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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dates to keep in mind:

June 8, Sunday, 1 pm Club meeting on Zoom and in-person at Mission BBQ located at 3410 Plumtree Dr, Ellicott City, MD 21042

June 14 & 15 Carroll County Celtic Festival

[Home - Carroll County Celtic Festival](#)

June 21 Penn Mar Irish Festival

[Penn-Mar Irish Festival - Penn-Mar Irish Festival](#)

June 28 & 29 Celtic Fling

[Celtic Fling & Highland Games | Mount Hope Estate & Winery](#)

Attached is Events 101. This is a basic code of conduct and information for the events we attend. As a result of issues and incidents that have happened in the past, we want to emphasize the need for proper conduct by our members and behavior of our wolfhounds.

Attached is PVIWC Waiver for Non-Members

PLEASE read and print out both attachments. They are to protect both the club and individuals.

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

Benadryl for Dogs: Uses, Side Effects, and Dosage Information

By Anna Burke, Updated: Apr 02, 2025 **AKC**

The temptation to reach into our medicine cabinets to treat our pets can be dangerous. Humans and dogs react very differently to medications, which is why veterinarians caution dog owners against making independent decisions about how to medicate their animals. However, some human medications are safe for use with dogs, as long as they are used appropriately, and under a vet's guidance.

Veterinarians use diphenhydramine for dogs, more commonly known by the over-the-counter human medication brand name "Benadryl," on a regular basis to treat allergies, travel anxiety, and motion sickness. While you should *always* consult with your veterinarian before giving your dog any human medication (and read the ingredients list to check for xylitol), here is what you should know about using diphenhydramine or Benadryl for dogs.

What Is Benadryl?

Benadryl is the brand name for the active ingredient diphenhydramine HCl. Diphenhydramine is a first-generation ethanolamine-derivative antihistamine, which is the scientific way of classifying antihistamines that can cross the blood-brain barrier – making them very effective but also increasing risks of adverse side effects. While Benadryl is not FDA-approved for veterinary use, it is considered safe for use in dogs and cats and is commonly used in veterinary practices across the U.S.

Diphenhydramine works by blocking the receptors that receive histamines in the body. This relieves many of the symptoms associated with allergies, like itching, sneezing, and hives. The body still produces histamines, but

the receptor antagonist blocks the receptors from registering the histamines.

What Does Benadryl Treat in Dogs?

Benadryl is a great medication for use in dogs with mild-to-moderate allergies. Seasonal allergies, food allergies, environmental allergies, and allergic reactions to insect bites all respond to Benadryl in most cases. Benadryl is commonly used to treat itchiness in dogs caused by skin allergies, and it also reduces many of the other symptoms of allergies, including:

- Hives
- Swelling and inflammation
- Redness
- Runny nose and eyes
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Anaphylactic reaction

One of the side effects of Benadryl is drowsiness, which can help to calm anxious dogs. Diphenhydramine may help relieve symptoms of mild-to-moderate travel anxiety in pets. It also may help relieve motion sickness in dogs. Although Benadryl may sometimes relieve anxiety, it's best to talk to your veterinarian or an animal behaviorist to determine and treat what's causing the anxiety.

Veterinarians prescribe Benadryl for dogs with mast cell tumors to help mitigate the effects of the massive histamine release caused by mast cell degranulation. Veterinarians sometimes prescribe diphenhydramine during heartworm treatment, as it helps reduce the risk of an allergic reaction to heartworm treatment therapy.



Dogs - stock.adobe.com

When to Ask Your Vet About Benadryl for Dogs

Before you reach for Benadryl, consult your veterinarian about your dog's symptoms. Allergy symptoms like itching and red eyes may also be signs of more serious conditions. In some cases, giving your dog Benadryl can actually worsen your dog's condition.

Red, goopy eyes could be a symptom of allergies, or it could also be a sign of glaucoma or dry eye, which Benadryl will not help treat. Similarly, itching is frequently associated with allergies and other skin conditions. Your vet will also be able to tell you whether Benadryl will interact with any other medications that your dog is taking.

If your dog has any of the following conditions, only use Benadryl after consulting your veterinarian:

- Glaucoma
- Cardiovascular disease
- Hypothyroidism
- Seizure disorders
- Hypertension
- Allergic lung disease
- Pregnancy

Side Effects of Benadryl

There are side effects associated with using Benadryl for dogs that all owners should be aware of. Most side effects occur within the first hour of exposure, so monitor your dog carefully during this time.

Common side effects associated with using Benadryl for dogs include:

- Drowsiness
- Dry mouth
- Urinary retention
- Hypersalivation
- Increased heart rate
- Rapid breathing

Rare side effects include:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Decreased appetite
- Increased appetite

Benadryl Overdose

It's possible for dogs to overdose on Benadryl. Signs of an overdose include hyper-excitability of the central nervous system, which can be fatal. Other warning signs to watch for are:

- Rapid heartbeat
- Dilated pupils
- Agitation
- Constipation
- Seizures

If you suspect your dog has overdosed on Benadryl, contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinary hospital immediately. Some dogs can develop an allergic reaction to Benadryl. If your dog starts having symptoms of an allergic reaction, seek veterinary care immediately.

How Much Benadryl Can I Give My Dog?

The best way to determine the correct Benadryl dosage for dogs is to consult your veterinarian. The Merck Veterinary Manual recommends administering 2-4 milligrams of Benadryl per kilogram of body weight, two to three times a day. However, this dosage can vary depending on your individual dog. Age, weight, and other health conditions can all be a factor.



Aly Tyler/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinarian for the AKC, warns that you should always consult with a veterinarian before giving Benadryl to a puppy because young puppies can be very sensitive to certain medications. The drug is also not recommended for pregnant or nursing dogs.

Never use time-release capsules for dogs, as capsules are absorbed differently in dogs than in humans and may affect your dog's dosage. They may also break open when chewed and deliver too much medication at one time, putting your dog at risk of an overdose. Your veterinarian can prescribe diphenhydramine tablets for dogs.

It's best to avoid using liquid Benadryl if it contains sodium, which can cause other side effects. Also, **avoid any form of Benadryl that contains alcohol or xylitol**. Read the full ingredients list, not just the "active" ingredients. Your vet can prescribe diphenhydramine liquid for dogs.

Children's Benadryl pills or tablets can be used safely if you ask your veterinarian for the appropriate dosage. Your vet can even prescribe diphenhydramine flavored chews if your dog refuses to take pills or liquids.

Is Benadryl Safe for Your Dog?

Benadryl is a relatively safe and effective medication for dogs when used according to the instructions of a veterinarian. As with any new medication, always observe your dog closely after administration to make sure there aren't any adverse reactions. If you have any further questions about diphenhydramine or Benadryl for dogs, contact your veterinarian for more information. And remember to keep all medicines—human and canine—out of reach of your curious dog.

How to Get Fit With Your Dog

By Mary Robins, Updated: Apr 29, 2025 **AKC**

Why not try adding your dog to your training routine? Exercising together not only benefits your health, but your dog's as well. But remember, before beginning any exercise routine with your dog, consult your veterinarian to ensure they're in good physical condition for the exercise you're envisioning.

Health Benefits of Exercising With Your Dog

The simplest way to incorporate your dog into your fitness regime is through walking. The American Heart Association recommends 150 minutes of aerobic activity of moderate-intensity activity, such as walking, for general human health — a simple goal to set for your dog walks. AKC makes it even easier, and more fun, through the AKC FIT DOG program. Participants in FIT DOG commit to walking their dog for at least 150 minutes a week.

The benefits of regular walking include improved muscular strength, circulation, memory, and sleep, as well as increased energy and reduced stress. Some FIT DOG devotees say they've also lost weight, while others note that they're experienced positive effects on their mental health since starting the program. There are social benefits, too, with 350 FIT DOG clubs now meeting regularly to walk with dogs.

Setting a fitness goal that includes your dog can have far-reaching health and social benefits. It can also be hugely motivating, as Leash Your Fitness owner Dawn Celapino has discovered through over 11 years of organizing exercise classes for humans and dogs. Celapino founded her San Diego-based fitness training center because she didn't want to leave her Cairn Terrier, "Jack," at home while leading fitness classes. She soon found that including clients' dogs in her classes added a whole new level of excitement and commitment.

"Most people hire a personal trainer because they don't know what to do, or they aren't inspired to work out," she says. "Adding their dogs really inspired them, and made it more fun." Participants also found it easier to step outside their comfort zones with their dogs by their sides. That might mean braving a new fitness class full of strangers or even trying out a new sport.



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How Dogs Benefit From Fitness & Exercise

Beyond the physical, mental, motivational, and social benefits for humans, Celapino notes that the physical and mental stimulation of fitness training is also great for dogs. Her classes include hiking,

surfing, kayaking, camping, yoga, trail running, upper- and lower-body training, and boot-camp training.

Dogs participate throughout these classes. For instance, they might be heeling beside their owner during a lunge-walk, running a weave-pole course, or taking a ride in a kayak. Because they require dogs to remain alert throughout, these classes can happily exhaust even dogs who usually run six miles without tiring.

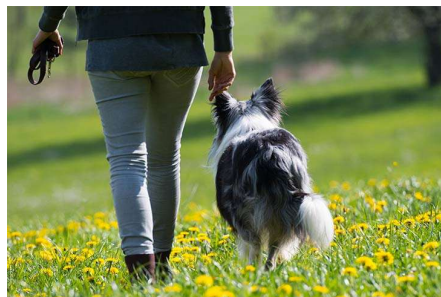
“We’re making them think,” she says. “That’s what tires them out even faster, the mental side.”

Bonding With Your Dog Through Yoga

Exercise is also a fantastic opportunity to bond with your dog. Annie Appleby, a yoga expert with 25 years of experience, started offering dog yoga classes from her San Francisco Bay Area yoga practice, YogaForce, over 10 years ago. In dog yoga, humans incorporate their dogs into classic yoga poses like holding them as a weight during a side bend, or balancing the dog on their leg in Warrior Two pose.

Dog yoga can be just as calming for dogs as yoga is for humans. Even the most hyperactive dogs can end up feeling chilled out by the end of class. Appleby also notes that both dogs and humans are closely engaged throughout classes, often looking into each other’s eyes.

“They really benefit from eye contact, the dogs,” Appleby says. “In our classes, it’s one hour of complete and utter communication with your dog the whole time. And the dogs like that a lot.”



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How to Start Exercising With Your Dog

So you want to spend some quality time with your dog while improving both of your health. But new exercise regimes can be daunting. What's the best way to get started? Consider AKC FIT DOG.

This program is a great way to get moving together. For dogs and people in good shape, the FIT DOG commitment is three months of walking for at least 30 minutes, five times per week. For people and dogs (such as senior dogs) who would benefit from shorter walks, commit to three months of more frequent, shorter walks — at least 10 walks of minimum 15 minutes each, per week.

If you plan to start jogging with your dog, Celapino stresses that it's essential to increase the distance appropriately. "You have to build them up to it just like you build yourself up to it," she says. "You have to get their paws acclimated, their heart, everything."

When taking your dog out to exercise, always check the weather to ensure it's not too hot for your dog. Also always make sure to have water. Use a sturdy, non-retractable leash to give you more control, as well as a harness instead of a collar, to avoid pulling on your dog's neck. Lastly, talk to your vet about making sure your dog is on preventative flea and tick medication if you're planning on hiking, and learn where to look for ticks and how to properly remove the bugs.

Finding the Right Activity for Your Dog

Before you begin, remember that all dogs are different. So it's important to find a form of exercise that works for both you and your dog. However, Celapino encourages all dog owners to explore what exercise might be best for their pets.

"Either way, don't discount your dog," she notes. "Dogs are capable of so much more than people think if we just give them a chance."

Are you looking to improve your overall health and fitness, as well as your dog's? Start working towards your AKC FIT DOG title!

Designed to improve the health of both dogs and owners, AKC FIT DOG is the perfect opportunity for you to work towards fitness goals while participating in fun activities, like swimming, hiking, and community runs.

It's not too late to sign up for the 2024 AKC Turkey Trot! The program runs through December 31 – get your fitness on with your dog and get your medal today!

How to Remove Dog Hair From Your Car

By Sassafra Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI, Updated: May 13, 2025 **AKC**

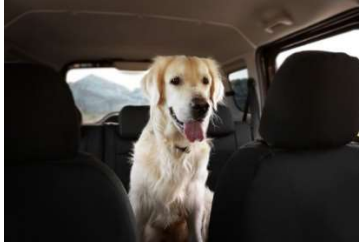
If your dog regularly joins you in your car, you're likely no stranger to seeing fur or hair floating around. While dogs will shed, their fur doesn't need to build up. Here are ways to reduce and remove the amount of dog hair in your car.

Grooming Is Key

You can help prevent dog hair from entering your car with a regular dog grooming routine. Most dogs need grooming at least weekly, while heavily coated breeds may need more, especially during shedding season. Regular brushing will reduce the amount of fur your dog leaves behind. Having portable grooming gear can also be helpful, allowing you to do a quick clean-up after potentially messy activities like hiking or swimming.

Utilize Seat Covers

If your dog rides in the backseat of your car with a seatbelt restraint, put a cover over the backseat. You can purchase seat covers to fit virtually all makes and models of cars, vans, and trucks, plus they're easy to install.



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Importance of Crating

Putting your dog in a crate in the car keeps them safe, especially in the event of a collision, and can help contain fur. If the dog hair is primarily within the crate, you can remove and wash any beds or blankets inside. It's also easy to wipe down the crate's interior to remove any additional hair.

How to Remove Dog Fur From Your Car

To remove dog hair from your car, have the below supplies on hand:

- Vacuum
- Lint/fur remover rolls
- Cleaning wipes designed for use on car upholstery

To clean your vehicle, start with wherever there is the largest amount of hair. Then move to the smaller areas, where fur can hide or be harder to remove. Follow these steps:

- Start with the biggest sources of hair in the car, removing crates and/or any seat covers.
- Follow cleaning instructions for seat covers (most are machine washable but may or may not be able to go through the dryer). Remove and wash bedding from inside any crates.
- Vacuum, paying special attention to areas between seats and floorboards.
- Go over the car with a lint roller.
- Follow up with cleansing wipes on hard surfaces, like the dashboard.

Itchy dogs

Irish Wolfhound Health Group: From the desk of Pauline Jewett

I wrote this many years ago, but it may still be of help to others who either have itchy dogs on apoquel or don't wish to put them on apoquel.

Phoenix, her sister Tala, and my youngest Pixie are all under the ground in the garden now, but hopefully Phoenix's suffering can help other hounds.

Phoenix came to me when she was 7 months old. She had red rimmed eyes, and they got gradually worse. She would cry while she scratched and would scratch until she bled. Inside her ears and round her eyes felt burning hot to touch. She couldn't settle and it was heartbreaking to watch. I took her to the vet who suggested an exclusion diet.

She was on a good quality kibble at that time.

Over the following six or seven months, we tried so many different options. Prednisone made her need to go to the toilet every ten minutes, even throughout the night. Antihistamines alone didn't help. Foods didn't seem to make any difference. Time of year didn't seem to make any difference and she gradually got worse. So we got a referral to the veterinary dermatologist in Glasgow, who sedated her, shaved one side of her body and did around 50 pin pricks onto her side containing the most common allergens.

She had a dramatic response to six things. Two types of house dust mites, two types of insect and two types of storage/biscuit mites.

Fantastic! Now we knew what her allergies were, we could start working out how to address them!

For house dust mites, steam cleaning, removing carpets, and using anti mite sprays helped. For biscuit mites, all food had to be frozen beforehand. Every biscuit, kibble or treat.

The veterinary dermatologist also prescribed Apoquel. 24mg a day for her 70kg weight. Now, at that time, I'd a friend with her dog on Apoquel, so I knew a bit about the drug and it was extremely concerning. It suppresses the immune system, making the dog far more vulnerable to cancers, pneumonia and basically anything going. It hadn't been tested long term. I had a long talk with the dermatologist and my own vet and made the decision that her quality of life was so poor, that it was better she had a shorter, happier life than a long miserable one. That may sound simplistic but that's what it came down to.

So, within days of being on Apoquel, she became much better. The redness went, the itching stopped and she seemed happier in herself.

But as time went on, Phoenix's behaviour deteriorated. She was always challenging but she became very reactive with other dogs.

I have her sister, Tala, who is quite a shy girl, but Phoenix is nervy about anything or anyone different. I took her to agility to try to encourage her self esteem, but even there, it became obvious that changes made her upset. On one occasion some children came along, and she wouldn't turn her back to them to do the agility work. On another occasion, a tractor was in a nearby field and she would not take her eyes off it.

I saw three different behaviourists about her. The third one understood her and his suggestions were very helpful. A group of IWH owners who understood helped tremendously and were my 'go to' on the difficult days.

I spent a lot of time working with her to give her space from what worried her, asking other people to keep their dogs away, getting her to sit and focus on me when something worried her, treating her when she succeeded, as she increasingly did. She often redirected her frustration at my other two hounds, and the only way to keep them safe, when outdoors, or in the car, was to muzzle her.

I have heard from several sources that Apoquel can have behavioural effects, but couldn't find anything in writing anywhere that verified this.

But I worried that the Apoquel was either causing or exacerbating her behaviour, and as time went on, I worried more and more that she may get cancer.

So I began researching more natural alternatives. I reached out to anyone and everyone I knew who could help. I changed their diets to raw meat, bones and offal.

And I began to wean her off the Apoquel and onto these more natural alternatives.

The alternatives I used, and still use daily are as follows;

Quercetin and bromelain 1000mg

Bee propolis 1000mg

Apis mel 200c

Bovine colostrum 1000mg

Camu camu powder (vitamin c source) quarter teaspoon

Bee pollen quarter teaspoon

Atarax antihistamine 20mg

Occasional kefir, bio live yoghurt and vsl#3 probiotics

I got her down to 8mg of Apoquel a day but if I tried even a day of not giving her the Apoquel, she would become itchy again. The Apoquel seemed to cause dependency.

So she needed some sort of boost to break that dependency.

I researched cytopoint m. It was a single dose injection for Phoenix which is supposed to last four to eight weeks but some people with dogs with seasonal allergies found they only had to give it once or twice a year. Again, there were the worries about lack of long term testing. Again, I'd to put some faith in the vets. But it seemed possible that cytopoint could break that cycle.

So we tried a single dose.

It immediately replaced the Apoquel and it was a joy to not have to give her that any more. After a month, she still seemed fine. After two months she occasionally itched, but I'd give her a good face scratch, and bring forward that days dosage of natural remedies. Within half an hour of getting them, the itch would disappear. If I forgot the natural remedies, it would become obvious with reddening eyes, face rubbing and itching.

We are now around six months down the line and I can happily say Phoenix's itching is controlled. Her behaviour has mostly calmed down, with the occasional hiccup. Overall, she is a calmer, happier dog. She warms to strangers quicker. And I feel I am doing my best for her, both medically and behaviourally.

It seems the process of addressing and controlling the itch requires a boost to the immune system, which is largely regulated in the gut, so improving gut biota, using probiotics, helps, as does largely avoiding antibiotics (but if necessary, quickly following them up with a variety of good probiotics), and avoiding parasites. I use crushed eggshells, fur-on rabbits ears and ground raw pumpkin seeds to deter worms. It is also clear that Phoenix is allergic to other things; things which she wasn't tested for. So I can only be sure that she is allergic to the 6 out of 50 things she was tested for, but there are millions of potential allergens possible, and it's impossible to control her environment 100% so controlling her reaction to it by strengthening her immune system makes more sense than dampening down her immune system against everything.

If this article can help one other 'itchy dog' like Phoenix, I'm pleased. Good Luck!

Pauline Jewett MInstF(cert) MIEEM AIEMA MAPM FCMI

Pyoderma in Dogs: What You Need to Know

By Gemma Johnstone, Updated: Oct 10, 2023 **AKC**

If your dog is experiencing itchy skin, inflamed skin, or flaking, it can be caused by many different things. One of dogs' most commonly diagnosed skin diseases is a bacterial infection known as pyoderma. While this condition might seem superficial and easy to treat, it's often just the tip of the iceberg and goes below the skin.

Pyoderma in dogs typically masks another underlying condition, so it's worth checking out if your dog is experiencing symptoms. Understanding canine pyoderma could help your dog receive prompt diagnosis and treatment, which can prevent recurring infections and more serious and ongoing illnesses.

What Is Pyoderma in Dogs?

Pyoderma, also known as bacterial dermatitis, is a bacterial skin disease. Dr. Amelia White, DVM, is an associate clinical professor of dermatology at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. "[It's] classically caused by the bacteria *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*, which is always present on the dog's skin," she says. While this bacteria is normal on the skin, infection can occur if the bacteria gets into the body.



Zheka-Boss via Getty Images Plus

Dr. Christine Cain, DVM, is an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She says that "pyoderma is almost always associated with an underlying condition." Dr.

Cain notes these conditions usually compromise the skin barrier or impair the immune system.

Some of the most common conditions associated with pyoderma include:

- Ectoparasitic (affecting the skin's outermost layers) infestations, like fleas, ticks, or mites
- Allergic skin diseases
- Environmental or food allergies
- Endocrine (hormonal) conditions, such as hyperadrenocorticism (canine Cushing's disease) or hypothyroidism

When dogs itch or scratch their skin because it's painful or uncomfortable, they're actually creating an opening for the inflammation to progress. "With a skin allergy, the barrier gets inflamed from the allergen. Now, those bacteria can get in deeper, creating infection," Dr. White explains.

Typically, with this type of inflammation, the immune system's natural response would be to detect and kill the bacteria. But when the immune system is compromised because of an underlying condition, this doesn't happen, and the infection takes hold.

Some breeds are also more genetically predisposed to developing pyoderma. These include German Shepherd Dogs, Chinese Shar-Peis, and Bulldogs. Skin fold pyoderma is common in breeds with more wrinkles because the folds create a moist, warm environment that allows bacteria to flourish.

Types and Symptoms of Canine Pyoderma

If you suspect that your dog might have pyoderma or another skin condition, look out for flaky scales, lesions, and excessive scratching in your dog. All of these are classic symptoms of skin infections, but be aware that pyoderma symptoms are wide-ranging and can mimic various other conditions. Make sure to consult your vet, who can classify the pyoderma's severity based on where the infection is and how deep it is.



Jagodka/Shutterstock

Surface Pyoderma in Dogs

Dr. Cain explains that this refers to infection only found on the outermost layer of the skin, called the epidermis. These might be mild but itchy hot spots or skin fold infections known as intertrigo. These infections haven't penetrated your dog's skin or body deeply, and it is the most easily treatable type of pyoderma.

Superficial Pyoderma in Dogs

Dr. Cain explains this is the most common type of pyoderma in dogs. The infection extends to the hair follicles and the outermost layer of skin. It is a bit deeper than surface pyoderma since it also impacts the hair cavities that your dog's coat comes out of. There are also different types of superficial pyoderma, which depend on where the pyoderma specifically extends into.

One of the most common types of superficial pyoderma is superficial bacterial folliculitis. Dogs often have red or pus-filled bumps, scabs, or circular lesions with a crust or rim of flaky skin. Impetigo in puppies is another form of superficial pyoderma.

Deep Pyoderma in Dogs

This type of pyoderma typically occurs when hair follicles from the superficial stage rupture. As a result, the infection extends past the epidermis into the dermis and into the deepest layer of skin closest to the muscle, known as the subcutis. This condition often sees firm, elevated bumps called nodules. You might also see painful lesions, known as draining tracts, leading from the nodule outwards to the skin. Acne,

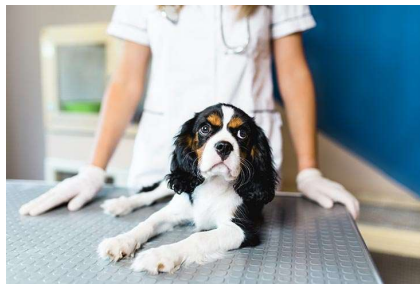
abscesses, and lick granulomas (infections caused when a dog repeatedly licks at an area) are a few examples of these types of lesions.

Your dog may exhibit other signs of pain or discomfort, like lethargy, loss of appetite, or shaking, especially if they have deep pyoderma or another serious underlying condition. You might also see changes in behavior, such as unusual irritability or a reluctance to exercise, play, or interact as normal.

How Do Vets Diagnose Pyoderma in Dogs?

“When the pet comes in, the way I become suspicious that it’s a skin infection is by the lesions present,” Dr. White says. However, vets typically need to do further detective work to definitively diagnose pyoderma and its underlying cause.

As well as administering a physical exam, taking a detailed patient history, and conducting a cytology test (non-invasively checking skin cells under a microscope) are key elements in the process. “My cytology findings say yes, this is bacteria on the skin. But why?” Dr. White says.



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She explains that once the vet has identified *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* as the source, they might ask questions like “Is your pet itchy?” A pet dealing with itchy skin may be scratching, licking, chewing, and rubbing, all activities you’ll want to report. The vet will also want to establish when the itchiness started.

If the pet was itchy before the skin lesions appeared, Dr. White says it moves allergies to the top of the list as the cause. “If they tell me no, he’s

not itchy, it's his appetite that's not great, or he's slowing down or sleeping a lot, that's going to tell me some significant internal disease is the likely cause." In these cases, things like hypothyroidism or Cushing's disease might be possibilities, and your vet will need to run further bloodwork.

Skin scrapings and bacterial and fungal cultures may also be necessary to rule out parasitic infections.

How to Treat Pyoderma in Dogs

Treatment for the skin infection varies depending on the severity and depth of the pyoderma. Often, with surface and superficial pyoderma, "we can get that to go away with topical medicated therapy, which is a lot safer for the pet and owner because we're not exposing them to antibiotic use," Dr. White says.

Topical treatments include medicated shampoos or ointments, Epsom salt soaks, or antiseptic washes. Your dog may also have to tolerate an Elizabethan collar or surgical suit to prevent them from further licking or scratching the infected area. Your vet may prescribe antibiotics and some anti-itch meds for more severe infections.

But it isn't just about getting the pyoderma itself under control. "Identifying and controlling the underlying cause of pyoderma is key to preventing recurrent infections, which can be associated with more chronic changes to the skin, discomfort to the patient, expense to clients, and drug-resistant organisms," Dr. Cain says.

Treatment length varies. Typically, it will last at least a few weeks, but some deep pyoderma treatments can last months. And some underlying conditions may require continual medical management.

Carefully following your vet's instructions greatly increases the chance of a speedy and successful outcome. Even if your dog seems more comfortable and their skin is clearing up nicely, stopping administering the treatment too early can cause serious setbacks.

Issues With Antibiotic Resistance

“Antibiotic resistance is increasingly prevalent in staphylococcal infections in dogs,” Dr. Cain says. This makes treating pyoderma caused by antibiotic-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus* more challenging. Using antibiotics to which pyoderma is not resistant could carry more risks for the dog. Because antibiotics are less common, they are also likely to be more expensive. Plus, there are often efforts to retain these “last resort” antibiotics for the treatment of drug-resistant infections in humans.



vichuda/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Dr. Cain explains that veterinary professionals are working towards even more effective pyoderma treatments. “[They] are increasingly focusing on treatment strategies for pyoderma that may minimize antibiotic resistance development,” Dr. Cain says. “For example, prioritizing topical antibacterial therapies for surface or superficial pyoderma as our first-line treatment strategies before reaching for an oral antibiotic if possible.”

Using antibiotics judiciously is also important because, while people might not naturally have *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* on or in their bodies, this bacteria can spread genetic changes to *Staphylococcus aureus*, which is common in humans. As a result, *Staphylococcus aureus* could also develop antibiotic-resistant strains.

Why Good Home Hygiene Is So Important for Dogs

Most of the time, pyoderma isn’t contagious. Dogs and humans in the same household rarely pick up each other’s pyoderma infections. Dr. Cain says that humans typically develop infections from other species of

Staphylococcus that are more adapted to humans than dogs (such as Staphylococcus aureus).

“Dogs can occasionally develop infections with Staphylococcus aureus, and humans can occasionally develop infections with Staphylococcus pseudintermedius,” she says. However, animals or humans with compromised immune systems are at greater risk for these infections.

Dr. Cain recommends practicing good household hygiene to minimize risks, including making sure you wash your hands diligently, keeping pet bedding and dishes clean, household cleaning and/or disinfection, covering open wounds, and not allowing your dog to lick people’s hands or faces.

There Is A Place

Wolfhound Poetry: by Philip Santilhano

There is a place at the end of our garden
just before the wall begins
a magical place neither here nor there
where live the strawberry winds
and the little blue toad with the extra eye
who croaks of future deeds
the grass tastes of sorbet and the flowers of wine
and there grow the Camembert weeds

There is a place at the end of our garden
hiding up against the wall
where the sunbeams come to have a rest
and sparkling waters fall
where the violet scented cuckoo bird
will build it’s scruffy nest
where the blue larks lark and the bobtails bob
and ice cream always tastes best

There is a place at the end of our garden
where no paving stone dare lie

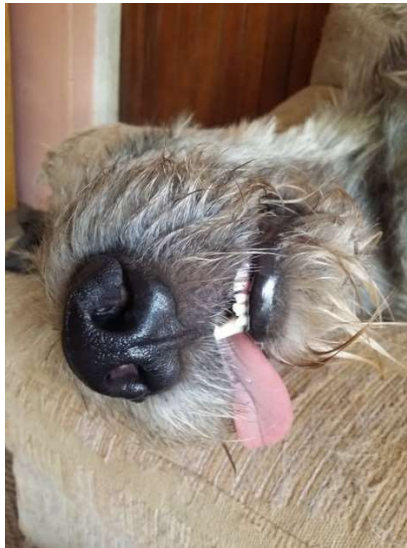
a place where snails and slugs may dance
where the purple snowflakes fly
where the lemonade vine with its marshmallow seeds
has climbed up to greet the sun
and the chestnut tree plays the xylophone
just because it is good fun

There is a place at the end of our garden
where the past and future meet
a peaceful place where our old friends snore
to the sound of puppy feet
where the world is sweet and the clouds smell pink
bathed in golden honey light
and the liquorice bat lounges in a tree
as he sleeps until the night

Dougal

(Dad's note: A blast from the past, and one of my favourite Dougal poems.)

The much missed Dougal, in the days before he was D.Lit. experimented with a huge number of different poetry forms, styles and types. Although he has now moved on over the bridge, I still love this fantasy poem.)



Thrush in Dogs: Signs, Symptoms, Treatments

By Nandini Maharaj, Published: Mar 26, 2025 **AKC**

Itchy or scaly skin and a musty odor are among the symptoms of a yeast infection or what is sometimes referred to as thrush. Thrush in dogs, also known as candidiasis, is a fungal infection caused by an overgrowth of yeast called *Candida albicans*. Having yeast on the skin or inside the body is normal for dogs, but an overgrowth of yeast can cause inflammation and infection.

The most common cases of localized candida in dogs are in the ear, mouth, or on the skin. Candida can also involve the urinary bladder or the gastrointestinal tract, especially in dogs that have an underlying disease such as uncontrolled diabetes, or in dogs that may be immunocompromised. Finally, it can also occur around areas of placed intravenous (IV) catheters, urinary catheters, and gastronomy tubes.

Here's what to know about thrush in dogs, including the signs and causes of a yeast infection and how to avoid recurrent infections.



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What Causes Thrush in Dogs?

Yeast is a type of fungus, which are microorganisms found on the skin and mucous membranes. There are different species of yeast including *Candida* and *Malassezia* which are "part of the normal flora on a dog's skin," says Dr. Kelly Hood, DVM, in-house veterinary expert at PetPortraits.com. "If the skin becomes inflamed due to allergies or some

other disease process that reduces the pet's immunity, the yeast flourish and start to cause problems."

An overgrowth of yeast is called thrush or a yeast infection. Often, when there is a yeast infection in the skin, ear canals, or paws, the normal bacterial flora is affected, she says. Normal flora is also present in the nose, mouth, gastrointestinal tract, and urinary tract. The infection may be limited to a certain location like the ears, or it can be more widespread throughout the body.

Dogs of any age or breed can develop a yeast infection. However, dogs with skin folds or floppy ears may be more vulnerable to infection since these areas can trap moisture, which can provide a breeding ground for yeast. As a result, it's important to dry your dog properly, including inside their ears, after they go swimming or have a bath. In addition, dogs with skin allergies tend to produce more oil on their skin, creating ideal conditions for yeast to grow and reproduce.

"A yeast infection can become part of a vicious cycle where the pet becomes so itchy due to the overgrowth that it scratches hard enough to break the skin barrier," she says. "This is referred to as a hot spot, which is uncomfortable, even painful, and can result in more yeast and bacterial proliferation." If untreated, the skin can become thicker and darker over time.

Signs of Thrush and How It's Diagnosed



<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/spotted-lanternfly-detection-dogs/>

The signs of thrush can vary depending on the location, extent, and severity of the yeast infection. If your dog has an ear infection, for

example, you'll notice them shaking or rubbing their head persistently. For infections involving the gastrointestinal tract, dogs may experience diarrhea or a loss of appetite.

Common symptoms of dermatologic (skin) thrush include:

- Redness
- Itchiness
- Inflammation
- Greasy coat
- Dry scales that are white or yellow
- A distinct unpleasant smell similar to stale corn chips or sour milk
- Thickened or discolored skin
- Waxy discharge
- Hotspots or lesions

If you notice any of these signs, book an appointment with your veterinarian who can examine your dog and determine if they have a yeast infection. For example, they can take a urine sample to identify which microorganisms are causing the infection.

If your dog's skin is inflamed, the vet can analyze skin cells "by placing a piece of clear tape on the skin, adhesive side down or gently scraping the top layers of skin to collect cells and place on a microscope slide to look for organisms," Dr. Hood says. "To definitively confirm that yeast overgrowth is involved, a swab of ear debris, if present, can be analyzed under the microscope to visually screen for yeast organisms."

Treatment for Thrush in Dogs

Yeast infections don't just look and smell unpleasant. They can also cause your dog considerable discomfort. So, it's best to have your dog seen by a veterinarian who can properly diagnose and recommend an appropriate

course of treatment. Depending on how serious the infection is and where it's located, treatment options for thrush will vary.



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Topical Therapy

Yeast infections can leave your dog feeling itchy and uncomfortable. For oily skin, you may need to use a degreasing shampoo to cleanse the skin before applying a medicated shampoo to treat the yeast. Products containing antifungal medications, such as ketoconazole, miconazole, or chlorhexidine, "can help soothe the skin and flush out the pores," Dr. Hood says.

It's best to consult your veterinarian about using medicated shampoo. It's also a good idea to wear gloves when using any type of medicated shampoo. Typically, these shampoos need to remain on the skin for at least 10 minutes. Then, you'll need to re-apply the shampoo every few days, and it can take several weeks to see improvement.

If a swab confirms that the ears are infected, you can use an ear cleaner to flush out wax and debris. "Cleaning the dog's ears with a veterinarian-approved cleaner, such as those containing salicylic acid, can soothe the ear canal and disrupt an early infection," she says. Depending on the severity of the infection, the vet may also prescribe medicated ear drops that contain antifungal medication.

Oral Medication

"If topical therapy is not sufficient, starting oral anti-itch medication can help stop the cycle," she says. The vet may prescribe oral antibiotics to get

the bacterial overgrowth under control. Once that happens, the yeast population usually declines as well.

“There is an oral anti-yeast medication, however, it can cause bone marrow suppression and other side effects,” she says. “Therefore, it is not recommended as a first line of treatment for skin.”



.shock/Getty Images Plus

Ongoing Care

For recurrent infections, your vet may recommend blood work to screen for underlying disease and immune system dysfunction. “Routine bathing with an aloe soap and oatmeal shampoo to gently cleanse the skin can help prevent flora overgrowth,” she says. Aloe vera has anti-inflammatory and antifungal properties.

Dogs with recurrent yeast infections “may also benefit from a sensitive skin diet to reduce skin irritations,” she says. Monthly parasite control can also help guard against fleas, ticks, and other parasites that cause a dog to be itchy. Finally, yeast infections are likely to recur unless the underlying health issue is addressed through immune support, dietary changes, good hygiene such as routine bathing and grooming, or a combination of these strategies.

Ticks on Dogs: What to Look For

By **AKC Staff**, Updated: Mar 14, 2024



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We all know that spring and summer are seasons to be on high alert for ticks. Dogs are particularly susceptible to tick bites and can also carry ticks into the house. Tick-borne diseases—such as Lyme disease, canine ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and canine anaplasmosis—can affect both humans and dogs.

And although ticks are common throughout the country, people in some states are more at risk than others, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). If you live in a state where Lyme disease cases are high or on the rise, you should be extra vigilant, take preventative measures, and check your dog and yourself for ticks frequently.

Knowing Which Ticks to Look Out For

There are at least fifteen species of tick in the United States. A few of these are considered harmful to humans and dogs:

- **American Dog Tick** is the most common tick in Pennsylvania, found throughout the state. It's also common in Southern states and coastal areas and is one of the most common ticks in Virginia. Although not a transmitter of Lyme disease, these ticks can transmit other serious, often deadly diseases to humans and dogs.
- **Lone Star Tick** lives in the underbrush in wooded areas and along rivers and creeks, although in Pennsylvania, it's been reported near urban areas. It's also found in eastern areas of Virginia, east of the

Blue Ridge Mountains. Lone star ticks can transmit diseases, including ehrlichiosis and tularemia, to dogs and humans.

- **Black-legged Tick** is commonly called the “deer tick” and can carry Lyme disease. It’s found all over the Northeast and has recently expanded its range. Infestations have been found in several parts of Pennsylvania—north, central, and south—and northern parts of Virginia, including suburban areas.



sutteerug/Getty Images Plus

How to Remove a Tick From a Dog

It’s important to remove the tick promptly and correctly. Use rubbing alcohol on the area and delicately remove the tick with tick removal tweezers, making sure you also remove the head. If you’re unsure how to do this properly, have your vet show you. Then you’ll be ready for next time—and there will most likely be a next time.

Can I Prevent Tick-Borne Diseases?

While you can’t wipe ticks off the face of the earth, you can take preventative measures against ticks.

- Check your dog for ticks daily, or more if they spend a lot of time outside
- Keep yard mown and remove tall weeds
- To protect yourself, wear long pants and socks when out in woods or fields
- Your vet can recommend topical or systemic tick-control treatments. Be diligent and make sure to keep treatments up-to-date.

- Have your vet test for tick-borne diseases annually, even if your dog shows no symptoms.

What to Know About Hygromas in Dogs

By Nandini Maharaj, Published: Mar 26, 2025 **AKC**

Some dogs have a habit of plopping down on the floor, hitting their elbows in the process. This wear and tear on their joints can cause the tissue under the skin to swell and fill with fluid, known as a hygroma. Hygromas often form over a pressure point like the elbow or hip.

In the early stages, hygromas are treatable but can become infected or grow to a size that causes your dog pain and discomfort. Accordingly, it's best to consult your veterinarian about an appropriate course of action. Here's what you need to know about hygromas in dogs including the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of this condition.

What Is a Hygroma?

"A hygroma is a fluid-filled swelling that develops over pressure points or bony areas," says Dr. Kelly Hood, DVM, in-house veterinary expert at Pet Portraits and consultant for California Dog Kitchen. They can form on the hip or ankle and are commonly seen on a dog's elbows. Hygromas may not be noticeable at first, starting out as small lumps under the skin.

Any dog can develop a hygroma. However, some breeds are more likely than others to develop these noncancerous growths. Hygromas can grow up to two inches in diameter and may affect one or both elbows. The size and severity of hygromas depend on the amount of trauma caused when a dog lies down on the ground.



alvarez via Getty Images

“Hygromas aren’t usually painful unless they become infected,” she says. A sign of infection is a clear fluid or colored discharge, which can prompt your dog to lick the area. In addition, hygromas can grow and cause the skin to thicken and harden. If your dog seems uncomfortable or reluctant to lie down, or the area feels warm and swollen, she recommends bringing your dog in to see a veterinarian.

What Causes Hygromas, and Which Dogs Are at Risk?

Hygromas are caused “by repeated pressure or trauma to bony areas,” Dr. Hood says. Among those at risk of developing hygromas include senior dogs, dogs with a sedentary lifestyle, and dogs who tend to lie on hard surfaces like hardwood or tile for extended periods. Over time, these hard surfaces can exert stress on your dog’s joints, leading to inflammation.

“This can trigger the body to form a fluid-filled sac as protection, kind of like a blister,” she says. It’s the body’s way of trying to protect the inflamed area. If your dog continues lying on hard surfaces, the hygroma can get bigger. “A prolonged irritation can lead to complications like infections, abscesses, or ulcerations, which can be painful,” she adds. Granulomas (i.e., masses of inflamed tissue with sand-like deposits) and tissue erosion may also occur.

Another risk factor for hygroma is the dog’s size. “Larger breeds, such as Great Danes, Labradors, German Shepherds, and Mastiffs, are more prone to developing hygromas,” she says. Their heavier body weight can cause them to hit the ground with greater force, putting pressure on bony areas where hygromas tend to form. Spending long periods lying on hard

surfaces can increase the chance of hygromas developing and becoming infected.

How Do You Diagnose and Treat Hygromas?

While many hygromas may go away uneventfully, the sight of one can be alarming to dog owners. Consulting a veterinarian can help determine if the hygroma is getting larger or becoming infected. Typically, hygromas are diagnosed through a physical examination. In addition, the vet will ask when you first noticed the swelling and if there have been any changes in your dog's behavior or sleep habits. "In some cases, we may do a biopsy or fluid aspiration to rule out infection or other conditions," Dr. Hood adds.



Cavan Images/Getty Images Plus

For hygromas that are small and without complications like infection, your veterinarian will recommend using soft bedding and protective padding to prevent further trauma to your dog's joints. You can purchase a dog bed made with memory foam or use foam tiles to cover the floor where your dog sleeps. Padded surfaces help cushion the joint and keep the hygroma from growing or developing a lesion.

"If the hygroma is large or infected, treatment may involve drainage, laser therapy, or, [as a last resort,] surgical removal," she says. Infected hygromas can be treated with antibiotics. Chronic or severe cases may require drainage, flushing, surgical removal, or skin grafting. Given the risk of a recurrent infection, it's important to care for the wound after surgery, keeping it clean and using padding to avoid further injury.

What Can You Do to Prevent Hygromas?

Hygromas are less likely to develop in the first place if you can reduce the pressure on bony areas. "Protective padding can help prevent hygromas," Dr. Hood says. "Ensure your dog has a soft bed or surface they can lie on and limit time on hard surfaces." It's also important to keep your dog at a healthy weight, so there's less force on their joints when they lie down.

Keep in mind that, if your dog does require surgery, this may not address the underlying cause of hygroma. Plus, it doesn't prevent new growths from developing. Therefore, keeping your dog in good shape and using protective padding can go a long way toward preventing hygroma and keeping it from recurring. Catching hygromas early can help you avoid invasive and expensive treatments and longer recovery times for your dog.

If your dog is a senior, has mobility issues, or is recovering from surgery, she recommends creating a cushioned resting area and monitoring your dog. Make sure they change position regularly to relieve stress on their joints. Lastly, "be sure your vet checks all joints for signs of arthritis or other degenerative joint disease, so there is no other underlying issue that may affect the mobility of the joint or create a painful condition," she adds.

Why Do My Dog's Feet Smell Like Corn Chips?

By Nandini Maharaj, Updated: Jan 10, 2025 **AKC**

If you get close enough to your dog's feet, you might have noticed that they smell a bit like corn chips or Fritos. Some dog owners don't mind the aroma. Others might find the smell unpleasant and perhaps even wonder if it's a sign of poor health. Since dogs can't tell us what's wrong, it's our job to learn what smells are normal and when it might be time to intervene and seek veterinary care.

What Causes the Corn Chip Smell?

At any given time, dogs have some level of bacteria and fungi on their skin. "When your dog's paws have a bacteria called *Pseudomonas* and *Proteus*,

they can give off a yeasty odor that smells similar to corn chips," says American Kennel Club Chief Veterinarian Dr. Jerry Klein, DVM.

Dogs control their body temperature by panting. "Since they don't perspire, the only place dogs have to cool down is on the bottom of their feet," explains Dr. Amy Attas, VMD. She emphasizes that the "Fritos smell is completely normal" and doesn't mean that your dog has a bacterial or fungal infection.

Where these odor-causing bacteria can become a problem is "if they multiply out of control," says Dr. Dwight Alleyne, DVM. "Signs of unhealthy feet include bumps, redness, and swelling or a change in your dog's behavior, such as limping or excessive licking."



Tzido/Getty Images Plus

Should You Try to Get Rid of the Smell?

Remember, dogs' noses are much more sensitive compared to humans.' Depending on the breed, dogs' senses of smell can be between 10,000 and 100,000 times stronger than ours. Accordingly, spraying perfume or shampooing them with scented products can be very unpleasant for dogs.

"Dogs want to smell like dogs," Dr. Attas emphasizes. "You don't want to mask the odor or add something to it." If you don't particularly like the Fritos smell, she recommends not putting your face close to your dog's feet and using unscented wipes and soaps that are specially formulated for dogs.

Why Are Dog Feet Prone to Infection?

Your dog's feet can be a magnet for dirt and grime. Along with limited airflow between their toes, the combination of fur, heat, and moisture makes an ideal breeding ground for bacteria and yeast. When there's a buildup of these microorganisms, "dogs start licking their feet, which doesn't clean the bacteria," Dr. Attas says. "Instead, licking actually irritates the skin of the footpad and can lead to infection."

Often, owners may only discover an infection once it has progressed to the point of causing pain or discomfort to their pets. Dr. Attas recommends getting your dog accustomed to you touching and smelling their eyes, ears, mouth, and feet. An older dog might be more resistant to you poking around, so it's best to start when they're puppies.

If your dog's feet normally smell like Fritos and now they're starting to "smell like moldy cheese, that's when you need to contact your veterinarian," Dr. Attas says. By examining your dog early and regularly, you're more likely to notice a change in appearance and seek treatment earlier. Plus, your dog will feel more comfortable if you need to administer medication.



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What Can You Do to Keep Your Dog's Feet Healthy?

Since the Fritos smell isn't a problem on its own, you only need to intervene if your dog is showing signs of infection such as redness, increased licking, hair loss around the footpad, or a change in foot smell. In order to properly clean dogs' paws, Dr. Alleyne recommends washing

their feet with an antiseptic, dog-friendly shampoo and trimming excess fur between their toes using a pet hair clipper. Make sure to spread out their toes while bathing and properly dry their feet to avoid bacterial growth.

After you go on a walk, Dr. Attas recommends wiping your dog's feet with "alcohol-free, unscented baby wipes, because you want to get the dirt off without taking off the bacteria that are causing the Fritos smell." It's also a good idea to take your shoes off when you get home, especially if you live in an urban environment.

In general, you don't need to wash your dog's feet unless they've been digging in the mud or they've stepped in urine or feces, Dr. Attas says. Your dog will try to remove what's left behind by licking their feet. Giving their feet a good wipe prevents your dog from ingesting dirt and allergens that can become trapped between their toes.

Whether you have a puppy or an older dog, it's important to spend time learning what their anatomy looks, feels, and smells like when they're healthy and free of infection. Knowing your dog's normal smells can help you determine when something is wrong. Remember, you don't need to go overboard with foot washing. Ditch the dirt and keep the Fritos smell.



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 – Mission BBQ, 3410 Plumtree Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21042
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	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

Events 101

The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound club is invited to a number of events throughout the year. Each one is different and comes with its own rules and regulations. We would like our members to understand some of the protocol when it comes to attending one of our events.

- An invitation to an event is a privilege. As a club we are required to follow the events rules and regulations.
- When attending an event we are considered a vendor. We usually can enter by a 'back or side' entrance. There is a need to check in and receive a pass. The reason we ask who will be attending an event is to determine the number of passes we need.
- For each event we have a contact person coordinating with the event. This person fills out all needed applications and forms. The coordinator then gathers the needed information and details for the event. The information is then provided to the secretary to send out to the membership.
- The member coordinating is responsible for providing club needed items such as canopy, table, and setting up our area. Having a small table and display is nice. This duty may be delegated to someone else.
- Space provided is determined by the event. Some only give us a 10 X 10 space. This fits one canopy. Others will give us an area that we can spread out in. Then we can put up more than one canopy.
- Canopies are set up for the members and their wolfhounds attending. The canopy is not for your own personal use but to provide shade and cover for everyone as needed.
- When you attend an event, you need to bring what you need for you, your family, and your wolfhound. Items to bring would be chairs, ground cover, something for your wolfhound to lay on, food and water for your wolfhound. If it is hot, bring a battery-operated fan. We have a small solar

generator and fan we bring sometimes. There may be some restrictions on bringing in outside food for yourself and family. Of course, one of those neat little wagons is great for transporting everything.

- There is also the need to interact with the public. The wolfhounds are always a huge attraction. It is nice when we have a few of them in attendance. This gives you the opportunity to take turns walking around and enjoy the festival and music. Our booth should always have at least one wolfhound there while the event is going on.
- Because your wolfhound will be interacting with the public, he/she needs to get along with people. **Your wolfhound needs to be clean and groomed. The public, especially children, will be petting your wolfhound.** This means if you use flea and tick prevention that is put on the skin try to have at least a 48-hour period prior to the event.
- Of course, when we have several wolfhounds together there is the chance of some unfriendly interaction. **You are responsible for your wolfhound.** You should always be aware of him/her. Your wolfhound should always be on a proper leash and in your control. If your wolfhound does not get along with another wolfhound there are ways to avoid a conflict. For example, there was a time that Tyr and Patrick did not get along. If we came into the group and Patrick was there already it was an issue. Patrick's owner would take him out and walk around while we brought Tyr into the group. She would bring Patrick back. Things were fine then. Maybe if it can not be settled you just have to alternate who is sitting in our booth and who walks around. Things will happen. We want to avoid any confrontations. We want all attending to have an enjoyable time. Being aware of your surroundings is important. **DO NOT bring a female in or close to being in season.** Many difficulties come from have a bitch just coming into or out of season.

LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK NOTICE

I [print name]

agree and understand that by attending this Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club event as a **non-member**, I am voluntarily assuming the risks to me, my child, or my dog that are inherent in interacting with large animals, which may behave unpredictably or may not be restrained. I acknowledge that the Club is making no promises or representations about the dogs attending its events or how they may behave toward me, my child, or my dog.

In recognition of these risks, I am voluntarily and freely waiving any liability that the Club, its members, the members' dogs may have to me for any injuries or damages sustained by me, my child, or my dog as a result of participation in this Club event, whatever the cause may be. I also agree that as a non-member I will indemnify and hold harmless the club, club members, or dogs belonging to club members, from any liability caused by me, my child, or my dog, during this event if damage or injury should occur to the club, its members and their dogs, or to event grounds and the general public.

I understand that I am welcome to pursue membership with the PVIWC and that I can find a membership application at www.pviwc.org/membership or by asking a club officer. I agree that I do not represent the Club by attending this event.

I also agree that the Club and I will pursue private mediation should any disputes arise between us, and that the laws of Maryland will govern, regardless of where the events giving rise to our dispute occurred.

Participant signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian of :

Contact Information:

TO BE COMPLETED BY CLUB MEMBER

Name of Event:

Name of Member:

Signature of Member:



