



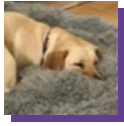
Rehoming tips and information



**Canine
Partners**

Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

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“ Seriously, we can't thank you enough. We feel so lucky to have been given the chance to rehome a withdrawn canine partner - we have to pinch ourselves! She really is the most beautiful soul - I can't remember a time when she wasn't a part of the family. ”

.....
Joanna, Vanessa's mum

Taking your new dog home and settling in

Moving to a new house with a new family can be a very stressful time for a dog. Here are a few things you can do to help your dog settle in.

- 🐾 Keep things quiet – avoid having a welcoming party for your dog and limit having too many visitors for the first few weeks. Give the dog time to acclimatise to you and their new surroundings.
- 🐾 If you already have a pet dog, introduce them to each other outside on neutral territory and ensure you have enough spare beds, toys, water bowls, etc. Once the dogs have met, allow the new dog to enter the house first so the older dog doesn't feel the need to protect their home.
- 🐾 Let the dog explore the house and garden on the lead initially; take them round and let them have a sniff. Give them the opportunity to toilet in an appropriate area. It is important you set the rules from the start e.g. if you don't want the dog to go upstairs then don't allow them to do so.

🐾 Try not to over crowd or overwhelm your new dog, take things slowly and let them approach you.



- 🐾 Make sure they have their own 'quiet area' with a bed and water bowl that they can take themselves to. They might feel anxious/stressed by the move, and need time to decompress and acclimatise. It is important to allow them to rest undisturbed.
- 🐾 Dog proof the house by removing temptation such as chewable or edible items (leather shoes, bags etc.) as well as anything that could be dangerous (medication etc.)
- 🐾 All of our dogs are house trained but it is important to understand that they may be unsettled. Please do not worry if the dog has the occasional accident over the first few days. Offer them frequent opportunities to toilet whilst they are settling in. Be relaxed about it; if they don't want to go, just try again a little later.

Walking your new dog and interacting with other people and dogs



Taking your new dog out for their first walk is very exciting and should be a pleasurable experience for you and the dog. Here are some tips to help make it safe and enjoyable:

- 🐾 For the first two weeks it is advisable to just do lead walks with your dog. Only when you think your dog is walking nicely on the lead should you attempt to walk to the park which can be highly stimulating for a dog and can result in them pulling to get to it. If you want to take the dog to the park before then we would advise you keep them on a flexi lead or a long line (training lead).
- 🐾 Practice recalls in the garden and on walks regularly, using the whistle as demonstrated when you rehomed your dog. Make it fun and reward your dog for coming back to you every time with treats, games, toys and praise. This will encourage your dog to come back to you on a walk.
- 🐾 When you let your dog off lead for the first time, choose a location that is fully secure – a fenced park for example. Remember you need to have a good bond with your dog before letting them off the lead, hence why we advise you wait for at least a couple of weeks. Always take some tasty treats with you to reward the dog every time they recall.

Rules to keep your dog safe

- 🐾 Don't let your dog be distracted by other dogs and people in the park. Interact with your dog so they remain focused on you.
- 🐾 Keep your dog trained to respond immediately to your call so you can recall your dog before any problems might arise.
- 🐾 When your dog is with you, keep them engaged and release them to play when it is safe to do so.
- 🐾 It is fine for your dog to play with other dogs as long as all the dogs are relaxed and having fun.

Leaving your dog alone



Leaving a dog on their own can be very stressful for them. There are some tips below to help make it a more pleasurable experience.

- Leave your dog for a short amount of time to start with** (about five minutes is a good start) and gradually increase the amount of time you are away. This will allow the dog to get used to you being away whilst at the same time reassure them that you are coming back. We advise that you never leave a dog alone for more than four hours.
- Shut the dog in one room** as opposed to giving them the full run of your house. Dogs generally feel safer and more secure in a smaller space.
- Make sure you leave the dog with a nice comfy bed and a bowl of water.** Having a nice bed should encourage the dog to settle and sleep whilst you are away.
- Leave the radio or television on for the dog.** Some sound in the background can be a great comfort to the dog and block any noises from outside that may worry them.
- Give the dog something to do.** Leaving the dog with access to a smoked bone or a rubber food enrichment toy can be a
- great way to keep them occupied when alone. Keeping the dog occupied will stop them becoming bored and destructive, and hopefully keep their mind off where you are!
- Take them for a walk before you go out.** If tired and relaxed, it can encourage your dog to sleep
- Don't make a fuss of the dog** when you leave or return, just simply leave without saying goodbye to the dog. Big goodbyes every time you leave will lead to them pre-empting your departure. This can cause anxiety.
- Make sure you have toileted the dog** before leaving so they are more comfortable and able to settle.
- If you have a dog that particularly doesn't like being left alone, practice leaving them in a separate room in the house to you when you are in.** Allowing the dog to follow you everywhere or be with you all the time will only make it harder for the dog when you do have to leave them.

Reading your dog

It is important that you can recognise when your dog is feeling tired, unwell, frightened, anxious, happy, aroused, excited or stressed.

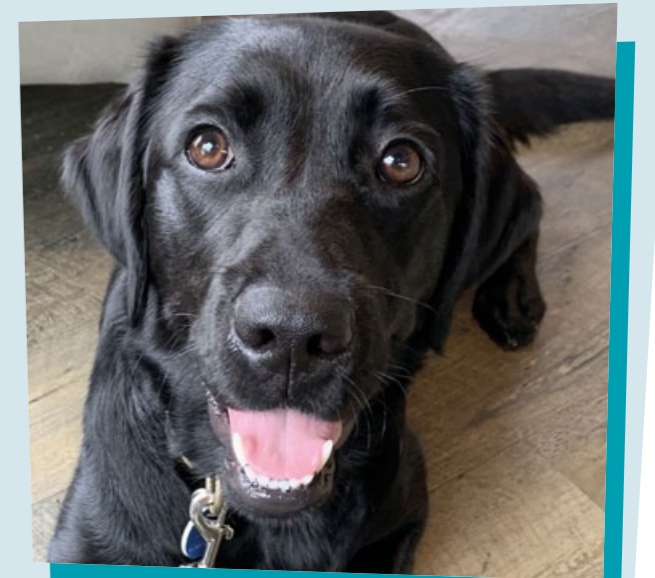
Calming Signals - What are they?

This is the method of communication used by dogs to resolve conflicts, prevent aggression and reduce stress. Subtle body language your dog will display which you must be able to recognise, and even use yourself. By understanding subtle calming signals, you can read how your dog is feeling (particularly if they are stressed or anxious) and therefore you can change your behaviour or the environment accordingly, which in turn will calm the dog down. For example if you said "Sit" in a harsh voice, the dog might yawn and look away indicating they feel uncomfortable. If you change the tone of your voice to a more neutral tone the dog will be more relaxed, and therefore be more likely to offer the desired behaviour.



Example behaviours related to fear, anxiety, stress

- Avoidance** - your dog may avert eye contact
- Bolting or lunging** - away from the source of their fear
- Raised hackles** - remember these run from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail
- Fixating** - your dog may stare at an object it is scared of
- Use of calming signals**
- Aggression** - depends heavily on the dog's past experiences, which you will have been told by your point of contact at Canine Partners during the rehoming process.



Children and dogs



The rules for children interacting with dogs are mostly common sense. Just imagine how people should interact with each other.

How we may advise children to behave around people

-  Avoid taking other people's food
-  Avoid stealing other people's toys
-  Avoid putting your face close to someone else's face
-  Avoid disturbing someone's sleep
-  Avoid pestering
-  Avoid pinching
-  Avoid screaming

How we can advise children to behave around dogs





-  Avoid interrupting dogs when they are eating
-  Avoid taking a dog's possessions
-  Avoid putting your face close to a dog's face
-  Let sleeping dogs lie
-  Be respectful of the dog's space
-  Avoid hugging. Most dogs dislike it
-  Avoid shouting. Use your 'inside' voice instead

How to recognise signs of boredom

Your dog should never be bored. Introduce games to keep them mentally stimulated and make walks more interactive and fun.



Signs that your dog may be bored:

-  Barking
-  Mischievous behaviours (stealing, chewing)
-  Whining
-  Depression



Soak and mash up some of your dogs' food, mix in a spoonful of marmite or peanut butter, fill the food enrichment toy, then pop it in to the freezer until it's completely frozen. This should keep your dog entertained for a while and is a great way to keep them occupied when you need to go out. (Make sure any peanut butter you give your dog does not contain Xylitol).






Smoked bones are great to leave down for your dog to chew on. They are durable and will last a long time. If you want to encourage your dog to chew on it, rub a bit of something tasty on the end of it - marmite or peanut butter works well. (Check any allergies before use and keep an eye on your dog to make sure they aren't breaking large pieces off).



A rope tug is a great interactive toy that you and your dog can both have fun with!



Keeping your dog safe around the home

-  Tugging and toy play must ALWAYS be on a non-slip surface.
-  Any surface aside from carpet, concrete or natural substrates, has the potential to cause issues which can lead to long term damage.
-  We recommend rugs and non-slip matting in areas of high traffic for the dog, for example corridors and the kitchen.



Introducing your new dog into a home with a resident cat

What to expect

- Settling your new dog into a home with already established pets requires time and patience. It can take a while for both animals to feel completely relaxed. Therefore please do not leave the animals alone together until both parties feel safe and comfortable.
- Some cats might find it disruptive having a new dog come into their home. Your cat may hide, or even leave the home for a period until they are ready to accept the dog.

If your cat has never lived with a dog

- Before you bring your dog home, if you know somebody that has a dog which is polite and sociable with cats you could ask them to come and visit. Ask them to keep their dog on lead and allow your cat to observe. Both animals should be rewarded for being calm and relaxed. Repeated exposure like this should hopefully give your cat a positive association with dogs.

Before you bring the dog home



Make sure the following are completely inaccessible to the dog:

- Cat's food
- Cat's litter tray
- Cat's bed



Important Points

Remember to always reinforce calm behaviours, and do not just wait for disturbances before responding.



Let your cat set the pace with building a relationship with the dog.



Always feed both animals their meals separately.

- Make sure the cat has plenty of places to retreat that the dog cannot access. A baby gate can be used to help with this; You can block a room off or have it across the bottom of the stairs so that the cat has sole access to these areas.
- There are products available that release scents/pheromones which may help to relax your cat and could help with general anxiety. Using such a product for a couple of weeks prior to your dog coming home, and then continuing to do so, could help your cat to adjust more quickly to the change. If the dog is arriving sooner than a couple of weeks, use it as soon as possible.
- Ensure the cat's claws have been trimmed before the dog's arrival.

When the dog comes home

- Before you bring the dog into the house, locate your cat. Shut them in a part of the house that the dog will not have immediate access to when they come in.
- Introducing your dog and cat should happen in short structured periods; The duration of which should be dictated by the behaviours you are seeing.

- When you are ready, take your dog, on lead, to the room or area of the house where your cat is. Shut the doors behind you to reduce the dog and cat's access.
- Keep your dog on the lead to help you maintain control and reduce stress for both animals.
- Both your dog and cat can be praised verbally and rewarded with treats/touch for calm behaviours.
- If the dog seems friendly or cautious not much intervention is needed except to praise and reward your dog for being calm and respectful.
- Interrupt any chasing, barking or agitated behaviour by redirecting your dog's attention onto a high value treat or toy. Ask and reward for good responses to behaviour cues your dog knows e.g. sit, down, go to bed. Increasing the distance between the dog and cat might also be beneficial.
- If both animals are relaxed and coping well within one another's company, you can let go of your dog's lead and leave it trailing on the floor. That way, if the atmosphere between your cat and dog starts to become unsuitable, you can manage the situation by picking up the lead.

- The dog's lead can be removed once you are sure that both pets are calm and relaxed in one another's company.
- During these training sessions, gradually increase the duration and space that both pets can access, until both are fully integrated into life together. The duration of these sessions should be set by the behaviour of both the dog and the cat. Always aim to finish on a calm note with both of them relaxed.
- While you shouldn't keep your pets entirely apart, please ensure they are supervised when in the same room, to make sure interactions are appropriate. Warning signs in cats include a direct stare, elevated hindquarters, and fur standing on end.

During this introductory period if you are not able to supervise then please keep both animals separate.

Cue words

Canine Partners dogs will already know some of these commonly used cues.



call dog's name

Tells dog to listen for a cue

leave

Dog must not take food/or touch another animal/item

better go now

Dog toilets where indicated

go to bed

Dog lies down on mat

come here

Dog moves to wait in front you

settle down

Dog is ignored and lays down in own time, ok to move about

OK

Dog can eat dinner/ offered food etc

jump on

Dog jumps into car

wait

Dog must wait until further cue, e.g. recall

off

Dog takes paws off lap/table etc

let's go

Dog moves off with you in a relaxed way

move

Dog gets out of the way of chair/ person

sit

Dog sits

get it

Dog picks up item

down

Dog lies down

bring it here

Dog brings you the item they have

shake hands

Dog offers paw to be shaken

give

Dog gives you item they have in their mouth

Procedures your dog should know



Procedure for feeding the dog

- 1 Tell your dog to **sit** and **wait**.
- 2 When they are sitting nicely place the food on the floor, then count to five (slowly and calmly).
- 3 If the dog is still sat nicely and waiting then blow two short sharp toots on the whistle to allow the dog to eat the food.

Our dogs are normally fed twice a day, 8am and 5pm

Procedure for letting the dog off lead

- 1 Tell your dog to **sit** and **wait**.
- 2 When they are sitting nicely count to five (slowly and calmly).
- 3 If the dog is still sat nicely and waiting then say **ok** to release the dog.

Procedure for recalling the dog - your dog should know both a voice and whistle recall

- 1 Call your dog's name and either tell them **come here** or give two toots on your whistle.
- 2 Praise the dog **good boy / girl** as they run towards you.
- 3 Treat the dog with something tasty when they reach you.

Procedure for getting a dog in/out the car

- 1 Take the dog to the boot or the back of the car.
- 2 Tell your dog to **sit** and **wait**.
- 3 Tell them to **jump on** to get into the car - make getting into the car fun by rewarding and praising the dog as they do this.
- 4 When getting your dog out of the car, tell them to **wait** as you open the boot/door.
- 5 Continue to remind your dog to wait and clip your dog's lead on - reward your dog for waiting.
- 6 Tell your dog **off** as their cue to get out of the car.

Health and grooming



It is good practice for you to regularly health-check your dog, so you learn what is normal for them. If you notice anything out of the ordinary with your dog's health contact your vet.



If you are concerned about your dog's health, seek veterinary advice as soon as possible

Health checks

Eyes

Should be clear and bright. A little sleep is normal and so is a little white discharge on occasions but both these can be removed with some damp cotton wool. **Take care not to poke the eye while cleaning!**

! Symptoms to watch for

-
- Redness
- Swellings
- Discolouration
- Foreign objects
- Unusual discharge (for example green discharge or reoccurring/large amounts of it)

Nose

! Symptoms to watch for

-
- Discharge
- Cuts/ grazes
- Swellings
- Changes in temperature/ moisture
- Foreign bodies (ie. grass seeds)
- Excessive rubbing or sneezing (this may indicate a problem)

Ears

The colour of the inside of the ear can differ between dogs slightly but a normal colour would be a pale pink colour. Some wax is normal but this can also change depending on the dog so it is essential to learn what is normal for your dog.

! Symptoms to watch for

-
- Discharge
- Foreign objects
- Excessive wax
- Foul smell

Ear infection

Symptoms of an ear infection include redness, excessive wax, a foul smell from the ear, head shaking, scratching/ rubbing the ear or ears that look lopsided.

Clean any excessive wax away gently with cotton wool and warm water or an ear-cleaning liquid, never poke anything inside the ear canal.

Ear infections can be treated with a course of ear drops from your vet.

Teeth and Mouth

It is a good idea to get to know what is the 'normal' colour for your dog's gums; if they are paler than normal your dog may be unwell.

! Symptoms to watch for

- 🐾 Inflammation
- 🐾 Redness
- 🐾 Pale gums

Sometimes the gums can be slightly pinker if the dog is hot, if they have been out for a run or have done any other activity that will increase their heart rate.

Maintaining good dental health is **very** important and therefore starting a good regime and regularly checking their teeth is key.

Teeth should be a nice white colour but slight yellow discolouration is also normal, especially with age.

! Symptoms to watch for

- 🐾 Foul smelling breath
- 🐾 Discoloured teeth
- 🐾 Damaged teeth
- 🐾 Plaque/ black teeth

Brushing your dog's teeth is the best way to ensure they stay clean and all the teeth have been touched. Use a dog tooth brush and some enzymatic toothpaste (do not use human toothpaste) and clean them as often as possible but at least three times a week.

If teeth cleaning isn't an option or you can't do it as often as needed, there are plenty of chews that can be brought to help the dogs 'clean' their own teeth.

The chews we recommend are: Filled rubber food enrichment toys in size large or XL; Vegetable or rice chews; Smoked shank bones; Natural dry chews i.e. cow hooves, pig ears etc.

Please ensure these are an occasional treat, only recommended once or twice a week maximum.

Paws

! Symptoms to watch for

- 🐾 Cuts and sores
- 🐾 Foreign objects
- 🐾 Redness

Dog's pads are very sensitive. Any of the above can cause discomfort/ pain so the dog may be limping or uncomfortable with walking if they have one or more of the above.

Be extra careful of dogs during hot weather as hot tarmac can burn the pads and also during snow periods where grit is put on the road because this can also burn the pads if not washed away.

Ensure you check your dog's pads after every walk and wash them off or remove any foreign objects if present. **If you have any concerns, seek veterinary advice.**

Body and Tail

! Symptoms to watch for

- 🐾 Lumps and cuts
- 🐾 Bald patches
- 🐾 Parasites
- 🐾 Areas of discomfort

You will get to know what is normal for your dog so just look out for anything abnormal for them. **Keep a record of any lumps/ bumps found with their size/ shape and contact your vet if you have any concerns at all.**

Lastly, check underneath the tail for any swellings or abnormal discharge.

Weight

Keeping your dog at a nice healthy weight is key to keeping them at optimum health.



How to check your dog's weight:

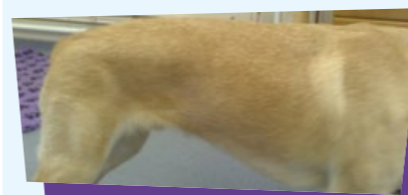
One way to monitor your dog's weight is to get them weighed on a set of scales, however, looking at your dog physically is one of the better ways to assess their weight. The description below is what an 'ideal weight' dog should look like:

- 1 Ideally, your dog's ribs should be easily felt with a minimal layer of fat.
- 2 From above, a waistline should be clearly visible with a noticeable tummy tuck when looking from the side.

A good way of describing it is that 'you should feel a blanket covering the ribs, not a duvet'.

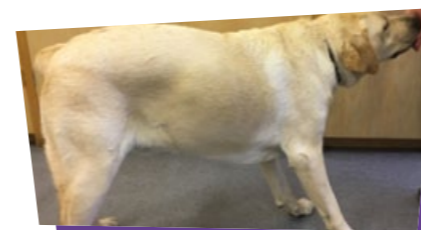
Ideal weight

These dogs have a nice defined waistline and an obvious tummy tuck.



Overweight

These dogs **do not** have a defined waist or a tummy tuck.



Canine Partners and most vets will use a **Body Condition Score (BCS)** chart to score dog's weight and size on a scale of 1-9. We aim for all our dogs to score **5** to be a healthy weight and size for a working dog.

What to do if your dog is over/underweight.

Overweight:

If you notice your dog is over their range or looks overweight. Firstly look at the treats/ extras you are giving them. If they have any extras (dental chews etc.) cut out or down on these and also look at the type of treats you are giving and try to look at lower calorie alternatives, for example vegetables.

You can also replace fatty treats with a portion of your dog's meal. Keep fatty/higher value treats aside for rewarding harder tasks like recall.

If the above option isn't making a huge difference, looking at the dogs feed amounts is also an option. We will only ever decrease the dog's feeds by 10g per meal at a time, for example, if your dog is on 150g x2 daily; you would decrease it to 140g x2 daily.

Underweight:

If you notice your dog is slightly underweight you can increase the amount of food they have at meal times until they reach their ideal weight range. We will only ever increase the meals normally 10g per meal at a time, for example, if your dog is on 150g x2 daily, you would increase it to 160g x2.

You may want to give them a smaller third meal throughout the day or reward them for good behaviour with some high fat treats e.g. cheese if they are very slim.

If your dog suddenly loses or gains a lot of weight, contact your vet for a health check to rule out any underlying medical causes.

Managing health and sickness



Signs and symptoms to tell if your dog is unwell

Loss of appetite



Vomit and/or diarrhoea



Lack of energy/lethargy



Change in temperament



Obvious signs of pain or discomfort

Reasons to contact the vet:

Excess vomiting/ diarrhoea



Inability to keep water down



Blood in urine or faeces



Persistent lameness



Extreme change in temperament



Obvious signs of pain

Vomiting

If your dog has a bout of vomiting this may be due to one of the following reasons:

- 1 **Illness**
- 2 **Scavenging**
- 3 **Excessive grass eating**
- 4 **Hunger (usually bile is brought up)**

If your dog has just one bout of vomiting, feed them as normal. If they have more than one bout of vomiting and the dog is unwell or lethargic, you may need to seek veterinary advice. If the dog seems bright and alert you should starve the dog of their next meal and at the next scheduled meal time, offer a bland diet to them (this can include chicken or plain white fish with either rice or pasta). If the symptoms persist after 48 hours, seek veterinary advice but if they have no more episodes after the bland is given, you can slowly introduce the kibble back a handful at a time.

If you suspect the sickness is due to the dog having eaten a poisonous or toxic substance or has bloat or there is blood in the vomit, you should immediately book an emergency vet appointment.



Diarrhoea

If your dog has one bout of diarrhoea, feed their normal food on the next scheduled meal time. If they have more than one bout and seem unwell or lethargic, you may need to seek veterinary advice. If they seem bright and alert, feed a small portion of bland diet on the next scheduled meal time (this can include chicken or plain white fish with either rice or pasta). If it continues longer than 48 hours, seek veterinary advice but if it stops after the bland is introduced, start to reintroduce their kibble a handful at a time.

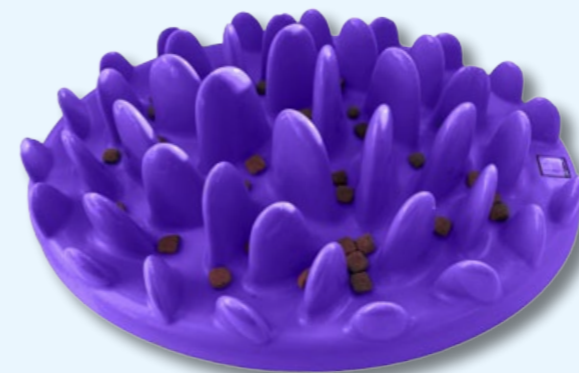
Probiotic sachets, available in pet stores and veterinary practices, can be added to your dog's food if they have any bouts of diarrhoea. This can be used short or long term and is very helpful in managing any stomach upsets.

If their diarrhoea has blood in it seek veterinary advice immediately.

Lameness

Symptoms include limping and pain or discomfort.

Firstly check for any obvious causes such as cuts or thorns in pads. If you can find no reason for it rest and monitor your dog for 24-48 hours. If you are particularly concerned or it has lasted longer than 48 hours contact your vet.



Bloat

Bloat is called Gastric Dilation Volvulus and usually occurs when there is an abnormal amount of air or fluid in the stomach which causes the stomach to dilate and possibly twist.

Causes:

- Stress
- Eating habits such as rapid eating and/or drinking too much water too quickly
- Exercising before and especially after eating
- Physical characteristics such as a deep chest, older dogs, bigger dogs, being underweight

Symptoms:

- Attempting to vomit may occur every 5-30 minutes
- Significant anxiety and restlessness
- 'Hunched' appearance
- Bloated abdomen that may feel tight

Other symptoms include: coughing, heavy salivation, whining, pacing, refusing to lie down, heavy panting and collapsing.

What to do?

If you suspect your dog has bloat then ring your vet immediately; the earlier bloat is detected, the better the chance is of treating it.

Prevention:

- Do not exercise for at least an hour before and especially after feeding
- Feed 2 or 3 meals per day
- Prevent rapid eating, using an anti-gulp bowl is ideal

A variety of interactive feeders/ puzzle games are available to make meal times more fun for your dog and to encourage slower eating.

X Poisons

There are certain substances that can be poisonous/toxic to dogs. Some can cause dogs to be unwell and can even be fatal.

Household poisons



Battery acid
Antifreeze* **Electric cigarette fluid**
Tobacco
Medications for humans **Paint**
Cleansers and detergents
Motor oils, petrol and diesel **Bleach**
Rat poison
Nail polish and remover **Slug and snail pellets****
Weed killers
insecticides

*this can be very attractive to animals due to its sweet smell

**this includes slugs and snails that have eaten the pellets

Poisonous foods



Grapes
Chocolate
Macadamia nuts **Pips*****
Raisins **Avocados**
Onions
Alcohol **Garlic**

*** choking hazard



If your dog ingests any of the above products, even a small amount, contact your vet for advice.

Please note: This list is not exhaustive and is provided only as a guide. If in doubt, please consult your vet.

Changing your dog's food

If you decide to change your dog's food, you should ensure that it is done safely via a slow wean.

Changing a dog's food too quickly can upset their stomach and therefore it should be done over a period of at least a week. If your dog is known to have a sensitive stomach, we would suggest doing the wean over a longer period of time.

To change a dog's food you need to slowly decrease the amount of the dog's old food and increase the amount of the new food. **If your dog develops any diarrhoea or becomes unwell during the transition we would suggest that you stop the wean and seek veterinary advice.** Please see an example below of a wean:

Day	Old Food	New Food
Day 1 AM meal	150g	0g
Day 1 PM meal	140g	10g
Day 2 AM meal	130g	20g
Day 2 PM meal	120g	30g
Day 3 AM meal	110g	40g
Day 3 PM meal	100g	50g
Day 4 AM meal	90g	60g
Day 4 PM meal	80g	70g
Day 5 AM meal	70g	80g
Day 5 PM meal	60g	90g
Day 6 AM meal	50g	100g
Day 6 PM meal	40g	110g
Day 7 AM meal	30g	120g
Day 7 PM meal	20g	130g
Day 8 AM meal	10g	140g
Day 8 PM meal	0g	150g



Why not try? ...

For mental stimulation and to lessen pressure on joints, especially in older dogs, a snuffle mat (pictured left) for feeding dry kibbles is a great alternative to a bowl!

Parasite control



Fleas




Fleas lay their eggs on the host animal but the majority of these fall off on to the environment e.g. the carpet.

95% of the flea population is in the environment.



How do dogs get them?

Fleas pass from one animal to another. Fleas can also be caught from the environment.

What are the symptoms?

-  Scratching
-  Biting the coat
-  Visible flea faeces

How to treat

-  Treat your dog regularly with an appropriate flea treatment to remove and prevent fleas. (It is also vital to treat the whole environment, there are many treatments such as sprays and powders to use in your home.)
-  Regularly clean your dog's bedding.

Regular treatment with an appropriate product should prevent fleas.



Ticks

Ticks are small parasites that can attach on to your dog. They can transmit Lyme disease.

How do dogs get them?

Ticks are found in vegetation and can attach on to your pet as they walk past.

What are the symptoms?

Ticks attach themselves externally to the host's body. The picture above shows what they look like when first attached and then the picture below is what they may look like later on. You will not see the tick's mouthpiece. Occasionally your dog may react to a tick bite causing a small red lump. This is nothing to worry about but if it persists or gets worse then contact your vet as a precaution.



How to treat?

Ticks can be removed with a special device such as a tick twister. This will ensure that all of the tick is removed, it is very important not to leave the mouth part inside your dog. Ticks should never be 'smothered' with any chemicals to kill or remove them.

Regular treatment with an appropriate product should prevent ticks.











Worms

Worms are internal parasites that can cause loss of condition and ill health in dogs as well as posing a potential risk to people. Most worms are easily treated and prevented.

How do dogs get them?

Most often dogs get worms through ingesting something containing the parasitic eggs e.g. mud/dirt or other dog's faeces.

What are the symptoms?

-  Vomiting
-  Diarrhoea
-  Low energy level
-  Coughing
-  Pot-bellied appearance
-  Appetite loss
-  Weight loss
-  Dull coat




How to treat?

Regular treatment using an appropriate product should easily prevent worms.




Grooming your dog

Why do we groom?




-  To keep your dog's coat in good condition.
-  To keep your dog looking good!
-  Grooming is a great way to build the bond between you and your dog.

How often?

-  As often as possible! Labradors should be groomed at least once a week. Golden Retrievers should be brushed at least twice weekly.

Where?

Somewhere practical:

-  Comfortable for you and the dog
-  Secure
-  Easily cleaned afterwards

Bathing

Unless your dog particularly requires it, a bath would only be needed 2-3 times a year but some may need to be done

more often if they get muddy or roll in faeces. You can use sensitive or medicated dog shampoo's which can be bought from your local pet shop. If your dog is prone to dandruff or an oily coat, baths may be required more often, for example every two months.

Anal glands

A dog's anal glands should empty themselves with every bowel movement. Occasionally the glands can get blocked and not empty, so end up building up with fluid. Symptoms of this include scratching or biting at the bottom area or scooting/ dragging their bottom along the floor. This may mean they need to be expressed manually which can be done by a vet or a groomer. This shouldn't be done too often and it can cause the anal glands to lose the ability to empty naturally.

Nail clipping

If your dog regularly walks on hard surfaces this should wear the nails down. If they do get a bit long then a vet nurse or a groomer can clip them for you.

Equipment for Labradors



These are the ideal brushes to use when grooming a Labrador. You don't necessarily have to use all of them, however a combination of these brushes works well.



Grooming tools

are great for removing loose hair from the top coat and can be used as often as you like, in any direction all over the body.



A soft bristle brush

is ideal for the head, legs and stomach. Also great for dried on mud and can be used daily. This brush brings out a lovely shine at the end of grooming.



A comb

is ideal to be used for the tail and the longer hairs on their trousers. It can also be used on the main body if your Labrador or Labrador X Golden Retriever has a slightly thicker coat.

Equipment for Golden Retrievers



These are the ideal brushes to use when grooming a Golden Retriever. You don't necessarily have to use all of them, however a combination of these brushes works well.



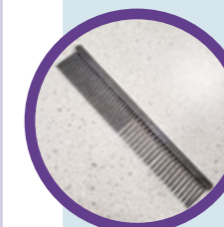
A rake

is great for the main bulk of your dog's body and will detangle most knots. Use on the body, tail and back legs. This brush can be used daily.



A bristle brush

is ideal for the head, legs and stomach. Also great for dried on mud and can be used daily. This brush brings out a lovely shine at the end of grooming.



A comb

is ideal to use on the whole body and is best used after the pin brush as it will get out any smaller knots that you may have missed. Again this brush can be used daily.

Trimming

Golden Retrievers need to be trimmed on a regular basis. Their fur can grow very quickly and can become matted if not managed properly. Book your dog into a groomers every 6-12 weeks **minimum** for a full trim, to ensure you keep them in good health.





Seasonal awareness





Spring



Easter can pose an additional risk to our canine companions, with the abundance of chocolate and other traditional foods. These can be tempting for our dogs but harmful; please keep in mind the following:

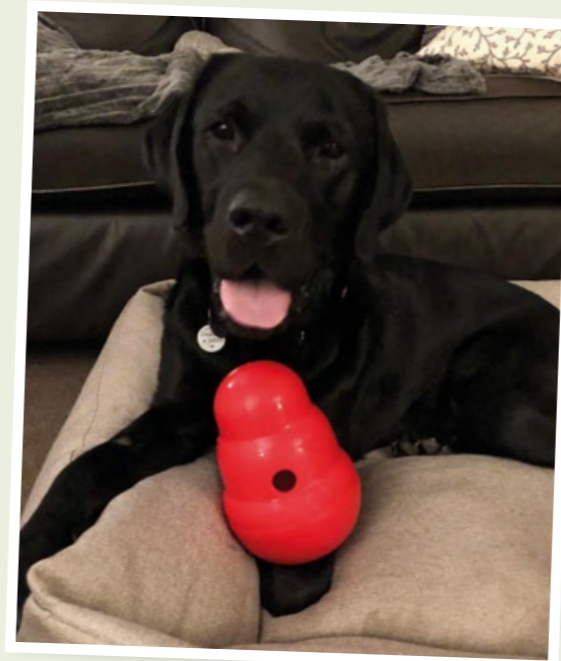


-  **Remember that chocolate is toxic for dogs.** Keep an eye on young children if they are eating chocolate to ensure your dog doesn't steal any.
-  **Ensure you have prepared enrichment for your dog** if you have plans such as a family lunch. Rubber food enrichment toys will help settle your dog.

-  **Create a safe, cosy space for your dog** to retreat to if they want to, and ensure they are not disturbed there.
-  **Even a dog with the best self-control can be tempted to scavenge** if things like Easter eggs or other treats are left within reach, so be mindful where food is put.



-  **Never give your dog cooked bones to chew,** and dispose of them carefully. Cooked bones can cause an obstruction or perforation in the gut.
-  **If you are planning an Easter lunch, carefully dispose of food wrappings such as foil,** string or sticks to prevent your dog from ingesting them.



Be aware





If you are suspicious that your dog may have eaten any of the toxic foods, contact your vet immediately.

Summer

Beautiful summer weather can be enjoyable, but heat waves are not ideal for our canine friends. Dogs cannot regulate their body temperature as effectively as humans can and of course they are wearing a fur coat all of the time, so it is important that you take some precautions on hot days in order to keep your dog safe and cool.







Precautions and tips for keeping cool

-  **Exercise your dog early in the morning and/or late at night**, keeping a close eye on the weather forecast and hourly temperatures.
-  **Avoid intense exercise** like running, playing with other dogs and chasing toys.
-  **Ensure you always have fresh water** for your dog, in travel bottles/bowls if you are out.
-  **Exercise your dog in shady, grassed areas ideally.** If it is too hot for you to place the back of your hand on the pavement for five seconds, it's too hot for your dog's feet!



Avoid travelling in the hot weather and never leave your dog in a car for any period of time, even if the windows are open.

-  **Practice obedience or other games at home.** Mental stimulation is as enriching and tiring as physical exercise.
-  **Play hide and seek games** with your dog's favourite toy, and utilise enrichment and food toys when it is too hot to go out.
-  **Try a paddling pool in the garden,** but don't force your dog to use it if they aren't keen.
-  **Freeze carrots or rubber food enrichment toys** for a cool and nourishing treat for your dog.

Be aware




Watch out for left over picnic or BBQ rubbish in local parks or on beaches that your dog may try to ingest. If you attend or host any BBQs, ensure guests do not feed your dog, as this could lead to scavenging issues, weight gain and tummy upsets.



Autumn

The arrival of autumn brings a new set of challenges to dog owners, especially when the clocks go back. Due to the darker mornings and evenings and worsening weather, your dog may not get the same level of exercise and access to the outdoors that they had during the summer. This can result in behavioural changes and issues due to lack of physical and mental stimulation, so it's important to provide them with things to do.

Keeping them busy

-  **Play scent games in the house or garden** by hiding treats or toys. Make it very easy to start with and gradually build up the level of difficulty.
-  **Feed some or all of your dog's meal in a rubber food enrichment toy.**
-  **Remember you can swap your dog's puzzle/enrichment toys** for different ones to keep it varied and interesting.


Halloween

Halloween can be overwhelming for pets, especially with 'trick or treaters' in scary costumes, parties, and sweet treats. Keep chocolate and sweets away from your dog and, if you anticipate having 'trick or treaters', consider setting up a cosy den with a rubber food enrichment toy for when the doorbell goes. This will prevent them getting overexcited or frightened at the door and will stop any potential escaping too.







Fireworks

Never take your dog out for a walk during a firework display or attend a firework display with your dog. This could have devastating effects on even the most confident and robust dogs.

-  **Take your dog out before the fireworks begin,** and also avoid taking your dog out to toilet during noisy periods.
-  **Keep your dog on lead** if there is a risk of fireworks going off.
-  **Ensure your garden is fully secure** so that your dog can't escape if they have a fright at an unexpected firework.
-  **Don't leave your dog at home alone** if there are fireworks going off outside.
-  **If appropriate, feed your dog at least an hour before any fireworks begin.** A full stomach reduces anxiety, and can make them sleepy.
-  **Close curtains to block out firework flashes.**
-  **Play music or TV to mask outside sounds.**
-  **Keep calm and relaxed.** This will help your dog feel calmer too.

Be guided by your dog; if they seek reassurance from you, give them a gentle cuddle. Some dogs just prefer their own space and would rather be left alone. Respond to your dog accordingly.






Be aware

-  **Slug pellets are poisonous.**
-  **Anti-freeze and screen-wash are also extremely toxic,** so keep them away from your dog and be vigilant around your area.
-  **Grit from roads/pavements should be rinsed off paws,** as it can be harmful if ingested.
-  **Do not leave any poison for rodents down in garages or sheds** where your dog could access as these can be fatal if eaten.




Winter

The winter months can be challenging for us all, especially with the potential of adverse weather conditions such as snow and ice. Due to the colder weather or icy/snowy conditions, your dog may not get the same level of exercise and access to the outdoors that they had during the summer.

Cold weather tips

-  **Consider walking your dog in the middle of the day**, when the temperatures are likely to be at their highest.
-  **Keep outings shorter** and be aware of the weather forecasts for your area.
-  **Keep your personal safety in mind** when dog walking in the cold weather, avoiding icy areas where possible.
-  **Watch out for snow or ice balls forming** on your dog's coat, especially if they have longer hair. Do not be tempted to pull these off – once you are home, use a towel and gently massage the coat to melt these away.
-  Give your dog a brush off once they are dry. Don't forget to check and dry between their toes.

Keeping your dog busy

-  **Play scent games in the house or garden** by hiding treats or toys. Make it very easy to start with and gradually build up the level of difficulty.
-  **Feed some or all of your dog's meal in a rubber food enrichment toy.**
-  **Remember you can swap your dog's puzzle/enrichment toys** for different ones to keep it varied and interesting.

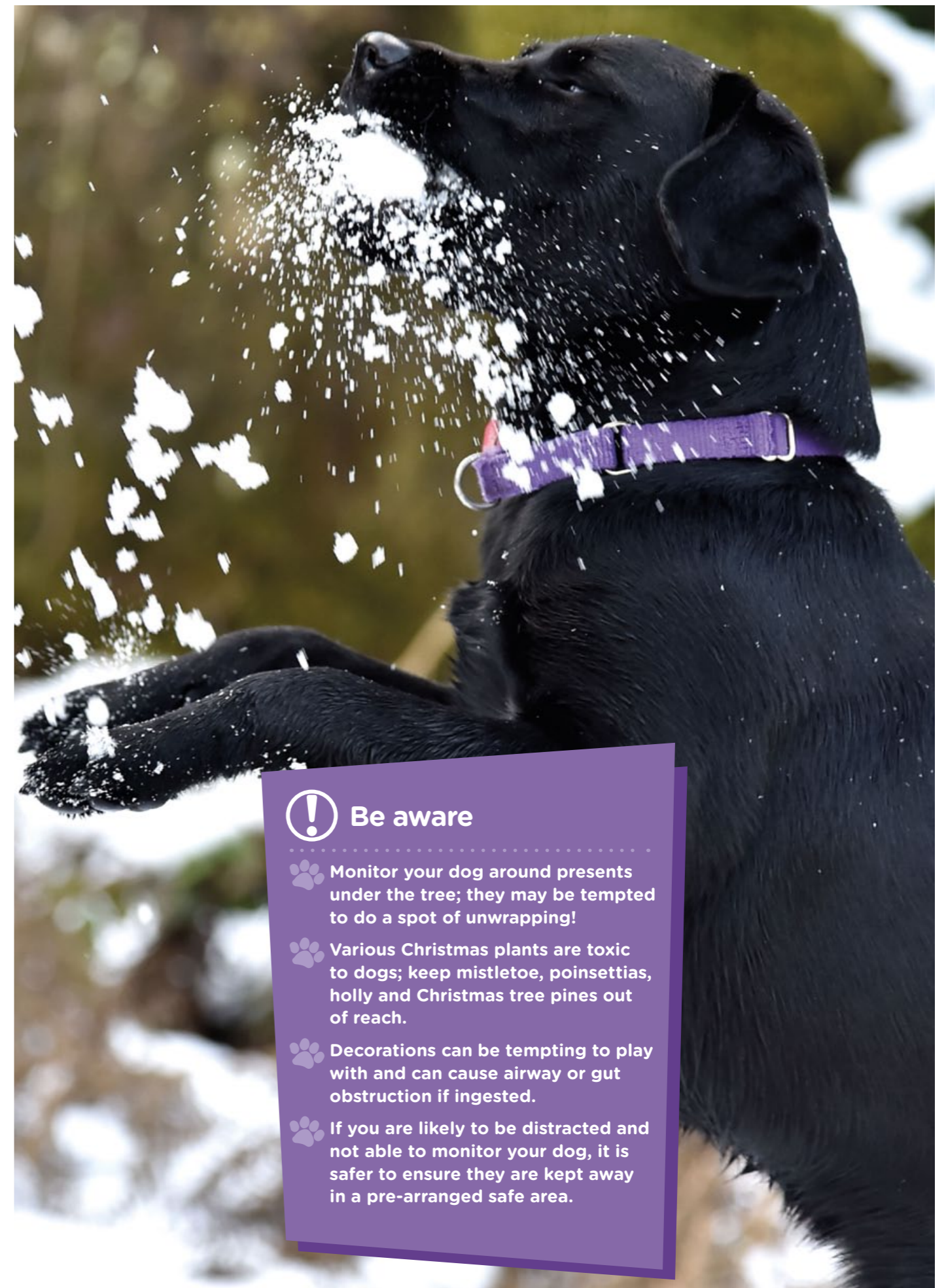
Christmas

Christmas can be a fun time for the entire family, but it can pose additional risk to our canine companions. Christmas often means changes in routine and lots of visitors. Things like decorations and presents are novel and can elicit different reactions from different dogs. Be empathetic to your dog and remember that they may find the festivities overwhelming. Plan ahead and ensure your dog has adequate enrichment, toilet breaks and rest times.

Perhaps one of the best things about Christmas is the food! This can be a real temptation for our dogs, so it is important to keep in mind the following:

-  **Avoid chocolate tree decorations**, as these may be tempting but also harmful for a dog.
-  **Never give your dog cooked bones** to chew, and dispose of them carefully. Cooked bones can cause an obstruction or perforation in the gut.
-  **Carefully dispose of food wrappings** such as foil, string or sticks to prevent your dog from ingesting them, as they can easily cause obstructions or perforation of the gut.
-  **Do not feed your dog additional treats** just because it is Christmas! This can cause weight gain and potentially diarrhoea.
-  **Ensure family members are aware not to feed** your dog or to allow them access to areas from where they might be tempted to scavenge.
-  **Even a dog with the best self-control can be tempted to scavenge** around Christmas time with all the decadent food around, so be careful around areas where there will be food.

If you suspect your dog may have eaten any of the toxic foods listed above, contact your vet.



Be aware

-  **Monitor your dog around presents under the tree; they may be tempted to do a spot of unwrapping!**
-  **Various Christmas plants are toxic to dogs; keep mistletoe, poinsettias, holly and Christmas tree pines out of reach.**
-  **Decorations can be tempting to play with and can cause airway or gut obstruction if ingested.**
-  **If you are likely to be distracted and not able to monitor your dog, it is safer to ensure they are kept away in a pre-arranged safe area.**

Contact Information

**For more advice on rehoming,
whom do I contact?**

Dog Welfare and Rehoming
rehoming-midlands@caninepartners.org.uk

01530 225 951

You can also call Canine Partners
on **03456 580 480**

In the case of emergency please contact your vet



Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

caninepartners.org.uk

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