to remove ticks. If you are unable to do so, consult with a veterinarian.
- **Ask your veterinarian to conduct a tick check at each exam.** They'll be able to find any you may have missed.
- **Use one of the veterinary-approved flea and tick preparations to prevent ticks from jumping on your dog.** Speak to your veterinarian to find the product that's most appropriate for your dog.
- **Keep grass mowed as short as possible.** Avoid walking into grassy patches in areas where ticks are common if you can.
- **Get your dog vaccinated.** Vaccination could prevent your dog from getting Lyme disease. They may not be appropriate for some dogs, so discuss this with your vet.

How to Know if Your Dog is Depressed

By Gemma Johnstone, Published: Apr 15, 2021, Updated: Aug 18, 2023, AKC



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Unlike humans, dogs can't verbalize what they are feeling. But even though dogs experience different emotions than we do, experts recognize that dogs can experience mental health problems similar to depression. But how do you know if your dog may be depressed?

How to Spot Signs of Depression in Dogs

Dog depression symptoms will vary, depending on the individual dog and how serious the problem is. There are some key things to look out for, however. Keep an eye out for changes in body language during their interactions with people and other pets, decreased appetite, and lethargic behavior.

Dr. Leslie Sinn runs Behavior Solutions and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB) and a certified professional dog trainer. "The main thing would be a change in normal demeanor," she says. "What I hear from most of my clients is that their dog is not that willing to engage in activities that previously they seemed to really enjoy."

She gives the example of a dog who normally loves to play fetch. If a dog who usually loves fetch is now playing for one or two rounds and then loses interest, it's clear their attitude has changed. You then might be wondering "Is my dog depressed?"

Dr. Sinn also lists other signs, including "clingy, needy behavior, and, perhaps, a need to be closer to the owner in general." Some dogs, however, can go the other way, and they can become overly withdrawn.

Ruling Out Pain or an Underlying Medical Condition

The symptoms of dog depression are often commonly similar to those displayed by a dog suffering from an underlying medical condition or chronic pain. Sometimes, these issues can even be triggers for depression.

Dr. Sinn always encourages owners to have their dogs medically evaluated to rule out any medical problems. "In general, if a dog is slowing down or is reluctant to engage, especially in the absence of some life-changing event, then I would bet huge amounts of money that it is medical or pain-related," she says.



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Common Causes of Depression in Dogs

If you suspect your pet is suffering from dog depression, ask yourself what has changed in their life and environment. There are a variety of triggers for depression. Sometimes it's an obvious thing, but it can also be more subtle changes or a combination of issues that have built up over time.

"Depression, in animals anyway, is something that we tend to associate with a specific event," says Dr. Sinn. "It could be the loss of an owner, the loss of a buddy that they have grown up with, or a huge lifestyle change — a big move, or the addition or subtraction of key members of their social group. It tends to be context-specific."

She explains that “people should look at their dog’s basic environmental and social circumstances” to understand what may have brought about the changes in their behavior.

Common triggers for dog depression may include:

- Grief while mourning the loss of a human or animal companion
- Chronic pain
- Trauma, including injury, abuse, or long-term stress
- Environmental changes such as a house move, rehoming, or the addition of a new baby or pet to the household. Even things like children going back to school after extended holidays or a change in your work pattern could be factors.
- Social isolation
- Not getting enough physical and/or mental stimulation. This is especially true for high-energy, driven, working breeds.

Dr. Sinn explains that some of the most severe cases of dog depression she’s seen have come from “dogs coming out of just horrific rescue circumstances — hoarding situations, meat farm dogs, that kind of thing.”

Dr. Kelly Ballantyne is a board-certified veterinary behaviorist and the leader of Insight Animal Behavior Services. She says that serious behavioral issues can often result from a combination of genetics, early life experiences, physical and social environments, and ongoing learning processes. “We regularly meet with experienced dog owners who provide appropriate amounts of exercise, enrichment, play, and training, and still have dogs that suffer from fear, anxiety, and depression.”

“You could have a very, very anxious dog that has a lot of behavioral suppression,” adds Dr. Sinn. “It really kind of freezes or shuts down and that whole process can lead to depression. The dog doesn’t want to eat, doesn’t want to move, doesn’t want to do much of anything. It doesn’t want to engage and, consequently, removes itself from social interaction.” In these severe cases, treating the problem may not be straightforward.

How to Treat Depression in Dogs

As Dr. Sinn points out, dogs are amazingly resilient. If there is a significant event associated with their depression, often some simple environmental and social changes can make a huge difference. She suggests things like “spending some extra time with them, taking them on extra fun walks, playing a little tug, or having a little grooming session.” Usually, with a little time, extra attention, and enjoyable enrichment, your dog will move through their depression without any major difficulty.

For some dogs, their depression is a more permanent issue that can be more serious in the long term. This dog will need extra support. Dr. Sinn is keen to reiterate that these dogs have often had a particularly traumatic past, and it is not a surprise that they need extra help.



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Often behavioral guidance from a professional is recommended, and, in some instances, you may want to discuss pharmacological support with your vet. “We don’t medicate out of convenience for the owner,” says Dr. Sinn. “But if the poor dog is unable to function the majority of the time, then something needs to be done to address the quality of life and welfare of that individual.”

Dr. Ballantyne explains that medications are very helpful in cases where a dog’s underlying emotional state is interfering with their ability to learn new behaviors or negatively affecting their quality of life. “This is especially true when there are many different types of triggers for the dog’s fear or

anxiety, or when the triggers are unavoidable.” She gives the example of a depressed dog who is terrified of storms and lives in an area where storms are frequent for months throughout the year.

“I think it’s important to acknowledge that pharmaceutical options aren’t the only treatment for dogs suffering from mental illness, but rather just a part of the treatment plan,” points out Dr. Ballantyne. She notes that the most effective treatment plans may include a combination of pharmaceuticals, managing your dog’s environment, and behavior modification.

Trazodone for Dogs: What to Know

By Nandini Maharaj, Published: Mar 21, 2023, Updated: Jun 20, 2023

Trazodone (brand name Desyrel, Oleptro) is a medication used to treat depression in people. Trazodone is a human medication, but it does have a number of uses in veterinary medicine, such as managing separation anxiety, aggression, barking, and excessive licking. Some people use it nightly as a sleep aid or when they’re anticipating something stressful happening. If your dog gets distressed going to the vet or being left alone for short periods, your veterinarian might suggest using Trazodone to help manage such behavioral issues.

The medication works by keeping a chemical messenger in the brain, known as serotonin, at a level where it can help stabilize a person’s mood. Since the use of Trazodone in dogs is “extra-label,” it’s important to know about the medication’s side effects, in addition to following your veterinarian’s advice, which may differ from what’s on the label.

Uses of Trazodone for Dogs

“Trazodone has been adapted for use in dogs and cats because it tends to be very safe and well-tolerated,” says Dr. Amy Attas, VMD. A veterinarian might administer Trazodone in situations where a dog needs to remain calm, such as when they’ve just come out of surgery. If it’s orthopedic

surgery, for example, the vet wouldn't want the dog to be excited and move around a lot.

Another use of Trazodone for dogs is short-term stress relief for an event like visits to the groomer or vet clinic, car rides, or airplane trips. Some dogs get so distressed going to the vet that they start urinating or defecating in the examination room. In these instances, Trazodone would be used on an "as-needed" basis, meaning that you might need to increase or repeat the dose.



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Aside from specific events like a vet visit, your veterinarian might prescribe Trazodone for daily use in dogs with behavioral disorders or dogs with phobias of events like thunderstorms and fireworks. If your dog gets so anxious that they pull out fur or destroy items in the home, Trazodone can help provide symptom relief. However, it won't have an immediate effect. As Dr. Attas explains, "When you use Trazodone on a daily basis, you have to build up to a level where the dog has the desired behavioral changes without unwanted side effects like drowsiness."

As with any drug that is used to treat a chronic condition, it can take a few weeks before you'll start to see an improvement in your dog's behavior. In contrast, when you administer Trazodone for short-term stress relief, it should be given 1-2 hours before the required time of sedation because the dosage would be higher for occasional use than when treating a chronic behavioral disorder. Moreover, your dog will return to their normal behavior once the drug wears off.

Trazodone Side Effects in Dogs

After taking Trazodone, some dogs experience upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, or decreased appetite. This should be taken with a grain of salt because “almost every drug you look up has these effects on their list,” Dr. Attas explains. “Every drug has a potential side effect.”

The most common side effect of Trazodone is that it can make your dog a bit drowsy or sleepy. “Dogs can look slightly intoxicated and walk with a stumbling gait,” Dr. Attas says. Her advice is to monitor your dog and make sure they’re not sitting up high where they might misjudge their step, fall, and hurt themselves.

In some dogs, Trazodone “can cause something called disinhibition, although it’s a very rare side effect,” Dr. Attas says. Disinhibition can occur when a dog that has some aggressive tendencies becomes slightly more aggressive after taking the medication, rather than experiencing the desired calming effect. As noted, this side effect is rare, but it’s important to exercise caution when using Trazodone for a dog with aggressive tendencies.

Trazodone Dosage for Dogs

Generic trazodone comes in 50-, 100-, 150-, and 300-milligram tablets and requires a written prescription in some states. Otherwise, your veterinarian can phone it in to your local pharmacy. Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC, recommends that veterinarians should dose the dog depending on that individual dog’s medical history and possible drug interaction concerns.

For chronic behavioral issues like separation anxiety, the recommended dosage by weight is one to three milligrams per pound of body weight. You might need to increase or repeat the dose in certain situations. For example, your dog may have a fear of thunderstorms, but you can’t always predict when these weather events will occur. Accordingly, you might decide to use a lower dose on a daily basis during the summer and then increase the dosage on the nights when experts are forecasting a severe storm.



Dogs can take Trazodone on an empty stomach. But if your dog is preparing for a car ride or flight, it's better to give them their tablet(s) with a treat or a small amount of food. "You don't ever want to have a pet be motion sick and sedated," Dr. Attas says. "You want them to be fully awake to make sure they're in a proper position if they need to vomit."

Can You Use Gabapentin and Trazodone Together for Dogs?

Like Trazodone, Gabapentin is a human medication adapted for use in veterinary medicine to treat conditions like chronic nerve pain. Dr. Klein adds that it's been used as adjunctive therapy, or a secondary treatment paired with a primary treatment, for seizures. "We will use Gabapentin as the first line of medication for pain relief, so we don't have to use non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs which can upset the stomach and are very difficult on patients who have comorbidities like kidney, liver, or heart disease," Dr. Attas explains.

Since Trazodone has a mild sedating effect, Gabapentin will provide additional sedating effects along with pain relief. For example, a veterinarian might combine Gabapentin with Trazodone following surgery, and "the drugs are safe to use together," Dr. Attas adds. However, the use of Gabapentin to calm dogs is mostly anecdotal, Dr. Klein notes. Dr. Klein adds that dogs should not be given Gabapentin oral solution, which is sometimes prescribed to humans, as it contains xylitol, a substance that is toxic to dogs.

Any time a vet is combining medications, it's essential for them to know if something is contraindicated (meaning that a particular medication or

treatment should not be used because it could harm the patient). If your dog is seeing a veterinarian along with a behaviorist or other specialists, make sure each of them has a copy of your pet's medical records, including a current list of medications and their dosages. They should know if your dog is taking any supplements, such as herbs or over-the-counter medications.

Keep in mind that "a veterinarian cannot prescribe a medication to a pet they've never seen before," Dr. Attas says. In some states, vets cannot prescribe medication unless they have seen your dog within the last year.

If your dog gets very stressed at the vet or groomer or has a noise phobia, you can ask your veterinarian if they could benefit from being mildly sedated. A medication like Trazodone, when used on its own or in combination with drugs like Gabapentin, can help make the experience easier for your dog, yourself, and your veterinarian.

Why Does My Dog Smell So Bad?

By Roxanne Hawn, Published: Apr 08, 2022, Updated: Aug 25, 2023, AKC



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Sometimes, a dog odor can go from mild to downright stinky. If you're wondering "Why does my dog smell so bad?" there are many possible reasons

Veterinary dermatologist Dr. Ashley Bourgeois, DVM, DACVD, adds that dogs pick up scents from their environment. Dogs with yards often smell like grass. Dogs from rural homes sometimes smell like hay. "With smaller dogs, their owners hold on to them a lot," Bourgeois says. "Sometimes they smell like their detergents or perfumes."

According to Dr. Jackie Campbell, DVM, DACVD, many of us have misconceptions about giving dogs too many baths. She says it's a good idea to bathe your dog monthly, but she sees canine patients who receive weekly baths or even daily showers. On a positive note, dog shampoos often contain ingredients like lipids and ceramides, which can protect the skin and stop it from drying out.

Medical Reasons Dogs May Smell

Secondary yeast or bacterial infections on the skin or inside the ears remain the most common medical reasons dogs have an unpleasant smell. Dog allergies often begin the process, which leads to scratching and licking, behaviors that can open the door for infections.



vichuda/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

"Secondary skin infections are usually things that we normally live with happily," Dr. Campbell says, "but something went wrong that caused overgrowth." Malassezia yeast and staphylococcus pseudintermedius bacteria can overgrow on dogs, causing skin issues and odors. Look for:

- **Signs of discomfort:** When Dr. Campbell asks if dogs feel itchy, owners may initially say no. However, they often then describe itchy behaviors, including head shaking, licking, or rubbing the body or head against furniture, people, or walls.
- **Changes in skin and coat:** Dr. Campbell suggests looking for skin color changes, ranging from red to black (a result of chronic inflammation) and for hair loss or spots of shorter coat (which may be the result of dogs nibbling at it).
- **Progression:** Dr. Bourgeois recommends watching to see if the smell gets worse (or if it doesn't). An increase in odor intensity is meaningful.
- **Crust and color:** Dr. Bourgeois says, "If you notice the smell, and all of a sudden you notice that there is a little bit of crusting and red on them, or their ears are bright red, then that's going to be abnormal."

What to Do if Your Dog Smells

If your dog smells and you notice some of the above symptoms, take them to the vet. "Too often," Dr. Campbell says, "I hear from owners, 'Oh, my gosh! I wish I would have found you sooner. I've been dealing with this for two years, and in 30 days, I have a new dog.' "

Stick to treatments prescribed and recommended by your vet. *Avoid* using home remedies, including:

- Borax
- Hydrogen peroxide (especially inside dogs' ears)
- Vinegar
- Bleach
- Coal tar

"Coal tar is a really old product, and it's sometimes thought of as being more natural," Dr. Campbell says, "but as we became more advanced, we realized that coal tar can act as a carcinogen, and it's also so stinky." Dr.

Bourgeois explains that veterinarians sometimes will use diluted solutions of vinegar topically to treat yeast infections in dogs. She says, "You have to be careful with the concentrations you're using because they can be really irritating and damaging to the skin."



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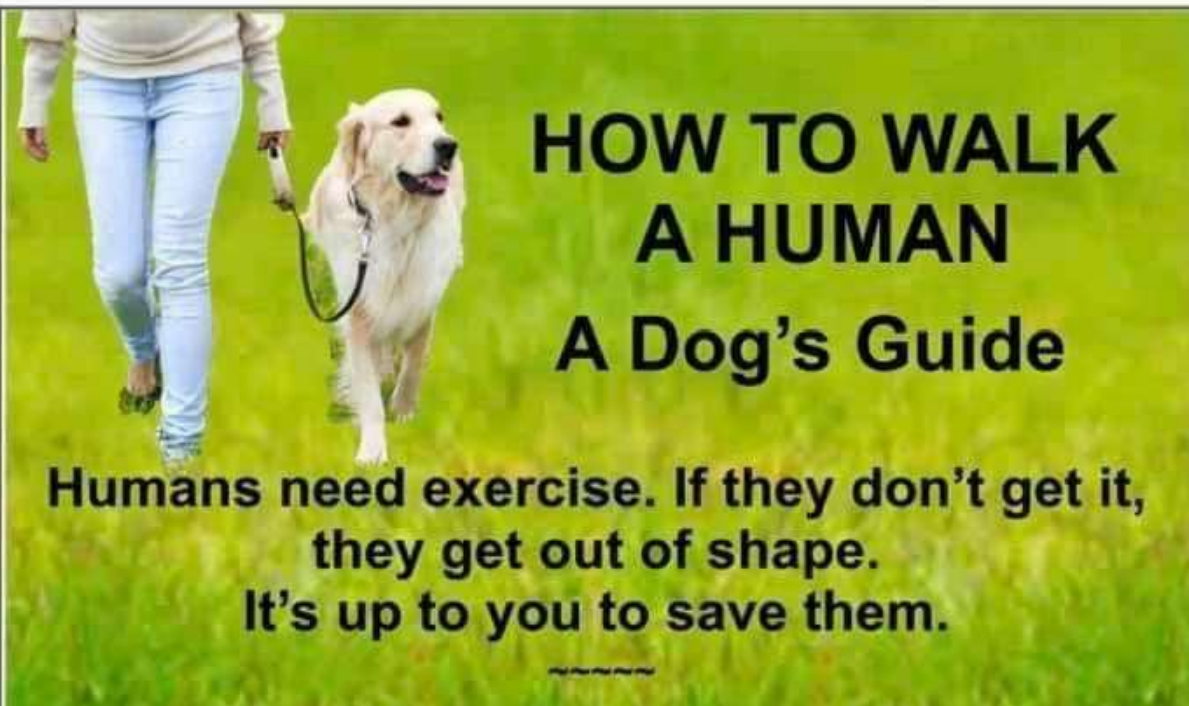
Even if your dog smells bad, it's best to let the medicine do its work. Dr. Bourgeois says that covering up dog odors with spray-on fragrances or perfumes can cause more skin irritation. Also, it's not a good idea to assume vet-prescribed medications will cost more than store-bought ones. In many cases, vet-prescribed products are more cost-effective and clinically effective because they feature higher concentrations of key ingredients, such as:

- Chlorhexidine (an antiseptic)
- Miconazole (anti-fungal, anti-yeast)
- Phytosphingosine (which contains skin-protecting lipids)
- Pramoxine (a soothing topical anesthetic)

After more people spent more time at home with their dogs during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Bourgeois says, "It's kind of an eye-opener for a lot of our clients to really see what a whole day for a pet with an infection or allergies looks like, and so we are getting more people seeking care because they're noticing how big of an issue it is."

She adds, "If it starts getting worse and worse, reach out again, because we do see things like infections where all of a sudden there are new lesions

or your pet is even more uncomfortable. The severity may have increased enough that we feel like it's valuable to come in."



HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A Dog's Guide

**Humans need exercise. If they don't get it,
they get out of shape.
It's up to you to save them.**

- 1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wandering off or running away.**
- 2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.**
- 3. Bark frequently. Human have short attention spans.**
- 4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up. It is good aerobics.**
- 5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called *Interval Training*.**
- 6. Do not allow your human shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.**
- 7. Once you return home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.**



PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2023

UPCOMING:

- April 21&22** Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA
- May 6** Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 General's Highway, Crownsville, MD
- May 6 & 7** Faerie Festival, 2200 Rocky Point Rd, Essex, MD
- May 21 1pm** **Show Meeting@ The Montgomerys'** 800 River Rd, Sykesville. *(Female hounds and puppies are welcome (no intact adult males).*
- June 10** Carroll County Celtic Festival, Agriculture Center
- June 11** **Regular Meeting**
- June 17** Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA
- June 24 & 25** Celtic Fling *(with a concert on Friday night)* PA Renn Faire grounds
- August 13** **Regular Meeting**
- September 2 & 3** Virginia Scottish Games
- September 17** Fun Day, moved to Oct. 15 due to inclement weather
- October 15** Fun Day
- October 15** **Regular Meeting**
- November** Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium, MD
- November 19** **Regular Meeting**
- December 10** **Holiday Party**
- December 16** Celtic Solstice Five-Miler, Druid Hill, Baltimore, MD
- December 27** Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD

Dates, Time, or location to be determined and subject to change on some events.

We Need Volunteers to Host meetings either at your home or another venue where you set up the details.

Eg. A restaurant or pub with WiFi & a quiet space

Questions, please ask them!



Dear Friends of the Irish Wolfhounds,

The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club's (PVIWC) back-to-back Specialties are scheduled to take place March 31 and April 1, 2024. Every year members, friends, and exhibitors financially contribute to sponsor trophies and ribbons, either in whole or in part. It has been through these generous contributions that the PVIWC specialties are successful.

On behalf of the PVIWC, I express great appreciation to past contributors.

I ask you to consider sponsoring or making a financial donation to this year's general trophy fund. Your donation(s) will allow us to . There is no such thing as a donation too small.

To contribute, please indicate your contribution on the Ribbon and Trophy Sponsorship Specification and Guide on the reverse side of this letter, and send it along with your

financial donation(s) (checks payable to PVIWC) to:

Christina Buckner

PVIWC Treasurer and Show Secretary

1348 Sycamore Ave.

Annapolis, MD 21403

You may also use the donations PayPal tab on our website!

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Sincerely,

Jodie Jeweler

PVIWC President and Show Chair

Ribbon and Trophy Sponsorship Specification and Guide

Sponsorship of First in each class-\$18.00

Sponsorship of Third in each class-\$12.00

Sponsorship of Second in each class-\$15.00

Sponsorship of Fourth in each class-\$10.00

Or Sponsor the entire class for \$50.00

_____ 6-9 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 6-9 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ 9-12 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 9-12 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ 12-15 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 12-15 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ 15-18 mo. Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ 15-18 mo. Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Novice Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Novice Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ AOH Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ AOH Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Bred-By Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Bred-By Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Am-Bred Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Am-Bred Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Open Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Open Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Veteran Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Veteran Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Stud Dog 1 2 3 4

_____ Brood Bitch 1 2 3 4

_____ Obedience - \$50

_____ Rally - \$50

Trophy Sponsorship/Mementos to Challenge Trophies Donation

_____ Best of Breed \$125
 \$50

_____ Reserve Winners Dog

<input type="checkbox"/> Best of Opposite \$50	\$115	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Winners Bitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Best of Winners \$30	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Bred-By-Exhibitor Dog
<input type="checkbox"/> Winners Dog \$30	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Bred-By-Exhibitor Bitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Winners Bitch \$40	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Best BBE
<input type="checkbox"/> Am-Bred Dog \$30	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Am-Bred Bitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Dog \$30	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Bitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Best Puppy \$30	\$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Bitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Best in Sweeps \$50	\$75	<input type="checkbox"/> BoS to BI Sweeps

Name

Phone

Address

E-mail

City, State Zip

To secure recognition in the Premium/Catalog, donations must be received no later than 14 November. Please make known the class you wish to sponsor in preferential order. All attempts at accommodating your request will be made. If you have no preference place an "X" in the no preference box.

First Choice Class Donation: _____

Second Choice Class Donation: _____

Third Choice Class Donation: _____
Preference:

No

Feel free to contact Christina Buckner via e-mail at: ckallay@verizon.net