

## What is The Seeing Eye Puppy Project?

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The Seeing Eye Puppy Project, started in 1942, is a joint effort of The Seeing Eye, Inc., of Morristown, New Jersey, and the 4-H Youth Development Program. Most participants are children from 9 to 19 years of age. They use words like "fun" and "responsibility" with equal enthusiasm when they describe the experience.

And what could be more fun -- or more rewarding -- than receiving a fuzzy, new German shepherd, Labrador retriever or golden retriever (maybe even a boxer or mixed breed) to love, nurture, and teach for a year before it goes on to become the eyes for a blind person?

The first months in a dog's life are most important to his future behavior. This is the time he will be with you. To become a good dog guide, you must offer him a loving home environment. He must learn what it is like to be part of a family, to live happily with humans and to share their lives.

The Seeing Eye oversees puppy placement and provides guidance and direction concerning the puppy's development.

Raising a Seeing Eye puppy is a family project. Everyone gets involved in teaching the young dog what it is like to live in the world around him. Although one family member usually is responsible for teaching the required basic obedience commands, the pup needs lots of love, attention, discipline, and reinforcement from the whole family. Everyone is important in helping the puppy grow into a healthy, friendly Seeing Eye dog.

When the puppy leaves your home he will come to The Seeing Eye to pass some physical exams and then enter a four month training program. Toward the end of the training period, if the dog passes all his tests, you will receive a letter from The Seeing Eye, inviting you to Morristown to watch the dog and his instructor in action. This will be about two weeks before the dog goes into class with his new master. The adjustment and training period with his new blind master is approximately one month. During the last week of training, The Seeing Eye will take a color photograph of the dog in harness and send it to you.

We realize it is no easy task to give a foster home to a Seeing Eye puppy for a year and then, unselfishly, return him to fulfill his special destiny as a dog guide. You will, however, gain a great deal of pride and satisfaction from knowing you have helped make it possible for a blind person to move with dignity and independence. Based on what other puppy-raisers have told us, we know you will look back on this chapter of your life with many warm memories.

## Responsibilities

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The Seeing Eye will provide guidelines for the care and training of your project dog. The Seeing Eye, your area coordinator, and local club leader will help you follow them.

You will have opportunities:

- To take responsibility for your own project
- To work with other young people and their dogs
- To gain poise and an ability to speak in front of groups about your project

Your participation also helps The Seeing Eye by increasing public awareness, which is necessary if we are to expand the program to provide more dogs for training with blind people.

Everything you will be asked to do for your puppy will help you grow in many ways. Here is a general outline of the major responsibilities you will have to your puppy and The Seeing Eye:

1. Raise a strong, healthy dog for The Seeing Eye and learn more about what is being done to train dogs as guides for blind people.
2. Take full care of your new charge. This includes combing and brushing him every day to keep his coat glossy and clean; giving him plenty of fresh, clean water; feeding him according to recommendations from The Seeing Eye; and making sure he has adequate exercise, obedience training, and daily walks. In this way, your puppy will get plenty of exposure.
3. Keep a record of your experiences while raising your dog, including things you do together, his development and changes, and anything else that will make an interesting report on this project and provide us with insights into the dog's personality.
4. Notify your veterinarian, The Seeing Eye area coordinator and your club leader **immediately** if illness or an accident occurs.

You will receive an allowance from The Seeing Eye for your dog's food. Expect checks about the middle of the months of January, April, July, and October. Payments cover the preceding three months. Remember that the checks are to help defray the cost of food for your pup only. Some families choose not to cash their checks. If you wish to contribute this money to The Seeing Eye, please return the check. This will be a great help for bookkeeping. Veterinary expenses are charged directly to The Seeing Eye.

## Care of Your Puppy

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### **Making Friends**

When you first receive your puppy, remember that you are strangers to each other. This is the first time the pup has been separated from his brothers and sisters and from the familiar surroundings of the kennel. Naturally, the pup will feel uneasy and timid. To make him feel at home and confident in you:

- Always be gentle in handling your pup. Speak to him quietly. Take the time to show your puppy what you want him to do. When he obeys, give lots of praise and affection. When the puppy does something he shouldn't, or doesn't obey you, correct him immediately using a stern voice, saying **NO** or **SHAME**. Remove the puppy from the scene of temptation and give him an opportunity for praise.
- Keep the puppy with you as much as possible, especially when he first arrives. Puppies like being with people. By keeping him close to you, you teach him to recognize you as his friend. The pup should sleep in the same room as the family member who is mainly responsible for his training.
- Because of the increasing number of dog-nappings, as well as the danger of accidents involving cars, The Seeing Eye requires families to allow their dogs only supervised exercise periods. A family member should accompany the pup whenever he goes outside, and the puppy should be on a leash.
- If your puppy is left alone indoors, he may become bored or lonely and chew or destroy things. If your pup must be left alone, place him in a restricted area where he cannot cause damage. A crate is ideal for periods of time, as it is a very important training tool. Your area coordinator will provide one for you when they bring you the puppy. For an older puppy, you can confine him in your kitchen or laundry room, but be sure to "puppy-proof" it. Leave your pup some toys to play with and just a little water when he is still small. If you are a "working" family, arrange for someone to care for your puppy during the day. Have someone come at lunchtime to feed the puppy and take him out to empty and exercise. The name and telephone number of the person responsible for the puppy at this time must be given to your area coordinator.

### **Inoculations and Veterinarian Visits**

When your puppy arrives, you will be given an inoculation card indicating what vaccines he has received, and a list of required inoculations. Take your pup to your veterinarian or one recommended by your club leader. When the puppy has his check-up, your veterinarian should perform a fecal parasite analysis from a fresh stool sample. Give your veterinarian the letter from The Seeing Eye veterinarian, and ask that all bills be itemized and sent directly to:

Puppy Placement Administrative Assistant  
The Seeing Eye  
PO Box 375  
Morristown, NJ 07963-0375

Your puppy should be registered at the veterinarian's office under THE SEEING EYE, with your family name listed second. If there is a question about billing The Seeing Eye, have your veterinarian call 973/539-4425 and ask for our puppy placement secretary.

## Identification of Your Puppy

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When your Seeing Eye puppy arrives, you will be given an identification card that has your name as well as the puppy's name, breed and tattoo number on it. You also will receive a collar tag bearing The Seeing Eye address and telephone number. This collar tag must always be on the puppy's collar.

Your pup will be licensed in Morris Township after he has had a rabies inoculation. He is licensed in Morris Township because this is where The Seeing Eye is located. The license tag will be sent to you from The Seeing Eye shortly after the pup has reached the age of three months, and **after we have received the rabies inoculation certificate** (mentioned in Section 16, under "Rabies") from you.

Puppies placed in Pennsylvania will not receive a license from The Seeing Eye, Inc. Puppies being raised for The Seeing Eye can remain in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without a license until they are 18 months of age (Dog Law #1990-45, HB 159).

Attach the license tag securely to the pup's nylon collar. If you lose any of these items, notify The Seeing Eye immediately. We will see that you receive a replacement.

If your puppy becomes lost, give his number to your local police. Also call The Seeing Eye (973/539-4425), and notify your area coordinator and club leader. Give them the tattoo and tag numbers, dog's breed, name, age, coloring, and any other information that might make identification easier. Other methods of tracking down your puppy include contacting the news media, mail carriers, and schools. By taking these steps, the chance of having the pup returned to you is much greater.

## Housebreaking a Puppy

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Most people give a new puppy the run of the house and then complain they can't housebreak him. We suggest you confine your new pup for the first few weeks to a small area. For best results, keep the pup in the kitchen most of the time.

- When the puppy arrives, show him where you want him to empty. Always take him in and out the same door. (Take male puppies to an open area, not near trees or bushes.) Puppies need frequent opportunities to empty, but not in places where other dogs have been roaming, because they can get worms or eat other dogs' stools. The latter can become a problem; it is extremely difficult to break a puppy of this habit, and it can make him sick. Take the puppy out on leash and hold it in the area you have chosen until he empties and say **PARK TIME**. As the puppy is eliminating, gently run your hand down his back and tell him it is okay. Give lots of praise to show you are pleased and to reinforce when and where to eliminate. Keep a small, covered container and shovel handy, so you can clean the area immediately. Please remember that The Seeing Eye does not approve the use of an invisible fence collar on your puppy. They are absolutely not to be used. This type of fence does not keep other animals out and can create a misunderstanding of boundaries in a future guide.
- If your puppy has an accident in the house on the carpet, you can blot up the urine with paper towels and sprinkle white vinegar, seltzer or club soda over the area. Blot again and repeat. Cover the area with cornstarch or baking soda and leave for several hours until the powder is completely absorbed, then vacuum.
- Be prepared to tolerate having the puppy cry when he is first confined. In this sense, a puppy is no different from a baby. He is easily spoiled. If you pick him up each time he cries, you will add to your troubles. The puppy also may be frightened by thunder or sudden loud noises. At such time, a matter-of-fact, reassuring attitude is important.
- Feed the pup on a regular schedule to help him develop an eating routine, which is mandatory for a dog guide. Offer food at the same time each day (for example, 7 am, noon, and 4:30 pm), with the last meal no later than 5 pm, if possible. Give fresh water with meals or on request. If the puppy doesn't finish his meal in a half-hour, pick up his food and dispose of it. Never leave your pup's water or food down all day during housebreaking.
- Take the puppy out within a half hour of finishing his meal.
- Take the puppy into the bedroom with you at night. Put a shower curtain or piece of plastic on the floor by your bed, and cover it with a soft blanket, towel, or bath mat. Tie the pup on the shortened tie-down with just enough room to get up and turn around comfortably. You might try sleeping in a sleeping bag on the floor next to your puppy for the first few nights. Puppies cry because they miss their littermates, not necessarily because they need to go out. If your pup does have to empty during the night, he will be able to let you know. The warmth of your body will make the pup feel comfortable. Give him a few quiet toys to occupy the early morning hours.
- When the puppy has been sleeping and wakes up, take him out. Carry very young puppies out after long naps
- After the puppy has been playing, take him out.

If the pup has to empty during a walk, curb him. (Be sure he relieves himself next to the curbing on the street, not on someone's lawn.) Do not allow him to sniff other dogs' stools. Always carry a plastic bag to clean up after your pup.

## Feeding Your Puppy

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When your puppy arrives, he will be accustomed to three to four meals a day. We usually make the switch to three meals at eight weeks of age. Your Seeing Eye area coordinator will bring you a small supply of the food that you are to feed your puppy while he is with you. Offer 1/2 to 3/4 cup of puppy food at each meal. If the pup doesn't finish this amount within 30 minutes, remove the dish and don't offer more until the next scheduled meal. This prevents your pup from becoming a finicky eater and gets him on a regular schedule.

To feed the puppy, hold the bowl of food with one hand. Have the pup sit by running your other hand gently down his back and tucking him into a sit. Quietly say his name and sit as you do this. As soon as he sits, put the food down and praise him. He will learn quickly to sit for his food if you do this.

By four months of age, the pup should be ready to go to two meals a day. If this happens easily, just divide his total ration in half. Gradually increase the pup's food while maintaining him at a healthy body condition (lean, able to easily feel ribs, not pudgy) and keep him on two meals a day during the time you have him.

At one year of age, your puppy is ready for adult food. Gradually wean him from puppy to adult food over two to three days.

Dog biscuits, such as Milk Bones, are acceptable treats for pups. If you are using them as an incentive or reward (with the approval of your Area Coordinator) or if you are using them as a bedtime snack, remember they do contain calories! If you are adding these "treats" you will need to cut back on the amount fed at mealtime in order to maintain a healthy, lean body condition (able to easily feel ribs, not pudgy). We don't encourage snacks other than dog biscuits.

### **Do not give any people food at all.**

Don't feed raw eggs or milk.

Keep your puppy on the food recommended by The Seeing Eye. Any change in type of food or water may produce loose stools in a puppy. If your pup shows signs of loose stools, use the recipe given below. It usually can control this condition. However, if it seems to be a chronic problem, take a stool specimen to your veterinarian and advise your area coordinator.

If your pup has loose stools but appears energetic and happy, switch to a mixture of 75% boiled rice and 25% boiled ground beef or chicken with fat skimmed or low fat cottage cheese, in the usual quantity he is accustomed to eating. At first, give this in place of regular dry food. As stools return to normal, gradually mix in dry food and reduce the rice and beef, chicken or cottage cheese, until the pup is back on his own food. If your pup has loose stools and appears depressed or lethargic, take the pup to the veterinarian.

### **Vitamins**

Most growing pups on a well-balanced puppy-formulated diet don't need supplemental vitamins as they are contained in the diet.

### **Heartworm Preventive**

All Seeing Eye puppies are given Tri-Heart in a chewable form as a year round monthly preventive medication for heartworm. You will receive this medication and directions for its use. Use it year round, the entire time you have the puppy. If you need more for your Seeing Eye puppy, please contact your

area coordinator. Tri-Heart not only protects against heartworm disease but also helps to control intestinal parasitism. We also encourage you to use this product on your pet dogs as part of a complete wellness program for your Seeing Eye Pup. Tri-Heart for your pet dogs can be purchased from your local vet at your own expense.

## Grooming

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If your puppy is to stay healthy, his skin must be kept clean. Do a thorough grooming job once a week. Follow these steps:

1. **Stand for Exam.** Have your puppy stand in front of you. Place one hand under his chest/belly and hold him in position. Softly say his name and **STAND**. Gently brush the pup with your other hand, talking quietly to him. If you teach this to your puppy from the first day, he will always "Stand for exam."
2. **Brushing.** Brush your pup daily to prevent doggie odor. This also keeps his coat shiny and helps control the dog hair in the house.
3. **Ears.** Sniff your puppy's ears daily to ensure early detection of an infection. At the first hint of a sour odor, see your veterinarian. If you are required to clean the ears as part of treatment, apply a small amount of the liquid ear cleansing solution provided by your veterinarian into the dog's ear canal and massage the base of the ear to help loosen the debris. Allow the dog to shake his head and then gently wipe away excess liquid and debris with cotton balls or pieces of rolled cotton. **DO NOT USE A COTTON SWAB.** Use of cotton swabs often results in debris being pushed deeper into the ear canal and sometimes injury to the eardrum.  
  
Ear medicines should be applied after cleaning. Apply the amount prescribed and massage the base of the ear to spread the medicine within the ear canal.
4. **Eyes.** Your puppy's eyes should be clear, with no cloudiness, squinting, tearing, or discharge. If any of these signs appear, see your veterinarian.
5. **Teeth.** Lift your puppy's lips to look at his teeth. He will lose all his baby teeth and replace them with adult teeth during his year with you. Report any broken teeth to your veterinarian. If an adult tooth is emerging where a puppy tooth is still present, bring it to the attention of your veterinarian.
6. **Nails.** Keep your pup's nails well trimmed. You can buy nail clippers at any pet store. Look at the nail. You will see a part that grows out in a curve from the main bed. Clip the curved part off. Your club leader can show you how to do this the first time. When the nails are the proper length, you won't hear your puppy walking on hard surfaces, and when he stands, his nails will barely be visible. Have a styptic pencil or powder on hand in case you clip the quick and it bleeds. If you start clipping your pup's nails when he is young, he will learn to accept it as part of a routine.
7. **Fleas and Ticks.** While doing your daily grooming, observe the puppy's hair, coat, and skin closely for any ticks, fleas, or flea dirt. Practice a good flea prevention program (see Section 16). The Seeing Eye provides Frontline Topspot for use on your Seeing Eye puppy. If you run out, please contact your area coordinator. It is highly recommended that you use Frontline Topspot on your family pets. Frontline for your family pets is available, at your own expense, from your local veterinarian.

## Adjusting Your Pup to Life with People

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While you're raising a puppy for The Seeing Eye, you are expected to teach him good manners during housebreaking, at home, riding in the car, and walking on leash.

This includes discouraging excessive barking, teaching the pup to stay off the furniture, and teaching him to lie in place while the family has meals.

### **Do not give your puppy food from the table.**

Teach him to come when called and to sit and lie down when told.

Teach by using kindness and repetition. Praise the puppy when he does the right thing. Punish only by tone of voice. Don't use rolled up newspapers or magazines.

Discourage barking. Say the puppy's name and **QUIET**. If the pup continues to bark, say **QUIET** again, while firmly squeezing his muzzle.

To teach the puppy not to jump on you or your visitors, say his name and then say **OFF** as you squeeze his paws. When you greet your puppy, hook your thumb through the puppy's collar. This prevents him from jumping up.

When your pup picks up something, such as a slipper or piece of clothing he shouldn't have, squeeze his muzzle and say **NO** or **SHAME** in a low, firm voice.

### **Riding in the car**

Your puppy should ride in the car with you as much as possible. While your pup is young, start with short rides, gradually making them longer. Try to take your pup on a car ride with an empty tummy, to help prevent carsickness. Make car trips fun (not necessarily only to the veterinarian's office). Teach your puppy to sit or lie on the floor, not on the seat. Be careful in the winter that you don't place your puppy under the heater vent, where he will get blasted with hot air.

*Getting in the car:* The puppy should be on leash, sitting on the sidewalk next to the passenger door. When you open the door, tell your puppy to **REST**. You sit on the seat with your left leg in the car and your right on the ground. Tell your puppy **COME**, keeping control of the puppy as he jumps into the car. Have him sit on the floor at your feet. Give him lots of praise. As you bring your right leg into the car, make sure the pup's tail is inside before you close the door.

*Getting out of the car:* Tell your pup to **REST**. You should be holding the lead as you open the car door. Put your right foot on the ground next to the car, tell your puppy **COME**, and follow him out. At no time should the puppy be permitted to jump out of the car until you have control and have told him to come.

## Female Dogs in Season

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Usually the female puppy comes "in season" twice a year. This varies with the individual pup and will still be normal. The first heat may occur during her stay with you.

When she shows signs of coming "in season," you will see swelling in the vaginal area and a brown stain on a tissue pressed against it.

The dog's "season" can last from 18 to 38 days. Keep her apart from other dogs during this time.

Call your area coordinator to let her know your puppy is in season.

**NOTE:**

**None of The Seeing Eye's puppies should be spayed or neutered. Many of our dogs are used in our own breeding program and it is vitally important that all pups in any given litter remain intact.**

## Vacation Boarding

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Families are encouraged to take their pups on vacation to give them experience in traveling. If you are going on an extended vacation and cannot take the pup with you, please make arrangements at a local boarding kennel. Let your area coordinator know the name of the kennel and dates the pup will be there.

For overnight or weekend boarding, a foster exchange program has been set up in many counties. Your club leader will give you the names of families where this arrangement exists, and you may make the final plans directly. If you choose this method of boarding, contact your area coordinator and give her the dates you will be away, and the name, address and telephone number of the foster family. Also give the foster family the telephone number of The Seeing Eye and your area coordinator.

## Payment Policies

### Flea & Tick Products:

The Seeing Eye provides the puppy-raising families with Frontline Topspot, which should be used year round. This product eliminates the need to use any other kind of flea or tick application on the pup. The Seeing Eye will not pay for flea & tick products purchased elsewhere. Contact your area coordinator if you need additional medication. The flea and tick medication supplied by The Seeing Eye is for use on the Seeing Eye program puppies only. Although we recommend that you use it on your personal pets, we do not supply it for your personal pet

### Heartworm Preventive:

The Seeing Eye provides the puppy-raising families with Tri-Heart, which should be used year round. The Seeing Eye will not pay for heartworm preventive purchased elsewhere. Contact your area coordinator if you need additional medication. The heartworm preventive supplied by The Seeing Eye is for use on the Seeing Eye program puppies only. Although we recommend that you use it on your personal pets, we do not supply it for your personal pets.

### Food:

The Seeing Eye will only pay for dog food that is needed because the pup has been put on a special diet which has been approved by The Seeing Eye Veterinarians.

### Boarding:

Puppies will be boarded in local kennels via families or a Seeing Eye volunteer. See Boarding Kennel Reimbursement form in the Puppy Placement Manuel, to be used only if the Boarding Kennel used does not bill The Seeing Eye directly.

The Seeing Eye will **not** pay for the puppies to be bathed when leaving the kennel. The **only** exception will be if a female dog has been in the kennel for in-season boarding, then The Seeing Eye will pay for a bath, for a stay of at least two (2) weeks.

The Seeing Eye will **not** pay for any dog to be groomed.  
The Seeing Eye will **not** pay for toys, walks or playtime given at the kennel.  
The Seeing Eye will **not** pay for pick up and delivery of a dog to a kennel.

### State Sales Tax:

The Seeing Eye is state sales tax exempt in NJ, NY and PA.  
Proof of tax exemption is available upon request.

## Puppy Training

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We want you to give your puppy lots of love while you have him. It also is important that you teach your puppy some basic commands as you give him exposure. The following will help you start.

- **Meetings.** Attend club training sessions regularly. They help you teach your puppy that this is a happy, fun experience.
- **Walk.** Your pup should walk on your left-hand side, ahead of you, with a steady pull to the leash. Never teach your puppy to heel. Heeling causes difficulty later, when a Seeing Eye instructor must teach the dog to pull in harness.
- **Pace.** Walk at a brisk pace. If the pup begins to lag behind, say your puppy's name and **HUP-HUP**.
- **Scolding.** If the pup does something wrong, say its name and a firm **NO** or **SHAME**. Stern, low-voiced scolding and happy praise will do wonders!
- **Exposure.** Please see the Puppy Exposure Timeline for guidance. Show your puppy as much of the outside world as you can. This is vitally important for a dog guide. Unlike a full-grown dog guide, your Seeing Eye puppy is not legally allowed public access. Before you go, check with any stores you want to visit with your pup. If a place says you may not bring the pup in, say thank you and try somewhere else. You don't have to take your puppy to food stores and restaurants; we don't encourage it.

Expose your puppy to the following as much as possible:

- Car travel (as often as you can)
- Traffic sounds
- Sudden noises
- Animals (other than family pets)
- Crowds
- Slippery floors
- Stairs
- Stores (other than supermarkets and restaurants)

**Each of the following exercises is what a dog guide will do every day with a blind person. Your puppy knows how to learn. If he is well adjusted and having fun, he will learn quickly.**

### Learning to learn

- Teach your puppy to sit for his meals (see Section 7).
- Groom your puppy every day, teaching him to Stand for Exam (see Section 8).
- Begin leash training. The proper way to hold the leash is to place it in the palm of your right hand, looping it in that hand, *not around it*. Use your left hand to control the leash, keeping your knuckles facing forward.
- Continue to teach your puppy throughout the time you have him. The basic commands include **FORWARD, REST, DOWN, COME, and SIT**.

## **Forward**

Say your puppy's name and **FORWARD**. The puppy should be on your left side. Walk at a brisk pace without running. The puppy should walk ahead of you with a steady pull on the leash. Talk to him so he knows what he should be doing. Always say **Atta girl/boy, Good girl/boy, and praise the puppy**.

## **Sit**

Say the pup's name, then **SIT**. Hold the leash in your right hand. Hold the pup's head in a normal position and gently run your left hand down the pup's back, toward the tail, applying a little pressure and tucking him into a sit. **Give lots of verbal praise**.

## **Rest**

Have your puppy sit on your left side. Place your right hand in front of his nose. Say his name and **REST**. Take a tiny step out, away from the pup. Step back to him immediately and **praise** him. Continue adding steps to increase the distance between you and the pup (up to three steps), until he rests for each one. When he rests quietly, go the length of the lead away from and in front of him. Return to the pup by coming around behind him so he again is on your left side. **Praise**. Graduate to an extended rest.

## **Down**

In a low voice, say your pup's name and **DOWN**. Hold the leash in your right hand. Make a downward motion with your left hand. If your pup rolls over onto his back, begin again. Do not rub his stomach during this exercise. Once you have achieved this command, you may need to place your foot on the leash to assure your pup will stay in position for a count of 10. Remove your foot from the leash and say your pup's name and **SIT**. Give a slight lift to both the leash and your voice and bring the puppy back to a sitting position. (You only put your foot on the leash when the puppy is learning this command. The pup should be able to stay on a down by the time it is in the 6-to-9-month age group.) **Praise**.

This exercise is done in a series of three down/sits. After each down, you should stand, count to 10 and then have the puppy sit; count to 10 again, and have the puppy down. **Praise at the end of the exercise**.

When doing your puppy training, *do not do down and rest*. However, at home while you're doing homework or having dinner, teach your puppy to lie down and rest by your chair. You can place his leash over your chair and sit on it. Be sure the pup is on your left-hand side.

## **Come and sit**

Have the puppy sit at your left side. Say your puppy's name and **FORWARD**. Take steps forward and let the pup out on the leash, say puppy's name and **COME**, take steps backward. Puppy returns to your left side by turning him in toward your left knee and guiding in a figure 8 pattern. The exercise ends with the puppy on your left side. **Praise**. This exercise can be performed with the left hand only and is best taught with a shorter lead.

## **About turn**

Reverse direction by pivoting on your right foot and turning to the right. The pup will remain on your left side during the turn.

## **Figure 8**

This teaches the puppy to walk briskly past people and other dogs without being distracted (no barking, pulling or sniffing). Two club members and their pups stand a few feet apart, facing each other. A third club member stands between the other two with his pup sitting. He says his pup's name and **FORWARD**, walks between the two obstacles, turning either right or left, and continues around the next obstacle to form a figure 8.

If you have difficulty controlling your puppy as he gets older, talk to your leader about using a training collar. Do not use a training collar until you have discussed it with your leader and have been taught how to use one.

### **Come on long lead**

Attach a very long rope to the puppy's collar and take him outside in the yard. Holding one end of the rope, let the puppy wander in the yard. (If you hang your wash, that's a good time to practice this exercise.) Call the puppy to come back to you ("[Puppy's name], **COME**"), using a happy voice. If he doesn't come bounding back, gently pull him in on the rope. When the pup reaches you, give lots of praise. Let him wander again, repeating the exercise. Use no negatives in this exercise at all, only praise. The puppy will soon learn that when he is called, no matter where he is, returning equals praise.

### **Go To Your Place**

It is a useful command for both you and your puppy. There may be occasions when it is more convenient or safer to have your puppy out from under your feet, such as cooking in the kitchen or answering the door. Giving your puppy a special place of his own can help. Pick a spot in the house, take your puppy there, then give the command **GO TO YOUR PLACE** followed by the **DOWN** command. Follow with praise.

Continue the training by placing the puppy close to the spot, then give the command. Gradually move farther away from the designated place until the puppy understands where his spot is. Eventually, you will be able to give the command from anywhere in the house and the puppy will be able to go there.

### **Stay Back**

Puppies naturally want to go along with their pack. Since we become their pack, it is automatic for them to want to go out the door when they think we are leaving. This is why we need to teach them to get back every time someone opens a door. Just like we teach our puppies early on to sit at the door, we must also teach them to stay back when they are first learning the house rules. All you need to do is say **STAY BACK** and gently push him back, immediately followed by praise. Then walk out. It should be noted that this is not the same command as **REST**, which means to stay exactly where I put you until I return.

## Symptoms of Illness

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You should be able to tell by looking at your puppy if he is in good health, ailing slightly, or is coming down with something really serious. Loss of appetite and refusal to eat can be symptoms of illness. The puppy's expression could be an indication of illness. His lower eyelid may hang down slightly, or his lids could be partially or completely closed. His coat may have a rough, dry appearance and texture.

Mucus and traces of blood in his stool are signs that the puppy is not well. A potbelly in an otherwise skinny puppy can be a sign of disease. Lack of interest is another sign. If the puppy is hiding in dark places, he might be ill.

The normal rectal temperature of a dog is 100.5° to 102.5°F. The temperature of the puppy's nose is not an indication of the pup's health. Any discharge from his nose or eyes should trigger a visit to your veterinarian.

## How to Give Medicines

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Many times during your life with your puppy, your veterinarian will prescribe medications. This information will help you give them to your pup.

### **Liquids**

Usually the veterinarian will give you a small vial holding an ounce or so of liquid. Have your puppy sit. Then pull out his cheek to make a pouch. Put the vial into this pouch and let the medicine drain into his throat. The puppy will have to swallow it. Be sure to keep the pup's head vertical to the floor.

### **Pills**

Have the puppy sit. Grasp his upper jaw with your left hand and press his lips against his teeth until he opens his mouth. Use your longest finger to force the pill far enough down his throat, on the middle of his tongue, that he has to swallow it. Hold his mouth closed for a moment and stroke his throat from the outside until you are sure the pill has gone down. Large pills can be moistened with vegetable oil for easier swallowing.

## Basic First Aid

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We hope you never need to use first-aid measures, but it's good to know what to do in case the need arises. Remember that the following procedures are for emergency use only. Whenever you suspect illness or your pup is injured, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Have certain items on hand, including:

- Rectal thermometer
- Alcohol
- Cotton
- Tweezers
- Vaseline
- Pepto-Bismol
- Bacitracin ointment
- Witch hazel
- Gauze pads
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Bandage material<sup>0073v</sup>
- Flea & Tick spray

A dog's normal temperature is 100.5° – 102.5° F, but may be slightly higher if he is excited. To take his temperature, shake the rectal thermometer down, then dip the end in Vaseline and insert it into the rectum, leaving it there for at least three minutes. Remove it and wipe clean with a tissue so it is easier to read. Shake down after reading and clean with cotton dipped in alcohol.

### **Bee stings**

If your puppy is stung, look for swelling or signs of allergic reaction. Apply an ice pack and call your veterinarian.

### **Car accidents**

If your puppy is hit by a car, make a loop of gauze bandage or similar material. Slip it over the pup's muzzle and tie it to prevent him from biting you (See “Tying the mouth shut” in this section). Slide a board under him. If you don't have a board, use a blanket to make a stretcher. Talk calmly to the puppy and try to keep him quiet. Get your puppy to a veterinarian immediately.

### **Carsickness**

Signs of carsickness can include excessive salivation, vomiting, yawning, whining, and uneasiness.

Motion sickness often can be overcome through conditioning. Start by sitting with your puppy in the car, then take progressively longer trips. At first, just travel the length of the driveway, then go to the corner, then around the block, etc.

If conditioning doesn't work, your veterinarian might prescribe an antihistamine to help prevent vomiting.

### **Cuts**

Apply peroxide and wash the area thoroughly with an antiseptic soap. Apply an antibiotic cream such as Bacitracin or Triple Antibiotic Ointment.

If the cut is deep, apply a pressure bandage and take the puppy to the veterinarian as soon as possible, in case the wound requires stitching.

### **Drowning**

Pick up the puppy by his hind legs and hold him upside down to drain the water out. Give artificial respiration until he resumes regular breathing. If it is a small puppy, you can give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by cupping your hands around his muzzle and blowing into his mouth and nostrils. Take the pup to your veterinarian to guard against his developing a lung inflammation or pneumonia.

### **Electric shock**

Pups that are allowed to chew on electric cords may get a shock. Remove the plug from the outlet immediately. If the puppy has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration (mouth to nose). Place both hands around the muzzle to seal the lips and then blow into the nose, covering it with your lips. Call your veterinarian immediately.

### **Heat stroke**

Do not leave your puppy in a car during hot weather. On an 85° day, the temperature inside a car with a window slightly open will go up to 102° within 10 minutes. In 30 minutes, it can reach 120°. Your puppy can suffer brain damage and death in a very short time.

Symptoms of heat stroke can include panting, staring, mental confusion, collapse, vomiting, and diarrhea.

If your puppy does develop heat stroke, submerge him in a bathtub of cool water, being careful to keep his head above the water. Give him a cool water enema, if possible. If you are in an area where no bathtub is available, hose the dog with cool water or pour cool water on him with a bucket. Be certain to cool his head. **Contact your veterinarian immediately.**

### **Poisons**

Try to find out what the poison is. Find the label so that you can provide accurate information about the contents. Call your veterinarian immediately.

### **ASPCA Poison Control Hotline 1-888-4ANI-HELP or 1-888-426-4435**

### **Swallowing objects or objects lodged in mouth or throat:**

Always watch your puppy to make sure that he doesn't pick up inedible objects while playing. Puppies have been known to swallow all sorts of things, like rocks, small balls or toys, socks, and bones. If you think your pup has swallowed something sharp, feed him bread or rice to help pass it. Watch carefully to make sure that the object has been passed, as it could become lodged in his intestine and require major surgery. If something is lodged in your pup's mouth, talk calmly to the pup so he will know you are trying to help, and try to remove the object. Make sure your hands are dry so they will not slip. Remove it quickly; don't push the object further down into his throat. If you can't remove the object, perform mouth to nose resuscitation and, get to a veterinarian immediately.

If something is lodged in your dog's throat and is obstructing his airway, you can perform a modified Heimlich maneuver. Place your arms around the dog's waist with his head facing away from you. Make a fist with one hand and grasp it with the other hand. Place your fist at the V formed by your dog's ribcage. Compress the abdomen and thrust your fist forward four times in quick succession. This should cause a burst of air to dislodge the object.

### **Tick removal**

If you discover a tick on your pup, spray the tick with flea and tick spray (e.g. Frontline Spray). After 10 minutes, put on rubber gloves and, using slow, gentle traction, remove the tick using tweezers. If there is any question as to whether or not the head of the tick was removed, see your veterinarian.

**Tying the mouth shut**

When puppies are in a great deal of pain, they are apt to bite you unwittingly. To prevent being bitten in such cases, as when giving first-aid to a puppy hit by a car, wrap a strip of cloth around the puppy's nose. Tie it under the chin and then in back of the ears. This will look like a figure 8. If you have any questions, contact your club leader or area coordinator. Do not muzzle a dog that has facial trauma.

## Preventive Healthcare Topics

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Most of our pups remain in good health during the months they are growing up in their foster homes. The illnesses that do occur are minor. However, you should be aware of the kinds of diseases to which puppies are subject and should know their symptoms. Prompt action can often be decisive in forestalling serious consequences.

### **Distemper**

The symptoms of distemper in its initial phase may be difficult to differentiate from other disease conditions. Most noticeable are elevated temperature, lack of appetite, and evidence of depression. When such symptoms develop, get the puppy to your veterinarian. Don't wait until there is evidence of a discharge from his eyes and nose, severe diarrhea, pneumonia, or convulsions. The quicker a veterinarian initiates treatment, the greater the chance of recovery. Pups that recover from distemper usually are considered to be permanently immune.

### **Hepatitis**

This is a virus infection that affects the liver tissue primarily. In the initial stage, symptoms are almost identical to those of distemper. They include a sudden rise and fall in temperature, impaired appetite, and depression. There may be a discharge from the eyes and nose. There may be some pain with pressure over the abdomen, and vomiting. You also may observe some enlargement of the tonsils and intense redness of the mucous membranes of the mouth cavity.

There is a vaccination that will prevent the disease. It generally is given in conjunction with the distemper vaccine. Remember that the virus of distemper (and hepatitis) is passed through urine and can be contagious to other animals. Middle-aged dogs usually are not seriously affected, but puppies and older dogs can die from this viral infection.

### **Kennel cough**

Kennel cough is a common name for infectious tracheobronchitis of dogs. Its most common sign is a harsh, dry cough which, when severe enough, can produce gagging. It can be caused by a variety of organisms, some viruses (such as parainfluenza) and some bacteria. Our pups are vaccinated when they leave The Seeing Eye and then every six months to protect against this problem.

### **Leptospirosis**

This acute infectious disease of dogs is spread through contact of the mouth or nasal mucous membranes with the urine of an infected animal. Within five to 15 days after exposure, the disease begins with a sudden rise of body temperature, weakness, refusal to eat, and vomiting. These symptoms are similar to those of the initial phase of distemper or hepatitis. However, within a day or two, there usually is a sharp drop in temperature, labored breathing, and some evidence of stiffness, particularly in the hind legs. If you look in your pup's mouth, you may see some dry patches and bleeding. Stools may be very firm and blood-tinged. Urination is frequent.

Early and adequate use of certain antibiotics can be of value in easing the severity of symptoms and possible fatality. Vaccinations will help prevent this disease.

### **Parvovirus**

Parvovirus is a highly infectious virus disease of the dog. It causes severe vomiting and diarrhea, often with tinges of blood. A high temperature and rapid dehydration are common, and about 20 percent of affected puppies may die, even with appropriate treatment. Parvovirus hits suddenly, and veterinary care

is essential. This usually involves intense supportive therapy with intravenous fluids and other drugs. Antibiotics are used to prevent secondary bacterial infection.

The virus is spread primarily through contact with the stools of infected dogs, where it can live for three to four weeks. It also can be carried on peoples' skin, clothing, or shoes. The incubation period is three to 12 days. The virus is extremely resistant to detergents, alcohol, and temperature extremes. It can be killed by a 1:30 solution of bleach in water (1 part liquid bleach, like Clorox, to 30 parts water).

There is an effective vaccine, which should be given to a puppy as part of its regular vaccine schedule.

### **Rabies**

This viral infection is transmitted through the bite of affected animals, and may affect many species, including humans. Since the disease is transmittable to man, its control is a public health problem. Therefore, dog populations are subject to regulatory measures involving movement restrictions, quarantine, and vaccination programs.

It is extremely important that all Seeing Eye puppies be vaccinated against rabies when they are three months of age. Your veterinarian will give you a rabies vaccination certificate at that time. Pennsylvania puppy-raisers are exempt from licensing their puppies. However, all other pups must be licensed through Morris Township. To license your pup, please send the certificate, along with the Licensing Your Puppy form, to the Animal License Official. This form and an envelope are in the pocket of this manual. Pennsylvania puppy-raisers should send the certificate directly to The Seeing Eye.

### **Heartworm**

Heartworm is a blood parasite carried by mosquitoes. It can cause a potentially fatal disease and is a serious problem in this part of the country. The Seeing Eye provides puppy-raising families Tri-Heart, as a preventive medication, for year round use on Seeing Eye puppies. It should be started at 8 weeks old and given monthly without interruption until the puppy returns to The Seeing Eye. Increase the dosage according to the labeled directions as the puppy's weight increases. The Seeing Eye advises the use of Tri-Heart year round for all of your pet dogs as part of a complete wellness program for your Seeing Eye puppy. Tri-Heart for your pet dogs can be purchased from your local veterinarian at your own expense.

**Coccidia** are common microscopic protozoan parasites that are picked up orally from the environment. Infection can result in diarrhea that can sometimes contain blood.

### **Giardia**

This protozoan parasite is a very tiny creature visible only under a microscope. It may cause diarrhea in your puppy, however Giardia cysts may also be present in normal formed stools. If suspected, its presence can be difficult to diagnose, your veterinarian may have to run several tests on stool samples taken from your puppy on different days. Treatment is straightforward. Your veterinarian will prescribe appropriate medication.

### **Worms**

Most puppies are born with **roundworms**. Symptoms, if any, vary with the degree of infection but can include vomiting.

**Hookworms** can cause anemia and/or diarrhea in puppies depending upon the severity of the infection.

Tri-Heart helps to treat and control both roundworm and hookworm infections. The Seeing Eye dispenses Tri-Heart to all puppies. It should be given monthly without interruption until the puppy is returned to The Seeing Eye.

**Whipworms** may cause weight loss and diarrhea.

**Tapeworms** are another common parasite. Unlike the previously mentioned parasites, tapeworms are not picked up directly from the environment, but require an intermediate host. Some tapeworms live part of their life cycle within the flea and others live part of their lives in the rabbit or rodent. A dog must eat either the flea or the rodent to become infected with tapeworm.

Segments of tapeworm are eliminated with the dog's stools. You can see small, rectangular segments that look like grains of rice on the stool. Tapeworms require a specific medication that differs from medicines used to treat round, hook and whipworms.

At each office visit, take a fresh stool sample (or one that has been refrigerated but not for greater than 12 hrs.) to the veterinarian, who will prepare slides and check them under a microscope. This procedure is called a fecal exam and is used to detect the common parasites mentioned above.

### **External parasites**

These are fleas, lice, ticks, and mites. There are dozens of products on the market that will kill fleas, mites, and lice. Some may even kill ticks, but there are special preparations for ticks alone. The important thing is to use them regularly. They come as aerosol sprays, powders, soaps, shampoos, and liquids that can be rubbed into the coat. Liquids, aerosols, and even the shampoos may be flammable and are dangerous if someone is smoking or if there is a stove or heater operating when they are in use. Be sure to follow all directions on the product. Use rubber gloves when applying chemicals.

The Seeing Eye provides puppy-raising families with Frontline Topspot, for year round use on Seeing Eye puppies. This product eliminates the need to use any other kind of flea or tick application on the pup. The Seeing Eye advises the use of Frontline on your personal pets. Frontline for your personal pets can be purchased from your local veterinarian at your own expense.

Most pet owners know about fleas, especially when they are bitten during severe infestations. It is not true that garlic or brewer's yeast in the puppy's food will prevent fleas.

Fleas are biting insects that live on blood sucked from their hosts. Adult fleas spend most of their time on the dog or cat, but most of the flea's life cycle (egg, larval and pupal stages) is spent in the environment. It's estimated that for every adult flea seen, there are 200 immature fleas at various stages in the environment. Thus, if one dog or cat in a household has fleas, all the dogs and cats, and the entire household, will have fleas. Flea eggs drop into bedding, furniture, carpet and grass. Adult fleas develop in 21 days to six months, depending on temperature and humidity. Since a single adult pair of fleas can produce an infestation of more than 6,000 eggs, larvae, and adults in only four weeks, you have no time to waste if your pup has fleas.

Their effects are familiar to us all: scratching, skin irritation, and self-induced skin infections are most common. Besides being an annoyance, they can transmit tapeworms and cause anemia in young animals. A more severe variant of skin disease, flea allergy dermatitis, is found in dogs that become allergic to flea saliva. These unfortunate puppies itch severely, lose hair, and inflict injuries on themselves, usually around the rump or groin area, necessitating veterinary care.

Fleas may be hard to find. Not finding fleas in your puppy's coat does not rule out flea allergy dermatitis. Flea excrement or "dirt" (small black specks of digested blood) on the skin means they're there.

Treatment should involve both the internal (house, car) and external environments. There are a variety of sprays, powders, shampoos, dips, and rub-on products for your pup that have varying degrees of effectiveness. Your veterinarian will advise which he currently has the most success with or, depending on the severity of infestation, which is most suitable.

For the household, you may turn to aerosol or pump residual sprays, fogging devices (flea-bombs) or a professional exterminator. Be sure to use a product containing an insect growth regulator. Frequent, thorough vacuuming is very important, especially in the area where your puppy sleeps. Discard your vacuum cleaner bags so fleas can't hatch in them.

There also are outdoor sprays. These are liquid concentrates which, when diluted with water, may be applied using a commercial sprayer or garden hose spray attachment.

Prevention is the least expensive and easiest method of flea control. Early in summer, before populations have a chance to build, take precautions to ensure a flea-free year.

### **Poisons**

Keep your puppy away from poisons and other harmful chemicals and from lawns and gardens where insecticides have been used recently. Never allow your puppy in an area where rat poison has been set out.

If your puppy swallows a poison, be able to tell the veterinarian what kind or type it was. To treat your puppy, the veterinarian must know the name of the poison and the symptoms the puppy displays.

**ASPCA Poison Control Hotline 1-888-4ANI-HELP or 1-888-426-4435**

### **Summary**

Your puppy's major health problems are problems for your veterinarian to handle. It is your job to:

- Have booster vaccinations given as required by the schedule provided.
- Recognize signs of illness.
- Give first-aid when necessary.
- Give other pills and medicines the veterinarian may prescribe.
- Keep poisons away from your pup. Puppy-proof your home; use childproof locks on doors and drawers where poisons, medicines and cleaning agents are kept. If your puppy accidentally swallows something poisonous, try to find out what it is and call your veterinarian immediately.

**ASPCA Poison Control Hotline 1-888-4ANI-HELP or 1-888-426-4435**