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Adopting a pet brings great joy and excitement to individuals and families, but it also introduces new responsibilities and concerns.

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The Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital Dog Salon does it all! Whether you want to turn some heads or stop traffic, our talented groomers have you covered!

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How to tell separation anxiety from boredom and other problems, and what to do about it.

Controlling fleas on swimming dogs

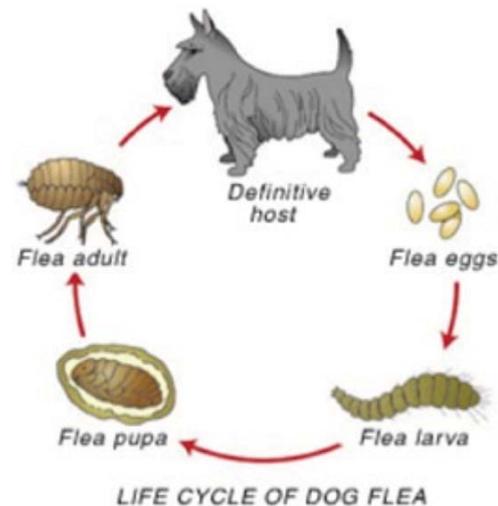
Summer is the ideal time to take your dog for a walk or a swim. The warm, humid conditions over summer are also ideal for fleas, meaning your dog can pick up these unwelcome guests from just about anywhere – walking tracks, the bush or the beach.

Emerging adult fleas hide in cracks, crevices and sandy gravel soils until they detect movement, heat or pressure. They are ready and waiting to jump onto your dog for a free feed and a ride back to your home!



The pupal stage of fleas can survive in the environment for almost a whole year. By the time you notice your dog

scratching, it's too late! In ideal conditions, just 10 female fleas can multiply to more than 250,000 fleas in only a month.



There are several flea control products to choose from, ranging from spot-ons or drops to chewable tablets with fast-acting, month-long flea protection.

Chewable tablets are recommended for dogs that enjoy swimming as they work from inside the dog and

cannot be shaken, washed or shampooed off.



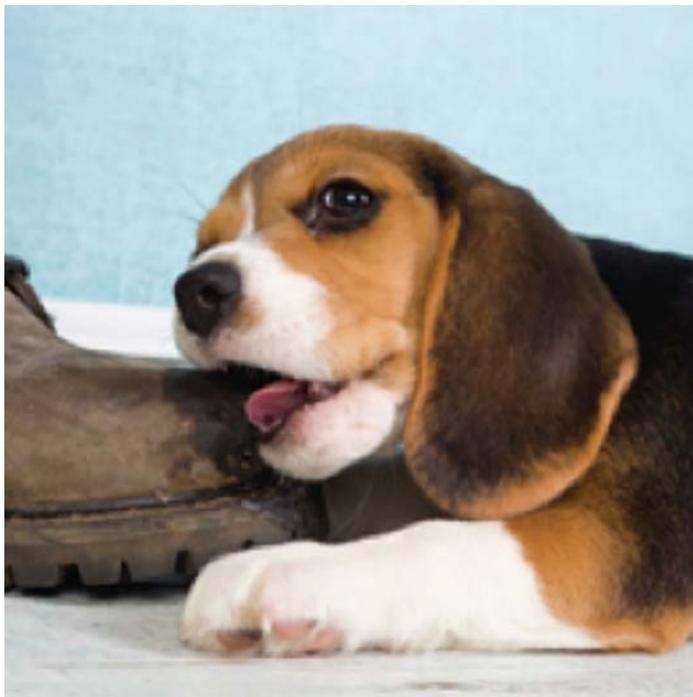


Adopting a Pet Is Just the Beginning

Adopting a pet brings great joy and excitement to individuals and families, but it also introduces new responsibilities and concerns. Your new family member deserves the same health and safety considerations you would want for the people in your life.

Pet Proofing

Before you even bring your new dog or cat home with you, take steps to "pet-proof" your home. Homeowners may need new strategies for dealing with household objects and situations that never posed a threat to the home's human residents.



Medicines or household chemicals, for instance, must be put away behind closed and secured doors to prevent the accidental poisoning of curious pets. Even ordinary food items such as citrus fruits, certain nuts, chocolate, garlic, onions, alcoholic drinks and coffee should be kept away from animals, because these products can cause violent illness or other reactions if ingested.

Hide any exposed wires or cables so your new pet won't be tempted to chew on them, or place the cords in PVC pipe, and remove small objects that might pose a hazard if swallowed. Lilies are very toxic to cats, and ingestion of sago palm or oleander can be very serious for dogs.

Schedule a Health Exam

A visit to the veterinarian should be among the first stops for your newly adopted animal. Veterinarians not only provide important initial care to check for existing health problems and guard against new ones, but they can also give you a wealth of advice from home dental care to proper nutrition, especially if you've never owned an animal before. Don't put this visit off; your pet may be vulnerable to serious ailments until vaccinations and other wellness services can be administered.

Make Introductions Carefully

If you already have other pets in your home, you may find that you need to introduce your newest addition to the family with discretion and sensitivity. Dogs tend to assume dominant or submissive pack relationships, so your canines may require time to figure out the new pecking order. (Ideally, you have already assumed the role of "top dog.") Cats can be particularly sensitive and stressed when their routine is disrupted by another feline presence. Keep your new cat in an isolated room at first, with his own food bowl and litter box, gradually letting him explore more and more of the home while both cats gets used to each other's smells and company.

Enrol in Training

Training is a great next step for a newly adopted dog, not just for housebreaking but also for simple commands such as "Sit," "Stay" and "Down." Obedience training helps you enjoy a peaceful, happy, well-socialised pet.

Sources:

American Humane Association, "Pet-Proofing Your Home." 2013.

American Veterinary Medical Association, "Importance of Wellness Exams."

The Humane Society of the United States, "Introducing Your New Cat to Other Pets." July 3, 2013.

Sylvia's
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Mohawks, creative color, & nail polish!

The Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital Dog Salon does it all! Whether you want to turn some heads or stop traffic, our talented groomers have you covered! We specialise in creative color, custom cuts, airbrushing, and more – all 100% animal safe! So next time you're in, add some color to that mohawk or ask for nail polish! Your pet will be the talk of the town when you add color highlights or an exotic color. Get a FREE quote on a colour job today!



The treatment of the coat is an important part of caring for your dog. For many breeds the caring performed by the dog is not enough to maintain a healthy coat. The dog needs help in the form of their owner or dog groomer to ensure a healthy coat and prevent skin issues. It is therefore advisable to make a trip to the dog groomer a regular occurrence in your faithful companion's life!

Grooming

Wash and blow dry are included in the standard full groom price. Should it be needed, the nails can also be clipped, the ears wiped out and any ticks removed. We also offer a sanitary trim and, if requested, express the anal glands.

Depending on the coat there are different grooming techniques. Grooming can entail shaving, cutting, hand stripping, combing and/or brushing. Your dog will be placed on the grooming table, if needed on a leash. The treatment does take several hours, your dog might be very tired after the session.

Washing, brushing and combing

Of course your dog is also more than welcome for a shampooing treatment. Short haired dogs are only



washed, medium and long haired dogs will also be combed (pricing may vary depending on condition of coat). In order to prevent matting of the fur it can be advisable with some breeds to have the coat regularly brushed and combed, for example monthly. Our groomer can advise you on the best grooming regime. In order to ensure that you do not pay too much for brushing and combing, charges are adjusted depending on the length and condition of the coat and how regularly you attend grooming appointments.

Accessories & Bling

Do you want to pretty up your pet for a special occasion or just for fun? We have a range of eye-catching accessories and bling to create a cute and beautiful or classical look for our pet. For more information, please call and speak to one of our professional stylists.

Separation Anxiety in Dogs

There are a number of steps you can take to resolve your dog's isolation- or separation-anxiety behaviour. Here are some avenues to explore:

- ◆ Exercise your dog well before you leave. A tired dog has less energy with which to be anxious and destructive. End exercise sessions 20 to 30 minutes before you go, so he has time to settle down.
- ◆ Five minutes before you leave, give him a well-stuffed Kong to take his mind off your imminent departure.
- ◆ Make your departures and returns completely calm and emotionless. No huggy/kissy "Mummy loves you" scenes. If he gets excited and jumps all over you when you return, ignore him. Turn your back and walk away. When he finally settles down, say hello and greet him very calmly.





- ◆ Defuse the pieces of your departure routine by also doing them when you are not leaving. Pick up your car keys and sit down on the sofa to watch TV. Dress in your business suit and then cook dinner. Set your alarm for 5 a.m. on a Saturday, then roll over and go back to sleep.
- ◆ Mix up the pieces of your departure routine when you are leaving, so his anxiety doesn't build to a fever pitch as he recognizes your departure cues. We are creatures of habit too, so this is hard to do, but can pay off in big dividends. Eat breakfast before you shower instead of after. Pick up your keys and put them in your pocket before you take your dog out for his final potty break. Put your briefcase in the car while you're still in pyjamas. Make the morning as unpredictable as possible.
- ◆ Use a "safe" cue such as "I'll be back," only when you know you'll return within the time period your dog can tolerate. This helps your dog relax, knowing he can trust you to return.
- ◆ Explore alternative dog-keeping situations to minimize the occasions when you do have to leave him alone - doggie day care may be suitable for some dogs, but not for others. You may be able to find a neighbour or relative who is house-bound and might appreciate some canine companionship.
- ◆ If you are considering adoption of a second dog, try borrowing a calm, stable, compatible dog from a friend, to see if that helps to relieve your dog's distress.



- ◆ Remove as many other stressors from your dog's world as possible to help him maintain his equilibrium in your absence. No choke chains, shock collars, physical or harsh verbal punishment (especially in connection to his anxiety behaviours).
- ◆ Consider working with a behaviour professional to be sure you're on the right path - and to help you explore the possibilities of using anti-anxiety medications to maximize the effectiveness of your modification efforts.

Fixing separation anxiety is hard work. It's all too easy to get frustrated with your dog's destructive behaviour. Remember that he's not choosing to do it out of spite or malice - he is panicked about his own survival without you, his pack, there to protect him. It's not fun for him, either; he lives in the moment, and the moments that you are gone are long and terrifying. If you make the commitment to modify his behaviour and succeed in helping him be brave about being alone, you'll not only save your home from destruction, you will enhance the quality of your dog's life immensely - as well as your own - and perhaps save him from destruction, too.

Taken from information provided by Pat Miller, CPDT, is WDJ's Training Editor. Miller lives in Hagerstown, Maryland, site of her Peaceable Paws training center. Pat is also author of The Power of Positive Dog Training; Positive Perspectives: Love Your Dog, Train Your Dog; Positive Perspectives II: Know Your Dog, Train Your Dog, and the brand-new Dog Play: How and Why to Play With Your Dog.



FEBRUARY 2014: FLEA & HEARTWORM PROMOTION

Come and visit Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital & take advantage of the in-hospital specials available during the month of February on a range of parasite treatments!

