



WOLF
MERRICK
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

New Puppy
Owner
Information Kit

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Congratulations on the new addition to your family and home! There is a lot of excitement when you first bring home your new puppy, but there is also a lot to learn about general care for your new dog. The doctors at Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital know that there is an enormous amount of information regarding care of a dog, and at times, all this information can be overwhelming. We have compiled some general information in the following pages to help you become a more understanding and informed pet owner.

Contact Information

Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital
4415 52nd Street
Kenosha, WI 53144
Phone (262) 652-4266
Fax (262) 652-9266
General email wolfmerrick@wolf-merrick.com

Hours

By appointment
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday...8am-7pm
Wednesday, Friday...8am-5pm
Saturday...8am-1pm




Doctors


Dr. Richard Hendrickson
Dr. Lorene Rockwell

Emergencies


For after hour emergencies call...



Animal Emergency & Treatment Center
1808 E. Belvidere Road
Grayslake, IL 60030
(847) 548-5300





Animal Emergency Center
2100 W. Silver Spring Drive
Glendale, WI
(414) 540-6710



Animal ER of Kenosha and Racine
4333 S. Green Bay Road
Racine, WI
(262) 553-9223

Payment Policy



Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital accepts cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Payment is required at the time services are rendered. You may qualify for a payment plan through Care Credit, a veterinary expense credit card you can apply for through our office. (See page 17 for more details)


VACCINATIONS


Dogs are continually exposed to a variety of diseases. Many of these diseases are hardy viruses, which can withstand extreme environmental conditions. As you may know, there is no effective treatment for viruses in animals or people! Because of this, viruses are the number one infectious killers of our pets.

Fortunately, the vaccines we use are highly effective at preventing most viral and many bacterial diseases. Due to the nature of your dog's immune system, the age at which your pet receives its vaccines and the timing of the vaccines are very important. In general, puppies require a series of at least two or three vaccines depending on their age and breed. When the initial "puppy shots" are complete, yearly boosters are required to maintain your dog's immunity against these deadly diseases.


All dogs should be vaccinated against the following diseases:

DHPP:

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- Distemper A viral disease that initially causes a respiratory infection then progresses to infect the nervous system
 - Hepatitis A viral disease that infects the liver
 - Parvovirus A severe viral infection that affects the intestines and sometimes the heart. It causes severe vomiting and bloody diarrhea and is often fatal.
 - Parainfluenza A virus that causes a respiratory infection



Leptospirosis: A bacteria that can cause kidney and liver failure. It is found in the environment and is transmitted through the urine and feces of rodents and other small mammals and livestock. Humans can also contract this disease.




Bordetella: A bacteria that causes "kennel cough", a highly contagious infection of the windpipe and airways of the lungs. This vaccine is administered via a squirt in the nostril of your dog.

Rabies: A deadly virus that infects the nervous system and can be transmitted to humans.



All dogs involved in outdoor sports, camping, hunting, and hiking in woods or fields, should be additionally vaccinated against...



Lyme: A disease that infects the joints. It is caused by a bacteria and is transmitted via the bite of a tick. All dogs involved in outdoor sports, camping, hunting, and hiking in woods or fields, should be vaccinated.

The typical vaccination schedule for a puppy is as follows:

Next Due:

_____	At about 8 weeks old	DHPP (1 st of 3)
_____	At about 12 weeks old	DHPP (2 nd of 3), Lepto (1 st of 2), +/- Lyme (1 st of 2)
_____	At about 16 weeks old	DHPP (3 rd of 3), Rabies, Bordetella, Lepto (2 nd of 2), +/- Lyme (2 nd of 2)

After this initial booster series, your dog should be examined annually. After the first year, DHPP and Rabies vaccines are recommended to be given every 3 years. All others are recommended to be given annually.

FECAL EXAM / DEWORMING

It is not uncommon for puppies to be born with roundworms or hookworms. Initially, your puppy or kitten should have at least two fecal exams. Thereafter, the stool should be checked at least once yearly during your pet's annual physical. This test should be performed for both indoor and outdoor pets!

Due to the high incidence of intestinal worms in puppies, it is important to routinely "deworm" all puppies. If your puppy has not been dewormed, medication will be prescribed. Since pets can carry parasites other than worms that are not affected by deworming medication, we recommend that two separate stool samples be checked before we consider your pet free from intestinal parasites.

Contrary to popular belief, most intestinal parasites, including worms, cannot be seen in your pet's stool. The best way to detect parasites is by a "fecal flotation" technique using a microscope. Depending on this laboratory result, anti-parasite medication may be prescribed.

HUMAN HEALTH CONCERN – Dogs and cats can be born with, or contract roundworms or hookworms at any time in their life. These two parasites can potentially infect humans. Children should be taught the importance of cleanliness when playing with puppies and kittens. Ingestion of contaminated feces is necessary for roundworm infections, while hookworms can penetrate the skin and cause disease. Check your pet's stool regularly. The year round use of HEARTGARD (heartworm preventative) prevents infestations with these worms while preventing against heartworm disease.

NUTRITION

Each dog has different nutritional requirements and no one food is best for every puppy or dog. We recommend feeding a premium brand puppy food (such as Hill's Science Diet, Eukanuba, Iams) until your dog reaches 8-10 months of age. After which, we recommend to introduce adult maintenance food of the same brand.

FEEDING A LARGE BREED PUPPY

For **large breed dogs** (dogs with adult weights over 60 pounds) such as Labradors, German Shepherds, and Rottweillers, we recommend feeding the premium foods formulated especially for large breed puppies. These foods are marketed as "Large Breed Growth" foods. Since large breeds are prone to hip dysplasia, it is important to limit growth rates during the first year of life. Rapid growth rates have been shown to increase the severity and incidence of hip dysplasia in dogs that are genetically predisposed to the disorder. Several foods are formulated for large breed puppies to help prevent them from growing too rapidly. Some of these brands include the following:



*Eukanuba – Puppy - Large Breed
Nutro – Large Breed Puppy

*Science Diet – Large Breed Puppy
Purina Puppy Chow – Large Breed

*Recommended by Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital

HOW DO I SWITCH MY PUPPY'S FOOD?

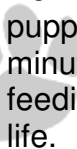
It is best to do this over a period of one week. Mix the two diets and gradually increase the amount of the new food.



SHOULD I WATER MY PUPPY'S FOOD OR MIX CANNED FOOD WITH IT?

Small and toy breed puppies less than 10 weeks of age sometimes need to have their food moistened to make it easier to chew. We generally recommend feeding dry dog food since it is better for your pet's teeth, more cost effective, and less likely to cause obesity. Canned food is optional and is best used as a treat rather than as the bulk of the diet.

HOW MUCH AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD I FEED MY PUPPY?



How much to feed depends on the size and age of the puppy. In general, puppies can usually be allowed to eat as much as they will consume in a 20-minute feeding period. After this time, the food should be taken up until the next feeding. Puppies generally need three meals a day for the first 10 to 12 weeks of life. After this, two meals per day are usually adequate. Some dogs may be allowed to "self-feed". Self-feeding means that you just keep dry food in the bowl at all times and allow your dog to eat as desired. If you do allow self-feeding, it will be necessary to watch carefully to ensure that your pet does not over-eat and become too heavy.


CAN I GIVE MY PUPPY TREATS?

Yes! However, feeding your pet treats should always be kept to a minimum since they are high in calories and not very nutritious. Treats should be used mainly as training aids and rewards for good behavior. Fruits and vegetables are tasty snacks. Some dogs seem to enjoy apples, bananas and carrots. Dog biscuits can also be given. You may want to break them into pieces, especially for smaller dogs.


SHOULD I GIVE MY PUPPY VITAMINS?

Good question and we do not know the exact answer. The medical benefits of excess vitamins are still unknown. Too much vitamin supplementation can cause disease as well as not receiving enough vitamins. Generally, if your puppy is on a good quality diet, vitamin and mineral supplements are unnecessary since they are adequately provided in the food. Please check with us prior to giving any other dietary supplements.

HEARTWORM DISEASE




Heartworm disease affects dogs, and sometimes cats, whereby worms develop in the heart chambers and major blood vessels associated with the heart. These worms are about the size of angel hair pasta and are transmitted by the bite of a mosquito. This is a potentially life threatening disease that interferes with the normal blood flow from the heart, and, if left untreated, can result in congestive failure of the heart and other organs.



Kenosha county and Southeast Wisconsin have an extremely high infection rate! It is imperative to test all dogs over the age of 6 months once a year, and place them on heartworm prevention medication. A heartworm test is a simple blood test that identifies those dogs infected with heartworms before they show any outward signs of disease. The prognosis for treatment is much better when the disease is detected early.

There are a variety of different heartworm prevention medications we can prescribe for your dog. They are:

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- 1) **IVERHART** - a chewable treat given once a month at home. This also prevents your dog from intestinal parasites, roundworms and hookworms. *Brochure available.*
 - 2) **REVOLUTION** - applied as a few drops of liquid to the skin on the back of the neck once a month at home. This also protects against fleas. *Brochure available.*

We would be more than happy to discuss which preventative is best for you and your dog.




FLEAS

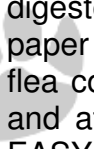
Fleas are blood-sucking parasites that prefer blood of dogs and cats instead of people. However, if an animal is not present at feeding time, the flea will bite a human. The flea season begins around April and continues throughout the summer until freezing weather in autumn. Your dog is likely to become infested from simply spending time in the backyard.

Flea prevention is very important to keeping your puppy or dog healthy and happy. Fleas can cause considerable irritation to your dog. Additionally, they can cause skin infections and transmit tapeworms to your pet. Once infested, your dog will infest your home and other household pets with these parasites when he/she comes indoors.

****Remember, it is much easier on you and your pet to prevent against fleas rather than to eliminate an infestation****

Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital will send you a notice each spring to remind you to start your dog on flea preventative. We prescribe the following flea preventatives:

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- 1) **FRONTLINE** – a topical liquid applied to one spot on your dog's skin. This top spot can also help prevent against ticks. One application lasts up to 2 months for flea control and is water-resistant. *Brochure available.*
 - 2) **REVOLUTION** – a topical liquid applied once a month to one spot on your dog's skin. This product also prevents against heartworm disease. *Brochure available.*
 - 3) **K9 ADVANTIX** - a topical liquid applied once a month to your dog's skin. This product prevents fleas, ticks and mosquitoes from biting your dog. *Brochure available.*
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The most likely place to find fleas on a dog are the hindquarters, base of tail, abdomen, and groin area. Many times no fleas are seen but only tiny, black granules that resemble black pepper. This material is flea feces and consists of digested blood. To distinguish this material from dirt, smudge it on a wet, white paper towel. If you see a reddish-brown color, your pet has fleas! A complete flea control program requires the pet(s) and house be treated at the same time and at regular intervals if you expect to control a flea problem. There is NO EASY WAY to solve flea infestations. The flea season is worst in August, September and October and we recommend using preventative from May 1st to the first hard frost (or about November 15th).



BEHAVIOR

Socialization

Socialization is the process during which the puppy develops relationships with other living beings in its environment. The first few months of your puppy's life are critical for social development. If a puppy does not make social contacts, especially during the 6-12 week old period, it may grow up to develop irreversible fears and anxiety that can lead to timidity or aggression. To prevent this, it is very important that your puppy has frequent, positive experiences with everyone and everything; it meets during these early months. Some simple tips for socialization are:

- 1) Enroll in a puppy obedience class.
- 2) Take your puppy on short car rides.
- 3) Bring your puppy to visit the veterinary hospital when you are just picking up food or a prescription. If he/she visits us at times when he is not getting treated, trips to the vet may be less stressful later.
- 4) Introduce your puppy with several other dogs. Make sure these other dogs are friendly and healthy. Please limit socialization to only a handful of other dogs until your dog is finished with its vaccination series. Once finished with all initial vaccines, you may choose to allow your pet access to a variety of additional dogs.
- 5) Pass out treats to many different types of people to give to your puppy. Examples are children, the mail carrier, men with beards, a person in a hat, a person in a wheelchair or with a stroller, a person on a bike, people in uniform, and people of different races. Make your puppy sit before meeting new people and receiving the treat.
- 6) Leash walk your puppy in a crowd, such as outside a movie theater.
- 7) Get your puppy acclimated to children such as at a playground.
Remember, the more your pup is acclimated to children at a young age, the less likely that it will grow to be a dog that may bite children.

When socializing your puppy, praise confident behavior! Try not to soothe him if he acts fearful. This will be viewed as praise and may reinforce the anxious behavior. Physical punishment such as nose thumping may create a fear biter. If your pup becomes anxious, remove her from the situation and start with something less intimidating.

Establishing Yourself as Leader

The owner(s) should take the role of pack leader. Dogs are descendants of wolves and have a pack mentality. Their family is their "pack". Dogs prefer that their owner assume the position of leader. This is less stressful to the dog and

will result in a calmer pet. Understanding your dog's instincts will help you prevent him from taking control and becoming unmanageable or aggressive later. To secure the position as leader, you must:

Make your dog "work" for its food. Make your puppy sit for its food and treats. Children should participate as leaders too - have them make the puppy sit while they feed them. Your dog should learn that nothing comes for free. Initiate play and "win" at games. For example, don't finish a game of tug of war with the dog in possession of the tug toy. Some additional tips for establishing your leadership are:

- 1) Teach your puppy early to give up a favorite toy or bone to you and others in the household. Offer a treat in exchange to teach him this.
- 2) Teach you puppy the word "Move" or "Watch out." Don't go around him.
- 3) Do not allow the puppy to sleep up on the bed or lie on the couch, especially if he is showing signs of dominance or aggression.
- 4) The leader should be able to groom the puppy whenever they choose; brushing, bathing, trimming nails, cleaning ears, and brushing teeth. Starting early helps the puppy to accept grooming better.

Destructive Chewing

- All puppies chew; it is a normal behavior. This is how they investigate and discover their environment and entertain themselves. A judicious amount of supervision or confinement will be needed during his/her first 9-12 months.
- Put everything out of reach that is dangerous, expensive, or irreplaceable.
- Buy a variety of safe dog toys with differing shapes and textures. Rotate the use of these toys so that the pup feels he/she is getting a new & different toy. Whenever your puppy is chewing on something inappropriate, scold him/her with a firm "No" and replace it with a suitable chew toy.
- Lavish praise on your puppy every time it chews on the appropriate toy.
- Do not allow your pup to chew on old shoes, socks, stuffed toys, and any other objects that are similar to those objects you don't want chewed.
- Do not scold or punish your dog if you do not catch him in the act and never swat or spank your puppy as this may create additional problems.
- Remember, chewing is a natural and normal behavior. Be patient, this behavior is eventually outgrown.

Obedience


Dogs of all ages and sizes benefit from obedience training. A trained dog will be a happier pet, will be more confident in new situations and will behave better at home and in public.

The sooner you start training, the quicker your dog will learn. Even 8-week-old puppies can be taught to sit and some can learn even more. To teach your puppy how to sit, move a treat over the puppy's head (not too high or he will jump for it). As his nose goes up, push the rump down (if necessary). Say, "sit" as he goes into this position and give him the treat. You can also use your puppy's feedings to start teaching him to sit. Offer the food only after he has sat down for a few seconds. Use a lot of praise!

The commands stay, down and come can also be taught at this young age. To teach down, start with a sitting position. Hold a treat in front of the puppy's nose, and then move it down to the floor next to the pup's paws. As the pup slides into the down position say "down" and give the treat.


Teaching your puppy to stay is very challenging - puppies love to follow people! Start in the sitting position. Extend your palm toward the puppy and say, "stay". Wait one second then calmly praise and give a treat. Repeat. Increase the time and distance of the stay each time, gradually.

To teach your puppy to come, hold up a treat and say the puppy's name. As he approaches, wave your hand toward your chest and say, "come". Give the treat, quickly take a few steps back and repeat a few times.




Some training tips are:

- Keep training sessions brief so that your puppy does not get too tired and end up confused.
- Trade negatives for a direct command. (Instead of saying "No! Stop!" tell the puppy what you want him/her to do "Sit! or Stay!").
- Always praise good behavior.



To train your pup to walk on a leash, choose a lightweight leash and a flat buckle collar. Clip the leash to the collar and follow the puppy where he wants to go for a few minutes then release. If your puppy is excitable leashed, put it on in the yard when he is intent on heading back to the house. Keep your puppy at a brisk pace while walking if he intends to chew the leash. Use a halter collar if necessary such as a GENTLE LEADER collar (*brochure available*).



Choke collars are an acceptable training tool but they are not needed for these initial in-home lessons. We recommend that these collars be used primarily for training classes and that they be used no sooner than 12 weeks of age in large breed puppies and 16 weeks of age in small breed puppies.

Here are some additional resources to help you with obedience training and behavior:


Puppy Primer. P. McConnell, Ph.D. **Available at Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital**

Beginning Family Dog Training. P. McConnell, Ph.D. **Available at Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital**

How To Raise a Puppy You Can Live With. C. Rutherford and D. Neil, Alpine Publications, Loveland, Colorado, 1981.

The Art of Raising a Puppy. Monks of New Skete, Little Brown & Co., Boston, 1991

We strongly recommend structured dog training classes. Here are some local trainers that offer puppy classes as well as more advanced dog training:



DogDom International
Dog Training/Instruction
10105 32nd Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
(262) 942-1860

Deana Noonan
Paws for Companions
(847) 872-1366




Foster's Training Center
1080 White Road
Antioch, IL 60002
(847) 838-0523

WAG
7705 Industrial Court
Spring Grove, IL 60081
(815) 363-0467 or www.wagagility.com



***NOT ALL OF THESE FACILITIES ARE NECESSARILY ENDORSED BY
WOLF MERRICK ANIMAL HOSPITAL.***

CRATE TRAINING YOUR PUPPY



A puppy's cage or crate not only prevents behavior problems (chewing, house soiling, destructiveness, etc.) but it also serves as a home or den for the puppy. Crate training is neither cruel nor unfair to the puppy. Canines have a "denning" instinct. In the wild, a canine mother will excavate a den in which to whelp and raise her puppies. Mother keeps this den immaculate and teaches the puppies to eliminate outside of the den as soon as they are mobile enough to do so safely. Because of this denning instinct, using a crate can give you an

advantage in housebreaking your puppy. Here are some helpful hints that will help in this process.

- 1) Choose a crate/cage that is just large enough for the puppy to stand turn-around and lay down in. You may use a crate/cage that you can partition as the puppy grows bigger (large breeds).
- 2) Do not leave water in the crate with the puppy while house breaking. This can lead to excessive water intake and excess urination.
- 3) Do not rescue the pup if he/she is crying in the crate especially if it is the first time in the crate. This teaches the pup that crying will “get me out of here”. We do not want to reward this behavior.

HOUSETRAINING

- Establish a regular feeding schedule. Put the food down for only 20 minutes, 2 to 3 times daily at the same time every day.
- Take your puppy outside to eliminate as soon as it wakes each morning, after meals, after it drinks, after play, before and after confinement, and anytime it sniffs, circles, or whines.
- Always go out with your puppy. Guide it to the same area to eliminate and enthusiastically praise it while he/she eliminates.
- The puppy must be watched 100% of the time until it has gone 4 consecutive weeks without an “accident”.
- If the puppy soils in the house:
 - Scold it with a loud “No”, but only if you catch him/her in the act.
 - Never scold your pup after the act.
 - Never strike your puppy with your hand, a rolled newspaper, or anything else.
 - Never rub your dog’s nose in the “mistake”. Physical punishment may actually slow down the housetraining process and could contribute to more serious behavioral problems in the future.
- Thoroughly clean up the soiled area.

SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Spaying is the removal of the female dog's reproductive organs (ovaries and uterus). Neutering is the removal of a male dog's testicles. Both procedures are performed under anesthesia.

WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

Spaying or neutering your dog is good for you, your dog, and society. "Fixing" your pet eliminates unwanted and messy heat cycles in females and reduces

roaming and fighting in male dogs. Your dog's behavior will not change nor will your pet get overweight as a result of the surgery.

Your dog will benefit from the surgery in several ways. Neutering male dogs eliminates the possibility of testicular cancer and reduces the chance of anal tumor(s), hernias, and prostate disease.

Breast cancer is the most common female dog cancer. The chance of this cancer is virtually eliminated if a female is spayed before its first heat cycle. Also in females, the chance of uterine and ovarian cancer, and life threatening uterine infections, are completely eliminated with spaying. Spayed and neutered dogs are also less likely to bite their owners.

Fixing your pet is also good for society. Each day **70,000** puppies and kittens are born in the U.S. Each year, **8 million** of these pets have to be euthanized because there simply are not enough homes for them. In only six years, one female dog and its offspring can be the source of **67,000** puppies!

WHEN SHOULD THE SURGERY BE PERFORMED?

The best time to have your dog fixed is between the ages of 5 and 7 months. This is before the first heat cycle in females and before unwanted sexual behaviors have started in male dogs. Older pets can also be safely spayed or neutered.

MICROCHIPPING YOUR DOG

A microchip is a tiny device about the size of a grain of rice that can be inserted under the skin of a pet with a simple injection. Once implanted, this chip can be scanned with a device that encodes a serial number. This serial number provides for accurate identification of the dog or cat, as well as the name, address, and phone number of its owner. The majority of humane societies, shelters, and veterinary facilities can scan incoming pets for the presence of a microchip. In the case of lost, or impounded pets, it significantly improves the chances of finding the pet's rightful owner.

The use of microchips to provide individual identification for cats and dogs is the preferred method of positive identification. Unlike a tag or collar, it cannot fall off or be removed. We can implant a microchip in your puppy or kitten at the time of spay or neuter, during regular vaccinations, or on any outpatient appointment. *"HOME AGAIN" brochure available.*

GROOMING

Regular grooming of your dog is essential to good health. Puppies should be taught early to tolerate brushing, nail trims, bathing and ear cleaning. Don't allow puppy to bite at or play with the brush, comb or other grooming tools. Praise puppy when he/she stands still and is co-operating with your efforts. Be straightforward and firm when puppy wiggles, fights, or otherwise attempts to control the grooming session. It is important that you be consistent and persistent with your little canine pal about getting groomed. To desensitize your puppy to touch, try massaging ears and toes while you watch television.

BATHING

Many owners ask how often a dog can or should be bathed. The answer is, "As often as necessary if the right products are used." With young dogs, avoid using harsh, human, or medicated shampoos unless you are instructed to or do so by your veterinarian. Use a mild shampoo that is made for pets. Emollient or colloidal oatmeal shampoos have the least likelihood of causing dry or irritated skin.

Before bathing your dog, thoroughly brush out dead coat and deal with any mats that have formed. Make sure you rinse thoroughly as well, not rinsing off all shampoo residues can cause skin irritation. Make sure your dog is allowed to dry in a warm, draft-free area.

EARS

Check your dog's ears at least once a week for the presence of debris and/or odor. Routine cleaning can be expected with Basset Hounds, Cocker Spaniels, Golden and Labrador Retrievers, and many other breeds such as Poodles, Bichons, and Schnauzers with hair in ear canals. Use an ear cleaner to break up the debris in the ear canal by filling the canal with cleaner and gently massaging at the base of the ear. Wipe out the outer ear with cotton balls (not Q-tips). If you notice a foul odor, excess debris, or if ears appear red and inflamed, please call to schedule an appointment. Do not clean or medicate the ears until the veterinarian has had an opportunity to identify the cause of the problem.

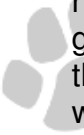
DENTAL CARE

Regular brushing and regular dental cleanings are just as important for dogs and cats as they are for humans. All too often, our pet's dental needs are overlooked. Untreated teeth can cause serious problems in the overall health of a pet.

Periodontal disease is the number one dental problem in dogs, and cats often develop cavities below the gum line, which may be hard to detect. As in humans, abscessed teeth or periodontal disease can affect other parts of the body. In dogs and cats, it can cause heart and kidney disease. We urge you to start a dental program for your pet. Annual dental exam and regular dental cleanings are important to your pet's good health. Equally important is home dental care, such as brushing your pet's teeth three times per week. With patience, many dogs will let you brush their teeth. Another way of keeping tartar off of teeth is to give C.E.T. chews and prescription diets engineered to help keep teeth cleaner.

CHEW TOYS

Virtually anything considered a "chew-toy" has potential to cause harm. Some can cause tooth fracture and/or gastrointestinal obstruction. Hard toys such as natural and nylon bones, large rawhide bones and dried cow hooves present a greater risk of dental fracture. Use the "hammer test", if you can drive a nail through dry wall with your treat, your dog could injure his tooth with it. Instead we recommend rawhide chews (name brands assure quality control) and Kong toys used under supervision. Anything that can be ingested can cause an obstruction. All toys should be given under direct supervision, any toy can be harmful.



PET HEALTH INSURANCE

Most people start wondering about health insurance for their pet when it's too late, after they find that they could really use it. Today, in veterinary medicine, we have technologies that allow us to diagnose and treat diseases in our pets like never before. From fiber optic endoscopy to total hip replacements and from advanced arthritis care to cancer treatment, we can do amazing things for our family companions. Unfortunately, many pet owners are unable to pursue these advanced diagnostic and treatment options due to cost and many pets that could otherwise be diagnosed and treated, are not.

Fortunately there are a number of different insurance options available for your pet, including plans that will cover vaccinations and routine care! Below are several insurance companies that offer pet insurance plans, not necessarily endorsed by Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital. Please contact them directly for information.

Embrace Pet Insurance	800-511-9172	www.embracepetinsurance.com
The Hartville Group Inc.	800-807-6724	www.petshealthplan.com
 Pet First Healthcare	866-937-PETS	www.petfirst.com
Pethealth Inc.	877-738-4584	www.petcareinsurance.com
Pet Partners Inc.	866-725-2747	www.akcphp.com
Petplan Insurance	800-268-1169	www.petplan.com
Pets Best Insurance	877-738-7237	www.petsbest.com
Veterinary Pet Insurance/VPI	800-USA-PETS	www.petinsurance.com
 Vetinsurance Ltd.	800-930-1019	www.vetinsurance.com

PAYMENT POLICY with Care Credit

Full payment is required at the time services are rendered.

Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital accepts cash, check, debit card, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. We also accept CareCredit.


A deposit of at least 50% must be paid for all hospitalized patients or procedures. Only exceptions are: spay, neuter, routine dental cleaning.

Personal Checks:


We cannot hold checks for later deposit. All checks received will be deposited daily. We must see a picture ID of the person writing the check each time.

There will be a \$35.00 service fee charged to your account for all returned checks. And a \$20.00 service fee charged for any redeposited check.

CareCredit:




CareCredit is a credit card for veterinary expenses that you can apply for at Wolf Merrick Animal Hospital. This credit card can be used for minor purchases such as pet food or annual vaccinations, but is additionally helpful to have for any major unforeseen veterinary expenses that sometimes occur.



The benefit of having CareCredit is that there are interest-free payment plans available* and payments as low as \$10 per month. 3 to 6 month interest free plans are available when at least \$300 is charged to the account during one transaction. In most cases the approval process takes only 15 minutes. If approved, the account can be used the same day.

Please ask us for an application or apply online at www.carecredit.com.
Brochure available.



*Minimum monthly payments of 3% or \$10. If balance is not paid in full within the specified interest-free period, APR applies and is subject to increase or decrease. Further details available upon request.

