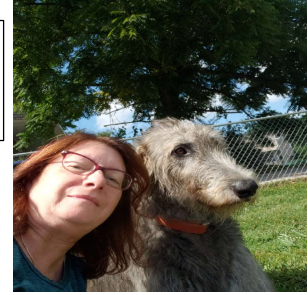




**JUNE
2024**



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

All PVIWC Members and Friends

Attached is the information for anyone wishing to join the meeting on Sunday via Zoom. The meeting will be held in person at Brian Boru Restaurant in Severna Park, MD. 1:00PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89994215151?pwd=x1TK88sJnT2Tte2wk3ENI6tXavOAJZ.1>

Hope you are planning on attending Penn-Mar Irish Festival Saturday June 15 and the Celtic Fling the following weekend June 22 & 23. There is some information below about that event.

If you have any questions or items, you wish to discuss at the meeting please let me know. I will add it to the agenda.

Thank You
Susan Wine
PVIWC Secretary

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

FROM Carole Silverthorne:

We had a great time at the IWCA National Specialty last week. Thank you Courtney Smith for taking Wicca in the Novice Bitch class. They placed 3rd!!!



From: [Lynne Rosebrock](#), Owner at Animal Care Center Mariposa and Owner at Carroy Kennels Irish Wolfhounds

I am looking forward to the IAWWC Specialty coming up July 26 & 27 in Santa Maria. It is always a fun time to reconnect with friends and see wonderful dogs. The judging panel includes two very well-respected foreign breeder judges. To help you get ready and to get a feel for how judges approach their assignments, I have included an article written by one of the judges a few years ago.

[Judging The Irish Wolfhound](#) (This was written for an American publication in 2016)

Being a member of the hound group, the Irish Wolfhound is one of the old ancient hunting breeds. Of great size and commanding appearance is a pre/requisite when first assessing the dogs / bitches (hereafter called the dogs). A Wolfhound without size is not true to the breed. The breed standard calls for the males to be a minimum of 32" 81 cm and bitches a

minimum of 30"76 cm. Most full-grown males will average between 34" 86.36 cm and 36" 91.44 cm and bitches average between 31" 78.74 to 33" 83.82 cm. Weight for males can be 75 to 85 kg and 62 to 65 kg for bitches. Some large males can reach as much as 95 to 110 kg but these are exceptions. This is more than the average height than for any other breed. There is quite a lot of latitude present as regards size, a slight variation either way is acceptable but this does not present a problem provided that the proportions are retained.

The Irish Wolfhound temperament calls for a natural gentle instinct but possessing a protecting and guarding demeanor. He is courageous without aggression being very affectionate and a wonderful companion.

There is absolutely no weakness in the makeup of the mature Irish Wolfhound, in body or in mind he is a supreme athlete and stands his ground with confidence. With his huge size, it is quite obvious he is more than capable of performing any of the various functions which have been developed over many years hunting, coursing, protector and guardian.

The body is very powerfully built showing a well-defined and evident strength of musculature whilst at the same time retaining the harmonious and satisfying arrangement of portions and parts to the outline, expressing balance and symmetry. The length to height ratio is longer than tall about as 10 is to 12, providing enough space to present an efficient two beat diagonal gait with extension and drive handled on a loose lead. This allows the proudly carried head and top line to be lowered to adopt the correct position to overcome lateral displacement. The footfalls are in harmony with each other and there should be an almost imperceptible period of suspension. The width of the stride pattern front and rear ensure that the diagonal pair are in the air for the same length of time, I call it unification. The reach and drive should not be excessive but easy and active. Head not in the upright position as in the Great Dane

A superb top line is also an indication that the correlation front and rear are also correct to ensure there is no wasted energy. For me there is nothing more impressive from a Judges perspective than observing a line-up of mature Irish Wolfhounds in the ring in their typical side-on posed position with the elbows carried just below the brisket in conjunction with a

well let down powerful chest. This presents the characteristic long legged hunting hound with the distance sternum to ground being slightly more than the depth of chest to withers. The powerful deep chest ensures that adequate lung room for the hound is possible

The muscular forelegs flat rather than round bone should not taper toward the pastern which should have a slight lean when viewed from the posed position. The old standard referred to the head as very long but not too narrow gradually getting broader evenly up to the back of the head. Long and level proudly carried the frontal bones of the forehead very slightly raised and little indentation between the eyes. Level plains and no receding back skull The muzzle should be slightly longer than the eyes to the occiput with width and strength in the underjaw. The bite should be scissor but a level bite on an excellent specimen should not be penalized. The almond shape eye should be dark and set on slightly to the side of the head not front on as in many other breeds this spoils the expression of the Wolfhound but once again a light eye should not be penalized on an excellent dog. Ears set on high small and rosed.

The Irish Wolfhound is a very powerful dog with a most impressive well balanced muscular build. The unique top line is a feature of the breed and whilst it has to be as level as possible the rise over the loin has to be maintained to give the croup a gentle rounded appearance when slopping down to the low set of the tail which is fairly thick and reaching the hock .When gaiting in the ring the tail should be carried low but if a number of large males are in the ring together the dominant factor may kick in and the tails may come up when in close contact.

The ribs have good spring and should be ribbed well back this is created by a good length of sternum ensuring that the underline starts its gentle rise up at the correct position ensuring it is complementary to the top line The rise over the loin should start where the last rib curves round at the start of the loin not where the last rib joins the spine as this will give a roach top line if the rise starts too early.

Shoulder and hind angulation are important but should not in any circumstances be extreme and over angulation in a giant breed is a

weakness and should be heavily penalized. Strong hocks should stay parallel when moving away.

In the standard there is no reference to the lay back of shoulder however the layback of the Irish Wolfhound should not be 45 degrees to the vertical. With a scapula/ humerus (shoulder upper arm) articulation at the apex of 120 degrees. Knowing these facts determine the return of the upper arm with forelegs in the upright position at 180 degrees will be approx. 30 degrees both shoulder and upper arm of the vertical these angles will ensure that the strong forelegs well under the body offering support and stability to the forehand and at the same time expose an evident fore chest with sound conformation of the forehand. If the angle at the shoulder upper arm was 130 degrees and shoulder blade 30 degrees then the upper arm would be 20 degrees creating an upright front assembly, i.e. the shape, size, and condition to muscle in association with correct handling good extension of the forelegs will be evident when gaiting. The hind legs are very strong and well developed showing defined musculature to the first and second thigh when viewed from any angle they are well angulated showing good width of thigh and turn of stifle. The hock angle is slightly open and well let down when viewed from the rear the hocks are positive showing no signs of weakness standing back from the pelvis. The coat is harsh to the touch rough and hard all over. The recognized colours are grey, brindle, red, black, pure white, fawn or any colour that appears in the Deerhound.

In summing up, the Irish Wolfhound is a large hunting dog of athletic appearance.

When the Wolfhound enters the ring the balanced out-line should be evident at first glance starting with the head carriage the crest of the neck flowing down to the shoulders and the unbroken top line that rises slightly over the loins to the rounded croup (unlike the deerhound falling croup) The two beat diagonal gait should be easy and active with no displacement of the top line. Wolfhound temperament is paramount in the breed any signs of shyness nervousness or aggression should not be tolerated. This magnificent breed is a pleasure and privilege to judge so enjoy your judging if you get the opportunity.

This just my personal opinion on Judging the Irish Wolfhound.

John Lewington Greycroft Irish Wolfhounds Australia

What to Do If Your Dog Has a Loose Tooth

By Nandini Maharaj, Updated: Apr 03, 2024



betyarlaca/Getty Images Plus

It's normal for puppies to lose their primary teeth. For an adult dog, a loose or wiggly tooth can be the result of an injury or a sign of dental disease. And because dental disease takes years to develop, we have an opportunity to intervene and prevent tooth loss, starting with good dental hygiene.

Prevention is the most effective strategy for avoiding dental problems. But if you happen to notice that your dog has a loose tooth, it's important to consult your veterinarian to ensure that your dog receives timely care. Your vet can offer advice on how to improve your dog's oral health.

When Do Puppies Lose Their Teeth?

Puppies are born without teeth. When they're about three weeks old, their baby teeth start to erupt until they reach their full complement of 28 primary teeth (though some puppies have fewer). Typically, by six months of age, puppies will have lost all their primary teeth and end up with 42 adult teeth.

“You might notice your puppy rubbing their face or chewing on things or see a little bit of blood on a toy or in the water bowl,” according to Dr. Amy Attas, VMD. “All can be indications that teeth are in the process of falling out.”



©photology1971 - stock.adobe.com

How Can You Tell If Your Dog Has a Loose Tooth?

Dogs of all sizes have the same number of teeth. “But the smaller the dog, the more crowded their mouth is,” Dr. Attas explains. Some breeds like the Pug, Pekingese, and Bulldog have shorter snouts, which can make it harder to recognize loose teeth. “Because of that crowding, sometimes a tooth is diseased and wiggling, but you’ll miss it,” she says.

Like us, dogs can bite down the wrong way and fracture their teeth. It’s easier to see a stub or sharp edge if a tooth breaks in half. But when the fracture is close to the gum line, it can be more difficult to detect.

In such cases, you can keep an eye out for the following signs of a loose or wiggly tooth:

- Tilting their head to one side when eating
- Only chewing on one side of the mouth
- Reluctant to play tug-of-war games
- Not picking up toys with their mouth
- Preferring canned or home-cooked food to dry food
- Only eating kibble once it’s softened



©duncanandison - stock.adobe.com

“Your dog might think that they’re supposed to feel this way and don’t realize something is wrong,” Dr. Attas says. “Sometimes we don’t even know how uncomfortable they were until we take care of their mouths and find out how much better they feel.”

What Causes Tooth Loss in Dogs?

There are two main reasons that adult dogs lose their teeth. The first is any injury that results from being struck with something hard or chewing something hard, such as sticks and rocks or furniture, Dr. Attas says. The second (and most common) reason for tooth loss in adult dogs is dental disease.

Even though a canine diet contains less sugar than a human diet, dogs can still develop dental tartar and decay. As tartar accumulates and hardens, “this is a perfect environment for bacteria,” she says. Their gums can become inflamed along with the root. Once this happens, the root can decay and cause the tooth to wiggle.

How Can You Prevent Tooth Loss in Dogs?

“Whereas a dog can break a tooth in a millisecond, dental disease takes a very long time to develop,” Dr. Attas says. “If we’re brushing right from the beginning, their teeth are less likely to develop decay. It will happen more slowly and be a less serious case.” Getting your dog comfortable with tooth brushing takes time and patience. Here are some steps to make brushing your dog’s teeth a positive experience:

1. Start by touching the outside of your dog’s mouth. Praise and reward them with a treat.

2. Lift the top lip and hold it while you touch the dog's top teeth and gums without a toothbrush. Then, do the same for the bottom lip, teeth, and gums. Reward them with praise and a treat.
3. Choose a toothbrush designed for dogs that fits over your index finger, so you can feel how much pressure you're applying. Touch the brush to your dog's teeth (front, side, and back) on the bottom and top of their mouths. Make sure they're comfortable with this step before introducing toothpaste.
4. Apply a small amount of dog toothpaste on your finger and let your dog sniff and taste it.
5. Try brushing their top teeth with toothpaste while holding up the upper lip. Praise and reward.
6. Repeat Step 5, going further back into your pet's mouth (to the side and the back on the top of the mouth).
7. Repeat Steps 5 and 6 with the bottom teeth.



©Dogs - stock.adobe.com

Keep sessions short and frequent. All you need is 30 to 60 seconds. You can brush the right side one day and the left side the next.

Most importantly, your dog must be willing to participate. "If they start to growl or act like they want to bite, it's inappropriate for you to continue," Dr. Attas says. You can teach your dog to tolerate or even enjoy tooth brushing, but "you shouldn't do anything around your dog's mouth that could lead to you becoming injured," she adds.

Along with brushing, be careful with toys or chews that can damage your dog's teeth. While tennis balls are a favorite toy to many dogs, they aren't the best for their teeth. "When dogs chew on tennis balls, the nylon fiber files down the dog's teeth," Dr. Attas emphasizes. "With harder chews like bones or antlers, there's always a risk of breaking a tooth."

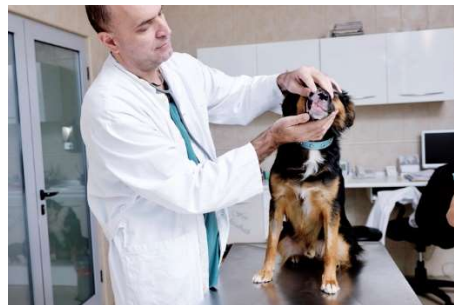
How Do You Treat a Wiggly Tooth?

Dental disease is a serious health issue. It's important to consult your veterinarian if your dog has a loose tooth or any pain or discomfort in their mouth. "If a tooth is diseased, the best way to treat that is to extract it," Dr. Attas explains. "Adult dogs have 42 teeth. If they're missing 10 of them, they're still going to be fine."

Extracting teeth is not a cosmetic procedure. "If dogs have a mouthful of bacteria and infections present, that bacteria have the potential to go to other parts of the body," she says. "It doesn't matter how many teeth need to be extracted. If it's an unhealthy tooth, we need to get it out of the mouth." Antibiotics can help treat the infection, but you still need to address the underlying cause, which could be a diseased root or tooth.

One exception to this is working dogs that need to keep their full complement of teeth. If, for example, a police dog fractures their canine tooth, the vet may recommend doing a root canal to save the tooth instead of removing it. "We can do root canals on dogs, but they take much more anesthesia and they're much more expensive," she adds.

Are Professional Dental Cleanings Necessary For Dogs?



.shock/Getty Images Plus

Even if you brush your dog's teeth regularly, they still need a professional dental cleaning. "Sometimes people say they can do an anesthesia-free

tooth cleaning,” Dr. Attas says. “The only way to do this properly is under general anesthesia.” Your vet will need to X-ray your dog’s mouth to examine the status of the roots. With regular tooth brushing, there will be less buildup of dental tartar (also known as calculus) and your dog won’t need to go to the vet for tooth problems as often. In addition, they’ll spend less time under anesthesia and the procedure will be less expensive.

Dr. Attas says that dogs’ teeth are rarely perfectly white. “The part of the tooth that is closer to the gum line will be a slightly different color because of the accumulation of calculus,” she says. If a tooth is diseased or decayed, blood may pool in the canal underneath and discolor the tooth, making it look grayish or blue in color. “What you see of a tooth is like the tip of the iceberg,” Dr. Attas adds.

If your dog is normally good at having their teeth brushed and now seems uncomfortable, “you can address the problem long before it becomes a wiggly tooth,” she says. She recommends purchasing dental products that have the Veterinary Oral Health Council label to promote good dental health.

From Mary O’Malley

New DNA Test Can Detect Delayed Postoperative Hemorrhage in Sighthounds

By Caroline Coile



A new DNA test could save the lives of sighthounds undergoing surgery. Researchers from Washington State University have developed a genetic test to detect dogs prone to excessive

bleeding following surgery. The condition, called delayed postoperative hemorrhage (DEPOH), was first noted in racing Greyhounds but has since been reported in Scottish Deerhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Salukis, Borzois, Whippets and even Golden Retrievers, Border Collies, Bulldogs and Shetland Sheepdogs. DEPOH occurs when blood clots all start to break down too soon after surgery, typically one to four days following major surgery. It can cause severe bruising or even death. Normal coagulation screening tests do not detect the problem.

Researchers studied 269 Scottish Deerhounds in order to pinpoint the genetic mutation on chromosome 9. They then confirmed the candidate gene by screening additional sighthounds and other breeds that had exhibited DEPOH.

The DNA test, called DEPOHGEN, is from Washington State University. Dogs with the mutant gene can be given drugs prior to surgery that will prevent DEPOH. These drugs can be expensive and cause adverse reactions, so they shouldn't be given unless a dog is susceptible to DEPOH. Testing for the mutation ahead of time will prevent unnecessary use of these drugs, and is especially useful for emergency surgery situations.

The initial published study focused on Scottish Deerhounds: [Identification by whole genome sequencing of genes associated with delayed postoperative hemorrhage in Scottish deerhounds – Court – Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Wiley Online Library.](#)

The test is available from Washington State University Pharmacogenetic Laboratory for \$65. [Pharmacogenomics Laboratory | Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](#)

Reference:

The Canine Chronicle https://caninechronicle.com/current-articles/new-dna-test-can-detect-delayed-postoperative-hemorrhage-in-sighthounds/?fbclid=IwAR0WJyBBxy9mAkiLTL_HuZgeXzjt0uOkQw0JphFbK93RX1XD9X-RtdhHoLY_aem_AYs9F0cTrKYAee0Wyg0nRihMy1z5y1IDt63hwYt4gNWFXXkxPviquaqdLwobQmyYHuBzKVA mZ JTz bteKgAOYglafh7

Additional Notation from Mary O'Malley, Irish Wolfhound Foundation and PVIWC club member



How to Brush Your Dog's Teeth and Why It's So Important

By AKC Staff, Sponsored by Pet Lab Co. Updated: Apr 05, 2024

If there is one area of canine grooming that is often overlooked, it is the dog's teeth. Most dog owners remember to brush the coat until it shines and to clip the nails so they don't click on the floor, but not everyone cares for canine tooth brushing. Brushing is important because it cleans away the plaque that leads to bad breath or more serious problems such as decayed teeth or gum disease. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, 80% of dogs show signs of canine periodontal disease as early as age three.

Practicing good dental care at home will lead to more than sweeter-smelling kisses: your dog can live a happier, healthier, and longer life. Thankfully, cleaning your canine companion's teeth is surprisingly simple even on a tight schedule. Taking care of your dog's teeth can come in forms other than just brushing. Even the busiest dog owners can easily incorporate these practices with just a few minutes each week so your four-footed friend's pearly whites will sparkle for years to come.

Tips to Brush Your Dog's Teeth

Choose a Good Time and Place for Teeth Brushing

Especially if your dog gets nervous getting their teeth brushed, you don't want there to be other things to stress them out. Try to limit other distractions when you're brushing your dog's teeth. It should be you and the dog without a living room full of active children or other pets. Pick a place that's comfortable for your dog as well. You'll need to have good lighting so you can see what you're doing.

Buy a Dog Tooth Brush and Dog Toothpaste

Dog toothbrushes are available at pet stores or online pet supply outlets. Specifically-designed dog toothbrushes with angled handles, soft bristles, and even multiple heads make reaching all the tiny nooks and crevices inside your dog's mouth easier and quicker.

You'll specifically need dog toothpaste, as human toothpaste contains toxic ingredients like xylitol and fluoride that could cause significant harm. Dog toothpaste comes in many appealing flavors like peanut butter, beef, and chicken. Try different combinations of toothpaste and toothbrushes to see what your dog likes best.

Get Your Dog Used to Toothbrushing



.shock/Getty Images Plus

1. Touch the teeth and gums without the brush. Can you do this initial step? Ideally, your pup has been in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen classes and is used to have his mouth handled. Lift the top lip up and hold it while you touch the teeth; then pull the bottom lip down and touch the bottom teeth.
2. Touch the toothbrush to the teeth. Touch the front, side, and back teeth on the top and bottom. Praise and reward your dog for tolerating this step.
3. Introduce the toothpaste to the dog. Start by showing your dog the toothpaste and letting them lick it from your finger.
4. Add the toothpaste to the toothbrush.
5. Start brushing the top teeth. Hold the upper lip up. Brush the front teeth. Praise your dog.
6. Move from the front teeth further back to the side and back teeth on the top.
7. Start brushing the bottom teeth. Hold down the bottom lip and brush the bottom teeth. Start with the front teeth, then move to the side and back.
8. On the bottom teeth, now brush the sides and back. If your dog is tolerating toothbrushing, you can brush both the outside and inside of the teeth when you are brushing. The inside of the teeth will be a little harder to brush, so if necessary, work on adding this step after your dog is calm with the outsides of the upper and lower teeth being brushed.

9. Praise and reward. Getting their teeth brushed is unnatural for dogs. To make this a positive experience, frequently praise your dog. You can also give the dog a treat at each step. This seems counterintuitive because you are cleaning the teeth and then giving some food. However, the initial goal is teaching the skill and later you can work on removing food from the equation.

Alternative Dental Care

Dog Dental Chews

Dog dental chews clean your dog's teeth while also stimulating your dog's natural cravings for a tasty treat. Plus, your dog will be too busy chomping on their treats to create trouble elsewhere. These chews are designed to minimize the build-up of plaque and tartar while polishing a dog's teeth to a sparkling shine. Dog dental chews come in different sizes and shapes, and feature ridges and nubs that dig into crevices between a dog's teeth to encourage blood flow through the gums. The hollow shapes and spaces allow dogs to better grip and chew more evenly. Always supervise your dog when they have a dental chew within reach.

Spritz Dog Dental Spray

If your dog's stinky breath is causing you to miss out on cuddles or kisses, or if you only have a short amount of time to spare, dog dental sprays are the ideal solution. It's a quick and easy way to take care of your dog's teeth, as dog dental sprays can be used alone or in between brushings. These sprays kill plaque-causing bacteria to make your dog's breath smell fresh. In addition to odor-eliminating effect, dental sprays can also remove and prevent tartar and plaque build-up. Most sprays are simple to use: they simply require owners to spritz the teeth and gums. Since some dogs just won't stay still for an oral cleaning, dental sprays can also be applied to dog toys and licked off for instant fresh breath with minimal effort. Dog dental spray works best when dogs don't eat for a half hour before and after spraying.

Gnaw on Chew Toys



©Grigorita Ko - stock.adobe.com

If you're raising a fun-loving dog, they'll love playing with a chew toy and you'll love how it destroys their boredom instead of your shoes. When it comes to keeping your dog busy and entertained, chew toys are one of the best solutions. Providing dogs with a chew toy satisfies their natural instincts to chew, keeps them occupied, and helps improve their oral health. Dogs of every age explore the world through their teeth. For puppies, gnawing naturally soothes teething pain and keeps adult dogs mentally-stimulated.

Chewing is the natural way for dogs to clean their teeth as the constant gnawing scrapes plaque off of teeth. They are made of a variety of materials ranging from plastic, rubber, nylon, and rawhide. We suggest rotating different types of boredom-busting chew toys to keep dogs interested. These toys come in a variety of shapes and sizes so you're sure to find something that settles your dog's playfulness.

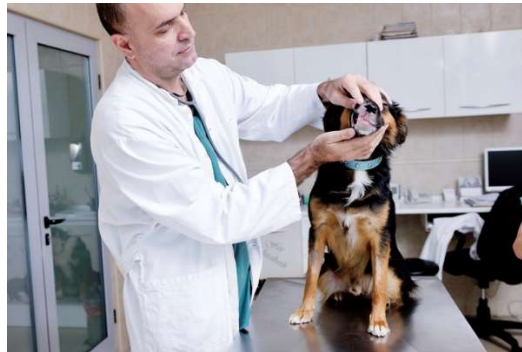
Attend Regular Professional Veterinarian Cleanings

An essential way to protect your dog's oral health is through regular professional cleanings with your veterinarian. Veterinarians are skilled at identifying, preventing, and treating any dental problems they find that may otherwise go unnoticed. Most dogs need oral exams and cleanings at least once per year so veterinarians can check for early warning signs of serious problems. Some breeds, like Bulldogs, Yorkshire Terriers, and Dachshunds, are more susceptible to periodontal disease. They may require more frequent cleanings, like every six months.

Veterinarians can remove plaque below the gum line, where toothbrushes can't reach. Dental cleanings involve taking x-rays to evaluate the health of the jawline and tooth roots. Veterinarians will scale and polish teeth to remove plaque and tartar while your dog is under general anesthesia. Veterinarians can also safely fill or extract teeth as needed. Though this is the most expensive and time-consuming option, we recommend making veterinarian oral exams a priority. Your dog's teeth will thank you for it!

What to Do if Your Dog's Teeth Are Stained

We've all been told to brush our dog's teeth. We know we should. We mean to do it. Unfortunately, it's a task that often falls through the cracks. For some, time is the problem, for others it's an uncooperative dog who makes it impossible to get a toothbrush near her molars. Whatever the reason, your dog's oral health—or lack of it—may have reached a point where it requires a professional veterinary dentist.



.shock/Getty Images Plus

Veterinary dentist Thoulton W. Surgeon says that tooth brushing should be on every dog owner's daily agenda. Spend as much time as you can, and for as long as your dog will allow. "It's very important, maybe more so than what I do," he says. "What I do, in terms of removing calculus and plaque, is about a third as important as brushing teeth on a daily basis."

When teeth are already covered with brown- and yellow-stained tartar and gums are bleeding or showing signs of inflammation, your dog needs a professional cleaning. But it's important to start brushing again immediately after the dentist has scaled away the tartar and polished the teeth. That's because plaque starts to accumulate within two or three days, so catching it early may delay or eliminate the need for another cleaning down the line.

Getting Your Dog Used to Dental Care

Many things can contribute to a dog's fear of having their teeth brushed, starting with the plastic thing you're trying to stick in their mouth, the weird-smelling paste you put on the plastic thing, and the way you're trying to force their mouth open to get the plastic thing with the weird-smelling paste in! This problem can be solved by using a desensitization program and lots of patience. These can all be done on the same day, but in a different session to give your dog some time.

Select a Location

Pick a tooth-brushing place (like the bathroom) and start by making that room a place where fun things happen. As many times a day as you can, take your dog into the bathroom, armed with their favorite toys and treats. If they're particularly food-driven, you can even start feeding them meals in the bathroom. By doing this for 10–15 minutes multiple times a day, you should see them relaxing and even enjoying the time in the bathroom with you.

Get Your Dog Used to the Brush



©Kzenon - stock.adobe.com

The next step is to desensitize your dog to the toothbrush with the toothpaste on it. Instead of keeping it in a cabinet, start moving it around the house. You can put it on the kitchen counter, on the floor next to their toys, even near their food bowl (with supervision). Eventually the smell and sight of the toothbrush and paste will become commonplace to them, alleviating their stress.

Touching the Teeth

Next, let's work on your dog being OK with having his mouth handled.

Note: If your dog has shown aggression when you've tried to handle his mouth, or is extremely fearful, seek the advice of a vet or behaviorist.

For this, sit on the floor with your dog on a leash. Make sure they are hungry, and have a stash of their favorite treats. Start by petting them and slowly migrate the petting to under their chin. Feed them the treat, and repeat two or three more times. If your dog is relaxed and still interested, repeat, but after you've petted them under their chin, run your hand up and over the top of their muzzle and feed. Repeat two or three times and end the session. Once your dog is calm and happy with you opening their mouth, the final step is pairing the toothbrush and the handling. Go slowly; don't be afraid to go back a step if your dog looks concerned or frightened.

There's so much more to the process than "open mouth, brush teeth." With patience and great treats, you'll eventually have your dog happily open wide—the saying "ahhh" part may take a little more time.

PetLab Co. helps give our best friends the richest, healthiest lives possible through the power of scientific nutrition. To date, they've impacted the lives of over three million dogs and counting. Their products are vet-reviewed, NASC-approved, and manufactured in the USA in GMP-compliant facilities with global and domestic ingredients. To learn more visit www.thepetlabco.com.



Sponsored by Pet Lab Co.

**PAW &
ORDER**
THE GOODWIN FIRM



**Have you been taken to
the Vet but not provided
a special treat or new toy
on the way home?**

**You may be entitled to
compensation.**

LOUISE RIPLEY ESQ
Pawsecutor

"WE DON'T GIVE UP
UNTIL YOU GET YOUR PUP CUP!"

Our attorneys have seven times
the experience recovering
damages for emotional distress.
Paw us today to schedule a
consultation

**HOUND,
WOLFE
& CHASE**

Attorneys at Paw

AKC FIT DOG 101: How to Get Started

By Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI, Published: Jan 18, 2024 **AKC,**



©Evelina - stock.adobe.com

The AKC FIT DOG program began in January 2023 and has continued to grow in popularity ever since. This program is designed to encourage dogs and their owners to be active together through titles. As an AKC FIT DOG Instructor and organizer of a FIT DOG Club hosting virtual events for dogs

and people across the country, I've seen firsthand how my clients and club members (both dogs and people) of all ages have benefited from this program by becoming more motivated to exercise.

A core component of the AKC FIT DOG program is walking with your dog, something most of us do with our dogs every day. Walking is a gentle exercise that can help to improve circulation, muscular strength, improve overall health for both dogs and people, and now walking the dog can put you on the path towards new titles.

Who can participate in AKC FIT DOG?

To earn AKC FIT DOG titles, dogs can be purebred dogs registered with the AKC, or mixed-breed dogs registered with the AKC Canine Partners program. To earn a Bronze AKC FIT DOG Title, dogs must be at least 6 months old, but keep in mind there may also be other age-related rules that handlers must follow for higher-impact sports, such as agility or Disc Dog.

When participating in AKC FIT DOG activities, dogs may wear slip collars, buckle collars, martingales, and body harnesses, or head collars. Dogs may not wear training collars such as prong collars, or e-collars. Dogs should be on 4- or 6-foot leashes made of fabric or leather unless participating in a sport that requires a dog to be off-leash. Dogs with disabilities are welcome and encouraged to participate in FIT DOG titling, so long as they can safely perform the events. Handlers with disabilities can use any mobility aids and assistance necessary.



©mdorottya - stock.adobe.com

AKC FIT DOG Levels

There are three levels of AKC FIT DOG titles that dogs can earn: Bronze, which is the novice level, and then Silver, and, at the most advanced, Gold. To earn these fitness titles, dogs must earn a specific number of activity points which varies based on the type of activity, and title level.

To earn the Bronze FIT DOG title, a dog will need to earn five points, at the Silver, the dog needs 10 points, and for the Gold title, a dog needs 20 points. These points are earned by completing different fitness activities which are broken into seven categories and worth different points at each title level. The titles are consecutive, so dogs must earn the Bronze title before earning Silver, and so on. When dog-handler teams have completed enough points to earn a title, the handler can apply for the title in the AKC portal, where you'll be able to upload the title checklist, and all associated forms documenting the activities your dog has completed.

Components of AKC FIT DOG

Below is a breakdown of each fitness category and the associated points available to be earned at each title level. Be sure to check the FIT DOG participant guide and the title checklists for specifics of what the requirements are for each title level.

Category A: AKC FIT DOG Courses

Point Value: **Bronze** – three points; **Silver** – six points; **Gold** – three points (level one), six points (level two), 12 points (level three)

AKC Fit Dog courses are six-week-long classes taught by AKC Approved FIT DOG Instructors. The courses have three consecutive levels and can be taught in-person or online. They're designed specifically for healthy adult dogs and aren't appropriate for dogs with orthopedic injuries. These classes help handlers to improve their dog's flexibility, form, balance, and overall fitness. A focus on canine fitness can improve health and sports performance for dogs, in addition to counting towards earning FIT DOG titles.

Category B: Community Runs

Point Value: **Bronze** – three points; **Silver** – six points; **Gold** – 12 points

This category is designed to get dogs and handlers out moving together. The AKC's annual Turkey Trot is just one example of a community-run event that you and your dog can participate in. Category B runs (which can be walked or run) are organized by FIT DOG clubs, online virtual events, or community groups. To count towards a title, community runs must be a minimum of one mile in distance. To document completion of the event, you'll want to have data from a wearable activity tracker, like a Fitbit or Apple Watch, or phone app. Once completed, the documentation form should be signed by a race official or a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Evaluator.



©Raquel Pedrosa - stock.adobe.com

Category C: Walks and Hikes

Point Value: **Bronze** – three points; **Silver** – six points; **Gold** – 12 points

This category has two options: independent walks or club walks. To earn points in this category, dogs and handlers can either go on independent walks or hikes documented weekly over a series of weeks. The other option is participating in group walks connected to an AKC FIT DOG club. These FIT DOG club walks can be organized in-person or virtually and must be at least one mile long each time.

Category D: Unique to You and Your Dog:

Point Value: **Bronze** – two points; **Silver** – four points; **Gold** – eight points

For this category, handlers can choose between a variety of fitness activities they may already do with their dog to count towards FIT DOG titles. Unique activities that can be used include independent swimming or therapeutic swimming with a veterinary physical therapist. Other “Unique to You and Your Dog” sports include dog parkour titles earned via the International Dog Parkour Association or All Dogs Parkour, or mushing, as documented through completing an International Sled Dog Racing Association-sanctioned race or an International Federation of Sledding Sports-accredited race. Biking, canine biathlon, and backpacking are other options which can be utilized for points in this category.

Category E: AKC Fitness Related Title

Point Value: **Bronze** – two points; **Silver** – four points; **Gold** – two points (level one), four points (level two), eight points (advanced level)

To earn points in this category, your dog will get points (the number of points is based on FIT DOG title level) for earning titles in certain AKC sports.

AKC sports that can be counted for FIT DOG titles include:

- Agility and Agility Course Test (ACT), including virtual titles
- Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and FAST CAT
- Field trial or hunting tests
- Herding
- AKC Lure Coursing
- AKC Rally and obedience, including virtual titles
- Tracking
- Diving Dogs
- Flyball
- UpDog Disc Dog

You will use an AKC title certificate to verify a title was earned. These titles can have been earned at any point, including those earned prior to participating in the AKC FIT DOG title program. Note: for earning the Gold level of FIT DOG titles, your dog will need to have achieved an AKC fitness-related title.



©Olga Itina - stock.adobe.com

Category F: AKC Parent Club Performance Titles

Point Value: **Bronze** – two points; **Silver** – four points; **Gold** – four points

This fitness option is designed to recognize the fitness achievements of dogs who have earned titles measuring a dog's ability to perform the work their breed was first developed to do. These titles are issued through the national breed club and, depending on breed, include sports like carting, coaching, draft dog, and other titles. A full list of parent club titles recognized for AKC FIT DOG can be found on pages 40-41 of the AKC FIT DOG Participant Guide.

Joining an AKC FIT DOG Club

While you can complete your dog's AKC FIT DOG titles mostly through independent activities, the program can be a great way to connect with other dog lovers in your community or online. AKC FIT DOG clubs host a variety of events including community runs (category B), club walks (category C), and FIT DOG classes. Clubs can be organized by independent dog training schools, AKC Clubs, breed clubs, or other dog-related clubs and organizations. The goal of the FIT DOG clubs is to promote the health and fitness of dogs and their owners. You can also get your own local

group or club recognized as an AKC FIT DOG Club by completing an online application.

Hearing Loss in Senior Dogs: Signs, Symptoms, and Management

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT, Updated: Jul 28, 2023



fusaromike / stock.adobe.com

Many senior dogs suffer from hearing impairment as they age and become less responsive to you and the world around them. Your ability to communicate with your dog becomes hampered when he can't hear what you have to say, which can be frustrating for you and stressful for your dog. But there are steps you can take to help your senior dog cope with hearing loss.

Dog Hearing Loss: Causes and Symptoms

There are many causes of hearing loss in dogs, but for elderly dogs, the cause is often degenerative changes in the nerves found inside the ear. This is similar to the hearing loss seen in older people. The changes will likely be gradual, so symptoms will creep up slowly, and you may not notice right away.



As your dog loses his hearing, you might find him “ignoring” your cues, such as not sitting when asked or failing to come when you call him. Or he may seem confused by his surroundings or by your requests. He might become unresponsive to sounds that used to excite him, like the squeak of his toy or the rattle of your car keys, and fail to turn to you when you call his name. You might also find that he sleeps more deeply and is not disturbed by loud noises that he would have responded to in the past. If you see these symptoms, it’s imperative to take your dog to your veterinarian for an accurate diagnosis and to rule out other causes.

Managing Hearing Loss

Now that verbal communication with your dog is more challenging, teaching hand signals will allow you to communicate visually instead. If your dog can still partially hear, add hand signals to verbal cues he already knows by giving the hand gesture before saying the cue. After enough repetitions, your dog will learn to respond to the hand signal alone. To teach new cues, simply teach the hand signal from the beginning. If you currently use a marker to train new behaviors, like a clicker or word like “yes,” you will need to substitute a non-auditory marker such as a hand gesture, for example a thumbs-up.

Be sure to include hand gestures for behaviors related to safety, for example for “come,” so you can maintain control of your dog, even if he can’t hear you. Another way to help your dog come when called is an emergency whistle. Emergency whistles are very loud, and a dog with some hearing loss may still respond. Train your dog to come when he hears the whistle by offering him a super delicious treat every time you blow the whistle. You might want to practice this outside, where the loud sound will be less of an assault on your own ears.

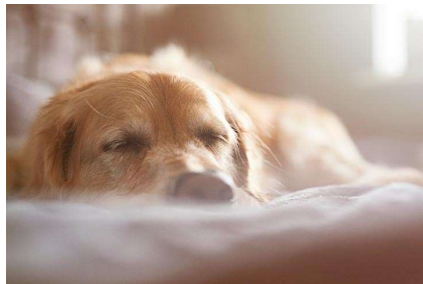


©Natalie - stock.adobe.com

Sometimes the trick with a hearing-impaired dog is simply getting his attention. After all, he can only respond to your hand signals if he can see you. To get your dog to turn toward you, you can make a strong vibration by stamping your foot on the ground. You can also wave your hand in front of his face or train him that a light touch on the back or neck is a cue to turn toward you. Another option is a vibration collar. These are not shock collars, but are designed to gently vibrate when you press a remote control. With proper training, your dog will learn to look at you or come to you when he feels the vibration.

Living With Deaf Dogs

Although deaf dogs can feel vibrations and smell/see their surroundings, they may become frightened by sudden approaches or unexpected petting, particularly when they are disturbed from sleep. Approach your dog with heavy footsteps, so the vibrations will alert him to your presence. And be sure to help him feel comfortable with unexpected touching by desensitizing him. For example, touch your dog gently on the back and immediately offer him a food reward.



MartinPrescott/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

It's also important to take precautions outside your home. Don't let your hearing-challenged dog off leash because he may not be able to hear

traffic or other dangers. Cyclists and people on the sidewalk may also take him by surprise if he can't see them coming, so be on the lookout to move him out of the way, if need be. Consider keeping dog-dog interactions limited to familiar dogs and in places where you can supervise.

If your senior dog has suffered some hearing loss, he may be losing his eyesight, as well. Practice patience if he seems to be ignoring your requests. It's not that he's being stubborn, he likely can't hear or see what you're asking. Maintain a positive attitude and communicate with him in ways he can understand. With these simple and practical alterations, you can be sure your hearing-impaired dog enjoys his senior years in a safe and fulfilled way.

Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) in Dogs: What to Know

By Nandini Maharaj, Updated: Feb 12, 2024 **AKC**

When bacteria from the skin or rectum make their way into the urinary tract, they can grow and multiply, leading to a urinary tract infection (UTI). Since dogs can develop many of the same bacterial infections as people, you might be wondering, can dogs get UTIs?

A common sign of a UTI is frequent urination or a painful sensation while urinating. As uncomfortable as this sounds, imagine what it's like for a dog who can't tell you what's wrong. If you notice your dog urinating more than usual or whimpering while relieving themselves, it's important to seek veterinary attention.

This condition should be treated once symptoms are observed for a faster recovery. Here's what you need to know about UTIs in dogs, including causes, UTI symptoms, prevention, and treatment.



DieterMeyrl/Getty Images Plus

What Is a Urinary Tract Infection?

Like people, dogs have a tube connected to the bladder called the urethra through which urine leaves the body. Bacteria from feces or debris can enter the urethral opening and travel upwards into the bladder. "A urinary tract infection in a dog occurs when there is growth of bacteria in the bladder," says Dr. Jamie Whittenburg, DVM.

Urinary tract infections are fairly common in dogs, affecting 14% of dogs, and UTIs tend to be more frequent in senior dogs, particularly those aged 7 and older. A UTI in dogs can be an isolated infection or a recurring condition among dogs with underlying health problems.

"The most common cause of a UTI in dogs is E. coli, but many other bacteria can cause an infection," she says. If a dog has a weakened immune system due to illness or a lack of proper nutrition, bacteria are more likely to reproduce and cause infection. In more severe, but less common cases, causes include cancer, bladder disease, kidney disease and stones, diabetes, bladder inflammation or infection, spinal cord abnormalities, and prostate disease.

Which Dogs Are Most at Risk?

Compared to male dogs, female dogs are more susceptible to UTIs. The shorter length of a female's urethra can allow bacteria to ascend into their bladder more easily, Dr. Whittenburg says. In contrast, male dogs have a longer urethra, meaning bacteria need to travel a greater distance to infect the urinary tract.

"Male dogs exhibiting signs of a UTI are more likely to be suffering from another condition, though UTIs are possible," she adds. Conditions

including chronic kidney disease, neurologic disease, and hormonal diseases can predispose male dogs to UTI.

Any dog breed can develop a UTI. However, individual dog anatomy can play a role, placing some dogs at higher risk for developing this condition. "Dogs with redundant or excess vulvar tissue may have trapped bacteria near the urethra that can travel upwards and cause an infection," Dr. Whittenburg says, an example of higher-risk anatomy.



©ktmoffitt via Getty Images

Breeds such as the Shih Tzu, Bichon Frise, and Yorkshire Terrier are predisposed to urinary stones, which are made of minerals that develop in the bladder. These stones can be detected using X-rays or ultrasound and vary in size from a grain of sand to a piece of gravel. For dogs prone to urinary stones, this condition can be complicated by having a urinary tract infection.

What Are the Symptoms of UTIs in Dogs?

If your dog has a UTI, you might notice that they seem uncomfortable trying to relieve themselves or that their urine has a strong smell.

"Typically, dogs with a UTI will posture to urinate multiple times, with little to no urine passing," Dr. Whittenburg says. Other signs of a UTI in dogs are:

- Bloody or cloudy urine
- Straining or whimpering during urination
- Accidents in the house
- Wanting to be let outside more frequently

- Dribbling urine
- Licking around the urinary opening
- Fever

How Are UTIs Diagnosed and Treated?

Given the pain and discomfort associated with this condition, it's important to be aware of how to treat a UTI in dogs. The veterinarian will begin by reviewing your dog's health history and symptoms. Often, they'll conduct a urine culture test and urinalysis, which allows them to detect microorganisms that are causing infection. A urinalysis requires that the dog owner or veterinarian obtain a urine sample from the dog for further examination.

Your vet will test the pH and glucose level of the urine if they suspect any health issues like diabetes. Next, the sample will be spun in a centrifuge to separate the liquid from the solid components to look for bacteria, blood cells, mineral crystals, and protein. "The urinalysis will identify bacteria, as well as white and red blood cells, which will aid in the diagnosis," Dr. Whittenburg says.



©Eudyptula - stock.adobe.com

Based on the urine culture results, your vet will have a better idea of which bacteria are causing the infection. "This will ensure proper antibiotic use and a cure for the UTI," she says. "Uncomplicated UTIs typically receive a three to five-day course of antibiotics."

If the dog's condition is more serious, the vet may prescribe a round of antibiotics for seven to 10 days. For dog UTI treatment, make sure your

dog finishes the antibiotics to prevent the infection from recurring unless otherwise instructed by your veterinarian. It's recommended that you also increase your dog's water intake to flush out bacteria during urination. You may need to bring your dog back for a second visit, so your veterinarian can conduct a second urinalysis to determine if the infection has cleared.

Can UTIs in Dogs be Prevented?

"Though there is no surefire way to prevent a UTI in a dog, there are things that can help," Dr. Whittenburg says. She recommends having the vet examine your dog's genitals if you suspect there's an anatomical issue that predisposes them to a UTI. In some cases, your dog may require surgery to correct the issue.

It's important to encourage your dog to drink lots of water. Be sure your dog always has access to fresh, clean water, and remember to change their water bowl whenever there's drool or food residue. If possible, let your dog outside more often, so they're not holding their bladder for hours and hours. This can also help prevent accidental soiling on your floors and furniture.



©Africa Studio - stock.adobe.com

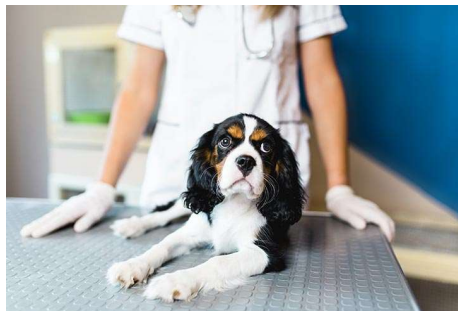
Make sure your dog isn't licking their genital area and keep the area around your dog's urinary opening clean of any debris. Many pet stores sell antibacterial wipes which can be used to clean this area.

If your dog suffers from allergies, managing this condition can also help with decreasing licking of the genitals and the likelihood of developing a UTI, Dr. Whittenburg says. You can also consult with your vet about prescription urinary diets and dog probiotic supplements to encourage the growth of healthy bacteria.

My Dog's Symptoms Return Repeatedly. Can It Be Something Else?

"If the dog does not have a UTI, urinary symptoms can point to bladder or kidney cancer," Dr. Whittenburg says. Especially if a dog has recurring symptoms of a UTI like urinating frequently or having accidents at home, which could point to a more serious condition like cancer. These dogs may also have bloody or cloudy urine, weight loss, vomiting, and UTIs that are resistant to treatment.

Sometimes, a positive diagnosis of bladder cancer is found after rounds of antibiotics to treat UTI symptoms that don't fully resolve themselves. The dog may then be evaluated for the presence of a tumor, usually via urine cytology, which involves testing the urine to look for abnormal or cancerous cells. Because this test alone isn't sufficient to make a diagnosis, the vet may recommend a procedure called a cystoscopy.



©hedgehog94 - stock.adobe.com

A cystoscopy involves inserting an instrument inside the urethra to examine the bladder and look for signs of bleeding or abnormal blockages.

This procedure requires anesthesia and must be performed by a specially trained veterinarian. "Advanced imaging, such as ultrasound or a CT scan, may be needed to confirm the diagnosis," she explains.

Keep in mind that these diagnostic procedures take additional time, which could allow the mass to continue to grow and spread within the bladder and surrounding areas. Moreover, these procedures are expensive and invasive. In most cases, treatment involves chemotherapy or radiation or sometimes surgery if the tumor is localized, meaning it hasn't spread to other body parts.

The prognosis for dogs with cancer depends on how well your dog responds to treatment. Close monitoring of your dog's health and regular consultations with your vet are essential to promoting a good quality of life.

Sweet Potato and Peanut Butter Snacks

2 1/2 C whole wheat flour

2/3 C mashed sweet potato

3T peanut butter (remember to check label to be sure no Xyitol)

2 lg. eggs

Mix all ingredients together. Knead and roll out to 1/8" thickness. Cut dough into squares, in the size you like. Place on baking sheet lined with parchment paper or spray pan. Bake at 350* for about 30 min. smaller squares bake faster. Cool.





PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2024

February 11 **Regular Meeting, at Mission BBQ 3410 Plum Tree Dr, Ellicott City, MD 21042**

March 2023 **St. Patrick's Day Parades and Festivals**

- March 2 Alexandria, VA
- March 9 Manassas, VA
- March 10 Baltimore, MD
- March 16 Harrisburg, PA
- March 17 Annapolis, MD

March 31&April 1 ***Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD***
March 31 **Regular Meeting - Following judging at Specialty**

April 12&13 Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA
April 20&21 Tell-Tale Steampunk Festival
April 21&22 ***Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Carolinas Specialty***
April 27 Southern MD Celtic Festival

May 4 Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Crownsville, MD
May 4&5 Faerie Festival Marshy Point
May 19 **Show Wrap Up Meeting**
May 20-22 ***IWCA National Specialty Purina Farms***

June 8 Carroll County Celtic Festival, Westminster, MD
June 9 **Regular Meeting**
June 15 Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA
June 21-23 Celtic Fling *(with a concert on Friday night)* PA Renn Faire grounds

August 11 **Regular Meeting At Linda King's**
August Mini Renn Faire, Howard County Fairgrounds, Sykesville, MD

Aug 31 & Sept 1 Virginia Scottish Games, Great Meadow 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA 20198
September 15 Fun Day
September 21-23 PA Renn Faire

October ***Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Delaware Valley Specialty***
October 20 **Regular Meeting**

November 2 La Gaeilge (Irish Day), Front Royal, VA
November 8-10 Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium, MD
November 17 **Regular Meeting**

December 8 **Holiday Party**
December **Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5Miler , Baltimore, MD**
December **Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD**

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

Need Volunteers to Host meetings