

## FOSTER AGREEMENT/RELEASE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree to accept a position as a Foster/Volunteer for the Legacy Humane Society. I release all liability to LHS for any actions performed hence forth, and therefore willingly and knowingly take responsibility for my actions as a Volunteer for LHS.

I agree to the following:

- ✓ To provide my services as a Volunteer/Foster for LHS without any expressed or implied promise of salary, compensation or payment of any kind.
- ✓ To comply with the ethical and humane treatment of all animals in my care while serving as a volunteer for LHS.
- ✓ Read and understand, to the best of my knowledge, the policies and procedures of LHS and will comply with the standards set forth by the group.
- ✓ I understand and agree to assume risk while performing any and all activities associated with LHS.
- ✓ My position as a volunteer will not result in any employment based benefits—which include but are not limited to: workman's compensation, insurance, stock options, vacation or sick time.
- ✓ LHS takes in battered, abused, neglected animals of which the temperaments and overall demeanor is unknown. I will not hold LHS accountable for any injuries I receive while handling animals during the course of my volunteer duties.
- ✓ I understand that if the dog I am fostering is returned for any reason what so ever, that I will take the dog back into my home as a foster until he/she is adopted.
- ✓ To not hold LHS accountable for any damage to my property while serving as a volunteer/foster.
- ✓ I understand that if my foster(s) for LHS need to leave my home immediately and LHS has nowhere for the dog to go; whereby resulting in my need to find a home for the dog outside of the LHS adoption program, I will reimburse LHS for 100% of the cost LHS paid for the vetting on the dog(s) I am fostering. Before turning the dog(s) over to the location agreed upon by the LHS Board, I will receive a signed letter from the LHS Board confirming the surrendering of the dog into my custody.

✓ In electing to foster a dog for LHS, I understand that the dog is my responsibility until he/she is adopted. If I can no longer care for the dog and LHS has agreed to keep the dog in the adoption program, then I will give LHS a minimum of 14 days to find an alternative location for the dog. If the dog needs to be boarded during those 14 days, I agree to pay for the cost of boarding. If the dog is ruled a danger to society by the LHS board, then I will support the decision of the board to have the dog humanely euthanized.

✓ Failure to comply with any or all of the obligations as outlined in the Foster Agreement/Release, or for any reason whatsoever, while performing my duties as a Volunteer/Foster with LHS, it is LHS's sole discretion to immediately terminate my services.

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the terms and conditions of the foregoing Volunteer Agreement and will comply with the policies as described above.

Volunteer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LHS Board Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
LHS BM's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Fostering Adult Dogs

Welcome to the Team! LHS (the name was later changed in Aug 2014 to Legacy Humane Society to serve a broader community of pets in need) was started in 2008 by Molly Peterson, Kevyn McGee, Tiara Mason, Eric Peterson and Lisa Weinstein (then Cornish) under the name Collin County Humane Society. Just a hand full of volunteers with a dream and some big plans! Our first year we adopted 563 dogs/puppies and grew to a program with over 80 foster homes and 100+ volunteers. We are honored to have you join our team and look forward to working with you to help save many doggies in the DFW area!

**BEFORE YOUR FOSTER-** Purchase a dog tag with LHS and your phone number that will be used on ALL foster dogs.

- Make sure the tag and collar are on the Dog at all times
- There are exceptions for puppies that are with their mother and still nursing.

**FIND YOUR FOSTER!**

- This can be thru LHS, local shelters, Craigslist, etc.
- Molly or Tressa (and sometimes other volunteers) sends out listings of dogs from area shelters, as well as random dogs in need. **WE HAVE NOT QUALIFIED THESE LISTS or DOGS!** Please be sure to contact the shelter if you have any direction questions about the dog. i.e. -is it dog friendly, age, good with cats, etc.
- Try to evaluate the dog the best you can, and speak to your Foster Mentor before you pull the dog. **ONLY MOLLY OR TRESSA CAN AUTHORIZE A DOG PULL.** If you pull a dog without authorization, we will not put it in the LHS program.
- Foster homes cannot have more than five adult foster dogs at one time!
- Fosters cannot adopt their first **THREE** fosters under any circumstances.
- If the dog is at a shelter, let Molly/Tressa know the dog's name/ID and shelter location and she will tag the dog and make sure all paperwork is in order.

- Once you have the animal, email/scan a copy of the records to Johnnie Lee ([johnnielee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnnielee@sbcglobal.net)) the animal's name, ID, shelter location and date and location of S/N. If you fax the shelter info (LHS fax: 866-803-5997) email Johnnie to notify her that it has been faxed so she is aware to check the online inbox. .
- Please be sure to ask the shelter for all vetting or spay/neuter paperwork. *Note: the person who pulls a dog from the shelter is legally responsible to ensure the S/N paperwork is completed and turned back into the shelter. The person who pulls a dog from a shelter could have a warrant issued if S/N paperwork is required, and not returned. Johnnie will take care of this for you if the above protocols are followed. :)*

**\*\*DO NOT go to the vet without an Authorization letter from a Board Member. Emergency vet visits are NOT ALLOWED unless you have consent from Board Member\*\***

### **VETTING THE DOG:**

- You can always visit our website's Helpful Info page for a current list of vets that we work with: <http://legacyhumanesociety.org/helpful-info/helpful-links/>, or are listed below with the appropriate vet liaison. Standard Vetting for all adult dogs (6+ months) includes: Rabies, DHPPV(C), Heart Worm testing and Spay/ Neuter (S/N). Please check all shelter paperwork and verify if any vetting has been done. Please note vetting done and needed in email to your mentor and appropriate Vet Liaison for vet authorization (see listing below) . Please check over dog thoroughly after you obtain the dog and check for any other issues that need to be included on the Vet authorization. MOST VETS ARE BY APPT ONLY! Drop offs must be arranged with vet if they will allow it, and pick up is same day for most basic vetting needs (vaccs/HW test or illness).
  - Is the animal covered in ticks?
  - Any Skin Issues?
  - Eye and Ear Health?
  - Adults (6+ months) need to have DHPPVC, Bord, Rabies, Heartworm Testing, Spay or Neuter and LHS Microchip if a chip isn't already implanted.
  - Microchipping typically takes place when the pet is altered - microchips are on site at the vet's offices. If the pet is already altered, a microchip can be implanted at time of vetting. Please be sure to make the mentor aware if the dog is needing a chip outside of their spay/neuter appointment. Enter the Microchip info into portal under Microchip ID# and choose the Microchip Manufacture (typically AVID)

## **LHS VETS:**

- Tri-County (Anna) – Email *Molly for vet auth*. Used primarily for dentals and ear surgeries.
- Vet Dent Dallas (Dallas) – Email *Molly for vet auth*. Microchip will be inserted there. All All Care/Animal Hospital of Valley Ranch (Coppell/Irving) – Email *Tressa for vet auth*. Microchip will be inserted there.
- Family Pet Clinic of Grapevine (Grapevine) – Email *Tressa for vet auth*. Microchip will be inserted there.
- The North Colony Animal Clinic (The Colony) – Primarily only used for broken bones and will S/N at the time of the surgery to repair the break. Email *Tressa for vet auth*. Microchip must be picked up prior to appointment and brought to the vet for implant on the day of surgery.
- Stonebridge (McKinney) – Email *Vanessa for vet auth*. Microchips are at the vet and will be implanted by the vet on the day of surgery.
- Animal Hospital on Teasely Lane (Denton) – Email *Stacy Hague for vet auth*. Microchip must be picked up prior to appointment and brought to the vet for implant on the day of surgery.
- Parker Animal and Bird Clinic: (Plano) Email *Molly for vet auth*. Only used for parvo/ Distemper and illnesses. Do not schedule with PABC with out discussing with Molly and your Mentor. Microchipping not applicable.
- Rockwall Animal Adoption Center (Rockwall) – Email *Molly for vet auth*. Microchips are on hand and will be implanted by the vet on the day of surgery. Rockwall Animal Adoption Center only does S/N, HW test, microchip and boosters on Tuesday and Thursday.

## **Heartworm Prev, Dewormer and Fleas**

Heartworm Prevention, Dewormer and Flea Prevention is NEVER purchased from our Vets. HW prevention and dewormer is given to you by your mentor or obtained from Tressa/Molly.

- Do not give the animal HW prevention until after HW testing has shown Negative.
- Basic Flea Infestation: wash the dog with Blue DAWN dish detergent as soon as you get your dog home. Wash the dog starting with face first, and work your way down fully washing all parts with Dawn covering dog for a minimum of 10-12 min. This will kill all fleas and eggs on your pet. If you have a double coated dog with severe infestation, discuss this with your mentor.
- Contact your mentor if you pet was not dewormed at the shelter for deworming.

## Getting your Animal on Portal and on the INTERNET!

- Be sure to take photos of your animal and upload to Pet Portal within 24 hours of obtaining the animal.
- Your foster mentor (board member) will add you to Pet Portal. You will receive an email from Portal with your password. We do not have your password. You can change it to something that you will remember. If you lose it, log into the portal and follow instructions to retrieve your password.
- Log onto [petadoptionportal.com](http://petadoptionportal.com)
  - Click 'Add a pet' on left column
  - Complete on-line profile- be sure to include age, weight and breed.
  - Writing Bio: MUST include animal's breed, age, weight, HW status and medical info including all routine services covered by LHS as well as any special needs the dog has (ie dental, ear, diabetes, skin issues, etc).
  - Give as much detail as possible with training level i.e. crate trained or housebroken, friendly with dogs or cats, friendly with kids, etc. Do not write an overly long bio..people don't read them. Add link to LHS website for application. Need Help? Refer to other bios or ask mentor.
  - Input Microchip # as soon as you have it.
  - DO NOT choose your name under Foster drop down unless you are ok with the public reaching out to you directly before completing an application.
  - Pet Portal Definitions:
    - Age
      - Baby - 0-5 mo
      - Young - 6 mo- 1 year
      - Adult - 1 year to 5 years
      - Senior - 6 years +
    - Weight:
      - Small (0lbs-25lbs)
      - Med (26-44lbs)
      - Large (45lbs- 99lbs)
      - XL (100lbs +)
  - Add photos and be sure to hit SAVE

## Reviewing Adoption Applications

- Applications will be e-mailed to you and or your mentor from Molly.
- For your first couple fosters- your foster mentor will walk you through process, and most likely screen for you and copy you on all steps. Once you are on your own, copy your Mentor to ALL emails until you are comfortable screening applications on your own.
- Molly may add comments at the top of the app in bold to help guide fosters in screening the application.
- Once an application is received:
  - If you have time to screen-email applicant with questions.
  - If you DO NOT have time at that moment, then email the application the following: “Thank you for completing an application. We are reviewing all applications at this time and will contact you within the next three days if we feel he/she is the right match for your family.”
  - If you DO NOT LIKE THE APP and do not want to pursue, email the app the following: “Thank you for completing an application to adopt from LHS. We are currently reviewing all applications for [DOGS NAME] and will get back to you by 5pm today. If no further contact is made, we wish you the best of luck in finding your new furever family member. We also encourage you to visit your local shelters as they are always overflowing with dogs needing good homes. We thank you for your support with rescue.”
- Vet check: Call the vet listed on the application. Identify yourself as volunteer of LHS, and that you need to verify that [Joe Applicant’s] dogs are UTD on shots, S/N, and on HW prevention.
- Consider the needs of the family, as well as the needs of the dog while evaluating the application. ANIMAL NEEDS COME FIRST.
- If they *have* a vet reference, complete vet check. If their pets are current, the home check can be waived.
- If they have *only ever had cats*, then we recommend doing a *home check* no matter what the vet reference looks like.

- If they *have* a vet reference and their *pet(s) are not S/N or are not current on vaccinations/HW prev* email them the following: “Hello, I contacted your vet for a reference and they do not have your dog as Spayed/Neutered. Did you maybe have these services done elsewhere?”
- If they *do not have* a vet reference within the last 12 months, a home check will need to be scheduled.
- You can do the home check, Or, you can review the list of home check contacts and contact the reps accordingly

<http://www.LegacyHumaneSociety.org/directory/>

- If they rent their home or live in an apartment ask for a letter from landlord/leasing office and or a copy of their lease agreement w/ the following:
  - They can have a dog
  - Any breed/weight restrictions
  - Pet Deposit Y/N, what is it and when is it due
- **THEY CANNOT MEET THE DOG UNTIL THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (SUCH AS LEASING AGREEMENT INFO) HAS BEEN RECEIVED.**
- After vet check has been completed or when Home Check is being arranged
- When your Mentor is helping you screen the first foster, she will copy you on all of the emails to the applicant.
  - Are their questions about where the dog will be kept at night or during the day?
  - Does this dog have tendencies that need to be addressed (ie, separation anxiety, darting out the door, counter surfing, etc)
  - Is the time away from home adequate for the dog’s needs?
  - Is the fence adequate (i.e. small dog + wrought iron fencing = n
- We do not prefer the use of electric fencing, but if your foster stays by people and is not a dog that wanders, then we can make an exception. This is up to the fosters discretion.



- Ask your Mentor if you have other questions. First time fosters can do a conference call with Mentor for the initial visit.

Schedule a visit with the adopter and animal if the questions/screening goes well

- Animal Visit can be in either your home or their home.
- Please discuss benefits of both with your Mentor.
- Evaluate the potential adopters at the visit. Refer to home checklist for questions to ask.
- Home Check list is on the directory [www.LegacyHumaneSociety.org/directory/](http://www.LegacyHumaneSociety.org/directory/)
- Family members must be at the first visit or home check to ensure that everyone is on board w/ the adoption. This includes roommates and elderly family members that live at the home. Use your discretion with teen children.
- Small Children under the age of 12 years *must be present* for the home check.
- If the children under the age of 12 are in the home, AND the family does not currently have a dog comparable in size to the dog that is being adopted, a dog comparable in size **MUST** be brought to the home check to ensure how the children will interact with a dog that size.
- **HOLDING DOGS** for adopters: LHS DOES NOT hold dogs for anyone unless they have paid the deposit. If an adopter cannot take immediate possession of the dog due to personal illness, vacation, etc., then the adopter has the following options:
  - Pay one half( ½) the adoption fee as a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit, and waive the five (5) day trial period once they take possession of the dog. Balance of adoption fee paid when they take possession of the dog. Adoption fee is non-refundable at any time if dog is held. If they change their mind and do not adopt dog, the deposit is forfeited to LHS. Adoption contract must be completed at time of deposit. Foster will ‘line-out’ the five day trial period in the contract.
  - Adopter can take their chances and wait till they are able to take possession of the animal, however, the animal will still be up for adoption to other potential adopters, and they risk the animal being adopted out to someone else.

- OVERNIGHT VISITS for potential adopters- LHS does NOT allow overnight visits with potential adopters. All contracts and fees must be paid before an animal can go to the adopters. Please refer the adopter to the refundable five day trial period.

## **Finalizing Adoption**

- Contract can be found on our website under the “Adopt/Foster” tab
- \$200 for adult dogs, \$250 puppies up to six months, \$150 Seniors over 5 years.
- Be sure to go over the contract prior to signing
- Point out the return policy-Point out that all animals MUST be returned to LHS. NO EXCEPTIONS. We do this to keep animals from going back into the shelter system.
- Discuss the 5 day Emergency Vet policy during the trial period
- Give adoption Packet to adopter along w/ ALL of the dogs vet records and tags (rabies AND microchip)

## **Adoption Events**

Please check the Events tab on our website for upcoming adoption events. Animals can be brought to adoption events if in adoptable condition.

- You will receive an email notification the Wed before an event. If you wish for your dog to attend, please be sure to confirm with the Event Coordinator sending the email that there is space.
- Absolutely NO sick or unvaccinated animals. If the dog has a snotty nose, coughing, lethargic, diarrhea or vomiting, do NOT bring to event. If in doubt, keep them home.
- If the dog is in the 30 day window post HW treatment, he/she cannot attend any events.
- Be sure to bring all vet records with the animal in a clearly marked file or envelope. Be sure to pick up that file from the event if the animal is not adopted.
- You are not required to stay, but are welcome to. We can help you find a ride for your foster from surrounding volunteers.
- **Mail the completed contract and check to: Christine Phillips 209 Skyline Dr, Trophy Club, TX 76262**

- Email Molly, your mentor and Christine the name of the dog/puppy, name of the adopter, amount received for the adoption and date of the adoption
- Go to [www.Legacyhumanesociety.org/directory/](http://www.Legacyhumanesociety.org/directory/) for a list of email addresses. Save this link on your computer- it also has the home visit contact lists.

## Benefits of fostering

- After six months of fostering, and the attendance of three events (of any kind) AND three meetings, LHS will vaccinate your personal animals at NO cost.
- NOTE THAT THIS BENEFIT RE-SETS EACH YEAR (i.e. you cannot meet all of the requirements in year one and get boosters for your pets for the years to come).
- Microchipping done for personal animals at cost (\$10).
- Saving the life of an animal and giving them a second chance....priceless!

## Emergency Contacts:

*Please note that we keep our phones next to us at night in case of an emergency. **YOU MAY NEED TO CALL SEVERAL TIMES TO GET PAST SILENT PHONE RULES?** If it is between the hours of 9pm and 8am and it is not an emergency, email us instead of calling/texting as you will wake up our families.*

ANY questions or concerns should be directed to one of the following:

Molly Peterson - President 214-240-9292

Tressa Broadhead - Vice President - (Mentor Southwest) 972-489-5073

Karen Creel - Secretary 214-662-4792

Christine Philips - 817-946-3255

Vanessa Rengifo – Advisory Board Mentor (Northeast) 469-766-4152

Stacy Hague – Advisory Board Mentor (Northwest) 972-603-5239

Tracey Ratcliff – Advisory Board Mentor (Southeast) 214-597-0563

Heather Bass – Fundraising Coordinator 214-729-0283

Your Mentor \_\_\_\_\_

## FAQ's

**My foster dog is at my house...now what?** Take it out and show it where to potty...this will help to keep accidents at bay, if the dog is somewhat potty trained. While outside, take some pictures...remember, these need to be “adopt me pics”. Then, show the dog its kennel...and let it stay there for a little bit, so it gets comfortable. While dog is in kennel, write up a bio about the dog and upload to the portal. Email Johnnie Lee with the animal's name, ID, shelter location and date of S/N

**Bios—Huh?** Remember, these are the advertisements for your foster, and need to show the dog in the best light, but be honest. Don't oversell your foster. That will get them returned. Feel free to be creative, and put some fun in it...but be sure to include all of the info as noted above in section 5 “Getting your Foster on the PetPortal.” Some of my ugliest dogs were adopted quickly because of cute photos and a creative bio.

**How do I introduce my dogs to the foster?** Initially, keep them separated with very short always supervised meetings. Make introductions to new animal outside. Keep the foster on a leash (you don't have to *hold* the leash, but keep it on them in case redirection is needed) as well as your dogs for doggie meet and greets, just in case someone doesn't get a long, you have a way to get them away from each other. Look for posturing and signs of aggression from everyone, quick high tail wags do not mean everyone is happy...those are signs of interest so don't confuse those with play bows. Look for stiff body movements, teeth, and listen for growling. Any signs of these, and remove the dogs from each other. Try to stay away from treats, bones or toys during introductions because dog can direct their insecurities on one another if these items are present. It can be best to introduce the dogs one at a time. NEVER leave your dogs unattended with the foster until you are absolutely positive all will get along. A crated dog is a safe dog.

**How should I handle meal time?** Food was a scarce resource for a lot of abandoned or abused dogs...this can lead to some food aggression, but can usually be trained out. Always feed fosters in their crates, so we avoid any confrontation between the foster and your dog. After you have had the dog a while and have introduced the foster dog to yours, you can try giving out treats with all dog present...that will highlight any food aggression issues so you can work with those.

**How do I do a vet check?** Call the vet listed on the application, and politely identify yourself, and ask if they have time to do a vet check. “Hi, I am [FOSTER’S NAME] with Legacy Humane Society. One of your clients [APPLICANT’S NAME] completed an application to adopt a [DOG TYPE] from us. We just needed to verify that their current dog/cat [if you know dogs name, say it now] is current on vaccinations/HW prev and spayed/neutered?” I also ask if they have any other animals that I haven’t asked about. Sometimes they do! We need to verify the information they gave us about the current animals is accurate. They are typically more than happy to tell you, and sometimes give you more information than you ask for. “She is very sweet, took great care of Benji during his last days, etc.” Sometimes they are not so glowing!

**What should I do if the foster and my dogs get into a fight?** Humans need to remain calm. Try to distract them by making a loud noise (bang trash cans together, hit sticks together) or spray them with water. Keep trying to distract them with whatever you can. If you are alone, DO NOT get in the middle of it. The dogs may mistake you for the other dog, and you could get bit. If two are more people are present and nothing else works, pulling the dogs by their hind legs will break up a fight, BUT ONLY USE THIS TECHNIQUE IF THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE PRESENT TO PULL BOTH DOGS HIND LEGS AND NOTHING ELSE HAS WORKED. It will not hurt the dogs, but it will throw them off balance and they will break their bite. Remember small, supervised visits for a while till you are positive they all get along.

**What if my foster dog needs medical attention?** Go to the phone directory list ([www.LegacyHumaneSociety.org/directory/](http://www.LegacyHumaneSociety.org/directory/)) and contact your mentor, the LHS President or VP. DO NOT take the dog into care without speaking to at least one of the board members. You may not be reimbursed if you do not get prior authorization. If the dogs life seems in danger (hit by a car, large gaping wound, etc.), please take the dog to the Denton ER and call us. Keeping the Pres and VP phone numbers in your cell phone are a good idea!

**What should I do to prepare my foster to be adopted?** House training your foster dog is very important, since we require all dogs to be kept as inside pets. Crate training will help you with that. All dogs are to be crate trained (or working on it), and sleep in a crate at night while at foster homes. You don’t want to lose out on a great home if you let the dog sleep with you and the new parents want the dog to sleep on the floor. Leash training and socialization on walks are always helpful, and will tell you more about the dog so you can inform potential adopters. Basic obedience is I always a plus!

**What if a potential adopter cannot afford to pay the adoption fee?** We do not discount fees upon request. While LHS is in the business of helping dogs find new homes, we do need to raise enough monies to afford the medical expenses of all the animals in our program. Even if your foster didn't cost LHS the full cost of adoption, another foster may have cost us double or triple! Also, please consider that they are getting a fully vetted, altered, healthy animal. If they were to go to the animal shelter and do the same thing, it would have cost them a lot more. Furthermore, we need to be sure they have the financial means to pay for annual vet visits post adoption. Politely inform them that the average cost of every animal in our program is \$300, which far exceeds our adoption cost.

**What if the dog I am fostering is not getting any apps after a couple of weeks?** Take new pictures, and write up a fresh bio. You probably know more about the dog by this time, and can give more info anyway. The dog will probably be more relaxed by this time too, and won't have the 'deer in headlights' look it had on day one. TAKE PICTURE OF THE DOG OUTSIDE. These are the best pics as natural lighting shows the dogs beautiful coat and gets rid of the glowing eyes seen in pics taken inside. If you are not able to get them to events, touch base with the Event Lead on the email that week and ask for assistance with transportation.

**What if my foster gets an application that doesn't really fit the dog, or the applicant doesn't exactly 'stack up' to the LHS adopter profile?** We recommend avoiding telling them why they were denied to avoid an argument and to avoid teaching them how to better complete their next application. Just let them know "Thank you for completing an app for [DOG'S NAME], at this time we feel another family would be better suited for his/her needs. We wish you all the best in your search for a new addition to your family." If they do not meet the adoption criteria (animals not altered or UTD on shots) contact the VP or your Mentor and have her get in touch with the potential adopters to verify the information. Sometimes, the vets are wrong.

**How can I socialize my dog, outside of the immediate family?** First, remember that foster dogs need be leashed at all times if not in a confined area (fenced area, inside house, etc). Feel free to take the foster for walks or out to dog parks once you have a better feel for its personality, and are comfortable with the dog in public areas. Use caution with the socialization of older dogs. We want them to learn how to be around people and other animals, but dogs that have been confined to someone's back yard their entire lives could be overwhelmed by too much stimulation.

The pics taken, dog is clean and ready to go! Now what? When you cannot supervise your foster, keep him in his crate. He's nervous, probably a bit scared and not feeling all too well from the recent S/N. ALWAYS watch your foster around open doors, as they are often door Bolters. Be sure the ENTIRE family is vigilant about the doors and socialization. If you have kids, teach them that the dog needs some help learning to live with you for this time period, and that supervision will keep everyone from getting in trouble. BUT...be sure to teach him the rules of the house, and some time spent training the dog will be helpful for adoption. Take the dog on family walks with your dogs after you know they all get along. Hugs and pets go a long way!



## Canine Intestinal Parasites

Many dogs coming from shelters will have some type of intestinal parasite. If your dog is licking his anus, he may have worms. A complete listing of intestinal worms can be found further in the manual, but here are worms in a nutshell!

### Worms

There are four primary types of worms that can infect your dog. They are Hookworms, Roundworms, Tapeworms, and Whipworms.

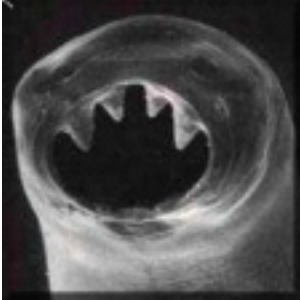
Tapeworms- caused by Fleas. Looks like pieces of moving rice in their poop or on their anus. If your dog had fleas, it has tapeworms. Contact Tressa/Molly for tapeworm dewormer.

Hookworms- Rarely seen in poop. Can cause anemia if the infestation is severe. HW meds will deworm the adults of Hooks.

Roundworms- looks like spaghetti in the poop. HW meds will deworm adults of Rounds

Whipworms-Rarely seen in poop. Can cause weight loss and anemia. HW meds deworm adults of Whips.

### Hookworms



Hookworms attach themselves to the wall of the intestine and feed on the dog's blood. Adult worms lay eggs that are passed with the dog's feces. In 1-3 weeks the eggs hatch and the larvae are released. Dogs can be infected by ingesting the larvae from contaminated soil or water, eating infected wildlife, through the skin, from nursing, or by being passed from a pregnant bitch to her puppies.

Infected dogs may show signs of anemia (pale gums, weakness), black, tarry stools, dull dry hair, and weight loss.

Monthly heartworm preventatives (Interceptor, Sentinel, Heartgard Plus, Iverhart Plus) are effective at controlling hookworms. Treatments include Drontal Plus, Panacur, and SafeGuard.

### Roundworms

The adult roundworm is about 3 – 4 inches long and look like spaghetti. The adult lays eggs that are passed with the infected animal's feces (dog, fox, cat, mice and other small rodents) where they become infective after 3 – 6 days. An infected animal can pass millions of eggs in its feces each day. The eggs of roundworms are resistant to environmental conditions and can remain in the soil for months to years.

Infected dogs may show signs of weight loss, dull coats, a pot belly, anemia, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, or cough. Puppies can be infected from mom before they are born or from nursing. Dogs and puppies can become infected from eating contaminated soil or water or eating infected wildlife.

Monthly heartworm preventions (Heartgard Plus, Iverhart Plus, interceptor, Sentinel) are effective at treating and preventing roundworms. Treatments include Drontal Plus, Panacur, SafeGuard, and others. When treating for roundworms it is important to retreat the dog after 2 – 4 weeks to kill the larvae that have migrated back to the intestine. It is also advisable to have a fecal examination on your puppy about 1-2 months after its last treatment to detect any new adult worms.

### Tapeworms



The tapeworm is flat and consists of a head and many segments with their own reproductive organs. New segments are formed and mature segments are cast off. The dried segments look like grains of rice and dried or moving segments may pass with the dog's feces while some may be seen on the dog's anus area or on the fur.

An infected dog may scoot on the floor or lick the anal area. Other signs may include abdominal discomfort, nervousness, vomiting, or in heavy infestations, convulsions.

A dog becomes infected from ingesting fleas infected from eating the tapeworm's eggs in the environment. Treating the dog's yard for fleas as well as treating the dog is recommended.

Treatments include Drontal Plus, Panacur, SafeGuard, Droncit, and D-worm.

## Whipworms

Whipworms get their name from the whip like shape of the adult worms. Whipworm eggs are somewhat susceptible to drying but can remain alive in moist soil for years and are resistant to freezing. There is no effective method for killing whipworm eggs in the soil. Pick up feces daily to prevent exposure.

A dog can be infected by ingesting food or water contaminated with whipworm eggs. When the eggs are swallowed it takes 3 months for the larvae to mature into adults and burrow into the intestinal wall. Adults lay eggs that pass with the dog's feces and must remain in the soil for about a month to mature and be capable of causing infection.

Dogs infected with large amounts of whipworms may show signs of anemia, diarrhea, weight loss, and frequent licking of the flank area where inflammation may occur due to the worms penetrating through the intestinal wall.

Monthly heartworm treatments (Interceptor and Sentinel) are effective at controlling whipworms. Treatments include Drontal Plus, Panacur, and SafeGuard.

It is advisable to adopters have a fecal examination at each yearly vet visit, and this is but another reason we require all adopted dogs to be on heartworm medication.

## Coccidia

Coccidia are small [protozoans](#) that live in the intestinal tracts of dogs and cats. They cause disease most commonly in puppies and kittens less than six months of age, in adult animals whose [immune system](#) is suppressed, or in animals who are stressed in other ways (e.g.; change in ownership, other disease present).

### How are coccidia transmitted?

A puppy is not born with the coccidia organisms in his intestine. However, once born, the puppy is frequently exposed to his mother's feces, and if the mother is shedding the infective cysts in her feces, then the young animals will likely ingest them and coccidia will develop within the young animal's intestines. Since young puppies, usually those less than six months of age, have no immunity to coccidia, the organisms reproduce in great numbers and parasitize the young animal's intestines. Oftentimes, this has severe effects.

**From exposure to the coccidia in feces to the onset of the illness is about 13 days.**

Most puppies who are ill from coccidia are, therefore, two weeks of age and older. Although most infections are the result of spread from the mother, this is not always the case. Any infected puppy or kitten is contagious to other puppies or kittens

### What are the symptoms of coccidiosis?

**The primary sign of an animal suffering with coccidiosis is diarrhea.** The diarrhea may be mild to severe depending on the level of infection. Blood and mucous may be present, especially in advanced cases. Severely affected animals may also vomit, lose their appetite, become dehydrated, and in some instances, die from the disease.

It should be mentioned that stress plays a role in the development of coccidiosis. It is not uncommon for a seemingly healthy puppy to arrive at his new home and develop diarrhea several days later leading to a diagnosis of coccidia. If the puppy has been at the new home for less than thirteen days, then he had coccidia before he arrived. If the puppy has been with his new owner several weeks, then the exposure to coccidia most likely occurred after the animal arrived at the new home.

### **What are the risks?**

Although many cases are mild, it is not uncommon to see severe, bloody diarrhea result in dehydration and even death. Coccidiosis is very contagious, especially among young puppies.

### **What is the treatment of coccidiosis?**

Fortunately, coccidiosis is treatable. Drugs such as [sulfadimethoxine \(Albon®\)](#) and [trimethoprim-sulfadiazine \(Tribrissen®\)](#) Sulfa Meds are usually used for this issue. And have been effective in the treatment and prevention of coccidia. Drug treatments of one to three weeks are usually required.

**How is coccidiosis prevented or controlled?** Because coccidia is spread by the feces of carrier animals, it is very important to practice strict sanitation. All fecal material should be removed. Housing needs to be such that food and water cannot become contaminated with feces. Clean water should be provided at all times. Most disinfectants do not work well against coccidia; incineration of the feces, and steam cleaning, immersion in boiling water, or a 10% ammonia solution are the best methods to kill coccidia. Coccidia can withstand freezing.

**The coccidia species of dogs and cats do not infect humans.**

## **Giardia**

Giardia are protozoa that live in the small intestine of dogs and cats.

**How do Giardia reproduce and how are they transmitted?** A dog becomes infected by eating the cyst form of the parasite. The Giardia in the feces can contaminate the environment and water and infect other animals and people.

**What are the signs of a Giardia infection?** Most infections with Giardia are asymptomatic. In the rare cases in which disease occurs, younger animals are usually affected, and **the usual sign is diarrhea**. The diarrhea may be acute, intermittent, or chronic. Usually the infected animals will not lose their appetite, but they may lose weight. The feces are often abnormal, being pale, **having a bad odor**, and appearing greasy.

**Can *Giardia* of dogs infect people?** This is another unknown. There are many species of *Giardia*, and experts do not know if these species infect only specific hosts. Until we know otherwise, it would be wise to consider infected animals capable of transmitting *Giardia* to humans.

**How do we diagnose giardiasis?** Giardiasis is very difficult to diagnose because the protozoa are so small and are not passed with every stool.

Cysts are more commonly found in firm stools. A diagnostic test using ELISA can be used. This test uses a very small fecal sample, and can be performed in 8 minutes in a veterinarian's office. It is much more accurate than a fecal examination.

**If we find *Giardia*, how do we treat it?** If we highly suspect infection with *Giardia*, but can not find the organism, should we treat anyway? This is often done. Because it is often difficult to detect *Giardia* in the feces of dogs with diarrhea, if there are no other obvious causes of diarrhea (e.g.; the dog did not get into the garbage several nights ago) we often treat the animal for giardiasis.

There are several treatments for giardiasis, although some of them have not been FDA-approved for that use in dogs. Fenbendazole is an antiparasitic drug that kills some intestinal worms and can help control giardia. It may be used alone or with metronidazole. Metronidazole can kill some types of bacteria that could cause diarrhea. So if the diarrhea was caused by bacteria, and not *Giardia*, the bacteria can be killed and the symptoms eliminated. Unfortunately, metronidazole has some drawbacks. It has been found to be only 60-70% effective in eliminating *Giardia* from infected dogs, and probably is not 100% effective in cats, either. It can be toxic to the liver in some animals. It is suspected of being a teratogen (an agent that causes physical defects in the developing embryo), so it should not be used in pregnant animals. Finally, it has a very bitter taste and many animals resent taking it – especially cats.

**How can I prevent my pet from becoming infected with *Giardia*?** The cysts can live several weeks to months outside the host in wet, cold environments. So lawns, parks, kennels, and other areas that may be contaminated with animal feces can be a source of infection for your pet. **You should keep your pet away from areas contaminated by the feces of other animals.** Solutions of Lysol, bleach, and quaternary ammonium compounds are effective against *Giardia*.

**Remember, *Giardia* of dogs may infect people**, so good, personal hygiene should be used by adults when cleaning kennels or picking up the yard, and by children who may play with pets or in potentially contaminated areas.

## Heart Worms

Heartworms (HW) infect dogs when an infected mosquito bites a dog. The worm takes approx. 6-7 months to grow into adulthood, and start producing offspring. Further info on the lifespan of HW is found later in the guide, but we will provide the basics here.

ALL dogs over the age of 6 months must receive a HW test from a vet. HW tests from shelters are not accepted, and we will re-do the HW test at one of our vets. IF the animal is positive for HW, LHS will treat the animal with the TWO shot series. (TWO Shots of medication, 24 hours apart). The animal will need to be dropped off in the morning at the Vet, and picked up the following evening.

Dogs undergoing HW treatment MUST stay calm for 30 days after the shots. NO walks, no play time and no stairs. It is important the animal does not elevate his heart rate.

Slight coughing is normal, but aggressive coughing or coughing up blood is abnormal. Prednizone maybe prescribed to help the dog process the worms through his system. The most critical time period is days 7-24.

Animals may be adopted out if they have undergone HW treatment within the 30 day period, if the home is educated on HW's and is a calm household.

The Animal must be re-tested 90 days after treatment to be sure the worms were all killed. Please be sure your adopter is aware of this! HW prevention pills cannot be given to the animal till after the 90 day re-test.

# Viruses

## Bordatella (Kennel Cough)

Is a virus common to dogs that have been in a shelter system. The vaccine is given every 6 months for adults. KC sounds like a barking seal, but can start as mild coughing and snotty nose. Please contact Molly/Tressa/Mentor if you suspect your animal may have KC.

## CANINE PARVOVIRUS

Is a virus common to dogs that have been in a shelter system. The vaccine is given every 6 months for adults. KC sounds like a barking seal, but can start as mild coughing and snotty nose. Please contact Molly/Tressa/Mentor if you suspect your animal may have KC.

Parvovirus is a **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** virus that attacks the intestines. The most common symptoms of this disease (the “intestinal form”) are **vomiting** and **diarrhea**. Another less common form, the “cardiac form”, occurs in very young pups (less than 8 weeks of age) and attacks the heart muscle, often resulting in sudden death.

**Parvovirus is contagious to dogs only—not to cats or people** The degree of illness could range from very mild to unapparent to very severe, often resulting in death. The disease is usually more severe in young dogs (less than 6 months of age), old dogs, Rottweilers, and Dobermans. The younger and smaller the dog, the greater the chance that it will not recover.

**Parvovirus is resistant to extremes of temperature** (i.e., it survives freezing and extreme heat) and is unharmed by detergents, alcohol, and common disinfectants. **Direct transmission** occurs by **fecal-oral transmission** and is the most common method of transmission. The virus particles can be easily spread by hands, shoes, clothing, or other inanimate objects.

The highest concentration of virus in the stool is seen when the infected dog is showing signs of illness. A dog can, however, be a source of infection to other dogs without it having observable signs of illness. Transmission can occur for at least **3 weeks** after a dog becomes infected with the virus. Parvovirus in the environment can infect susceptible dogs for **as long as 6 months** once shed in the stool.

**Clinical signs** include vomiting, fever, loss of appetite, depression, and bloody diarrhea with a **very foul odor**. Infected animals rapidly dehydrate and severe cases progress to shock and death. Early, vigorous treatment of illness caused by canine parvovirus infection can save lives.

Cardiac form (less than 8 weeks of age):

- Sudden death
- Crying, difficulty breathing, gasping for breath
- Extreme depression
- Weakness
- Unwillingness to nurse

Intestinal form (any age dog affected, but more severe in puppies):

- Depression
- Loss of appetite
- Fever (usually above 103F)
- Vomiting with or without blood
- Diarrhea with or without blood (more serious if blood present)

**Treatment** is aimed at maintaining the normal body composition and preventing secondary bacterial infection. There is **NO CURE**. Death from parvovirus results from dehydration, overwhelming secondary bacterial infection, blood loss from intestinal hemorrhage, or heart attack from invasion of the heart muscle by the virus.

Early **FLUID THERAPY** is the most important factor in treating dogs with parvovirus infection. Intravenous fluids both rehydrate the body and nourish the sick dog. Additional treatment includes prevention of secondary bacterial infection and drugs to control vomiting and diarrhea

**HOSPITALIZATION** enables us to provide the best medicine and is the best way to achieve success. With most dogs, there is at least a 70% survival rate. Length of treatment depends on the severity of disease. Most dogs have to stay hospitalized for at least 2-4 days, but may require treatment for as long as a week. Dogs that recover from parvo are often weak, making them even more susceptible to other diseases, such as distemper. **Dogs that recover from parvo continue to spread the virus in the feces for a month or longer.**

**Prevention/Control** of parvovirus by sanitation measures alone is extremely difficult because the virus is such a resistant, hardy organism and because it is so easily spread. **Contact with other dogs, and especially their stool, should be minimized.**

**Guidelines for fostering young puppies:**

1. Do not take the puppy to the front yard, park, for a walk around the block, or to pet stores. These are all places where infected dogs have been or presently are.



2. Only have the puppy around adult dogs that YOU KNOW are current on vaccinations. There should be no contact with stray dogs or dogs that you are not sure of.
3. Do not let the puppy be exposed to any other puppies. These pups could be incubating the disease (and therefore be contagious) without showing signs of illness.
4. Always wash your hands after handling any dog.

**Vaccination** is the most effective preventive measure for canine parvovirus disease. A properly immunized dog will have circulating antibodies in the blood that will destroy parvovirus following exposure. Dogs remain **HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE** to parvo until **2-4 weeks** after the last injection of the immunization series.

### **Home Care after Recovery**

Provide a clean, quiet environment and enforced rest during the recovery period. Do not encourage active play.

Keep your pet isolated from other dogs for at least three weeks.

Give all of the medication as directed. Notify the President/VP if you are unable to do so.

### **What are the signs seen with Parvovirus infection?**

There are three main manifestations of Parvovirus infection:

- Asymptomatic - No signs seen. Common in dogs over 1 year old and vaccinated dogs.
- Cardiac - This form of the disease is much less common than the intestinal form due to widespread vaccination. Severe inflammation and necrosis (cell death), of the heart muscle causes breathing difficulty and death in very young (<8 weeks) puppies. Older dogs that survive this form have scarring in the heart muscle.
- Intestinal - This virus causes extreme damage to the intestinal tract, causing sloughing of the cells that line the tract. This can leave the patient open to secondary bacterial infection. Most of the affected dogs (85%) are less than one year old and between 6-20 weeks old -- before the full set of vaccinations can be given. The death rate from infection is reported to be 16-35% in this age group.\*

*The intestinal signs include:*

- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea - usually bloody, and very foul-smelling (a characteristic odor, particular to Parvovirus infection)
- Fever

The onset of clinical signs is usually sudden, often 12 hours or less. The incubation from exposure to seeing the clinical signs varies from 3 to 10 days.

**Diagnosis:** This disease is diagnosed by physical examination and a fecal Parvo (ELISA) test. Dogs infected with Parvo typically have a low white count.

**Treatment:** There is no treatment specifically for the Parvovirus at this time. Treatment is supportive care, which includes any or all of the following:

- Oral electrolyte fluids - if the case is mild and the animal isn't vomiting
- Subcutaneous (SQ) or intravenous (IV) fluids to maintain hydration in the face of the extreme fluid losses from vomiting and diarrhea that are so typical with this disease
- Antibiotics - because the virus has potential to slough the intestinal tract, antibiotics help protect against secondary infection.

Anti-vomiting/nausea medications - to prevent further damage from vomiting and to keep the patient comfortable as possible. .

### How long does Parvo live in the environment?

The Parvovirus family of viruses are particularly long-lived in the environment, lasting anywhere from 1 to 7 months -- commonly surviving 5-7 months in an outside environment. Due to the large amounts of virus particles shed in the feces of an infected dog (shedding lasts two weeks or more after exposure) and the longevity of the virus, complete eradication of the virus is often impossible.

**Disinfection** There are many Parvovirus disinfectants on the market, but regular old bleach is still 100% effective against Parvovirus. The dilution for bleach is one part bleach to 30 parts water. This should go without saying, but to be complete, ***DO NOT use a bleach preparation on the animal at any time!!!***

## Distemper Virus

### Overview

Canine distemper is a contagious, often fatal, multi-systemic viral disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems.

Young puppies between 3 and 6 months old are most susceptible to infection and disease and are more likely to die than infected adults. Non-immunized older dogs are also highly susceptible to infection and disease.

## Transmission

Infected dogs shed the virus through bodily secretions and excretions, especially respiratory secretions. The primary mode of transmission is airborne viral particles that dogs breathe in. Dogs in recovery may continue to shed the virus for several weeks after symptoms disappear, but they no longer shed the virus once they are fully recovered.

## Symptoms

Early symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, and mild eye inflammation that may only last a day or two. Symptoms become more serious and noticeable as the disease progresses.

The initial symptom is fever (103°F to 106°F), which usually peaks 3 to 6 days after infection. The fever often goes unnoticed and may peak again a few days later.

Many dogs experience gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms, such as:

- Conjunctivitis (discharge from the eye)
- Diarrhea
- Fever (usually present but unnoticed)
- Pneumonia (cough, labored breathing)
- Rhinitis (runny nose)
- Vomiting

These symptoms are often exacerbated by secondary bacterial infections. Dogs almost always develop encephalomyelitis (an inflammation of the brain and spinal cord), the symptoms of which are variable and progressive. Most dogs that die from distemper, die from neurological complications such as the following:

- Ataxia (muscle incoordination)
- Depression
- Myoclonus (muscle twitching or spasm), which can become disabling
- Progressive deterioration of mental abilities
- Progressive deterioration of motor skills
- Seizures that can affect any part of the body (One type of seizure that affects the head, and is unique to distemper, is sometimes referred to as a "chewing gum fit" because the dog appears to be chewing gum.)

Many dogs experience symptoms of the eye:

- Inflammation of the eye (either keratoconjunctivitis, inflammation of the cornea and conjunctiva, or chorioretinitis, inflammation of the choroid and retina)

Two relatively minor conditions that often become chronic, even in dogs that recover are:

- Enamel hypoplasia (unenameled teeth that erode quickly in puppies whose permanent teeth haven't erupted yet—the virus kills all the cells that make teeth enamel)
- Hyperkeratosis (hardening of the foot pads and nose)

## MANGE

Although next to impossible to diagnose at vet, it is pretty easy to diagnose demodectic vs. sarcoptic mange just by looking and smelling the dog.

Demodectic mange does not smell, hair loss but no scabs, and does not make dog itch.

Sarcoptic mange smells funky, and at times is accompanied by secondary infection. Dogs will scratch relentlessly with sarcoptic mange, and are usually scabby along with hairloss.

### Demodectic Mange



Demodectic mange (red mange, follicular mange, or puppy mange) is a skin disease, generally of young dogs, caused by the mite. It may surprise you to know that demodectic mites of various species live on the bodies of virtually every adult dog and most human beings, without causing any harm or irritation. These small (0.25 mm) 'alligator-like' mites live inside of the hair follicles (i.e., the pore within the skin through which the hair shaft comes through), hence the name follicular mange. Whether or not Demodex causes harm to a dog depends on the dog's ability to keep the mite under control. It is generally a disease of young dogs that have inadequate or poorly developed immune systems or older dogs that are suffering from a suppressed immune system.

#### What is the life cycle of *Demodex canis*?

The demodectic mite spends its entire life on the dog. Eggs are laid by a pregnant female, hatch, and then mature from larvae to nymphs to adults. The life cycle is believed to take 20-35 days.

### **How is *Demo Mange* transmitted?**

The mites are transferred directly from the mother to the puppies within the first week of life. **Transmission of the mites is by direct contact only. The parasite cannot survive off of the animal.** Lesions, if present, usually appear first around the puppy's head, as this is the area most in contact with the mother. Virtually every mother carries and transfers mites to her puppies. Most puppies are immune to the mite's effects and display no clinical signs or lesions. A few are not immune and it is these puppies that develop full-blown cases of mange.

### **What are the signs of demodectic mange?**

The lesions and signs of demodectic mange usually involve hair loss; crusty, red skin; and at times, a greasy or moist appearance. The mites prefer to live in the hair follicles, so in most cases, hair loss is the first noted sign. Usually, hair loss begins around the muzzle, eyes, and other areas on the head. **The lesions may or may not itch.** In localized mange, a few circular crusty areas will be noted, most frequently on the head and forelegs of young dogs 3-6 months of age. In cases in which the whole body is involved (generalized mange), there will be areas of hair loss over the entire coat, including the head, neck, abdomen, legs, and feet. The skin along the head, side, and back will be crusty and oftentimes inflamed. It will often crack and ooze a clear fluid. Hair will be scant, but the skin itself will often be oily to the touch. There is usually a secondary bacterial infection. Some animals can become quite ill and develop a fever, lose their appetite, and become lethargic. Patients with generalized demodectic mange need immediate vigorous treatment.

### **How is demodectic mange diagnosed?**

Once Demodectic mange is suspected, it can usually be confirmed by a skin scraping.

### **How is demodectic mange treated?**

The treatment of Demodectic mange is usually accomplished with lotions, dips, and shampoos. Fortunately, 90% of demodectic mange cases are localized, in which only a few small areas are involved and can often be treated topically.

### **Prognosis**

Demodectic mange is not an inherited condition, but the suppressed immune system that allows the puppy to be susceptible to the mites can be

## **Sarcoptic Mange**



Sarcoptic mange, commonly known as canine scabies, is caused by a small mite. These microscopic mites can invade the skin of healthy dogs or puppies and create a variety of skin problems, the most common of which is hair loss and severe itching. While they will infect other animals and even humans, they prefer to live their short lives on dogs.

**Who gets sarcoptic mange?** Sarcoptic mange can infect all ages and breeds of dogs. While it prefers to live on dogs, this particular mite will also infect cats, ferrets, humans, and fox.

**What is the life cycle of *Sarcoptes scabiei*?** The mites usually spend their entire life on a dog. The female mite burrows into the skin and lays eggs several times as she continues burrowing. These tunnels can actually reach the length of several centimeters. After she deposits the eggs, the female mite dies. In 3-8 days, the eggs hatch into *larvae* which have 6 legs. The entire life cycle requires 2-3 weeks.

The mites prefer to live on the dog, but will live for several days off of the host in the environment. In cool moist environments, they can live for up to 22 days. At normal room temperature in a home, they will live from 2 to 6 days. Because of the mite's ability to survive off the host, dogs can become infected without ever coming into direct contact with an infected animal.

**What are the symptoms?** Usually include hair loss and severe itching especially on the elbows, ears, armpits, hocks, chest, and ventral abdomen (belly). The mites prefer to live on areas of the skin that have less hair. As the infection worsens it can spread over the entire body. Small red *pustules* often develop along with yellow *crusts* on the skin. Because of the severe itching and resultant scratching, the skin soon becomes traumatized and a variety of sores and infections can develop as a result. The itching seems to be much worse in warm conditions such as indoors or near a stove or heat vent.

**How is sarcoptic mange diagnosed?** Unfortunately, on average, only twenty percent of the infected dogs will show *Sarcoptes* mites on any given scraping. Therefore, if a dog has a positive skin scraping, the diagnosis is confirmed but a negative scraping does not rule out sarcoptic mange. Therefore, most diagnoses are made based on history and response to treatment for scabies.

### **How is SARCASTIC MANGE treated?**

Dog must be isolated from other animals as it is highly contagious! It is recommended to use gloves when handling a mange dog....I do not. Humans can get sarcoptic mange, but it cannot live long on humans and results in scratchy rash for a couple weeks and it goes away with no treatment needed, no big deal.

There are many ways to treat Sarcoptic Mange. Chemical dips are used only if the dog has an extreme case. Revolution topical heartworm preventative also treats Sarcoptic mange and can be used every two to three weeks until dog has recovered. Ivermectin can be utilized well.

Weekly baths, daily alternating of cream and spray, Revolution usually only two to three doses needed is continued until dog is healed and hair grown in.

### How is sarcoptic mange prevented?

Because your dog does not have to come into direct contact with an infected dog to contract scabies, it is difficult to completely protect him. Places where large numbers of dogs congregate are obviously more likely to harbor the mange mite.

### Can I get *Sarcoptes* from my pet?

Yes, although when humans get mange from animals, the disease is generally self-limiting, causing only temporary itching. There is a human race of *Sarcoptes*, which is transmitted from person to person.

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## Canine Heartworm Disease

When a mosquito carrying infective heartworm larvae bites a dog and transmits the infection, the larvae grow, develop and migrate in the body over a period of several months to become sexually mature male and female worms. These reside in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels. As mature adults, the worms mate and the females release their offspring (microfilariae) into the blood stream.

Offspring can be detected in the blood about six to seven months after the infective larvae from the mosquito enter the dog. The male heartworms (four to six inches in length) and the females (10-12 inches) become fully grown about one year after infection, and their life span in dogs appears to average up to five to seven years.

Microfilaremia, the presence of heartworm offspring in the blood of infected dogs, is relatively common. However, not all heartworm infections result in such offspring circulating in the blood.

The onset and severity of disease in the dog is mainly a reflection of the number of adult heartworms present, the age of the infection and the level of activity of the dog. Older dogs, and dogs with higher numbers of worms are generally found to have more severe heart and lung disease changes.

The highest infection rates (up to 45%) in dogs (not maintained on heartworm preventive) are observed within 150 miles of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from the Gulf of Mexico to New Jersey and along the Mississippi River and its major tributaries.

### Clinical Signs

The disease may have an acute onset but usually begins with barely detectable signs resulting from a chronic infection and a combination of physiologic changes. Dogs with a low number of adult worms in the body that are not exercised strenuously may never have apparent signs of heartworm disease. However, in most dogs, the heart and lungs are the major organs affected by heartworms with varying degrees of clinical signs.

### Diagnosis

- blood (serological) testing
- microfilarial detection and differentiation

### Treatments

Most dogs infected with heartworm can be successfully treated. The goal of treatment is to kill all adult worms with an adulticide and all microfilariae with a microfilaricide. It is important to try to accomplish this goal with a minimum of harmful effects from drugs and a tolerable degree of complications created by the dying heartworms. Heartworm infected dogs showing no signs or mild signs have a high success rate with treatment. Patients with evidence of more severe heartworm disease can be successfully treated, but the possibility of complications and mortality is greater. The presence of severe heartworm disease within a patient in addition to the presence of other life-threatening diseases may prevent treatment for heartworm infection.

### Adult Heartworm Therapy

LHS does a two shot Immiticide treatment. It is administered by deep intramuscular injection into the lumbar muscles. The dog must stay overnight to receive the shots over the two days.

### Aftercare of Adult HW treatment

It is extremely important to not allow exercise in any dog being treated for heartworms. Often dogs with severe infections will also require the administration of anti-inflammatory doses of corticosteroids. Post treatment, the worms die and begin to deteriorate in the heart and vascular system. They then break down and are eliminated in the blood system. In some cases, pieces of the dead worms can travel to the lungs. Dogs do not need to be isolated from other dogs, but cannot engage in active play or take walks.

**Elimination of Microfilariae**-Three months post Adult HW treatment, we start the dog on monthly heartworm prevention. The microfilariae will be cleared slowly over a period of about six to nine months.



## Bordetella

'Kennel Cough' is the term that was commonly applied to the most prevalent upper respiratory problem in dogs in the United States..

### Infectious agents involved

The most common viral agent is parainfluenza virus. This common virus will cause mild symptoms lasting less than 6 days unless there is involvement of other bacteria, as is usually the case. Most 5-way vaccines and 'kennel cough' vaccines offer some protection against this virus.

*Bordetella bronchiseptica* is the most common bacteria isolated from dogs with tracheobronchitis. Clinical signs of infections occur 2-14 days after exposure, and if uncomplicated with other agents, symptoms will last around 10 days. However, after the infection has been resolved, the affected animal will continue to shed the bacteria for 6 to 14 weeks and can spread the disease to other susceptible animals during that time. *Bordetella* is one of the agents protected against through the use of intranasal 'kennel cough' vaccines. Parainfluenza and *Bordetella* most commonly appear together in infectious tracheobronchitis, creating a disease that normally lasts from 14-20 days.

### Symptoms

The most common symptom is a dry hacking cough sometimes followed by retching. Many owners describe the cough as having a 'honking sound.' A watery nasal discharge may also be present. With mild cases, dogs continue to eat and be alert and active. Many times, there is a recent history of boarding or coming in contact with other dogs. In more severe cases, the symptoms may progress and include lethargy, fever, inappetence, pneumonia, and in very severe cases, even death. The majority of severe cases occur in immunocompromised animals, or young unvaccinated puppies.

Diagnosis -Typically just on symptoms.

Treatment -There are two treatment options depending on the severity of the disease. In the most common mild form of the disease, antibiotics may or may not be used.

In more severe cases where the animal is not eating, running a fever, or showing signs of pneumonia, antibiotics are often used.

Vaccination and prevention -The best prevention is to not expose your dog to other dogs, especially young puppies. If this cannot be avoided, then proper vaccination is the next best option. Chances are that if your dog is regularly vaccinated with a standard 5-way or 7-way vaccine, he is already being protected against several of the agents causing tracheobronchitis, mainly parainfluenza and adenovirus. However, these vaccines alone rarely provide protection against contracting the disease, although they will help reduce the severity of the disease if the animal becomes infected.

There is an injectable Bordatella vaccine, and one that is given intranasal (squirted into the nostrils). Neither vaccine will totally prevent infection with Bordatella. LHS gives the nasal usually.



More commonly, for best protection, an intranasal vaccine containing both parainfluenza and Bordetella is used. Intranasal vaccines create localized immunity that greatly reduces the incidence of clinical signs and illness. The vaccine may be used in puppies as young as 3 weeks of age, only one dose is necessary to provide protection, and protection occurs as early as 3-4 days following vaccination. There are several precautions and warnings that need to be observed pertaining to this vaccine. Some dogs will develop mild signs similar to tracheobronchitis when given this vaccine. Very often, the symptoms will last for several days and the dog will recover without treatment. Dogs that are vaccinated can also shed the virus and cause other dogs to become mildly infected and show mild signs. This shedding usually lasts less than 72 hours. In addition, it takes up to 4 days after vaccination for dogs to develop protection.

Dogs that are at very high risk are vaccinated every six months.

Human health risk

There does not appear to be a risk.