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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fun Day is fast approaching! What is Fun Day you ask?

The PVIWC Fun Match is an event held to celebrate the Irish Wolfhound. The classes are just for fun and education, and include practice conformation classes as well as superlative classes such as longest tail, best ear, and so forth. The classes start at 11 am, and after the match there is a potluck lunch that all are invited to enjoy. [Sign up here for food items.](#)

The event will be held outdoors in a grassy field, so plan accordingly. We suggest sunblock, insect repellent, chairs, tents, x-pens and water for your hounds. This event is also a fundraiser for the club, so there will be a raffle, and club items for sale.

The event will be held at the lovely historic home of Diane Reba.

Diane Reba

5519 Old National Pike

Frederick, MD

September 21, 2025 11am to 3pm

Are you able to contribute a raffle basket? Let Susan Wine or myself know! Thank you!!

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

Can Dogs Eat Bananas?

By Liz Donovan, Aug 29, 2021 American Kennel Club

As a pet owner, you might have wondered which fruits or vegetables are okay for your dog to consume. If you've ever asked, "Can dogs eat bananas?" the answer is **yes**.

Are Bananas Good for Dogs?

Bananas are high in potassium, vitamin B6, and vitamin C. In fact, sometimes veterinarians recommend this fruit as a healthy alternative to fatty, salty treats. The fruit is also high in fiber, which can help if your dog is having gastrointestinal problems, and magnesium, which promotes bone growth and helps the body produce protein and absorb vitamins. However, like with any food item, you should only feed your dog bananas in moderation, especially since they contain a lot of sugar.

Can Dogs Eat Banana Peels?

Be wary of peels. While the peels are not toxic to dogs, they are hard to digest and may cause a blockage. Even without the peel, feeding your pup too many bananas can cause stomach upset. If you have any questions or concerns about how much to give your dog, consult your veterinarian.

How to Feed Your Dog Banana

In addition to giving your dog a piece of regular banana, here are some other ways he can enjoy the tasty snack:

- Mash it up with his food.
- Mix it into a little dog-safe peanut butter.
- Stuff it into a Kong and freeze it.
- Freeze the whole banana, peel it, and slice it.



DIY Banana Dog Treat

Many dogs will enjoy the sweet, starchy flavor of a plain banana, but if you're feeling ambitious, you can make this tasty treat — no baking required!

You'll need:

- A ripe banana
- A scoop of peanut butter (first check that it doesn't contain xylitol)
- A slice of mild cheese
- A blender
- A fillable toy, like a Kong

Instructions:

1. Combine the banana, peanut butter, and cheese in the blender, until it reaches a smooth consistency.
2. Smear it over the toy and freeze.

The Fairy Field on a Full Moon Night

by Pat Noone

I walk to the Fairy Field, beneath the moon's bright gaze,
In search of new caves, where the lambs softly graze.

The great fox howls once more through the night so clear,
While the Chieftain's mouth, green and furry, draws near.

The fairies are singing, their voices in the trees,
As my faithful coyote sits quietly with ease.
We wander together, in thoughts of things to come,
Of great people and spirits, their visits not yet done.

Evil ones passed, their shadows now gone,
Only the pure-hearted shall linger and belong.
The land welcomes those who feel the earth's song,
Where the fairies dance, where the spirit is strong.

A touch of frost nips the cool evening air,
And stars twinkle above, their light shining fair.
This night so serene, so wondrous, so bright,
I am embraced by the magic of the moon's soft light.

Everyday Ways to Reduce the Risk of Cancer in Your Dog

By Harriet Meyers, **American Kennel Club**, Sponsored by Nationwide Jan 11, 2023



Each year, approximately six million new cancer diagnoses are made in dogs, according to the National Cancer Institute. It's estimated that one in

four dogs will develop cancer in their lifetime. Cancer is also the leading cause of death in dogs who are past middle age.

“Although we have little control over some of the risk factors for cancer in dogs, such as genetic predispositions or the weakened immune systems of older dogs, there are steps dog owners can take to reduce the chance their canine companions will develop certain types of cancer,” says Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC.

Fight Canine Cancer With Fitness

We all want to give our dogs the best lives possible. One way to minimize canine cancer risks is to keep your dog fit and healthy.

Good Nutrition for Dogs

There’s no magic recipe to prevent cancer, but a well-balanced diet provides your dog with all their nutritional requirements and contributes to your pet’s ability to fight cancer and other diseases. Ask your veterinarian to suggest a diet that meets your dog’s nutritional needs.

Exercise and Weight Management

Proper exercise and diet are critical components to helping your dog maintain a healthy weight. Obesity in dogs is a growing problem and can lead to many health issues, including cancer. Significantly overweight dogs are more likely to develop bladder and mammary cancer. Some benign types of tumors, such as lipomas, also occur more frequently in dogs that are overweight; in rare cases, these tumors can become malignant (liposarcoma).



Marcus Lindstrom via Getty Images

Regular Checkups

The Merck Veterinary Manual recommends a routine and thorough physical examination by a veterinarian. Even when cancer can't be prevented, early detection and treatment offer the best chance for your dog to survive and return to a normal quality of life.

At a minimum, every dog should be examined by a veterinarian once a year. The frequency of recommended vet visits depends, in part, on your pet's age. For example, older dogs may need more frequent examinations, often every six months.

Dental Checkups

When a veterinarian examines your dog's teeth, they will search the dog's mouth for tumors. The most common types of oral cancer are melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and fibrosarcoma. If a tumor is caught early (when it can be completely removed), surgery may restore the dog's health.

Sterilization

Mammary cancer in female dogs and testicular cancer in male dogs are some of the most common canine cancers. Sterilization has proven to reduce the risk in some cases, though other studies suggest that sterilization can also be associated with an increased risk of death from cancer. When a dog is spayed or neutered before reaching full maturity, studies show that there can be a risk of developing cancers like lymphosarcoma and hemangiosarcoma.

When deciding when or whether to spay or neuter your dog, talk with your veterinarian. Experts also recommend taking into account breed predispositions for certain cancers and orthopedic issues as you decide what's best for your dog and your individual situation.

Understand Your Dog's Heritage

Certain cancers are more common in certain dog breeds. It's a good idea to research any health issues associated with your dog's breed, familiarize yourself with the symptoms, and be sure your veterinarian is aware of these risks. Choosing a breeder who carefully plans their litters is an important first step in setting your dog's lifelong health up for success.

Tune In to Your Dog

No one knows your dog better than you do, so you are likely to be the first to notice any changes in their behavior. "Stay attuned to any changes in your dog's appetite, elimination, or body, as well as modifications in personality, mood, or level of activity, and consult with your veterinarian," says Dr. Klein.

How to Reduce Canine Cancer Risk in Your Environment

In addition to keeping your pet fit and healthy, other simple lifestyle or environmental changes can help with minimizing cancer risk. Research has shown that some chemicals or environmental hazards can be associated with cancer in people and dogs alike.

Household Cleaners and Paints

In her research, Dr. Lauren Trepanier at the University of Wisconsin, Madison found that canine bladder cancer and canine lymphoma are associated with household use of insecticides and herbicides.

Another study revealed that living in industrial areas and owner use of chemicals (paints and solvents) were significantly associated with lymphoma in dogs. Safe storage of all chemicals and household products and paints is critical to avoid exposing your dog to these risks.

Asbestos

Both people and dogs are at risk of developing cancer after asbestos exposure. If you're removing asbestos from your home, be sure to keep your dog away from the area during the process.

Lawn Chemicals

Pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides can increase the risk of various kinds of cancer in dogs. One study found that lymphoma in animals directly correlated with some lawn care chemicals: specifically, products that included 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid. Some studies have linked that chemical to bladder cancer (though that connection has been debated in recent research). If your dog spends lots of time in your yard, avoid using these chemicals, choose non-toxic and pet-safe lawn alternatives, and keep your dog away from yards that do use them.

Ultraviolet Exposure

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation and too much sunlight can cause canine skin cancer, such as squamous cell carcinoma, malignant melanomas, and hemangioma. Dogs with light or white coats are the most vulnerable, as are the areas of a dog's body with little hair, such as the abdomen. You can significantly reduce this risk by keeping your dog indoors or providing your dog with shaded areas at times when the sun is strongest during the summer months, as well as using dog-safe sunscreen.



Bigandt_Photography via Getty Images

Secondhand Smoke

Exposure to secondhand smoke can lead to a higher incidence of nasal cancer in long-nosed dogs (like Collies and Retrievers), and lung cancer in dogs with short- and medium-length noses. Eliminating any cigarette smoke from your home will reduce your pet's risk of suffering from these types of cancer.

Cancer Risk Reduction Is Up to Dog Owners

Even dogs who live out their expected lifespans don't live long enough for the owners who love them. Responsible dog owners do their best to protect their best pals from cancer whenever they can.

Why Dogs Eat Poop and How to Stop It

By [AKC Staff](#), Sponsored by [Chewy](#) Updated: Nov 15, 2024

Of all the odd habits our dogs have—drinking toilet water, rolling in dead things, licking their butts— nothing disgusts most dog owners more than knowing that dogs eat poop sometimes. A dog’s motivation for eating poop isn’t to gross us humans out, but the act of eating poop certainly disgusts us. So much so, in fact, that discovering that a dog eats poop is often cited as a reason people try to rehome a dog (or even ask to euthanize). If you have a dog who eats poop, don’t despair: there are ways to discourage poop-eating through behavior modification, and some affordable products you can buy that can help make poop less palatable to dogs.

Why Do Dogs Eat Poop?

There’s a scientific name for a dog’s habit of eating poop: coprophagia, pronounced kop-ruh-fey-jee-uh. There are both behavioral and physiological reasons why some dogs view poop as a delicacy. Although coprophagia in dogs hasn’t been deeply explored by scientists, poop eating is a relatively common phenomenon in dogs. In a study presented at the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior annual conference, researchers led by Dr. Benjamin Hart, from the University of California, Davis, found that:

- 16% (one in six) of dogs are classified as “serious” poop eaters, which means that they were [caught in the act of eating poop five times](#)
- 24% of the dogs in the study (one in four) were observed eating poop at least once

Hart wrote, “Our conclusion is that eating of fresh stools is a reflection of an innate predisposition of ancestral canids living in nature that protects pack members from intestinal parasites present in feces that could occasionally be dropped in the den/rest area.” Translation: It’s in a dog’s DNA to eat poop.

The study consisted of two separate surveys sent to about 3,000 dog owners. While eating poop is repulsive to human sensibilities, it’s not really

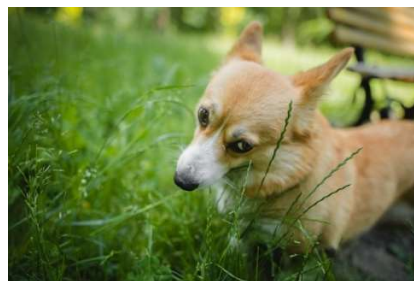
all that gross from a dog's point of view. Dogs evolved as scavengers, eating whatever they found on the ground or in the trash heap, so a dog's idea of what's good to eat is different from ours. In his [Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training](#), animal behaviorist Steven R. Lindsay says, that coprophagia "may be one of several appetitive survival behaviors that have evolved to cope with the periodic adversity of starvation." In other words, when food is scarce, you just can't be picky.

Is It Normal for Dogs or Puppies to Eat Poop?

For some species, like rabbits, eating poop is a totally normal way of [obtaining key nutrients](#). In fact, if you prevent rabbits from doing this, they will develop health problems, and young rabbits will fail to thrive. Fortunately, dogs don't need to get essential nutrition this way. Eating poop, however, is a normal, natural dog behavior at some life stages.

Mother dogs will lick their puppies to urge them to eliminate—and clean up their puppies' poop by eating it—for about the first three weeks after giving birth. Puppies will also naturally engage in this behavior, eating their own poop (autocoprophagia), poop from other dogs (allocoprophagia), as well as poop from cats and other animals. Some dogs find horse manure and goose droppings particularly appealing.

It's not dangerous for a puppy to eat their own poop, but consuming poop from other animals may cause health problems for a puppy if the animal's stool is contaminated with parasites, viruses, or toxins. In most cases, this behavior will fade before the puppy is about nine months old.



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Why Does My Dog Eat Poop?

If your adult dog starts to eat poop, you should consult with your vet to rule out health problems like [parasites](#), drugs such as steroids, malabsorption syndromes, [diabetes](#), [Cushing's Disease](#), [thyroid disease](#), and other conditions that might cause an increase in appetite. Diets deficient in nutrients and calories could also cause dogs to eat poop.

In some cases, dogs start to eat their own poop because of some kind of environmental stress or behavioral triggers.

Isolation

Studies have shown that dogs who are kept alone in kennels or basements are more likely to eat poop than those dogs who live close to their people.

Confinement to Small Spaces

Spending too much time confined in a small space can cause a dog to develop a poop-eating problem. It's not unusual to see coprophagia in dogs rescued from crowded animal shelters.

Anxiety

Often, coprophagia is a result of a person using punishment or harsh methods during [house training](#). According to this theory, dogs may eliminate and then eat their own poop to get rid of the evidence, but then they are punished more. It becomes a vicious cycle.



cunfek/Getty Images Plus

Attention-Seeking

Dogs may eat their own poop to get a reaction from their humans, which they inevitably will. So, if you see your dog is eating poop, it's important to do your best to not overreact.

Inappropriate Association With Real Food

Dogs who are fed in proximity to their poop may make a connection between the odors of food and those of feces and will be unable to tell the difference. Feeding and watering areas should be kept separate from elimination or potty areas.

Smelling Poop on Their Mothers

Lindsay writes that in some cases, puppies will get confused by sniffing fecal odors on their mother's breath after she has cleaned them. Also, sometimes mothers may regurgitate food that is mixed with puppy fecal matter. He calls this an "appetitive inoculation," which may set a puppy up to develop this bad habit.



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Living With a Sick or Elderly Dog

Sometimes a healthy dog will consume poop from a weaker dog in the household, especially in cases of fecal incontinence. Scientists hypothesize that this may be related to the instinct to protect the pack from predators.

How Do I Stop My Dog From Eating Poop?

Veterinarians and dog owners have seen improvements the behavior of a dog who eats poop by using a few strategies. The cause of why a dog eats poop is important to consider when looking for a solution. Dogs that eat poop due to a medical condition will need different methods than dogs who do it as a behavioral response to something like stress. Consult your veterinarian if it's an ongoing issue. They can also likely direct you to a behavioral expert who can assist if that's the root of the issue.

Vitamin Supplements for Dogs Eating Poop

There's been a long-standing theory that dogs eat poop because they are missing something in their diets, so a [dog multivitamin](#) could be helpful. Vitamin-B deficiency, in particular, has been a prime suspect, and studies have backed this up. In 1981, scientists showed fecal microbial activity synthesized thiamine, a B-vitamin. Other research found other missing nutrients.

Enzyme Supplements for Dogs Eating Poop

The modern canine diet is higher in carbohydrates and lower in meat-based proteins and fats than the canine ancestral diet. Some people have had success with [digestive enzyme supplements for dogs](#), including some products that contain [papain, an enzyme that aids digestion](#).

Taste-Aversion Products for Dogs Eating Poop

The theory is that certain tastes and smells are as disgusting to dogs as the idea of stool eating is to us, so offering a [poop-eating deterrent treat](#) or adding a [poop-eating deterrent powder](#) to food will make the poop that's being produced less appealing. Many of these products contain monosodium glutamate, chamomile, pepper-plant derivatives, yucca, garlic, and parsley. Just remember: All of the dogs (and cats) in the household need to eat a stool-eating deterrent in order for their poop to be unpalatable to the dog who's got the poop-eating habit. Some dog owners will also use a [bitter-tasting spray](#) on poop to make it taste worse.



TerryJ/E+ via Getty Images

Managing the Environment for Dogs That Eat Poop

Perhaps the best way to stop the problem of a dog eating poop is through training and environmental management methods, including having all the right equipment for feeding, training, and walking your dog.

Keep your dog's living area clean, including the yard, so there will be no piles of poop for them to be tempted to eat. Supervise your dog on walks, and [pick up their poop](#) immediately.

Work hard on the training cues "[leave it](#)" and "[come](#)." One simple exercise is to teach your dog to come to you for a treat as soon as they've pooped. That way, your dog will develop a habit of paying attention to you for a tasty tidbit, instead of turning toward the revolting one on the ground.

If you have a cat, make sure to keep the [cat litter box clean](#) or out of the dog's reach. You can find [self-cleaning cat litter boxes](#) that help keep dogs out, or use a [dog gate](#) to restrict access to the box.

Facts About Dogs Who Eat Poop

When it happens in puppies, coprophagia (aka poop eating) is generally considered to be just part of the process of exploring the world around them. Most puppies will be satisfied with sniffing and investigating the scents they can gather from poop, but some puppies will want to put (literally) everything into their mouths, including poop!

One bizarre fact: Dogs will rarely eat soft, poorly formed feces or diarrhea. They appear to be attracted mainly to hard stools. Frozen poop, in particular, is apparently an especially exciting treat for dogs who eat poop. In his study, Hart made some other observations about why dogs eat poop:

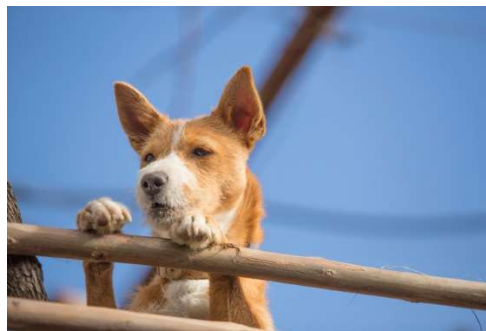
- Coprophagia was more common in multi-dog households. In single-dog homes, only 20 percent of dogs had the habit of eating poop, while in homes with three dogs, that rose to 33 percent
- Dogs who eat poop are no harder to house train than any other dogs
- Female dogs are more likely to eat poop, and intact males were least likely

- 92 percent of poop eaters want fresh poop, only one to two days old
- 85 percent of dog poop eaters will not eat their own feces, only poop from other dogs
- Greedy eaters—dogs who steal food off tables—tend to be poop eaters

If you catch your dog eating poop, talk to your veterinarian about causes. Figuring out why your dog is eating poop can help you get to the bottom of the condition, as well as providing the appropriate solution and next steps to help them stop eating poop.

What Type of Dog Fence Should I Have?

By Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Published: Jan 26, 2024 AKC



Susana Luzir/Shutterstock

In the words of Robert Frost, “Good fences make good neighbors.” But when it comes to dogs and backyards, fences are essential items to keep your pet safe and secure. Fences create safe outdoor spaces for your dog to run, play, sniff, and snooze — all without a leash. Plus, an enclosed yard with a secure gate gives owners peace of mind that diggers, climbers, and jumpers won’t escape. But what type of dog fence is best for your home and your pet?

What Dog Fence Is Right for Your Dog?

If you need to enclose your backyard but wonder what type of canine-friendly barrier will offer the best look, privacy, and safety, you can start by

considering how your dog spends time in the yard. Your dog's habits and activity level will help you choose the right fence.

Does your dog like to sunbathe all the time, rather than chasing critters or barking at neighbors? If your dog is mostly relaxed and just enjoys lounging when outdoors, you may not need a particularly high or strong fence. The same goes if your dog loves sniffing every square inch of space but doesn't pursue those smells or chase after them.



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Alternatively, if your dog is fascinated by wildlife and runs after any squirrels, birds, or rabbits that they see, fence height and strength matter. You don't want your dog to jump a low fence (or burst through or burrow under) a weak fence while trying to catch their prey.

If your dog is particularly protective and stands guard when they're out in the yard, you'll need to make sure your fence has a particularly strong gate. If your dog spots someone they believe could be an intruder, they might try to get to that person, no matter what's in their way. To ensure your dog won't be able to jump over or burrow under the fence, you'll need a high fence with bottom barriers. Does your dog love to dig? You'll need to include bottom barriers. Similarly, if you have a dog who wants to escape, you'll definitely need a solid fence that they can't burrow under, jump over, or bust through.

In addition to secure fencing, high-energy or lonely dogs may need additional enrichment or time with you to stay engaged. Consider playing cognitive training games with your dog or putting some treats in a puzzle toy.

What Dog Fence Is Right for You?

You'll need to consider your budget, especially when it comes to the size of your yard. In order to create a safe dog fence, will you be able to afford enough of the materials you want? The cost of all types of fences will vary, according to geography, size, and installation.

You'll also want to consider the weather, durability, and maintenance. For example, if you live in an area with high rainfall or sunlight, wooden fences might not be the best choice because wood can rot, warp, or fade.

Some housing associations have fencing restrictions and requirements that may affect your choices. For communities prohibiting fencing, consider putting up an enclosed dog run or exercise pen near the house. These options will give your dog room to safely roam off-leash.

If you already have fencing that your dog has jumped, climbed, or dug, consider modifying the barrier by adding additional structures at the top or bottom. Figure out how your dog is getting over or beyond the fence and remove or cover up anything helping them get past it (such as gaping holes, lawn furniture, a stack of firewood, or a storage unit). To create a dig-proof barrier under any fence, install strips of metal, cement, or large rocks one to two feet below the surface of the fence line.

Types of Dog Fences

Here are some of the most common types of dog fences, as well as the possible pros and cons of each.

Chain Link Fence

If you're looking to fence in a large area, consider metal or chain link, which is extremely popular. This option is low-cost, durable, weather-resistant, low-maintenance, and long-lasting.

Chain link fencing doesn't offer any additional privacy (unless you decide to add barriers, such as tall landscaping, in front of the fence). If a piece of the chain link fence breaks, it could cut your dog. You will also need to add bottom barriers to prevent your dog from digging out. Jumpers and climbers may even use the links in the fence to scale up and over.



mauinow1/Getty Images Plus

Vinyl Panel Fence

Vinyl panel fencing is durable, meaning it won't fade, rot, weaken, decay, or chip. Plus, it's scratch-resistant and easy to maintain — there's no painting or sealing required. You can maintain its appearance with a yearly power wash. Vinyl panel fencing provides privacy, blocking anyone from looking in. It provides no gaps for dogs to squeeze through, and its smooth surface is difficult to climb.

Vinyl panel fencing is more expensive than metal fencing. Also, unless you put plants or trees against the fence's surface, bright white panels will reflect the sun, creating a glare. When under extreme conditions (like a high-temperature fire), vinyl paneling may release chemicals like the carcinogen dioxin, but this material doesn't pose significant environmental or human risks once it's installed and used properly.

Wooden Fence

Wood can be relatively affordable as a material to build backyard fences. You can also customize your fence by choosing different woods, such as cedar, pine, spruce, fir, or redwood, in different shapes, shades, and textures. To further customize your fence's appearance, you can paint or stain it, adding horizontal or vertical slats. Naturally biodegradable, wood can provide privacy (as long as there isn't room between the slats). Wood also is an effective sound barrier.

Wood fences aren't a one-size-fits-all solution, though. This material might not be as long-lasting as you'd like (in some cases, it might only last five years). To prevent fading from sunlight or rotting from rain or water damage, wood requires yearly painting or sealing. Wet weather can also warp wood, which might mean frequent repair.

If you decide to incorporate open horizontal slats, those might give dogs a ladder to climb over. Also, any loose boards or nails can injure your pet.

Picket Fence

If you choose a picket fence for your dog, you may face some of the same benefits and challenges as those building other types of wooden fences. Picket fencing is relatively affordable and short in height (so it doesn't block your view). Visually attractive, a picket fence may be a good fit for small or calm dogs with no interest in jumping or climbing.

On the other hand, because picket fencing is short, it might not provide enough privacy. Dogs can also squeeze through any large gaps between slats, and picket fences aren't tall enough to contain large dogs or those particularly determined to get up and over.



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Wrought-Iron Fence

A wrought-iron fence offers a sleek, open appearance without blocking your view. The material is durable and won't warp. However, using wrought iron can be expensive. Dogs with high prey drives will be able to see through the bars and might get distracted, while small dogs can wiggle out between the bars and escape. In addition, you may need to repaint the fence to maintain its shiny appearance.

Block, Brick, and Stone Fences

These durable materials are strong and sturdy, offering a pleasing appearance and numerous decorative options. Cement footing prevents

dogs from burrowing under and escaping. These fences also don't require much maintenance other than checking for chipped cement filler.

Block, brick, and stone fences may be quite expensive to install. Partially for that reason, these fences are often shorter, meaning would-be canine escape artists or large dogs might be able to jump over them.

Block Bottom and Wrought-Iron Top Fences

These combination fences offer a mixture of stability, durability, and visibility. They have a pleasing appearance and include multiple decorative options. Using blocks at the bottom will prevent digging dogs from escaping, while dogs shouldn't be able to escape through a wrought-iron top that's tall enough.

This option may be expensive to install. In addition, to maintain its appearance, you may have to paint the wrought iron surface regularly.

Why Does My Dog Eat Grass?

By Harriet Meyers, American Kennel Club, Mar 08, 2022

Have you ever taken your dog out for a potty break and turned your back, only to discover your canine pal chomping on a large mouthful of grass? While you might panic and think about the vomit you'll be cleaning off the carpet later, this behavior is not always cause for alarm. But why do they do it, and how do you know when it's a problem? And are there ways to get dogs to stop eating grass?

Reasons Dogs Eat Grass

There are a variety of reasons why dogs find grass to be a delicacy. These include:

Diet Deficiency

Some dog owners and veterinarians assume that grass eating is a form of pica, or eating strange nonfood items, sometimes caused by a diet deficiency. Many diet deficiencies are rooted in missing vitamins, nutrients, or minerals that are absent from daily intake.

This should not be a problem for dogs who are fed a well-balanced diet, so consider asking your veterinarian about switching dog food if your dog repeatedly eats grass.

Need for Fiber

Eating grass could also be your dog's way of getting more fiber, which helps them digest their food, pass stool, and keep their GI system operating like clockwork. A change to food with a higher-fiber content may help.

Instinct

If a dog's diet is complete and balanced, eating grass may not be related to a deficiency at all — it might be instinct. Dogs' digestive systems, dietary needs, and cravings have evolved to fit the lifestyle of domesticated dogs.

While canines in the wild weren't getting their primary source of nutrients from grass, eating an entire animal provided an optimal diet, especially if the animal's diet consisted of various plants. Perhaps they naturally crave grass as part of their genetic makeup, dating back to when they hunted their own prey.

Antacid

My active young dog was on a high-quality, balanced diet when she suddenly started an odd behavior. Upon going outside first thing in the morning, she would frantically gobble up as much grass as possible until she threw up some yellow foam. After that, she was perky and ready to launch into her morning two-miler.

"Yellow foam, or bile, usually indicates that the dog has an empty stomach," says Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC chief veterinary officer. "The bile can be very irritating and uncomfortable to the dog's stomach. People take antacids to ease this pain, but dogs may eat grass to help them release the bile and feel better."

In my dog's case, there was a simple solution to the problem. My vet suggested feeding her a bit of her food as soon as we wake up in the morning as part of our routine. That way, the bile that enters the stomach does what it's meant to do — breaking down the food for digestion — rather

than causing pain. A small meal at night, right before going to sleep, can also help.

Boredom

Maybe you have a fenced backyard and are lucky enough to be able to let your canine pal out there to play. But most dogs would rather have your companionship. If they're hanging in the yard alone and eating grass, it may be that they're just bored. You could stop the behavior with a combination of positive reward training, an exercise regime, and quality time you spend out there with your dog throwing a ball.

Tasty Treat

Of course, your dog might also just enjoy the taste and texture of fragrant, wet grass in her mouth, especially when new grass is emerging for the first time during the spring, or when your dog is thirsty. Always keep a bowl of fresh, cool water outside to satisfy your dog's thirst.

Is Eating Grass Bad for Dogs?

The consumption of grass may just be a sign that your dog is attempting to relieve an upset stomach, and some pups do vomit soon after eating it. That said, a small limited study conducted at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine showed that only about 22 percent of dogs studied frequently vomited after eating grass and only 9 percent frequently show signs of illness prior to eating grass. The researchers concluded that grass and plant-eating is a normal behavior of domestic dogs.

But sometimes even normal behaviors can be harmful. Grass may be treated with herbicides and pesticides that are toxic to dogs. Eating grass can also cause dogs to ingest intestinal parasites, for example roundworms and hookworms, that are left from animal droppings. In both cases, your veterinarian may want to perform assessments with fecal samples or blood tests to look for parasites and toxicity.

If you notice your dog eating grass more frequently or excessively, be alert for potential underlying illnesses that may be causing the behavior. Check for vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, decrease in appetite, bloody stool, lethargy, or lip licking.

How to Stop Your Dog From Eating Grass

1. If you can, try to prevent your dog from eating grass, especially the stuff that's not growing on your own property. While chewing on the lawn is a common behavior in many canines, you can train your dog out of the behavior to help provide peace of mind. Teach the "leave it" and go outside with your dog until you're confident that the habit is broken.
2. Always monitor your dog when there are houseplants nearby, as certain varieties can cause toxicity if they're chewed or ingested. It's best to consult with your vet if you think your dog has chewed on a toxic houseplant or possibly ingested too much grass with a small amount of chemicals. Don't use harmful chemicals or fertilizers – plant a dog-safe garden.
3. Feed your dog smaller, more frequent meals – feeding especially first thing in the morning.
4. Consider different products or a deterrent spray that will show your dog what areas are off-limits.
5. Ask your veterinarian or a veterinarian nutritionist for recommendations of a balanced, nutritional food or digestive supplement that will best suit your dog's age, breed, and activity level.
6. When you let your dog in the yard, play with him or give him a safe chew toy



Alamy Stock Photo Author: Gwen Loughman

The scent of a hound: 'I love how my dog smells, I can't help it'

Gwen Loughman says she adores how her dog smells, science says it's good for us and she's not sorry.

RECENTLY, I HAPPENED across a feature outlining eight smells that, according to science, have the potential to make people happy.

Despite being irked by the figure in the title, I clicked. Being slightly pedantic, I felt I could have been better served had the title read seven or nine things. Not eight. Odd numbers in a headline are supposed to help the reader digest information.

I pushed my irritation to one side and read on, but the list failed to impress. One of the suggested scents included pine. Who likes pine? It's grand and all, butpine? Citrus got a mention. Ho hum. So did Rosemary. Still not convinced. This article was not living up to its claim.



Alamy Stock Photo

Oh, hang on. Freshly cut grass was next. Now we were getting somewhere. But almost immediately, the piece u-turned straight back to mundane, unremarkable aromas. I was beginning to feel very disgruntled on behalf of the olfactory experience.

No mention of freshly baked bread, incense at a funeral, ground coffee, or how the earth smells after a good spill of rain (petrichor in case you were wondering). What about hot tar on the road, a particular bouquet, redolent of summer? That one takes me straight back to my childhood in the 80s. Permanent markers didn't feature either, but perhaps for very good reason. A primary school rumour back in the day claimed you could get high doing that.

One smelly doggy

Our capacity for peculiarities fascinates me. We are a wonderfully eclectic jumble of affectations, every one of us made all the more unique because of our foibles. Liking the smell of random things is just one of them. But the smell I really can't get enough of is, the smell of my dog.



Alamy Stock Photo

I love everything about him; the tic-tac sound of his nails on the floor as he trails around after me, his funny little hop skip jump when he walks, the way one ear flops down while the other stands upright, the "uff uff" noise

he makes when he's content. I'm sure other dog owners can cite a similar checklist.

So am I weird for loving the smell of a dog? Apparently not. There is a science and sentiment behind our pets' aromas. Throw in some biology, a dash of psychology, and you've got a complete sensory experience explaining why it's not just a "doggy smell."

Just like dogs, humans are pack animals, social creatures, depending on each other for survival within our different hierarchies. Other ways in which we display commonality are through our methods of communication, these being vocalisation, body language, and, wait for it, our scent.

The bond we have with our dog is formed by doing enjoyable things with them, going for long walks, throwing a ball and enjoying their company.

Pals for life

We love our dogs and consider them part of the family. They are our constant shadowy companions, following us about the house and even waiting patiently until we come out of the bathroom. Our relationship with them is unique.

I think it's fair to say that not everybody will understand the powerful affiliation we have with our canine pal, and how it's impossible not to smile when we see their faces. Picking them up and burying our nose in their fur is simply another way we are connecting with them.



Alamy Stock Photo

According to Google, the reasons for loving the smell of my dog are wide and varied. It could have something to do with feeling serene and calm when I grab him for the cuddles. The unique chemical composition of his fur and skin might be another factor.

Then there is the hit I get from the feel-good hormone oxytocin, the one responsible for reducing my stress levels. His scent could also be held accountable for evoking fond memories, but that one hasn't been my experience. Although of course, it could very well be doing so subconsciously. After all, I am that person who was addicted to her kids' sweaty bed head hair when they were very little

The above are excellent observations and scientifically correct, but to me, he just smells divine, and I live for those doggy snuggles at the end of the day. His irresistible, fusty musty odour reminds me of heat, grass, and sunshine. Sometimes he smells very faintly of fox. His ears carry a different scent from that on his shoulders. It's harder to define. It is simply a warm smell of nothing.

On the school mornings, he retains traces of my son's cologne, even when he is wrapped in a blanket to protect the uniforms from shedding fur.

To conclude, my dog smells alive, robust and earthy. To me, there isn't a nicer smell.

It helps that he's hella cute to boot. And I'm not just saying this as a proud pawrent. I have proof. He was the star attraction at the school gate, with one small child barrelling over, announcing he loved the smell of puppies. It was a free-for-all after that. Once in the park, I was stopped by an older gentleman walking his own Jack Russell terrier. The conversation opener was, "Is that a boy or a girl?" and "Was I breeding?"

My pooch's Polaroid is on the Doggy Wall of Fame in our local dog-friendly (natch) coffee shop.

If you are still in doubt about liking your dog's scent, take comfort in the fact that there are people out there who are repulsed by and afraid of

repetitive patterns or clusters of small holes and bumps like honeycomb, sunflowers or sponges (Trypophobia).

I know someone who has a fear of freezers. Take a moment to spare a thought for the individuals who live in terror of the very rare but real fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of their mouth (Arachibutyrophobia). Honest to god. Spellcheck didn't even blink at that one.

So you go right ahead and enjoy how your doggy smells.

Gwen Loughman is the gatekeeper of four boys, one husband and a watcher over two dogs.

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**The Journal Newsroom <tips@thejournal.ie> sent
by emmahickey@thejournal.ie)**



Hieronymus And The Chair

By Philip Santilhano

Though I really don't care
that Hieronymus sat in a chair
knowing he's a silly twit
without good sense or wit
we're scared it must be said
that he'll fall on his head

for it is known to all
he'll break tiles with the fall

Piper

(Dad's note: Another "Princess Warrior Bitch"?)

Hieronimus decided, of his own volition and without encouragement or assistance, to climb into and sit in one of my Grandfather's upright chairs that I have inherited. After taking the photo, we helped him out of the chair again, even though he was quite happy to stay there, as the chairs are not all that steady. Piper was not amused, claiming he was "grandstanding", and that she was not allowed on the furniture. Sharp words followed.)

What to Do if Your Dog Drinks Alcohol

By Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinarian, Updated: Jul 26, 2023 **AKC**



paulywright / stock.adobe.com

"I host a lot of get-togethers in my home and my dog "works the room" begging for treats. Most of my guests know not to feed him, but I'm nervous he'll lap up the alcoholic beverages left unattended without my knowledge. How much alcohol is too much? Are some alcohols more dangerous to dogs than others? Lastly, what do I do if my dog does drink alcohol?" -Party Animal

Dear PA: Alcohol toxicity is not as common as you may think, because dogs are not naturally drawn to alcoholic beverages. However, accidents can happen. Just as with humans, the safety issue is not with the type of alcohol your dog consumes but rather, how much was consumed. For example, hard liquor, wine, and craft beer contain higher alcohol levels than lite beer.

If your dog does accidentally consume alcohol, it's hard to know whether the amount consumed is at dangerous levels. The health and weight of the

dog in relation to the type and volume are both variables to consider. For example, for toy breeds, a smaller amount of alcohol would be considered more dangerous than for larger breeds.

The amount of ethanol needed to cause intoxication varies depending on its concentration in the substance ingested. The published oral lethal dose in dogs is 5.5 to 7.9 g/kg of 100% ethanol. One milliliter of ethanol is equal to 0.789 g.



Chalabala/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Ethanol Concentrations in Drinks & Household Products

SUBSTANCE	PROOF	% ETHANOL BY VOLUME
Light beer	5–7	2.5–3.5
Beer	8–12	4–6
Ale	10–16	5–8
Wine	20–40	10–20
Mouthwash		14–27

Amaretto	34–56	17–28
Aftershave		19–90
Schnapps	40–100	20–50
Coffee liqueurs	42–53	21–26.5
Brandy	70–80	35–40
Bourbon	80–90	40–45
Rum	80–82	40–41
Cognac	80–82	40–41
Vodka	80–82	40–41
Whiskey	80–90	40–45
Tequila	80–92	40–46
Gin	80–94	40–47

Cologne/perfume 50

Hand sanitizers 60–95

*For alcoholic beverages, the proof is double the percentage of alcohol present.

Dogs may tend to be more attracted to fruit-based drinks, cocktails, punches, ciders, seltzers, and foods with alcohol as a key ingredient. Another serious consideration is diet alcoholic beverages or other mixers that may contain xylitol, an artificial sweetener, which is highly dangerous (and can be fatal) for dogs.

Signs and Symptoms of Alcohol Toxicity in Dogs

What happens if a dog drinks alcohol? Canines respond to the effects of alcohol much like humans, and the impact is often mild. You should, however, contact your vet, emergency clinic, or Pet Poison Helpline if you have any concerns, to establish if treatment is needed. Anytime your dog does get into alcoholic beverages or foods containing alcohol, look for these key warning signs:

- Depression or lethargy
- Lack of coordination
- Drooling
- Vomiting or retching
- Weakness
- Collapse
- Decreased respiratory rate (breathing more slowly than usual)
- Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)
- Hypotension (low blood pressure)

- Hypothermia (low body temperature)

You cannot completely control your pet's environment and what they consume, but education and awareness are the best ways to start to keep your dog healthy.

What Is Dog Beer? Is It Safe For Dogs?

Can dogs drink alcohol? No, they should never drink alcoholic beverages. But craft and large breweries have discovered that when their customers tip back a cold one, they might want their canine buddies to join them with dog-friendly beverages.

But dog beer is not beer as we humans know it. Depending on the brew, the ingredients in dog beers vary. All are alcohol-free, and a major ingredient is water. In addition, they may be composed of bone broth, vegetables (like carrots, corn, and sweet potatoes), fruit, oats or barley, herbs, and sometimes dog-safe nuts.

Some dog beers include glucosamine, believed to support healthy joints, while others incorporate human-grade USDA meat and vitamin B from malt barley for shiny coats. Some manufacturers even produce light dog beer for overweight pets.

Dog beer should not take the place of a balanced meal. Like other dog treats, it should be given within reasonable limits. You can pour dog beer into a bowl to be lapped up or pour it over your dog's kibble. And while adding glucosamine isn't harmful, if your dog suffers from joint pain, you should consult your veterinarian.

Is dog beer safe for your dog? Yes, in moderation. You might want to teach your dog a new command...bottoms up!

Eye Protection for Dogs: Goggles, Sunglasses, and More

By Nandini Maharaj, Published: Jan 06, 2025 **AKC**

Healthy eyes in a dog look clear, bright, and free of redness or discharge. To help keep them that way, you might be wondering if your dog needs

eye protection. Protective eyewear can help with managing certain health conditions like cataracts. Since not all dogs will tolerate goggles and might even pull them off and chew on them, it's important to be informed before purchasing eye protection.

Read on for advice from veterinarians about the different types of eye protection for dogs, when dogs need to use them, and how to ensure they fit properly.

Types of Eye Protection for Dogs

Eye protection shields a dog's eyes in "situations where they might be exposed to ultraviolet (UV) rays, dirt, debris, or other environmental hazards," says Bethany Hsia, DVM, veterinarian at CodaPet. Examples are outdoor activities, water sports, or being in dusty environments. If you're unsure whether your dog needs eye protection, it's a good idea to consult with your veterinarian.

The most common type of eye protection for dogs is goggles which can be clear or tinted. Another option is a sun visor or hat.

Goggles

"If your dog spends a lot of time outdoors in sunny conditions, goggles or sunglasses can help protect their eyes from UV radiation, strong winds, dirt, and debris," Dr. Hsia says. They're beneficial for dogs riding on a bicycle or motorcycle, hanging their head out of the car window, or running or jogging with their owner. Another reason to use goggles is during foxtail season when these seeds can become embedded in their eyes or skin, says Sara Adelman, DVM, MS, Associate Veterinarian at Vet Vision Center.

Goggles come in a variety of designs and colors and are relatively inexpensive. For dogs who swim regularly or participate in dock diving, goggles can prevent water from splashing in their eyes, limit the glare coming off the water, and reduce chlorine or saltwater irritation, Dr. Hsia says. In addition, goggles can be helpful for dogs prone to eye injuries

including those who are blind, spend much of the day outside, or work in harsh conditions such as K-9s in law enforcement, the military, or search and rescue, Dr. Adelman says.



I_AM_JASON/Getty Images Plus

Visors and Hats

Another option for outdoor sun protection is dog visors and hats. Visors have a round brim like a baseball cap while hats fit over a dog's head with cutouts for their ears. Visors and hats provide shade from direct sunlight, but they won't prevent debris from entering a dog's eyes.

While visors can offer some sun protection, they don't provide UV protection, says Marnie Ford, BSC, PhD, DVM, DACVO, a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist. "Sometimes a visor helps keep the glare out of their eyes, so it's not so overwhelmingly bright for them." Another use for visors is for an eye condition that requires blocking light and your dog won't tolerate goggles, she adds.

When to Use Eye Protection

Any dog breed can develop conditions like glaucoma, cataracts, and uveitis. If your dog spends a lot of time on the water or ski slopes, there's an increased risk of damage from UV light because they have greater exposure over a shorter amount of time, Dr. Ford explains. "So, we aren't talking about the amount of UV," she says. "We're talking about the cumulative effect of UV light."

There are several reasons to consider using eye protection for your dog including the following.

Allergies and Conjunctivitis

Pink eye or conjunctivitis in dogs is a common condition that occurs when the tissue inside the eyelid or covering the eyeball becomes inflamed. It can be caused by allergies, bacteria, viruses, eyelid abnormalities, and trauma to the eye. "Often, we want to use goggles because they have a little bit of a tighter fit around their face, so they don't get wind and air moving in which brings in allergens or particulates that bug the dog," Dr. Ford says.

Glaucoma

Goggles can also be helpful for glaucoma, a disease where there is increased pressure within the eye. "When dogs have glaucoma, they have a really dilated pupil and this increases the amount of light that gets in their eyes, so they can suffer from the glare," Dr. Ford explains. Along with prompt veterinary care, using tinted goggles or a visor can help if your dog has a sensitivity to light.

Cataracts

When a dog develops a cataract, the lens which is normally clear becomes cloudy or opaque. This can block light from reaching the retina and impair a dog's vision. "When dogs don't have complete mature cataracts, the light will go in and scatter, and it's really irritating and can overwhelm them," Dr. Ford says. Wearing tinted goggles can reduce the amount of light going in, as well as the glare and scatter.

"Dogs who live in places with a lot of snow can get actinic cataracts," Dr. Ford says. These cataracts are the result of long-term exposure to UV light. "In fact, human teenagers are getting cataracts from snow glare or UV light exposure which never used to happen, and dogs too will get actinic cataracts," she says.



kacoates via Getty Images

Iris Atrophy

“Since older dogs often experience degenerative eye diseases, they can benefit from protection against environmental factors,” Dr. Hsia says. For instance, some dogs can develop iris atrophy which occurs when “the pupillary margin starts to break down,” Dr. Ford says. “This is a normal part of aging, but the consequence is that the pupils don’t close fully which allows more light to enter the eye.” Wearing goggles can reduce the amount of bright glare during the day.

Pannus

Certain breeds like German Shepherds and Greyhounds can develop a condition called Pannus that is linked to UV exposure and high altitudes, Dr. Adelman says. She explains that Pannus is an “immune-mediated process” involving inflammation of the cornea. “Normally, it starts at the outer corners of the cornea and can cause vision loss through long-term changes or generalized inflammation, making the cornea cloudy,” she says. Pannus can cause pain and needs lifelong management. “Having UV protection on these dogs is required, especially when you have dogs who work outside all day,” Dr. Ford says.

Uveitis

Some dogs develop uveitis which means “inflammation of the uveal tract or inflammation inside of the eye,” Dr. Ford says. When a dog has uveitis, one of the problems that happens is the pupil becomes miotic, meaning small and constricted, which is quite painful. If it’s sunny outside, the pupil can become “almost hyper-miotic, so when you have tinted goggles, they’ll

reduce the amount of light going in the eye, which reduces pain,” she adds.

Dry Eye

Some dogs don't produce enough tears resulting in a condition called dry eye. "Having goggles on their eyes that are a bit fitted, but not tight, means less airflow around their eyes," Dr. Ford says. Less air means the tear film doesn't dry out as much which is helpful in hot, dry weather.

After Surgery

All three experts recommend an e-collar or cone if your dog is recovering from eye surgery or an injury to the eye. "However, if you need goggles or your dog won't wear a cone, because some dogs absolutely hate cones, goggles made for dogs are really helpful," Dr. Ford says. "Postoperatively, a lot of dogs have reduced blinking and reduced tear production, so they're much more vulnerable to trauma."



AirQoo via Getty Images Plus

When you have a surgical site, you don't want them causing further trauma to the eye from rubbing or pulling at their stitches. "Ideally, you're going to use a cone or a goggle," Dr. Ford says. You do have to be careful though since your dog could pull off the goggles and cause further damage to their eyes.

What to Look for When Purchasing Protective Eyewear

Lenses

Goggles have individual eye lenses or a single lens that goes over the whole front of the eye. The single-lens goggles “are usually better for wider fields of view,” Dr. Ford says. Lenses can also be clear or tinted and both kinds may come with UV protection. “The tinted lenses are needed in sunny conditions,” she says. But tinted goggles wouldn’t be a good choice on evening walks or doing search and rescue in the dark.

“The clear lenses would be good for dogs who swim underwater,” Dr. Ford says. “It doesn’t keep water out of the goggles because dogs have hair, and you don’t get a tight seal like you do with human goggles.” Although dogs can open their eyes underwater, you wouldn’t want to use a tinted goggle because they won’t be able to see anything.

Materials

Ensure the product you purchase offers 100% UV protection, Dr. Hsia says. She also recommends avoiding materials that irritate your dog’s skin or eyes. Choose goggles made of lightweight yet durable materials such as polycarbonate lenses.

Safety

If your dog is wearing goggles for an extended period, make sure to monitor them. “I wouldn’t leave them overnight with goggles,” Dr. Ford says. “Any dog that you’re going to be leaving for a length of time with goggles on, I would be more inclined to put an e-collar on them, so it’s safer and just in case they did move them around and get them in the wrong location.”

Dr. Adelman agrees, saying “a hard plastic e-collar that goes out in front of the nose is the only protection I use after any surgery or a deep corneal ulcer.” Another option is an Optivizor which goes over the head and eyes and can be clear or tinted depending on how much UV protection your dog needs. This may be a good choice if your dog is very anxious about the e-collar or tries to get it off immediately, she adds.



TerryJ/E+ via Getty Images

Size and Fit

“Choosing the correct size for your dog’s eye protection is crucial for comfort and effectiveness,” Dr. Hsia says. If the eyewear is too loose, it can allow debris to enter the eye and cause irritation. But if it’s too tight, it can be uncomfortable for your dog, she says. Companies that make goggles often have sizing charts on their website to help you choose the right size for your dog.

Goggles have adjustable straps that go behind the head and below the chin, so you can customize the fit. When fitting goggles on your dog, “make sure there’s no point at which the goggle is touching the eye, which is why the ski goggles are great because they’re pretty wide around the eye,” Dr. Adelman says.

Dog visors and hats usually have a Velcro, hook and loop closure, or buckle, so you can adjust the size. Look for a hat with a drawstring that goes under the chin to keep it securely on your dog’s head.

Made for Dogs

You might be wondering if you can use baby goggles for your dog. The simple answer is no. “Using human eye protection is generally not recommended due to fit issues,” Dr. Hsia says. Dr. Ford agrees saying that the ones used for children aren’t fitted for dogs and don’t have the adjustable strap that goes below a dog’s chin.

How to Get Your Dog Accustomed to Eye Protection

Introducing your dog to protective eyewear is a gradual process. You want them to associate wearing goggles with positive experiences like getting a treat or playing. "Start by letting your dog sniff and explore the goggles without putting them on," Dr. Hsia says. "This helps reduce anxiety about new objects."

Once your dog seems comfortable, she suggests placing the goggles on them briefly while rewarding them with treats and praise. Patience is key to encouraging acceptance. "If your dog shows signs of distress, remove the eye protection immediately and try again later," she says. "Some dogs adapt quickly while others take longer."

Keep in mind that eyewear shouldn't interfere with a dog's ability to do regular activities like walking or drinking, Dr. Adelman says. Dr. Ford agrees, adding that "while eye protection is a good idea in many situations, I wouldn't force goggles on them because the dog will try to get them off and can displace them, and that can cause more damage." If your dog doesn't tolerate goggles, she recommends taking precautions like using a visor, walking your dog on the shady side of the street, keeping them out of the sun from 10 am to 2 pm when UV radiation levels are highest, and providing more shade in the backyard.

Patuxent Resource Refuge Walk



Irish Wolfhound Pneumonia Protocol



UPDATE WINTER 2021

BY MARIELLEN DENTINO, MD (PADRAIC) AND MELANIE MERCER, DVM (WYVERN GAZEHOUSES)

DIAGNOSIS

Irish Wolfhounds have a higher incidence of pneumonia than most breeds.

Symptoms

- ❑ Early symptoms may be subtle.
- ❑ Cough and fever may or may not be present.
- ❑ Lethargy and anorexia are usually present.
- ❑ The hound may be reluctant to lie down.
- ❑ Distinctive for the hound to hold the head forward and elevated and pant (see photo shown below).



Photo credit Edita Beresova

Exam

- ❑ Audible respiratory sounds are usually coming from the upper airways (nose and throat), while pneumonia requires listening with a stethoscope.
- ❑ Early in pneumonia the clinical exam may show normal breath sounds and need to be repeated.

Testing

- ❑ Early x-rays may be normal and need to be repeated.
- ❑ Tracheal wash is often recommended for diagnosis, however this requires sedation and results are often inconclusive. The results may not be available for a few days.

TREATMENT

Irish Wolfhounds with untreated pneumonia can become severely ill in hours.

- ❑ The usual organisms for bacterial (responds to antibiotics) canine pneumonia have been documented and beginning broad spectrum antibiotics to cover these organisms in a timely manner (even before x-rays) is required.
- ❑ A combination of two antibiotics to cover the usual bacteria causing canine pneumonia is recommended.

- ❑ Ceftiofur (Naxcel[®]) and clindamycin (Antirobe[®]) are recommended by the IW Health Group.
- ❑ Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (Clavamox[®]) and enrofloxacin (Baytril[®]), a fluoroquinolone, is a well-tolerated and effective therapy recommended on the Veterinary Information Network. Ciprofloxacin (another fluoroquinolone) is NOT RECOMMENDED as it is not well absorbed by some dogs. Enrofloxacin (Baytril[®]) and clindamycin (Antirobe[®]) is recommended by the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases.
- ❑ A macrolide like azithromycin (Zithromax[®]); cephalosporins like ceftiofur (Naxcel[®]) or cephalexin (Keflex[®]); and tetracyclines, like doxycycline, can also be considered as part of the therapy combination as long as the combination collectively covers the gram-negative, gram-positive and anaerobic organisms known to cause canine pneumonia.

OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE

- ❑ If oral antibiotics are tolerated your hound will hopefully avoid hospitalization.
- ❑ If your hound is not drinking, he will likely need subcutaneous or IV fluids.
- ❑ Coupage (patting chest with cupped hands) and sitting in a steamy bathroom with your hound may be helpful.
- ❑ Cough suppressants are not recommended but medications to thin mucus such as N-acetylcysteine (Mucomyst[®]) may be helpful.
- ❑ The hound should begin to clinically improve within a few days. It may be slow, but he should not be getting worse. If he is not improving, consider changing the antibiotic or undergoing bronchoscopy to provide a specific diagnosis. Also consider fungal pneumonia which will not respond to antibiotics.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ❑ Treatment stopped too soon often leads to recurrent pneumonia. Usual duration of treatment is to treat another two weeks after all signs of infection gone but if it is recurrent pneumonia, 4-6 weeks of antibiotics may be helpful.
- ❑ If pneumonia is recurrent, further health evaluation is needed urgently.
- ❑ Please see "Causes and Risk Factors for Pneumonia" *Harp & Hound* Autumn 2018, Page 55-56.

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 **VOLUNTEER CALL-OUT!** 

OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS



Sunday, March 29, 2026

- ✓ VOLUNTEER FOR 3 HOURS
- ✓ LIGHT STEWARDING DUTIES
- ✓ MEAL MAY BE PROVIDED
- ✓ MUST ARRIVE 30 MINUTES BEFORE JUDGING

We need RELIABLE VOLUNTEERS to help support our 2026 Obedience and Rally Trials.

Note: Volunteers may not be entered in Obedience or Rally on this date due to stewarding responsibilities.

TASKS INCLUDE:

- Issuing armbands to competitors
- Checking ring equipment, judges' bag, and catalog
- Supporting ring flow & accident cleanup
- Reporting issues to Show Chair or Secretary
- Escorting the judge to lunch

Your help keeps the event running smoothly – we couldn't do it without you!

SIGN UP OR LEARN MORE:

elkhornis@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2025

March 30 & 31	<i>Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD (Meeting Following Judging), Harford County Equestrian Ctr, 608 N Tollgate Rd, Bel Air, MD 21014</i>
April 6	'Paint Your Pet' Fundraiser, Checkerspot Brewery, Baltimore, 3PM
April 11 & 12	Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 N Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA 17019
April 19& 20	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Carolinas Specialty</i>
April 26	Southern MD Celtic Festival, Jefferson Patterson Park, 10515 Mackall Rd, St Leonard, MD 20685
May 2 & 3	Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Generals Hwy, Crownsville, MD
May 3 & 4	Faerie Festival Marshy Point Rocky Point Park, 2200 Rocky Point Rd, Essex, MD 21221
May 18	Show Wrap Up Meeting
May 25 - 29	<i>IWCA National Specialty Cache County Fairgrounds, Logan, UT</i>
June 14 & 15	Carroll County Celtic Festival, Carroll County Ag Center, 706 Agriculture Ctr Dr, Westminster, MD 21157
June 8	Regular Meeting – Brian Boru Irish Rest. 489 Ritchie Hwy #103, Severna Park, MD
June 21	Penn Mar Irish Festival, Pheasant Run Greenhouse 10241 Brillheart Rd, Glen Rock, PA 17327
June 27 - 29	Celtic Fling <i>(with a concert on Friday night)</i> Mt Hope Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd, Manheim, PA 17545
August 10	Regular Meeting
August	Oakenmist Ren Faire Howard County Fairgrounds
August 30 & 31	Virginia Scottish Games, 5089 Old Tavern Rd, The Plains, VA 20198
September 14 21	Fun Day
September 20-21	PA Renn Faire Shamrocks and Shenanigans Weekend , Mt Hope Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd, Manheim, PA 17545
October 5 & 6	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Delaware Valley Specialty</i>
October 19	Regular Meeting
November 7 - 9	Maryland Irish Festival, 2200 York Rd, Timonium, MD 21093
November 16	Regular Meeting
December 14	Holiday Party Montgomery's, 800 River Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784
December ~16	Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5Miler, 1 Safari Place, Baltimore, MD 21217
December	Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD

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

Need Volunteers to Host

