



Puppy Raiser Medical Field Guide

Common Medical Issues in Puppies

In case of emergency, please review the Puppy Raiser Emergency Contact Procedure.

Contents

Diarrhea	4
Common Causes	4
Type of Stool	4
Frequency	5
Additional Factors	5
Treatments	5
Preventions	5
Constipation	6
Common Causes	6
Type of Stool	6
Additional Factors	6
When to See a Veterinarian	6
Treatment	6
Prevention	6
Vomiting	6
Common Causes	7
Additional Factors	7
When to See a Veterinarian	7
Treatment	7
Prevention	7
Choking	8
Common Causes	8
When to See a Veterinarian	8
Treatment	8
Prevention	8
Coughing	8

Common Causes	8
Types of Coughs.....	9
When to See a Veterinarian	9
Treatment	9
Prevention	9
Bee Sting	9
Common Causes	9
Common Symptoms of a Bee Sting.....	9
When to See a Veterinarian	10
Treatment	10
Prevention	10
Allergies.....	10
Common Causes	10
Common Symptoms	10
When to See a Veterinarian	10
Treatment	11
Prevention	11
Puppy Acne	11
Common Causes	11
Common Symptoms	11
When to See a Veterinarian	11
Treatment	11
Prevention	11
Ear Infection	11
Common Causes	11
Common Symptoms	12
When to See a Veterinarian	12
Treatment	12
Prevention	12
Warts.....	12
Common Causes	12
Common Symptoms	12
When to See a Veterinarian	12
Treatment	13
Prevention	13
Fever	13

Common Causes	13
Common Symptoms	13
When to See a Veterinarian	13
Treatment	13
Prevention	14
Conjunctivitis.....	14
Common Causes	14
Common Symptoms	14
When to See a Veterinarian	14
Treatment	14
Prevention	15
Urinary Tract Infection	15
Common Causes	15
Common Symptoms	15
When to See a Veterinarian	15
Treatment	15
Prevention	15
Worms.....	16
Common Types of Worms.....	16
Common Causes	16
Common Symptoms	16
When to See a Veterinarian	16
Treatment	16
Prevention	16
Giardia	17
Common Causes	17
Common Symptoms	17
When to See a Veterinarian	17
Treatment	17
Prevention	17
Coccidia	17
Common Causes	17
Common Symptoms	18
When to See a Veterinarian	18
Treatment	18
Prevention	18

Ringworm	18
Common Causes	18
Common Symptoms	18
When to See a Veterinarian	18
Treatment	19
Prevention	19
Canine Influenza.....	19
Common Causes	19
Common Symptoms	19
When to See a Veterinarian	19
Treatment	19
Prevention	19
Wounds	20
Common Causes	20
Common Symptoms	20
When to See a Veterinarian	20
Treatment	20
Prevention	20

Diarrhea

Not only is diarrhea very common in puppies, but there are also multiple factors that can cause diarrhea. Severity can range from minor causes like indigestion to severe like ingesting something toxic. To determine how to treat the program puppy, and whether they will need to be seen by a veterinarian, you will need to identify the cause, type of stool, frequency, and additional factors.

Common Causes

- Stress
- Dietary changes
- Ingestion of items ranging from mild irritants to something toxic
- Parasites
- Viral infections
- Bacterial Infections

Type of Stool

- Grade the stool using the Fecal Scoring Chart located in the Puppy Portal
- Items in the stool
 - Grass
 - Chunks of chewed up toys or other items
 - Blood- old (dull) or fresh (bright)
 - Clear globules

Frequency

- All day for several days
- After meals
- After a stressful event

Additional Factors

- Lethargy
- Fever
- Refusing to eat or drink
- Pale gums
- Discomfort or pain
- Vomiting

When to See a Veterinarian

- If diarrhea persists for more than a few days
- If there is blood present
- If the program puppy swallowed something toxic
- If the program puppy presents with
 - A fever
 - Lethargy
 - Refusing to eat or drink
 - Vomiting
 - Is in pain or discomfort
 - Pale gums

Treatments

- If diarrhea is caused by stress, your DBL staff representative may recommend a probiotic such as Forti flora or add some fiber to the program puppy's diet such as psyllium husk powder, or plain pumpkin puree with no other additives to help firm up stool.
- If diarrhea is caused by dietary changes, your DBL staff representative may recommend slowing the transition process down, switching to a bland diet, adding pumpkin and/or Forti Flora.
- For all other issues, your DBL staff representative may request you take the program puppy to your veterinarian. Be sure to bring a fresh stool sample (within 24 hours) with you to be tested, along with the item they ingested (if any), date symptoms started, what symptoms the program puppy is presenting, and frequency.

Preventions

The best way to avoid diarrhea is to be proactive! Here is how you can do so:

- If you are transitioning the program puppy's food (with your DBL representative's approval only), do so slowly and under the guidance of your DBL representative.
- Keep program puppy up to date on vaccines as well as heartworm, flea, and tick prevention.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy.
- Wash toys and bowls regularly.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.

Constipation

Constipation is the inability to have normal bowel movements often resulting in rock hard stools or complete lack of stool. You may notice the program puppy struggling or straining to have a productive bowel movement.

Common Causes

- Dehydration/not drinking enough water.
- Diet
- Stress
- Activity level
- Ingestion of any item that could result in a blockage.
- Medications such as diuretics, opiates, antihistamines, and antacids
- Disease or injury

Type of Stool

- Lack of stool
- Hard stool- see fecal scoring chart in puppy portal.

Additional Factors

- Bloating
- Pain or discomfort

When to See a Veterinarian

- The program puppy's abdomen is bloated.
- Constipation persists for more than two days.
- Program puppy is in pain when examining the abdomen.

Treatment

- Keeping the program puppy hydrated. You may add low sodium chicken broth to water to entice the program puppy to drink or even add water to food for additional hydration.
- Add canned pumpkin to the program puppy's food or let them lick it off of the spoon. Make sure the pumpkin is pure pumpkin puree without added sugar or other ingredients. The fiber from the pumpkin will help to regulate their digestive track. Puppies may receive 1-2 tablespoons a day to start. Your DBL staff representative may want to increase it to 3-4 depending on results.
- Psyllium husk powder is also a great option to help aid constipation.
- Increasing exercise may help get things moving enough for the program puppy to have a productive bowel movement.
- If none of these treatments work, you will need to see your veterinarian who may be able to manually remove the impacted feces or prescribe a medication to help.

Prevention

- Ensure the program puppy is properly hydrated and has access to fresh water daily.
- Regular exercise.
- Keep inappropriate items out of reach of program puppies to avoid ingestion.

Vomiting

Vomiting is when puppies are forcefully ejecting the contents of their stomach. Vomit can often contain food, fluid, and debris. You may notice the program puppy start to drool excessively, cough or retch, and see their abdomen contract right before they vomit.

Common Causes

- Upset stomach
- Diet change
- Eating too quickly
- Ingestion of items or toxins
- Viral infection
- Bacterial infection
- Intestinal parasites
- Internal blockages/bloat
- Reaction to a medication or vaccine

Additional Factors

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite and dehydration
- Abdominal pain
- Bloating
- Lethargy
- Weight Loss

When to See a Veterinarian

- If the vomiting persists longer than a day
- Ingestion of a toxic substance
- Blood is present in the vomit
- Fever
- Bloating and/or abdominal pain
- Weight loss

Treatment

- If the program puppy vomits once than seems back to normal, then there is no need to move forward with treatment.
- If the program puppy vomits a few times during the day, withholding food for 24 hours should help to settle the stomach. Make sure the program puppy still has access to plenty of water and stays hydrated.
- All other treatments will need to be prescribed by a veterinarian.

Prevention

- If the program puppy likes to eat quickly, feed them in a slow feeder bowl or treat dispensing toy.
- Quickly remove and dispose of any damaged toys.
- Do not allow program puppy to chew on sticks or other inappropriate objects.
- Do not leave program puppy unsupervised with toys.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.

Choking

Choking can be both external and internal in puppies. An example of external choking could be when a puppy gets their collar stuck on an object restricting their airways. Internal could happen when they get an object lodged into their airways. In most cases, external choking can be solved easily. In the example used above, you would simply cut the collar away. However, depending on the amount of pressure applied to the windpipe, you may need to bring the program puppy to the vet immediately. The rest of this section will be covering internal choking.

Common Causes

- Foreign object in airway

When to See a Veterinarian

- If the program puppy is unable cough up the object on their own and you are unable to dislodge it manually.
- If the program puppy becomes unconscious.
- If you had to perform the Heimlich Maneuver for the vet to assess any possible damages to the chest and/or throat.

Treatment

- Gently hold the program puppy, carefully pry open their mouth, and look inside the mouth both towards the back of the mouth and throat or the roof of their mouths (you may want a flashlight on hand for this). If you can see the object, you can then:
 - **Smaller Objects**- sweep the mouth with your finger in the shape of a hook. If unable to dislodge the item with your finger, you may use a large pair of tweezers, small tongs, or small needle nose pliers. DO NOT push the object as this will just cause the item to lodge deeper into their throat.
 - **Larger Objects**- like a Nylabone or ball, press your thumbs on both sides of the puppy's jaw at the base of the neck, apply pressure and move your hands up.
- Heimlich Maneuver
 - **Puppy Standing**- hold the program puppy on their back legs, their back against your front. Place your fist on the soft spot directly under the ribs, then thrust your fist inwards and up. Then place program puppy on their side and do a mouth sweep to remove the object.
 - **Puppy on Side**- lay the program puppy on their side, their back against your front. Place your fist on the soft spot directly under their ribs, then thrust your fist inwards and up. Then do a mouth sweep to remove the object.

Prevention

- If the program puppy likes to eat quickly, feed them in a slow feeder bowl or treat dispensing toy.
- Quickly remove and dispose of any damaged toys.
- Do not allow program puppy to chew on sticks or other inappropriate objects.
- Do not leave program puppy unsupervised with toys.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy.

Coughing

There may be several reasons the program puppy may be coughing ranging from inhaling dust to potential heart disease. There are also several forms of coughing to look for.

Common Causes

- Inhaling an irritant
- Eating food too quickly
- Vomiting

- Obstructed airways
- Irritated/scratched throat
- Kennel Cough
- Pneumonia
- Bronchitis
- Exposure to toxins
- Heart Disease

Types of Coughs

- Dry & Hacking
- Wet/Phlegmy
- Gagging
- Deep & Honking

When to See a Veterinarian

- If the coughing is persistent

Treatment

- As coughing is just a symptom of an underlying issue, the veterinarian will need to diagnose the program puppy before determining the treatment.

Prevention

- Keep program puppy current and up to date on all vaccines.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Do not leave program puppies unsupervised with toys.
- Quickly remove and dispose of damaged toys.
- Do not allow program puppies to chew on sticks or other inappropriate objects.
- Keep inappropriate items and toxins safely stored and out of reach from the program puppy,

Bee Sting

Puppies typically explore the world by smelling and with their mouths. So most likely if the program puppy does get stung by a bee, it will be in areas near the muzzle and/or face. Reactions to a bee sting could range from mild to severe anaphylactic.

Common Causes

- Sniffing around flowers or bushes containing bees or wasps.
- Disturbing a hive.
- Stepping on a bee or wasp.

Common Symptoms of a Bee Sting

- Whining
- Swelling
- Heat or redness near the area of the sting.
- Pawing, licking, or biting at the area that was stung.
- Drooling
- Limping

When to See a Veterinarian

- Multiple stings
- Severe or instant swelling
- Difficulty breathing
- Pale gums
- Fever
- Restlessness
- Increased heart rate
- Lethargy or weakness
- Collapse

Treatment

- Quickly and carefully remove the stinger.
- Create a paste containing baking soda and water to the site of the sting.
- Use a cool washcloth or ice pack to relieve the swelling.
- Give program puppy Benadryl, typical dosage is 1mg per pound.
- Continue to monitor the program puppy and ensure they have access to fresh water and stay hydrated.

Prevention

- Be aware of surroundings, if you notice a wasp nest, beehive, swarm, or bees/wasps on the ground avoid the area.
- Do not allow the program puppy to venture into flowers or bushes.
- Do not leave program puppy in any outdoor area without supervision.

Allergies

Program puppies can suffer from a variety of allergies and can at times suffer from multiple types of allergies.

Common Causes

- Food.
- Fleas.
- Environmental allergens such as pollen, grass, dust, and mold.

Common Symptoms

- Itchiness
- Swelling
- Hives
- Rashes
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chronic ear infections
- Runny eyes
- Green discharge in eyes

When to See a Veterinarian

- When the program puppy is exhibiting severe allergic reactions.
- Continuous scratching begins creating a wound or is persistent.
- Symptoms last for more than a few days.

Treatment

- The program puppy will need to be seen by a veterinarian before determining the cause and treatment.

Prevention

- Ensure program puppy is current and stays up to date with their flea and tick prevention.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Bathe the program puppy regularly to remove allergens from their coat.

Puppy Acne

Puppy acne will present red bumps or pimples around the muzzle, chin, and lip area.

Common Causes

- Inflammation
- Damage and/or trauma to the skin
- Allergies
- Bacterial infection

Common Symptoms

- Red bumps
- Pustules or pimples
- Swelling
- Cracked/bleeding wounds.
- Scabs

When to See a Veterinarian

- To diagnose and treat puppy acne, you will need to have the program puppy seen by a veterinarian.

Treatment

- Benzoyl peroxide wipes such as Douxo.
- Oral steroids to treat inflammation.
- Antibiotics to treat bacteria.

Prevention

- Clean bowls and toys regularly.
- Remove and dispose of damaged toys or bowls with rough edges quickly.

Ear Infection

Ear infections can be pretty common in puppies, especially if the program puppy enjoys being in the water as much as possible.

Common Causes

- Allergies
- Bacterial infections
- Yeast infections and moisture
- Excess wax buildup
- Ear mites

- Fleas

Common Symptoms

- Head shaking
- Scratching at ears/itching
- Red & inflamed ears
- Sensitive ears
- Bad odor
- Discharge
- Crusty or scabbing ears

When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy has an ear infection, you will want to have them seen by a veterinarian. The veterinarian will then determine what is causing the ear infection and where the infection is located (outer ear, inner ear, and middle ear). They will perform a physical evaluation, look inside the ear, assess the pain level, and may decide to culture some samples from the ear. In extreme cases, they may want to take x-rays or biopsy of the ear(s).

Treatment

- Veterinarians will either apply an ointment that only needs to be applied once, or they will prescribe an ointment to be used at home. In most cases they will also prescribe an ear cleaner.
- In extreme/chronic cases, the veterinarian may choose to surgically remove the ear canal.

Prevention

- Keep ears dry after swimming and bathing.
- Clean ears regularly with a dog ear cleaning solution. Massage the cleaning solution into the ear, you can then use a cotton ball to wipe the inside of the ear flap. Do not push the cotton ball down into the ear, you could push debris down further into the ear.

Warts

Not only can warts be unsightly, but they are also highly contagious and can be spread from dog to dog very easily. It is important to correctly identify them quickly to help prevent them from spreading to other dogs in your home or in your neighborhood.

Common Causes

- Papillomavirus- different variants will affect different parts of the body.

Common Symptoms

- Warts in or around the mouth
- Warts in or between toes
- Warts can look like the head of a cauliflower, be inverted with a caved in center, or can look irregular and scaly. Sizes of the warts can also vary.

When to See a Veterinarian

- When there are large amounts of warts or are big enough in size to cause complications eating, drinking, or walking.
- If warts become open and bleed.
- If warts do not clear up on their own within 2 months.
- If program puppy has other underlying medical conditions that may suppress their immune system.

Treatment

- In most cases, warts should clear up on their own within 1-2 months.
- If they do not clear up on their own, your veterinarian may recommend antibiotics, antiviral medications, or medications to help boost the immune system.

Prevention

- Warts are highly contagious and pass easily between dogs. Not only are they highly contagious, but they can also live on surfaces or in environments for weeks. So, it is very important to not allow the program puppy to play with other dogs who have warts. Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- If puppies do develop warts, keep them from interacting with other dogs until the warts have cleared.

Fever

Puppies and dogs have a normal temperature range from 99.5-102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. To take a program puppy's temperature use a dog specific rectal thermometer, lubricate the thermometer with petroleum gel, gently and calmly thread your left arm under the puppy's stomach near its rear legs then reach back over the body to hold the tail erect. Once puppy is calmly and gently restrained, insert the rectal thermometer about one inch into the rectum and hold for about 60 seconds or until the thermometer indicates the temperature.

Common Causes

- Bacterial infection
- Viral infection
- Fungal infection
- Infected wound
- Ear infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Abscessed or infected tooth
- Reaction to a vaccine
- Ingesting toxins

Common Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Shivering
- Vomiting
- Nasal discharge
- Red eyes
- Warm ears
- Warm/dry nose
- Coughing
- Loss of appetite

When to See a Veterinarian

- If the program puppy's temperature reaches 103 degrees Fahrenheit, then call the vet. If the temperature reaches 106 degrees, that is a medical emergency, and the puppy must be taken to the vet immediately.

Treatment

- Try to entice the program puppy to drink water and stay hydrated, do not force them to drink.

- You may attempt to lower the program puppy's temperature by applying cool water to their paws and around their ears. You may also wipe down their coat with a cool damp towel.
- Continue to monitor their temperature regularly and if symptoms continue or worsen, have them seen by a veterinarian.
- **NEVER** give them human medications without consulting a veterinarian first as most fever reducing human medications are highly toxic to dogs.

Prevention

- Keep program puppies healthy by ensuring their vaccinations and medications are up to date.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.

Conjunctivitis

Also known as pink eye, conjunctivitis can be very contagious depending on the type the program puppy has. Bacterial conjunctivitis can also be zoonotic, meaning contagious to other species from animals to humans.

Common Causes

- Allergies
- Viral infection
- Bacterial infection
- Scratch or trauma to the eyes
- Blocked tear ducts
- Tumors
- Entropion (rolling inwards) or ectropion (rolling outwards) eyelids

Common Symptoms

- Redness and swelling of the eye
- Itching
- Pain or discomfort
- Squinting
- Excessive blinking
- Discharge
 - Yellow/Green- indicates infection
 - White/Clear- indicates allergies
- Hair loss around the eyes
- Nasal discharge
- Lethargy

When to See a Veterinarian

- For any eye infection or trauma it is important to have the program puppy to the vet to determine the cause and treatment. If infections or trauma to the eye go left untreated, they may cause permanent damage.

Treatment

- For conjunctivitis caused by allergies, your veterinarian may recommend a sterile saline solution to flush the eyes, eye drops, or ointments.
- For bacterial conjunctivitis, the veterinarian may opt for topical antibiotics and/or anti-inflammatory medications.

- For entropion, ectropion, or other eyelid/eyelash abnormalities, the veterinarian may recommend corrective surgery.

Prevention

- Keep program puppies healthy by ensuring their vaccinations and medications are up to date.
- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- If your program puppy has conjunctivitis, ensure they do not interact with other dogs to keep it from spreading.

Urinary Tract Infection

While UTI's may be common in puppies, they can also be very dangerous. It is important to be able to spot the symptoms early and call the veterinarian as soon as you are able.

Common Causes

- Inverted vulvas
- Bacterial infections
- Fungal infections
- Kidney disease

Common Symptoms

- Frequent urination
- Urinating in small amounts
- Pain or discomfort while urinating
- Straining to urinate
- Bloody or cloudy urine
- Potty accidents in home
- Fever
- Continuous licking of the vulva or penis

When to See a Veterinarian

- Difficulty or inability to urinate and when there is blood present in the urine are considered medical emergencies and the program puppy will need to be seen by a veterinarian immediately.
- For all other symptoms, call your veterinarian and schedule an appointment for the program puppy to be seen. The veterinarian will most likely need to collect a urine sample to culture to determine treatment.

Treatment

- The veterinarian will most likely prescribe an antibiotic that targets the specific bacteria found in the culture.
- The veterinarian may recommend a dietary change.
- If UTI's are being caused by an inverted vulva, and depending on the severity of the inversion, the veterinarian may recommend waiting for the female to go into heat which could naturally correct the vulva. If the vulva does not correct naturally after a heat cycle, or the vulva is severely inverted, corrective surgery may be required.

Prevention

- Encouraging the program puppy to drink more water.
- Cleaning water dishes regularly.
- Inverted vulvas may need to be wiped after urination depending on the severity of the inversion.
- Cranberry supplements may be recommended if UTI's are a common occurrence in the program puppy.

Worms

There are multiple types of parasitic worms all of which are highly contagious and easily transferrable to other dogs, animals, and humans.

Common Types of Worms

- Roundworms
- Hookworms
- Whipworms
- Tapeworms
- Heartworms

Common Causes

- Drinking contaminated milk from the mother while nursing.
- Ingesting contaminated soil.
- Ingesting infected prey.
- Ingesting infected fecal matter.
- Ingesting or getting bitten by an infected mosquito, flea, or tick.

Common Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Blood in stool
- Intestinal blockages
- Pneumonia
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss
- Anemia
- Coughing
- Inability to exercise for long periods of time.
- Nutrient deficiency
- Seeing what looks like small grains of white rice in stool or near the anus.

When to See a Veterinarian

- When dealing with worms it would be best to take a stool sample to your veterinarian so they can determine what parasite they are dealing with and how to treat that specific parasite.
- When dealing with heartworms a blood test, ultrasound, or x-ray may be needed for confirmation.

Treatment

- Most likely, your veterinarian will prescribe an oral worming medication that targets the specific worms that are causing the infection.
- In cases where heartworm is present, the veterinarian may prescribe oral medications and antibiotics. Dietary changes may be made and in extreme cases diuretics or heart medication may be prescribed.

Prevention

- Keep the program puppy healthy and up to date with their vaccines, heartworm, and flea and tick preventatives.

- Keep program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Clean up feces promptly.
- Do not allow the program puppy to ingest small animals.

Giardia

Is a common parasitic infection that can affect both pets and people. Most commonly found in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, public water supplies, wells, swimming pools, water parks and spas.

Common Causes

- Drinking stagnant/contaminated water.
- Eating contaminated feces.
- Eating items in contact with contaminated feces like grass or sticks.

Common Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Weight loss
- Change in coat's appearance.

When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy may have Giardia, you will need to call your veterinarian for an official diagnosis. They will most likely request you bring in a fresh fecal sample to be tested.

Treatment

- In most cases, your veterinarian may prescribe a wormer such as fenbendazole or metronidazole to administer for 3-10 days.

Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Do not allow the program puppy to eat feces.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, small streams, or other bodies of water.
- Promptly clean up and dispose of feces to prevent spreading it.

Coccidia

Coccidia is also another common parasite mostly found in animal feces or on surfaces in contact with contaminated feces.

Common Causes

- Ingestion of infected feces.
- Ingestion of something in contact with infected feces such as soil, grass, sticks, etc.
- Ingesting rodents or other small animals that are infected.

Common Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Abdominal pain or discomfort.

When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy may have Coccidia, you will need to call your veterinarian for an official diagnosis. They will most likely request you bring in a fresh fecal sample to be tested.

Treatment

- Most likely your veterinarian will prescribe an antibiotic such as Albon, or in tougher cases, ponazuril or toltrazuril.

Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs and/or puppies. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Do not allow the program puppy to eat feces.
- Do not allow the program puppy to ingest rodents or other small animals.
- Do not allow the program puppy to drink from stagnant puddles, ponds, lakes, small streams, or other bodies of water.
- Promptly clean up and dispose of feces to prevent spreading it.

Ringworm

Despite the name, ringworm is not actually a parasite, but rather a fungal infection. Ringworm is zoonotic, highly contagious, and the spores can remain active for up to 18 months.

Common Causes

- Coming into contact with an infected animal, or item touched by an infected animal such as furniture, food and water bowls, bedding, carpeting, etc.

Common Symptoms

- Hair loss in circular patterns.
- Dry & brittle coat.
- Red raised rashes, scales, or lesions.
- Oozing lesions.
- Scales or dandruff in the coat.
- Itchiness.
- Rough and/or brittle nails.
- Darkened skin near the infection.

When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy has ringworm, you will need to contact your veterinarian for a diagnosis. They will most likely take a sample of the skin and coat to culture.

Treatment

- The veterinarian may prescribe:
 - A topical cream or ointment
 - Medicated shampoo
 - Anti-fungal oral medications
- They will also recommend that you decontaminate your home and test any other animals living in the home.

Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs, puppies, and other animals. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Keep the home environment, toys, bowls, bedding, collar, leashes, vests, and other items cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Canine Influenza

Canine influenza is a contagious upper respiratory infection also known as the dog flu.

Common Causes

- Coming into contact with another infected dog or item such as food bowls, collars, toys, surfaces, etc.

Common Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Runny/watery eyes
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever

When to See a Veterinarian

- If you suspect the program puppy has canine influenza, you will need to call your veterinarian. In some states, veterinarians will be required to report the case.

Treatment

- Currently there are no cures for canine influenza. However, if the program puppy has a fever, the vet may recommend an anti-inflammatory medication to help reduce the fever.
- Keep the program puppy hydrated, and isolated from any other dogs in the home until they are fully recovered.

Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs, puppies, and other animals. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Keep the home environment, toys, bowls, bedding, collar, leashes, vests, and other items cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Wounds

There are many different ways the program puppy could receive a wound as they are often curious about their environments and other animals. It is very important to never leave the program puppy loose and unsupervised in any space. If you cannot keep an eye on the program puppy, it is best to secure them in their crate.

Common Causes

- Trauma to the skin

Common Symptoms

- Bruising
- Hair loss
- Infection, redness or swelling.
- Pain or discomfort
- Bleeding

When to See a Veterinarian

- If the injury fully penetrated or punctured the skin.
- If the injury becomes inflamed, infected, or abscesses.
- If the injury covers a large portion of the program puppy's body.

Treatment

- For minor wounds you will want to:
 - Stop the bleeding (if any) by taking a clean towel or cloth to the wound and applying light pressure.
 - After the bleeding has stopped, clean the wound with warm water and pat dry.
 - Remove any debris with sterilized tweezers.
 - Then apply a non-stinging antiseptic solution such as chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine.
 - Apply a triple antibacterial ointment containing bacitracin, neomycin, and polymyxin B. Do not use any products containing corticosteroid like hydrocortisone.
 - Wrap the wound and/or put an e collar on the program puppy and keep them from licking or fussing over the area.
- For deeper wounds or punctures, take the program puppy to the vet for treatment.

Prevention

- Keep the program puppy away from unvaccinated, unhealthy dogs, puppies, and other animals. Avoid common areas like dog parks, dog boarding or day care centers, training or grooming centers that do not require dogs and/or puppies to be properly vaccinated.
- Keep the program puppies leashed at all times in unsecured areas.
- Do not leave the program puppy unsupervised outside, even if in a fenced area.
- Do not allow program puppies to be left alone unsupervised with children.
- Do not allow the program puppy to interact with new dogs before introducing them properly in an unfamiliar space. When program puppies are playing with other dogs, make sure there are at least two toys per dog and one person per dog. Pick up any toys or items that puppies start arguing over.