

# HINTS FOR YOUR MOUNTAIN PRIDE VIZSLA

These are just ideas and hints. They are not intended to “cure” anything or be the “final” answer. Please check elsewhere if you have any questions. Not all the information has been checked recently, so some sites could be no longer active.

## DOG “STUFF” AND CATALOGUES:

There are many other catalogues available!

Greenies...greenies have caused problems in the past, but have improved. Be sure to get the correct size. They are a good chewie for adult dogs (not puppies), but usually get eaten quickly.

<http://www.store.yahoo.com/animalworldnetwork/greenies.html>. Item number: trico-sm-03547 the best price found.

PetEdge 1-800-637-3786 .. fans for crates with freezer pack, collars, puppy nail scissors, heavy duty orange-handled clippers for dogs, ex-pens, Migrator quail toy, long-legged toys for puppies, Greenies.

J.B. Wholesale 1-800-526-0388 (window barrier for car window, puppy nail scissors, heavy duty orange-handled clippers for dogs, Greenies,iggler ball toy, talking toys, Migrator quail toy, doggyworths toys,).

Foster & Smith 1-800-826-7206 (.Fold-Away Pet Carrier, collars, name plates, toys, Super Deluxe Rawhide Chews, molecuball, Keep Off & Get Off My Garden).

Direct Pet- Valley Vet 1-800-360-4838 (doggyworths toys, Greenies, puppy collars).

Dogwise 1-800-776-2665 (books). [www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)

<http://www.partipoodlepetsupplies.com/index.html>

Photo Products...made from your photo! they are great!: Tell them I sent you!

[sunshine\\_products@pacbell.net](mailto:sunshine_products@pacbell.net) [www.sunshineproducts.us](http://www.sunshineproducts.us)

JEWELRY made from photos of your own dog! Silver bracelets, rings, necklaces and pins. [gurwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gurwell@sbcglobal.net) or 913-558-7552. fabulous pieces!

MANY MORE... CHECK OUT FOR YOURSELF.

## SOME SITES:

Vizsla Club of America: <http://www.vcaweb.org> can find pedigrees there

The National AKC Breed Club site: <http://clubs.akc.org/vizsla>

American Kennel Club. <http://www.akc.org> under Future Dog Owners.

VizslaTalk at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VizslaTalk> An international discussion list for people who love Vizslas.

Vizslawalk: <http://vizslawalk@yahoo.com> (for walks in California Bay Area)

Vizsla Web Ring: [http://www.blayne.com/v\\_ring/](http://www.blayne.com/v_ring/)A collection of sites related to the Vizsla.

Ingle and Mead's Vizsla Encyclopedia: <http://www.vizsladogs.com>

Safe Kids/Safe Dogs Project: <http://www.safekidssafedogs.com/>

Vizsla FT: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VizslaFT> A discussion list for people interested in field trials with their Vizslas.

Vizsla Hunt: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VizslaHunt> A discussion list for people who want to hunt with their Vizslas.

Training help: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/behavior-training/>

Hunt Training for sporting dogs: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SportingBreed/>  
Many helpful pamphlets, books and CDs: [www.starfire-rapport.com](http://www.starfire-rapport.com)  
Hungarian Name site: <http://www.kabalarians.com/female/hungary/htm>  
Holistic health items: [sagemountain.com](http://sagemountain.com)  
General information: [sizewise.com](http://sizewise.com)  
Vaccinations: [www.wellpet.org/vaccines/dodds-schedule.htm](http://www.wellpet.org/vaccines/dodds-schedule.htm)

**BOOKS ON VIZSLAS:** (there are many more)

Versatile Vizsla by Marion Coffman, 2nd ed. @vizsla.dog (my dogs, Vennka and Akela, are in the therapy section)  
Vizsla by Bernard C. Boggs, 2nd ed.  
Barons Vizsla Book  
The Vizsla & Field Trial & Hunting Tests by Boggs 1-800-338-3647

**BOOKS I ESPECIALLY LIKE:**

(A great source for books: [dogwise.com](http://dogwise.com) 800-776-2665)  
My Smart Puppy by Brian Killcommon and Sarah Wilson comes w/ helpful DVD  
The Power of Positive Dog Training by Pat Miller  
Positive Perspectives and Positive Perspective II by Pat Miller  
Before and After Getting Puppy by Ian Dunbar - I don't agree w/ everything in this book  
Bones Would Rain From The Sky by Suznne Clothier  
Communicating with your Dog by Ted Baer (includes how to teach your dog to ring a bell to go outside!)  
Good Owners, Great Dogs by Brian Killcommon  
Mother Knows Best by Carol Benjamin  
Childproofing your Dog by Brian Killcommon  
Cesar's Way by Cesar Milan (most of it)  
How To Be The Leader of The Pack And Have Your Dog Love You For It!  
(a small booklet by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D.)- Direct

Books

How To Be A Dog's Leader by Stephen C. Rafe [www.starfire-rapport.com](http://www.starfire-rapport.com)  
Your Baby And Bowser by Stephen C. Rafe [www.starfire-rapport.com](http://www.starfire-rapport.com)  
Command Train Your Dog by Stephen C. Rafe [www.starfire-rapport.com](http://www.starfire-rapport.com)  
Dogology by Sarah Wilson

**BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY OTHERS:**

Culture Clash by Jean Donaldson  
Dog-Friendly Dog Training by Andrea Arden  
Dog Problems: The Gentle Modern Cure by David Weston & Ruth Ross  
Dog Training For Children by Ian Dunbar  
How to Raise a Puppy You can Live With by Clarice Rutherford  
How to Teach a New Dog Old Tricks by Ian Dunbar  
Living with Kids and Dogs... Without Losing Your Mind by Colleen Pelar.  
Meeting Milo by Yvette Van Veen & David J. Parks. A picture book for young children.  
Puppy Primer by Patricia McConnell  
Positive Dog Training for Hunting [www.positivegundogs.com](http://www.positivegundogs.com)

How to Talk to Your Dog by Jean Craighead George (good for children)  
The Perfect Puppy (or How to Have the Perfect Puppy) by Gwen Bailey  
Purely Positive Training by Sheila Booth  
The Toolbox For Remodeling Your Problem Dog by Terry Ryan  
Beyond Obedience by April Frost  
Playtraining Your Dog by Patricia Gail Burnham  
Sirius Puppy Training  
Dog Logic & Advanced Obedience Easier Than You Think by Joel M.

McMains

Taking Care Of Puppy Business- a gentle approach for Positive Results by Leslie Nelson  
Beginning Family Dog Training by Patricia McConnell (not clicker training)  
Doctor Dunbar's Good Little Dog Book by Ian Dunbar (not clicker training)  
Your Otta Control Puppy by Teoti Anderson (not clicker training)  
The Dog Whisperer by Paul Owen (not clicker training)

## **OBEDIENCE:**

Obedience lessons are very important. Take your puppy to a Positive Obedience class as soon as possible! And continue with Positive Obedience and CGC classes.

Clicker training is great. A great clicker book by Morgan Spector is called Clicker Training for Obedience. It is mostly for the obedience show ring,, but also has great pet obedience training ideas. website: [www.clickertraining.com](http://www.clickertraining.com)

One of my favorite obedience training methods is called The Third Way by Chris Bach. Chris has tapes and a book. website: [www.trainthethirdway.com](http://www.trainthethirdway.com)

A link to find a positive trainer in your area:

<http://www.sfspca.org/academy/referral.shtml#sf>

A few links to training classes in the San Francisco Bay Area

[www.perfectpaws.org](http://www.perfectpaws.org) (San Mateo)

[www.sfpuppyprep.com](http://www.sfpuppyprep.com) or <http://www.siriuspup.com/>

[www.sfspca.org](http://www.sfspca.org) or Peninsula Humane Society

K9 Insight Obedience (Redwood City)

In Chico: [www.CanineConnections.K9conxn.com](http://www.CanineConnections.K9conxn.com)

In Redding Judy Brown teaches classes (530-241-5972)

## **CRATES:**

Crates for most Vizslas should be at least 23" tall.

The Life Stages wire crate is wonderful since it "grows" with your puppy and can come with a side door as well as an end door.

There is a very nice collapsible crate for sale from Care-A-Lot, Fosters & Smith and R.C. Steele.

Crates can become a dog's "den" and can help with housebreaking.

Accustom puppy to crate by feeding pup in it.

Leave door open at first.

Or you can put the bowl of food in the crate with the puppy outside and the puppy will want to get inside!

As soon as your dog feels comfortable in a crate, s/he can be left in one for a short period of time (about 1 hour/month of age when young).

While in a crate, they can't chew something that is off-limits!  
Take their collar off.

### **BEDS:**

Dogs like to have their own bed. There are many types. My dogs like their wicker beds.

A good size bed for a Vizsla is 21" X 30"

There is a very nice dog sleeping bag bed: Body Gear for Pets, Barbara and Dan Edwards, PO  
Box 5924, Petaluma, CA 94955, 1-707-769-1537 phone, 1-800-699-4050 phone,  
1-707- 792- 2262 fax, bodygear@msn.com

### **EXERCISE PENS:**

Ex-pens can be set up anywhere in the house to keep puppy out of trouble.

They are portable enough that you can take them with you when you visit friends or family.

Get a pen high enough so that pup will not be able to jump out when s/he becomes fully grown.

A good idea is to get a "top", which is a 2-panel section to fit on top of any height ex-pen.

### **SAFETY BELTS AND HARNESS:**

It is not safe for you or your dog to travel with a dog "loose" in a car.

Dog seat belts, harnesses, crates or "gates", can be used to contain your dog while traveling.

### **TOYS:**

If your puppy/dog shreds toys, be sure there are no "eyes" or parts that can come out and be  
swallowed. You might not want your dog eating toy-stuffing coming from  
anywhere other than USA.

### **TOYS THAT I ESPECIALLY LIKE:**

All "unstuffed" toys

Stuffed Trout by Fat Cat

All Tuffies

Quail that makes a quail sound (can be found at Forest Service Information Centers)

Kongs to stuff and Kongs on a rope

The Cube

The Molecuball

The Migrator Quail or Pheasant

Doggyworths, Duckworths, Bunnyworths and Wallyworths

Large Warthog or Hedgehog with a great squeaker and grunt

Lambiedoodle

Fetch Stick 415-982-5036

Katie's Bumpers (great for the water) [www.katiesbumpers.com](http://www.katiesbumpers.com)

Some baby toys can be good puppy toys.

Flat toys with lots of squeakers - Lamb, Squirrel and others.

Soft frisbee by West Paw

### **TENNIS BALLS:**

I do not like new tennis balls with their chemical smell.

Repeated tennis ball chewing and retrieving can eventually lead to worn-down teeth and other health problems.

### **SOCIALIZATION:**

Socializing your young Vizsla is VERY important.

You can buy a very good CD called SOUND SOCIALIZATION from DOGWISE 1-800-776-2665. You need to play it before you get your puppy so that you will know how to use it. This is important since they can't go to the places that they need to get accustomed to until they have had their shots.

According to a May, 1995, AKC Gazette article, socialization studies confirm that the critical period for canine socialization is between the FOURTH and SIXTEENTH week of age. Busy lifestyles with long and tiring schedules often cause pets to be neglected. Left to themselves with only an occasional trip out of the house or off the property, they seldom see other dogs or strangers and generally suffer from poor stimulation and socialization. For many dogs, the side effects of loneliness and boredom set in. The resulting behavior manifests itself in the form of chewing, digging and behavior that is hard to control. Many improperly socialized puppies develop into older individuals unprepared for adult life, with its challenges and interactions. Attempts to re-socialize them as adults only produce small gains. These failures confirm the notion that THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY NEUROLOGICAL AND SOCIAL STIMULATION IS ONLY OPEN ONCE. After it closes, little can be done to overcome the negative effects of too much or too little stimulation/socialization.

### **FEAR PERIODS:**

You should pay very close attention to FEAR PERIODS in your dog's development.

THERE ARE OTHER LEARNING PERIODS (THEY COULD LEARN TO BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING, SO THESE TIMES WOULD BE CONSIDERED FEAR PERIODS AS WELL AS THE GENERALIZED 4 TO 16 WEEKS)

AGE	APPROXIMATE RANGE
12weeks (3 months)	11-13 weeks
6 months (1/2 year)	5 1/2 to 6 1/2 months
1 year	11 to 13 months
2 years	22 to 26 months

### **CHART OF DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES of a Puppy from Versatile Vizsla:**

9-12 weeks	Bonds to human - Learns to accept human as pack leader Can learn come, sit, stay - Needs confidence instilled - Start housetraining
-	-
12-16 weeks	Exposure to variety of environments important Security - Discipline - Socialization - Attention Learns by association - Goes through "avoidance period" - Needs continued low-keyed socialization and exposure
16-24 weeks	Socialization - Love - Consistent Discipline - Basic training Fully-developed mentally - Needs experience - Will attempt to establish dominance-Adapts a negative or positive attitude toward training at
this time-	Praise lavishly for correct behavior

6-8 months socialization	Basic training - Consistent discipline - Continued attention and
	Ready for beginning show or obedience classes - Attention span is lengthening - Needs continuing exposure to new situations
- Males begin to 8-12 months	assert dominance
	Continued socialization and training - Affection and reassurance necessary
	Show pups often in "puppy bloom" but should not be pushed too fast -
May go	Teething period ends - Puberty (period of sexual maturity) begins - through a second avoidance period

### **SEPARATION ANXIETY:**

Please read up on separation anxiety and be aware of the possibility of it developing if you leave your dog for a long time too soon without him/her getting used to you being gone for short intervals. It is best to not be with your dog 24/7, since it might have a hard time if you need to leave it alone. There are methods of getting your dog used to you being gone by leaving for short intervals of time and then lengthening the time you are gone. Consult a training book or trainer.

Your dog needs sessions of you leaving while saying "I'll be back" (very gradually adding time). It is a good idea to leave a radio or the TV on when crate/leave training. Knowing how to prevent separation anxiety and gradually leaving puppy alone should condition him to being left for short periods of time. Stay-at-home families are great, but the puppies that are with their owners 24-7 can have a harder time with separation anxiety when they have to be left for any length of time. Stay-at-home-families will need to leave puppy sometimes, like when going shopping!

You should start working on separation anxiety prevention the very **FIRST** day you get puppy home by leaving him for short intervals in his crate or ex-pen. You can do it in your house by giving him his filled-kong, special toy or treat that is used only for when he is left. You can stuff the kong with peanut butter or softened kibble and freeze overnight to make it last longer and also at times of teething the frozen kong is a relief to their sore teeth and gums. Take his collar off. Casually say the magic words ("I'll be back") and close the door for just a few minutes (2-3) to begin with. If the ex-pen is set up where he can see you, you will have to actually leave the house.

DO NOT go to him because he is fussing.

DO NOT make any kind of fuss when you go back to him.

DO NOT pick him up if he is fussing.

WAIT for him to be quiet and sitting before being petted or picked up.

You will need to get puppy used to being left alone for at least an hour before leaving him for real for several hours.

When you come back and take puppy out of his crate/ex-pen for potty you should put away the kong or "special" treat/chew or toy.

Dogs that are taught from day one that you will be back when you say, "I'll be back", should not go through separation anxiety.

### **"Puppy Schuffle"**

Be aware that puppies get under your feet and can get stepped on accidentally. Teach yourself and children to "puppy schuffle" around puppy.... scoot your feet along the floor rather than lift them!

## **Vizslas and children:**

Vizslas are a high-drive hunting breed and children frequently unwittingly act just like prey. Vizslas are also more needy in terms of affection and human companionship than other breeds and can see children as competition. Vizslas can be tolerant with children given proper supervision and training—if the children are good with the dog. “Being good with children” does NOT mean “without supervision.” NO CHILD (family member or not) UNDER 11 SHOULD BE LEFT UNSUPERVISED WITH ANY DOG. All children should be taught how to interact with the dog and that dogs are not toys, for the two to live in harmony. Little boys in particular need to be taught how to handle a dog and not to pull on the dog’s ears, tail, or private parts, or to stick things in the same places. Puppies tend to mouth and bite small children, steal their toys and knock them down, and you and the children need to learn how to handle these situations calmly. The immediate reaction of many children is to start screaming and running, which just exacerbates the problem.

Children should also be taught that the puppy's crate is off limits; it is the puppy's safe haven, and to respect the dog’s space, especially near food dishes and wherever the dog sleeps or rests outside the crate. “Being good with children” does NOT MEAN tolerating any amount of pummeling from a child without ever growling or biting. This is an unrealistic expectation for any breed, but particularly for one that is sensitive like the Vizsla.

Families with children might also consider whether they will have time for the dog to get enough attention and exercise with young children demanding parents’ time and attention. It is extremely hard to be successful when trying to house train a pup and toilet train a baby in the same time period. The pup usually ends up being the one who suffers on the training end.

Whether people have children or not, though, they should do as much as they can to childproof their dog, especially to toddlers and prepubescent children who seem to be especially threatening to dogs. They smell and behave differently than adult humans, which makes them confusing to dogs.

## **CARE DURING THE DAY:**

Your puppy should not be left alone all day long.

If you work, you will need to make arrangements for a neighbor, friend or pet sitter to come over

to walk and feed the dog or you can take the dog to work with you.

## **KONG TIME:**

If your dog is going to be left alone for any length of time, there is a dispenser that dispenses filled Kongs every 4 to 8 hours (your choice) It is called KongTime. It can be found at Petco 877-783-6742, some pet stores or Pro Active Pet Products 800-706-0308

## **FRIGHTENED BY SOMETHING?:**

DO NOT feed or praise if your dog is frightened by something.

Try to make a happy game of the situation.

DO NOT "push" it, thinking puppy is being "babyish" by being afraid of something.

DO NOT coddle or say, "It's ok.ay". They do not understand and could think that it is “okay “to be frightened since they got extra attention and an "ok".

## **PROTECTING VS. SOCIALIZING:**

Being able to PROTECT your puppy at this time is very important, but so is SOCIALIZING your puppy!

Your puppy needs to be treated as if it were a newborn baby.

Do not take your puppy anywhere where it could be exposed to a sick dog.

Parvo is transmitted through the air and in doggie poops. Be very careful!

Your puppy can only go to "safe" places for a long time. You might need to carry your puppy to safe places...the bank, outside the mall, to a neighbor or friend's house when you know that there have not been any strange dogs around. Take along hand sanitizer since anyone who pets your puppy needs to have washed up.

Once your pup has had all his/her shots s/he can go with you just about anywhere!

So PLEASE, be patient the first month. This is very important for his/her health. You will have him/her for a long time and this is just a very short time that you will have to make sure s/he is only at safe places.

Your Vizsla puppy needs to be around different kinds of people...old, young, tall, short, etc. (and different hats, since hats can frighten Vizslas).

Lots of people need to come to your house to hold and play with your puppy. Visitors need to take their shoes off or else dip in a solution of 1 part clorox /30 parts water and they need to wash their hands before they pet your puppy.

The important thing is to keep puppy away from any sick dog or any doggie poops.

And do not go to parks, dogshows, reststops, doggie care center or any other place where there have been (are) strange dogs until puppy has had all of its shots.

If you want to socialize your dog, you can carry puppy to town (do not put puppy on the ground) and have anyone who wants to pet puppy sanitize their hands first. Have the sanitizer with you and hand it to them!

## **HOUSEBREAKING:**

Puppies can be housebroken by 10 weeks.

A good book is How To Housebreak Your Dog in 7 Days by Shirlee Kalstone  
Positive Perspectives by Pat Miller has a good chapter on house training

There are several other good books on house training your dog

## **HINT FOR POTTY TRAINING:**

For the first week, maybe more, you should pick up the puppy after being crated to go outside. Do NOT let him run with you to the door as the excitement will ALWAYS create an accident in the house. You can say "outside" to puppy as you pick him up, no more talk until you are outside, then give ONE cue word "go pee" as he is going. AFTER the puppy has pottied, do a "puppy party" and get the puppy all excited. You can give him a treat when he goes potty or pee).

## **CHEWING ON FORBIDDEN THINGS:**

Try putting a little "Bitter Apple" on it to keep your puppy away from it.

## **POSSESSIVENESS:**

You should be able to remove a food bowl, toy or any object from your pup without a growl. If you can't, pup is being possessive and the behavior could escalate.

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG EXHIBITS POSSESSIVENESS:**

To start off, take food or whatever and offer something else, making it a game, then return the removed item.

Say "no" firmly if threatened and do not show fear or back off. Start this training very soon. Once established, you should not have a problem.

If you should ever have a problem with possessiveness or fear PLEASE READ:

Bones Would Rain From the Sky by Suzanne Clothier on dog/human relationships - it explains growling.

### **MANNERS:**

You should teach your puppy to WAIT at the door before being able to run outside and you should go out first.

Puppy should WAIT for everything until you say it is ok- food, treat, up on anything "allowed".

### **DOES YOUR DOG JUMP UP ON PEOPLE?:**

You should teach your puppy to not jump up on people.

My most successful method is to stand up straight with my arms folded in front of me.

Or you can TURN AROUND so there is no interaction (dogs even like negative interaction when they jump up and equate it to playing a game)!

### **DOES YOUR DOG PULL YOU ON YOUR WALKS?:**

Sensation Harness (a bit restrictive & should not be left on an active dog while running off-leash)

This is one of the most important things you can teach your dog. I like a method called "Choose To Heel". There are several good positive methods that would be taught in a positive obedience class. Yanking on the leash makes pulling WORSE!

### **"PLACE":**

You can train your dog to "go place" on a special blanket and take that blanket with you when you visit, so that your dog can "stay put". It can also be used to keep your dog quiet when guests come to the door. Doesn't work as well when you have 4 Vizslas in the house!

### **LEADERSHIP:**

LEADERSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ANY DOG/HUMAN RELATIONSHIP.

If you do not establish your LEADERSHIP, your dog will! and it could lead to aggression.

How To Be Leader Of The Pack And Have Your Dog Love You For It!

by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. Direct Books

1-800-776-2665.

How To Be A Dog's Leader by Stephen C. Rafe [www.starfire.rapport.com](http://www.starfire.rapport.com)

Cesar's Way by Cesar Milan (I like most of what he does, but not everything. He deals with some very difficult dogs)

### **TOO HEAVY OR TRIM?:**

An easy way to gauge whether your dog is the correct weight is to be sure that you can see his/her ribs when he/she turns to the side. If you can't, cut back on food intake until you can see his/her ribs. Then your Vizsla (any age) will be the correct weight. Being too heavy is not healthy.

### **EXERCISE:**

Do NOT (ever!) exercise your dog for at least 1 hour after they have eaten. Dogs like Vizslas (with a big tuck-up) can be prone to bloat or torsion, which can be life-threatening.

Do not over-exercise your puppy; ask your vet how much to exercise. Too much running too soon could lead to joint problems later on.

Exercise should be "free-exercise" where the puppy can stop and rest when needed.

Do not allow young puppy to walk longer than 20 minutes at a time. After that, puppy needs to be carried. Their bones & joints are developing and can be stressed with too much exercise.

Exercise is very important for your grown Vizsla. They should be allowed to run off-leash once a day. They will need to have been obedience trained to come to you when called.

Running around in the backyard is not enough exercise for a Vizsla. They will most likely stand at the door and want you to come out or they will want to come in where you are!

Running alongside a runner or a bicycle ("roading") is NOT the only "off-leash" exercise they need. Roading is for conditioning. Be aware that this conditioning could lead to the need for even more exercise!

You can play catch with a racket to really fling the ball for retrieving. Do not over-do the ball retrieving- you might end up with a BALL-CRAZY DOG which can be very annoying, since that can become all they want to do! And they won't want to listen to anything!

Rough-housing or playing tug-or-war (rolling around on the floor with your Vizsla) can lead to OVER-STIMULATION, an attempt to dominate or even aggression.

If you run your dog on "nice" grass, be sure to wash off their paws. Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides can be very harmful to a puppy (or a dog) and are thought to have a part in causing some kinds of cancers or seizures.

Good long walks on leash around your neighborhood might be enough for some Vizslas.

### **BALL-CRAZY DOGS/LAZER OR SHADOW-CRAZY DOGS:**

I do not encourage repetitive ball retrieving which can result in your puppy becoming "ball-crazy".

A ball-crazy dog can become difficult to train or to get to do anything other than drop the ball at your feet for you to throw again!

They will not pay attention to anything except the ball.

IF you want to throw a ball for your dog, alternate it with other toys and games.

The same thing can happen with a lazer beam, reflection or shadow. As fun as it may seem at first, DO NOT encourage play with things that can create a crazy, driven (even neurotic) dog!

### **HOT OR COLD WEATHER:**

In HOT weather you can use a kitchen towel that has been connected at the front and has a velcro connection or other kind of tie around the tummy. Just keep it wet and the

moisture in the towel will evaporate and keep your dog cool. They could also lie on a wet towel.

You can use a fan (PetEdge) attached to their crate that has a freezer pack that keeps the air cool!

There are also cloth “bones” that can be frozen and help cool a dog down. These “Chilly bones” are also good for teething puppies.

Chamois cloths retain water for a long time, so wet coats with chamois liners work well.

In COLD weather you can use a dog coat or a dog rain coat. I do not like sweaters since they stretch out quickly.

### **DOG AGE:**

Year 1 = 16 years

Year 2 = 24 years

Year 3 = 30 years

Every year = 5 years

### **HELP FOR CARSICKNESS:**

Curing carsickness works best if it's shaped.

Don't feed a large meal.

Here is a progression to help your dog get over carsickness:

Go sit in the car with the engine running for 5 minutes.

Get in car, let engine run 2 minutes, back out and go a block and come back.

Get in car, let engine run a minute, go two blocks, come back, let engine run a minute.

Get in car, let engine run a minute, go around block (turns), come back and let engine run a minute.

Work up slowly to several blocks with some turns.

This usually does the trick in about 2 weeks time as they get accustomed to the motion and relax enough to stop the sickness. Car sickness is worse in the back of a vehicle and in SUV's and trucks, as they ride stiffer.

### **GROOMING:**

#### **BRUSHING:**

Use a rubber brush (horse curry type) for brushing.

I don't particularly like grooming gloves.

Brush as often as you want to. For me, it is a bonding time with my dogs.

They need more brushing in Spring-Fall than in the Winter.

1 tsp - 1 Tbs of Flaxseed oil, EFA or salmon/fish oil (wild-caught) in their food will help keep their coat shiny.

Reward with a treat after any kind of grooming.

### **NAILS:**

Nail Clipping IS NOT AN OPTION FOR YOUR VIZSLA! Most Vizslas do not like to have their nails clipped, but it is something that HAS to be done! They might sound like you are poking them with a cattle prod, but do not let them get away with not having their nails clipped. It could be a leadership issue! If you are nervous about

clipping their nails, they could be “picking up” on that and you might need to take them to your vet or groomer.

Nails need to be clipped every 2 weeks or more often if desired. I try to clip every 10 days.

Prepare for clipping by getting puppy used to having his/her feet touched!

Use puppy scissors (cat nail clippers) at first and later on, either heavy-duty clippers or a dremel grinder.

File or dremel if you use clippers, so they won't have rough, sharp nails.

Nails should never touch the ground in order to preserve their “cat-like” foot structure.

Unclipped nails can result in damage to the LEG, eventually affecting the way your dog walks and can actually cripple a dog.

Be sure to give your dog lots of praise or a treat after any grooming-especially nail clipping.

### **TEETH:**

Gum disease can lead to many health problems.

Having clean teeth is very important for your Vizsla.

Your puppy should allow access to his/her mouth.

Prepare by getting puppy used to having your fingers in his/her mouth.

Check teeth often: brush or scale your dog's teeth.

I scale my dogs' teeth.

I brush my dogs'teeth with an electric toothbrush.

PETZLIFE: Every other day my dogs get a couple of sprays of PetzLife spray and then I brush their teeth. PetzLife also comes in a gel which could be used as a toothpaste to help get rid of tartar. My nutritionist approved of the ingredients, but not the ingredients in a popular dog toothpaste.

Do not use floride toothpaste which is toxic.

### **EARS:**

Check ears when grooming; clean with warm water on cotton ball- don't use harsh cleaners.

IF you have problems with your dog's ears, you can try the following:

Day 1-3: With a clean dropper or rubber ball “syringe”, put a little warmed olive oil (not hot - test it) in ears and then massage ears.

Day 4-6: Use warm olive oil and add warm, undiluted or concentrated green tea - massage ears. Then put 1/4 tsp plain yougurt in the ear and massage into ear.

Not enough?; for 3 days massage a mixture of 1/2tsp plain yougurt w/ 1/2 sp warm water in ear.

### **BATHING YOUR VIZSLA:**

Vizslas are “wash-and-wear” dogs and do not need to be bathed very often.

Be sure to bathe if you have been in poison oak!

Hopefully, you will never encounter a skunk!

### **SOME SHAMPOOS:**

Dr. Goodpet's Pure Shampoo 1-800-222-9932

8 in 1 Pet Products Perfect Coat Hypoallergenic Shampoo 516-232-1200

Brookside Soap, Inc.'s Best Friend Pet Shampoo 425-742-2265

Pet Gold's Herbal Hypoallergenic Shamopoo 619-453-8373

Bert's Bees, Inc.'s Oat Straw Pet Soap 919-510-8720  
Buddy Wash Shampoo and Buddy Wash Rinse

### **CLEAN UP:**

A two-handled dog scoop for poops is MUCH easier than a shovel!

A plastic bag turned inside out (like a glove) works at the park.

For carpets, etc. the best cleaner is NATURE'S MIRACLE STAIN AND ODOR REMOVER -  
(NOT Nature's Miracle Petmess Clean-Up).

### **IDENTIFICATION:**

Tattoo vs. Microchip:

A tattoo is better for identification than a microchip. If you ever need to use homeopathic silica to get a foxtail out, the chip could move around in the body.

### **LAWN CHEMICALS/PESTICIDES:**

[http://www.alternet.org/healthwellness/123420/pesticides\\_in\\_pet\\_products%3A\\_why\\_your\\_dog\\_or\\_cat\\_may\\_be\\_at\\_risk/?page1=entire](http://www.alternet.org/healthwellness/123420/pesticides_in_pet_products%3A_why_your_dog_or_cat_may_be_at_risk/?page1=entire)

Do NOT use pesticides/insecticides/fertilizers/herbicides (like Roundup) anywhere near where your puppy or dog plays in your yard.

If you HAVE to use chemicals (maybe to get rid of foxtails), be sure that your dog does not go outside in that area for WEEKS or even MONTHS.

Be aware of what your neighbor might be using!

Be aware of potential harm to your dog from chemicals in the environment; chemical exposure can be very serious and can result in serious health issues. Some cancers and seizures have been linked to exposure to pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and/or fertilizers.

Do not let your puppy or dog go on any "manicured lawns", including Dog Park lawns, without washing his feet afterwards. Chemicals can be absorbed through their pads or they might lick their paws and ingest the pesticide.

It would be best to not let your Vizsla romp on unnatural, very-green-no-weeds-grass. Too green to be natural = DON'T GO THERE!

NEVER let puppy or dog eat Dog Park or manicured-lawn grass.

Fertilizers that can be used:

Scotts Organic Choice Fertilizer

EcoSmart

Other organic brands

Herbicides that can be used:

Burn Out II

Vinegar based products.

Even household or pickling vinegar can be used if used often. Patience works!

Corn meal gluten can be used for pre-emergent weed defence. This can be sprinkled in vegetable gardens or flower beds to prevent weeds from starting.

### **CHEMICALS FROM TAR OR HOT PAVEMENT:**

Hot pavement releases a very dangerous toxin-especially if your dog licks its paws after walking

on hot pavement. Do not walk your dog on the street during the hottest part of the day.

### **WATER AND SWIMMING POOLS:**

Your puppy needs to drink FILTERED water if you need to drink FILTERED water!

Most tap water is not really safe to drink without being filtered.

Be aware that **chlorine** in a SWIMMING POOL can cause health problems if your dog drinks the water or swims and is not rinsed off with clean water after getting out of the pool.

### **DANGEROUS FOR DOGS:**

electric cords

rubber bands

rubber gloves

string

dental floss

sticks

tennis balls

MANY MORE THINGS....

### **TOXIC TO DOGS AND US!!!- (PARTIAL LIST) add your own!:**

antifreeze

bleach

boric acid

brake fluid

carbon monoxide

carburetor cleaner

carpet cleaners (some)

cigarette butts

cleaning chemicals

cleaning fluid

deodorizers

detergents

disinfectants

drain cleaner

dye

fertilizers

floor cleaners

fungicides

furniture polish

gasoline

herbicides

insecticides

kerosene

lead

lye

matches

metal polish

mineral spirits  
 mothballs  
 paint  
 pesticides  
 phenol  
 photographic developer  
 poisonous toads  
 rat poison  
 shoe polish  
**snail and slug bait!!!**  
 turpentine  
 windshield washer fluid  
 wood preservatives  
 zinc toxicosis (pennies from the 1980s to today, zipper pulls, screws, bolts, zinc oxide, neosporin, polysporin etc.) Can cause kidney failure and damage to red blood cells. A dog that consumes even one penny can become quite sick, or even die, if the penny is not removed.  
 MORE.....

## **TOILETRIES AND MEDICATIONS TOXIC TO DOGS**

### **ASPIRIN**

deodorants  
 fluoride toothpaste  
 hair colorings  
 laxatives  
 nutritional supplements (they need to be for dogs)  
 nail polish  
 nail polish remover  
 neosporin, polysporin (shouldn't be able to lick it off)  
 ointments containing Vitamin D  
 permanent wave lotion  
 prescription drugs  
 rubbing alcohol! isopropyl alcohol  
 sleeping pills  
 soaps (some)

**SULFA drugs** (SMZ)... can cause liver damage

suntan lotion

**TYLENOL, DATRIL**, etc. (very harmful to dogs)

**XYLITOL** (Altoids, Trident, Xylichew, XyliBrush, Spry, ThermaGum)

## **FOODS TOXIC OR DANGEROUS TO DOGS:**

Avocados (fruit, pit and plant) can cause difficulty breathing,, fluid in chest, abdomen or heart or pancreatitis

Bacon and Ham contain too much fat and too much salt, and can cause pancreatitis. Also, large breeds of dogs that eat salty food may drink too much water and develop life-threatening bloat.

Caffeine (coffee, coffee grounds, tea or tea bags) stimulates the nervous system and can cause vomiting, heart palpitations and even death within hours.

Chocolate (and Sweets) can cause seizures, coma and death. Baker's chocolate is the most dangerous. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is. But any chocolate, in large enough amounts, can kill a dog. An ounce of chocolate can poison a 30 lb dog and many dogs will happily consume more than this. The symptoms may not show up for several hours (you might think all is well), with death following within twenty-four hours. A dog can consume milk chocolate and appear to be fine because it is not as concentrated, but it is still dangerous.

Cooked Bones can splinter and tear a dog's internal organs.

Dairy Products are high in fat, which can cause pancreatitis, gas and diarrhea. A small amount of non-fat, plain yogurt is usually safe. Goat's Milk yogurt is the best.

Diet Products - ANY product containing the sweetener **XYLITOL** can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures. Unless treatment is given quickly, the dog could die.

Fat and Fried Foods/Turkey skin (too much) can cause pancreatitis.

Garlic - large amounts can cause the same problems as onions

Grains (wheat and corn, etc.) and soy should NOT be given in large amounts or make up a large part of a dog's diet (rice is generally safe in small amounts). Too much can cause liver damage and seizures or loss of hair.

Grapes and Raisins can cause kidney failure. As little as a single serving of raisins can kill a small dog. If a dog doesn't eat enough at one time for it to be fatal, severe damage can result from eating just a few grapes or raisins regularly.

Macadamia nuts can cause weakness, muscle tremors and paralysis. These symptoms are usually temporary.

Onions or chives (raw, powdered, dehydrated or cooked) can destroy red blood cells and can cause anemia, weakness and breathing difficulty. Even small amounts can cause cumulative damage over time.

Raw Egg Whites contain a protein called avidin, which can deplete your dog of biotin, one of the B vitamins. Biotin is essential to your dog's growth and coat health. The lack of it can cause hair loss, weakness, growth retardation, or skeleton deformity. Raw egg yolks could contain salmonella, so you should get your eggs from a reliable source or cook the eggs. A good way to feed eggs to your dog is to soft boil the egg and blend it (shell and all).

Raw Liver or too much cooked liver (three servings a week) can lead to vitamin A toxicity. This can cause deformed bones, excessive bone growth on the elbows and spine, weight loss, and anorexia. Check the label of your canned food to be sure that it does not contain liver if you are giving your dog liver as well.

Seeds and Pits-Apple seeds, cherry pits, pear seeds, peaches and apricot pits contain cyanide which is poisonous.

Tomatoes can cause tremors and heart arrhythmias. Tomato plants are the most toxic, but tomatoes themselves are also unsafe (all parts of the plant except for the tomato are also toxic to humans).

Unbaked yeast dough (can expand in stomach)

Walnuts are poisonous to dogs.

Wild mushrooms can cause abdominal pain, drooling, liver damage, kidney damage, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, coma, or death.

### **HARMFUL PLANTS:**

Puppies like to chew on anything.....

Don't let puppies chew toxic plants!

Know your plants and puppy-proof your house and yard.

For an extensive list of toxic plants....

web sites on toxic plants:

<http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/cover1.htm>

<http://www.napcc.asPCA.org>

### **COMMON PLANTS THAT ARE POISONOUS TO DOGS - THERE ARE MORE ON SITES:**

Amaryllis (bulb)  
Andromeda  
Arrowgrass  
Avocado  
Azalea  
Bittersweet  
Boxwood  
Buttercup  
Caladium  
Castor Bean  
Chokecherry  
Climbing Lilly  
Crown of Thorns  
Daffodil (bulbs)  
Daphne  
Death Camas  
Delphinium  
Dieffenbachia  
Dock  
Dumb Cane  
Elephant Ear  
English Ivy  
Elderberry  
Flax  
Foxglove  
Hemlock  
Holly  
Hyacinth (bulb)  
Hydrangea  
Iris (bulb)

Japanese Yew  
Jasmine (berries)  
Jerusalem Cherry  
Jimson Weed  
Laburnum  
Larkspur  
Laurel  
Lobelia  
Locoweed  
Lupine  
Marigold  
Marijuana  
Mistletoe (berries)  
Monkshood  
Mushrooms  
Narcissus (bulb)  
Nightshade/ potato  
Oak trees  
Oleander  
Philodendron  
Poison Ivy/ Oak  
Poppies  
Privet  
Rhododendron  
Rhubarb  
Snow on the Mountain  
Stinging Nettle  
Sweet Pea  
Toadstool  
Tobacco  
Tulip (bulb)  
Vetch  
Wisteria  
Yew  
MORE...

**FEEDING:**

Remember: DO NOT exercise your dog for at least 1 hour after eating a meal!

Feed 3 meals a day for the first 4-6 months. After that, feed 1 or 2 meals a day. I prefer to feed 2.

Puppies and dogs should NOT be fed “free choice” (free-feeding) which can lead to finicky, picky eating habits.

Discard any food that was not eaten or save it in the refrigerator for the next meal.

Do not feed from table if you do not want a beggar!

You should be able to remove your dog's food bowl without a growl!

Feed 1/3-1/4th more food in the winter if you live in a cold climate.

Adjust food with activity level.

Go easy on treats (too many can upset puppy).

Stay away from **WHEAT, DAIRY, SOY** or **CORN**- (check labels even in treats)

Read labels and don't feed anything with **preservatives** or **additives**.

It is best to keep a kibble meal separate from a raw food meal.

### **BOWLS:**

Plastic bowls can change the pigment on your dog's nose.

Ceramic bowls made in China might have lead in them.

A good site for ceramic bowls, **MADE IN USA**, and therefore would not contain potentially harmful lead: [Fiestaware.com](http://Fiestaware.com)

Stainless bowls are good, but you might not want foreign made stainless. A site for stainless bowls made in USA is: [Arcatpet.com](http://Arcatpet.com) .

### **KIBBLE:**

With any kibble stay away from a lot of wheat, dairy, soy or corn. These ingredients are not good for dogs. Even treats with these ingredients should be given only occasionally. The kibbles that I like best are Orijen Chicken, Turkey-Fish, Evo Chicken-Turkey Large Bites, and Evo Red Meat Large Bites, California Natural Chicken, Wellness Lamb, Natural Balance Duck and Potato and Natural Balance Organic. There are MANY other good kibbles.

The best **KIBBLES** according to The Whole Dog Journal as of Feb. 2010: (**bold**=my favorites)  
**SOME COMPANIES HAVE MORE GOOD PRODUCTS THAN ARE MENTIONED HERE..**

Artemis Pet Foods - North Hollywood, CA 800-282-5876; [artemiscompany.com](http://artemiscompany.com); (Fresh

Mix Adult, Natural 6 Mix) made by Diamond Pet Products, Lathrop, CA

Back To Basics - Meadville, PA 800-219-2558; [backtobasics.com](http://backtobasics.com) (Chicken and Pork Formulas) made by CJ Foods in Pawnee City, NE

Bench & Field Pet Foods - Grand Rapids, MI 800-525-4802; [benchandfield.com](http://benchandfield.com);

(Holistic Natural Canine) made by WellPet in Mishawaka, IN (@

Trader Joes)

Blue Buffalo Company - Wilton, CT 800-919-1833; [bluebuff.com](http://bluebuff.com); (Blue Organics and

Blue Wilderness) made by Chenango Valley Pet Foods, Sherburne, NY, CJ

Foods Bern, KS, Dad's Pet Care, Meadville, PA, Triple T Foods, Frontenac, KS

and Blue Seal Feeds - Londonderry NH, 800-367-2730; [bynaturepetfoods.com](http://bynaturepetfoods.com); (By Nature

By Nature Organics) made by Blue Seal's in Arcade, NY, organic food is made by

Chenango Valley Pet Foods in Sherburne, NY

Breeder's Choice Pet Foods - Irwindale, CA 800-255-4286; [breeders-choice.com](http://breeders-choice.com);

(Avoderm, Pinnacle Holistic Chicken and Oats, Pinnacle Holistic

Trout & Sweet Potato) made by Breeder's Choice plant in Irwindale, CA

Burns Pet Health - Valparaiso, IN 877-983-9651; [burnspethealth.com](http://burnspethealth.com); (Brown Rice and

Chicken) made by CJ Foods in Bern, KS

**California Natural** see: Natura

Canidae Corp. - San Luis Obispo, CA 800-398-1600; [canidae.com](http://canidae.com); (Canidae Grain-Free

All Life Stages Formula) made by Diamond Pet Foods in Lathro, CA,

Meta, MO and Gaston, SC

Canine Caviar Pet Foods - Costa Mesa, CA 800-392-7898; [caninecaviar.com](http://caninecaviar.com); (Chicken

& Pearl Millet Formula) made by Ohio Pet Foods, Lisbon, OH

**Castor & Pollux Pet Works** - Clackamas, OR

800-875-7518; castorpolluxpet.com; (**Organix Adult Formula**) made by CJ Foods in Bern, KS (Organix), Crosswinds Petfoods, Inc. Sabetha, KS

(Ultramix)

**Champion Petfoods** - Morinville, Alberta, Canada

877-939-0006;championpetfoods.com; (**Orijen**) made by Champion's own plant in Alberta, Canada

Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul: see Diamond Pet Products

**Della Natura Commodities** - Bayside, NY 866-936-2393; dellanaturapet.com;

(**Wenaewe**) made by Erro S.A. in Dolores, Uruguay

Diamond Pet Products- Meta, MO 800-658-0624; chickensoupforthepetloverssoul.com

& Formula and Lathrop, CA, Meta, MO and Gaston, SC  
premiumedgepetfood.com; (Chicken Soup For Pet Lover's Soul Adult Taste Of The Wild) made by Diamond's own manufacturing facilities in

Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance - Pacoima, CA 800-829-4493; naturalbalance.net;

(Natural Balance Original Ultra and Natural Balance Organic Formulas)

made by CJ Foods in Perham MN

Dogswell, LLC - Los Angeles, CA 888-559-8833;dogswell.com; (Vitality) made by

Tuffy's Pet Foods in Perham, MN

And Drs. Foster & Smith - Rhinelander, WI 800-826-7206; drsfostersmith.com; (Chicken Brown Rice) made by CJ Foods in Bern, KS and Pawnee City, NE

Evanger's Dog & Cat Food Co. - Wheeling, IL. 800-288-6796; evangersdogfood.com;

(Chicken & Brown Rice Formula) made by Ohio Pet Foods, Lisbon, OH

(whtiefish and chicken varieties) and Fromm Family Foods, Mequon, WI (Pheasant variety)

**Evo** see: Natura Pet Products (Grain Free)

Firstmate Dog Foods - North Vancouver, BC, Canada 800-658-1166; firstmate.com;

(Firstmate's Chicken and Blueberries formula) made by FirstMates' own in Chilliwack, BC, Canada

plant

Fromm Family Foods - Mequon, WI 800-325-6331; frommfamilyfoods.com; (Fromm

Classic Adult) made by Fromm's own plant in Mequon, WI

**GO! Natural** see: Petcurean Pet Nutrition

**Innova** see: Natura Pet Products

**Karma Organic** see; Natura Pet Products, karmaorganic.com

KLN Enterprises- KLN Enterprises, Perham, MN, 800-525-9155;

nutrisourcedogfood.com

(Natural Planet Organics and NutriSource)

Laughing Dog, Inc. - Lodi, CA 805-653-7813; laughingdoginc.com (Young Dog,, Brave

Dog and Wise Dog) made by Taplow Feeds, Chilliwack, BC, Canada

Life4K9 Pet Food Corp. -Dawsonville, GA 888-543-3459; life4k9.com; (Life4K9

Oven-Baked Chicken and Barley Formula-Good for Vizslas) made by Bio

Biscuit in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, and Hampshire Pet Products,

Joplin, MO

Lincoln Biotech - East Bend, NC 800-253-8128; www.lincolnbiotech.com; (Zinpro)

made by Chenango Valley Pet Foods, in Sherburne, NY

**Merrick Pet Care** - Amarillo, TX 800-664-7387; merrickpetcare.com; (Merrick's

Wilderness) made by Merrick Pet Care, Hereford, TX

Mulligan Stew Pet Food - Jackson, WY 888-364-7839; mulliganstewpetfood.com  
(Mulligam Stew) made by Mountain Country Foods, Okeene, OK

**Natura Pet Products** - Santa Clara, CA 800-532-7261; naturapet.com; (**California Natural Chicken & Beef Formulas, Karma, Innova and EVO**) made by Natura's own plants in Fremont, NE and San Leandro, CA

by **Natural Balance Ultra Premium** see: Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance  
Natural Planet Organics see: KLN Enterprises

**Nature's Variety** - Lincoln, NE 888-519-7387; naturesvariety.com (Nature's Variety Instinct and **Prairie** -New Zealand Venison, Beef Meal and Barley) made by Pied Piper Mills in Hamlin, TX

**NOW!** see: Petcurean Pet Nutrition  
Omnipro Pet Foods - Madison, MS 601-898-7773; omnipro.net (Omnipro Holistic Salmon and Potato) made by Diamond Pet Products in Lathrop, CA Meta, Mo, and Gaston, SC

**Organix** see: Castor & Pollux Pet Works  
Perfect Health Diet Products - Elmsford, NY 800-743-1502; phdproducts.com (PHD Canine Maintenance and Growth Viand Formula) made by Chenango Valley Pet Foods in Sherburne, NY

Pet Chef Express - New Westminister, BC, Canada 604-916-2433; petchefexpress.ca (Pet Chef Express) made by Nutreco Canada, Inc. Guelph, Ontario, Canada  
Pet Valu - Markham, Ontario, Canada 800-738-8258; performatrinultra.com  
(Performatrin Ultra) made by Elmira Pet Products, Ontario, Canada  
Petcurean Pet Nutrition- Abbotsford, BC 866-864-6112; petcurean.com (**GO! Natural** - Chicken and Vegetable Formula, Summit Holistics and **NOW!**) made by Elmira Pet Products, Ontario, Canada

PHD Viand see: Perfect Health Diet Products  
Pinnacle see: Breeder's Choice  
**Prairie** see: Nature's Variety  
Precise Pet Products - Nacogdoches, TX 888-477-3247; Precisepet.com (Precise Plus) made by Texas Farm Products' own plant in Nacogdoches, TX  
Raw Instinct see: Nature's Variety  
SmartPak Canine - Plymouth, MA 800-326-0282; smartpak.com (LiveSmart Lamb and Brown Rice) made by Chenango Valley Pet Foods in Sherburne, NY  
Solid Gold Health Products for Pets, Inc. - El Cajon, CA 800-364-4863; solidgoldhealth.com (WolfKing Adult Variety) made by Diamond Pet Products in Lathrop, CA and Meta, MO

**Tuffy's Pet Foods, Inc.** - Perham, MN 800-525-9155 nutrisourcedogfood.com (**Natural Planet Organics, NutriSource and Pure Vita**) made by Tuffy's own plant in Perham, MN

VerUS Pet Foods - Abingdon, MD 888-828-3787; veruspetfoods.com (VerUS Life Advantage) made by Ohio Pet Foods, Lisbon, OH

**Wellpet** - Tewksbury, MA 800-225-0904; wellpet.com (Holistic Select, Wellness Core, Wellness Simple Solutions and Wellness Super5Mix) made by Wellpet's plant in Mishawaka, IN, Hagen Pet Foods in Waverly, NY, CJ Foods in Bern KS, American Nutrition, Inc. in Ogden, UT, and Diamond Pet Foods in Gaston, SC & LathropCA

**Wenaewe** see: Della Natura Commodities.

Wysong Maintenance - Wysong Corp. Midland, MI 800-748-0188; wysong.net

Zinpro see: Lincoln Biotech

## **GRAIN-FREE FOODS**

Artemis Pet Foods - North Hollywood, CA 800-282-5876; artemiscompany.com  
(Maximal Dog)

Barking At the Moon see: Solid Gold Health Products for Pets, Inc.

Canine Caviar - Costa Mesa, CA 800-392-7898; caninecaviar.com (Venison and Split  
Pea Adult Dinner)

Champion Pet Foods - Morinville, Alberta 780-939-6888; championpetfoods.com

**(Orijen)**

Diamond Pet Products - Meta, MO 800-658-0624; tasteofthewildpetfood.com (Taste of  
the Wild)

Evo see: Natura Pet Products

Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance - Pacioma, CA 800-829-4493; naturalbalanceinc.com  
(Potato & Duck, Sweet Potato & Fish and Sweet Potato & Venison)

FirstMate see: Taplow Feeds

**Go!**Natural Grain Free see: Petcurean Pet Nutrition

Instinct see: Nature's Variety

Maximal Dog see: Artemis Pet Foods

**Now!** see: Petcurean Pet Nutrition

**Orijen** see: Champion Pet Foods

Petcurean Pet Nutrition - Chillwack, British Columbia 866-864-6112; petcurean.com  
(**Now!**, **Go! Natural Grain Free**)

Natura Pet Products - Santa Clara, CA 800-532-7261; naturapet.com (**Evo** Chicken and  
**Evo** Red Meat and Reduced Fat)

Nature's Variety - 888-519-7387; naturesvariety.com Lincoln, NE (Instinct)

Royal Canin Veterinary Diet - Royal Canin USA, Inc., St. Charles, MO 800-592-6687;  
royalcanin.us(Potato and Rabbit Formula)

Solid Gold Health Products for Pets. Inc.- El Cajon, CA 800-364-4863;  
solidgoldhealth.com (Barking at the Moon)

Firstmate Pet Foods - North Vancouver, BC 800-658-1166; firstmate.com (FirstMate  
Potato and Fish, or with Blueberries)

Taste Of The Wild see: Diamond Pet Products

## **KIBBLE EVALUATION:**

Start with 100:

- 1) For every listing of "by-product", subtract 10 points
- 2) For every non-specific animal source ("meat" or "poultry", meat meal or fat) reference, subtract 10 points
- 3) If the food contains BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin, subtract 10 points
- 4) For every grain "mill run" or non-specific grain source, subtract 5 points

- 5) If the same grain ingredient is used two or more times in the first five ingredients (i.e. "ground brown rice", "brewer's rice", "rice flour" are all the same grain), subtract 5 points
- 6) If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than two meats in the top three ingredients, subtract 3 points
- 7) If it contains any artificial colorants, subtract 3 points
- 8) If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn, subtract 3 points
- 9) If corn is listed in the top five ingredients, subtract 2 more points
- 10) If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil, subtract 2 points
- 11) If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources), subtract 2 points
- 12) If it contains soy or soybeans, subtract 2 points
- 13) If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to wheat), subtract 2 points
- 14) If it contains beef (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to beef), subtract 1 point
- 15) If it contains salt, subtract 1 point

Extra Credit:

- 1) If any of the meat sources are organic, add 5 points
- 2) If the food is endorsed by any major breed group or nutritionist, add 5 points
- 3) If the food is baked not extruded, add 5 points
- 4) If the food contains probiotics, add 3 points
- 5) If the food contains fruit, add 3 points
- 6) If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points
- 7) If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free, add 2 points
- 8) If the food contains barley, add 2 points
- 9) If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds), add 2 points
- 10) If the food contains oats or oatmeal, add 1 point
- 11) If the food contains sunflower oil, add 1 point
- 12) For every different specific animal protein source (other than the first one, count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but "chicken" and " " as 2 different sources), add 1 point
- 13) If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin, add 1 point
- 14) If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are pesticide-free, add 1 point

94-100+ = A

86-93 = B

78-85 = C

70-77 = D

69 = F

**DOG FOOD SCORES:**

Here are some foods that have already been scored.

Authority Harvest Baked / Score 116 A+

Bil-Jac Select / Score 68 F

Canidae / Score 112 A+

Chicken Soup Senior / Score 115 A+ (I don't like this one)

Diamond Maintenance / Score 64 F

Diamond Lamb Meal & Rice / Score 92 B  
 Diamond Large Breed 60+ Formula / Score 99 A  
 Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Ultra Premium / Score 122 A+  
 Dick Van Patten's Duck and Potato / Score 106 A+  
 Foundations / Score 106 A+  
 Hund-n-Flocken Adult Dog (lamb) by Solid Gold / Score 73 D  
 Iams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Premium / Score 73 D  
 Innova Dog / Score 114 A+  
 Innova Evo / Score 114 A+  
 Kirkland Signature Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables / Score 110 A+  
 Nutrisource Lamb and Rice / Score 87 B  
 Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy / Score 87 B  
 Pet Gold Adult with Lamb & Rice / Score 23 F  
 ProPlan Natural Turkey & Barley / Score 103 A+  
 Purina Beneful / Score 17 F  
 Purina Dog / Score 62 F  
 Purina Come-n-Get It / Score 16 F  
 Royal Canin Bulldog / Score 100 A+  
 Royal Canin Natural Blend Adult / Score 106 A+  
 Sensible Choice Chicken and Rice / Score 97 A NO  
 Science Diet Advanced Protein Senior 7+ / Score 63 F  
 Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies / Score 69 F  
 Wellness Super5 Mix Chicken / Score 110 A+  
 Wolfking Adult Dog (bison) by Solid Gold / Score 97 A

### **WHAT TO DO WITH A GULPER:**

If your dog swallows its food without chewing and sometimes ends up with reverse sneezing, snorting, it might help to put a ball or bowl in the dog dish. Your dog will need to work at getting the food and can not eat as fast.

### **IF YOU ARE FEEDING KIBBLE ONLY:**

you can add:

Egg - soft boiled with shell-1 or 2/week (cage-free or organic).

Cooked hamburger or left-over meats that are not too spicy or greasy.

Flax oil, EFA oil, fish oil OR Missing Link -1 tsp -1 TBS every day.

Cod liver oil should not be fed daily.

Powdered greens (1/2 alfalfa and 1/2 blue green algae, etc.).

Fastrack probiotic which can be found at [www.Wellpet.com](http://www.Wellpet.com)

Greentripe which can be found at [www.greentripe.com](http://www.greentripe.com)

Udo's Choice Pet Essentials For Dogs 1-800-446-2110 [www.florahealth.com](http://www.florahealth.com) or at a good health food store. This is a very good product.

Many other supplements are available.

Canned food: There are many good canned foods which you can find at a good pet store.

add Canned food should not have anything but meat- no rice or other fillers". I about 1 Tbs/ kibble meal.

## **IMMUNE SYSTEM:**

To boost your puppy's immune system (especially after getting their rabies shot), you can use Transfer Factor (on web) or Beta Glucan that you can find at a good health food store. A holistic vet might be able to recommend something else like Standard Process Canine Immune Booster.

## **RAW FOOD DIET:**

A good raw food diet will help boost the immune system.

There are some good frozen-raw foods on the market now and they are much easier than making your own raw diet. A good pet store should have a choice of good frozen raw foods.

Here is a site for a new "raw food" product that sounds good.

<http://www.thehonestkitchen.com/index.htm>

**Nature's Variety** has frozen medallions and patties.

**Oma's Pride** is another brand of frozen food

I use The Ultimate Diet by Kymythy Schultze to make my dogs' raw food diet. This book can be ordered from Dogwise - Direct Books 1-800-776-2665.or call 1-800-654-5126

## **FEEDING RAW FOOD:**

Feeding raw food can be overwhelming at first because we want to be sure that our dogs are getting everything they need.

Kymythy Schultze's advice: "Stop focusing on exact percentages of ingredients and amounts of food. Think food groups and balance instead. The general proportions of foods that you feed your pet are important, but don't torture yourself over it.

The easiest and most accurate method of balancing the correct proportions of food is to think 'prey animal'. Basically, you will build a prey animal for your domesticated carnivore." ( I think "mouse").

I feed a raw meal once a day. Their other meal is a good kibble. That way I do not have to worry about them not getting the right nutrients that I might have missed in the raw food.

I used to worry about doing everything "right". With time it has become easier.

Our puppies get chicken necks cut into pieces at about 5 weeks of age. They ask for more!

### **MEATS:**

CHICKEN NECKS, (occasionally BACKS) and GROUND HAMBURGER,, BUFFALO, CHICKEN or LAMB.

### **GREEN TRIPE:**

Green tripe is the contents of a cow's stomach. It is very healthy for dogs. My dogs love it.

I buy large rolls, thaw it a little and repackage it in smaller containers for the freezer. You can order it at Greentripe.com. or call 1-831-635-0724.

### **VEGETABLES:**

I mix up a batch of raw veggies (no onions) in my Cuisinart, freeze most of it and store the rest in the refrigerator.

I add about 1-2 TBS in each raw food meal.

I use various amounts of zucchini, parsley, lettuce, a little chard, a little kale, a few garlic cloves, carrots and some gingerroot (start out gradually with the

gingerroot-my dogs really like it now). You can use other veggies sometimes. You should vary the vegetables. I use (and recommend) organic vegetables.

You can also feed your dog lightly steamed vegetables.

My dogs love cooked green beans and cooked beets and raw red cabbage-not too much though.

### **SWEET POTATOES:**

My dogs love sweet potatoes.They get 1 Tbs or more several days a week.

### **OILS:**

I add 1 tsp -1 TBS(or 2-3 capsules) good (organic) flax oil, EFA oil, wild Salmon or Fish oil (all kept in the refrigerator), organic Coconut Oil AND/OR **Udo's Choice Pet**

**Essentials For Dogs.** I alternate the oils. .

### **POWDERED GREENS:**

My dogs get a mixture of alfalfa and kelp, etc. almost every day.

### **PROBIOTIC:**

My dogs get Fastrack Probiotic. There are other good probiotics on the market.

### **EGGS:**

About twice a week I add 1/2 cage-free or organic soft boiled egg-shell and all, per dog.

### **ORGAN MEATS:**

I limit the amount of organ meats my dogs get. They get lamb or beef liver or heart every couple of weeks.

### **BISCUITS:**

Since I do not like to feed much wheat, dairy, soy or corn, I read the labels carefully and do not give my dogs very many treats!

There are several companies making wheat-free biscuits which you can find at a good pet store. Some **Buddy Biscuits** are wheat, corn and soy-free.

**Wet Noses All Natural Organic Dog Treats** are also wheat, corn and soy free.

**PUREBITES** dehydrated treats

### **CHEWS:**

Some dogs like to chew on ice cubes.

The "Chilly Bone" can be frozen for teething puppies.

"Greenies" are great chews. They have been improved since there were several problems w/ them.

<http://www.store.yahoo.com/animalworldnetwork/greenies.html>.

Item number: trico-sm-03547 (the best price found)

My dogs used to occasionally chew on **BULLY STICKS**. NOT ANYMORE! Mazey got a slab fracture and had to have her tooth extracted which was very expensive! The dog dentist said, "No, bones, chew hooves or BULLY STICKS!". I had thought that they were safe, but he assured me that they are NOT good for dogs to chew. They are too hard.

If a chew does not bend when you tap it on a hard surface, it is too hard to be chewed.

It is a challenge to find good, healthy chews that are not too hard.

There are dried sweet potato chews that my dogs love!

Try freezing slices of baked sweet potato... dogs love them and they help teething puppies.

Some "tendons" and other parts bend when taped on a hard surface = Okay to chew.

### **RECIPE FOR DOG COOKIES THAT MY DOGS LOVE:**

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour or other whole grain flour like rice or buckwheat flour since wheat is not the best for dogs.  
1/2 cup nonfat dry milk or powdered goat milk, if you can get it  
1/4-1/2 tsp garlic powder  
2 tsp brown sugar  
1 tsp beef or chicken boullion granules or equivalent  
6 TBS meat drippings from any meat you have cooked- (I freeze it until I am ready to use it)

1 egg, beaten

1/2 cup ice water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

In a medium bowl, combine flour, dry milk, garlic powder, brown sugar and boullion granules.

With a pastry blender, cut in the drippings until mixture resembles cornmeal.

Mix in egg,

add just enough ice water so the mixture forms a ball.

Pat dough or roll out and cut out any shapes.

Place in a lightly greased cookie sheet

Bake 20-25 minutes. Cool before offering to your dog.

This recipe can very easily be altered... you can add whatever you want.

### **RAWHIDE:**

Puppies should NOT get rawhide until they are at least 1 year old.

Some rawhide chews made in USA use rawhide from other countries which can have arsenic, mercury, chromium salts and formaldehyde and more (all used to treat the hide).

Never leave your dog unsupervised with a large piece of rawhide (a large piece could be swallowed and get stuck).

Mazey's dentist said that thin, flat rawhide is much better than rolls or compressed rawhide. I do not like rawhide. It leads to slimy stools and I do not like the smell of them.

### **ONLY RAWHIDES RECOMMENDED BY THE WHOLE DOG JOURNAL:**

1. Super Deluxe Rawhide Chews, "Natural Flavor" and Super Heavyweight Rawhide Bones from Foster & Smith.
2. Premium Natural Rawhide Bones from PetEdge (no chemical preservatives)
3. Pet Factory American Beef-Hide Chews (1-800-468-3315)
4. Ecology Rawhide Treats made from free-range, hormone and toxin-free cattle hides (1-800-709-1567)

If available, choose flat pieces rather than "bones".

### **OTHER NOT-SO-GOOD CHEWS AND TREATS:**

Avoid ground rawhide and pressed rawhide products which use fragments which may be of dubious origin and are too hard.

Nylabones have potentially harmful petrochemical polymers (polyurethan and nylon).

Smoked and "flavor-basted" products are not healthy for your dog.

Booda bones contain several undesirable ingredients, including coloring.  
Chew hooves are OK for puppy's teeth, but not good for adult dogs. Be careful. They can puncture the insides of a dog or become lodged somewhere. And they most likely contain hormones, preservatives, etc.!

Bullwrinkles/ Bully sticks: My dogs really liked these chews and used to get them occasionally, but not any more! AS WELL AS BEING TOO HARD TO CHEW SAFELY, they could be full of chemicals

Pig Ears, Noses, etc.: Many of these products come from chemical-intensive factory farms. Almost all of them have a horrible smell!

NO COOKED BONES OF ANY KIND. They can splinter or break teeth.  
NO hard raw bones. They are TOO HARD and can cause slab fractures on molars.

### **PARASITES:**

A good raw diet usually helps prevent parasites.

Worms:

Add 1/4-1/2 tsp ground gingerroot in food as a preventative.

Garlic can also be used (just a little).

If you have to worm your dog:

Use homeopathic remedy or Expel from Pet Sage: 800-PET-HLTH

Do not use harsh wormers.

Tapeworms can contribute to a disease which can eventually kill your dog if he/she is not treated.

Toxins build up and can cause "toxic shock". Dogs who eat lots of wild animal (deer, rabbit, etc.) poop are subject to getting tapeworms. For more information see:  
[w.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whe/cestoidosis.cfm](http://w.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whe/cestoidosis.cfm)

### **FLEAS (AND TICKS?):**

Do NOT use harsh flea collar, SPOT-ON PREVENTIONS, soaps or chemicals.

There can be side affects to using flea-tick chemicals (spot-ons, Frontline, Advantage, etc.)

There are Whole Dog Journal articles on how HARMFUL spot-on flea preventatives can be.

This site will help answer some questions you might have about flea-tick prevention.

[http://www.alternet.org/healthwellness/123420/pesticides\\_in\\_pet\\_products%3A\\_why\\_your\\_dog\\_or\\_cat\\_may\\_be\\_at\\_risk/?page=entire](http://www.alternet.org/healthwellness/123420/pesticides_in_pet_products%3A_why_your_dog_or_cat_may_be_at_risk/?page=entire)

another site: [nbclosangles.com/news/local/](http://nbclosangles.com/news/local/)

[Pet\\_Product\\_Investigation\\_Los\\_Angeles.html](#)

Diatomaceous earth (food grade) will dry out fleas.

Sprinkle and sweep up.

Sprinkle a little borax under dog's bed.

Use a very thin layer and do not let dog lick it.

You can put dried lavender leaves in dog's bed.

You can put 4 drops of Lavender essential oil in a squirt bottle filled with

water to spray on dog when you go to an area where you know there are fleas.

See recipes for natual repellents (below)

Use a FLEA COMB!

A **NATURAL FLEA PREVENTION TREAT** can be found at [www.fleatreat.com](http://www.fleatreat.com)

There are other suggestions on holistic sites and in holistic books.

### **TICKS:**

Advantage has no affect on ticks.

This site will help answer some questions you might have about flea-tick prevention.

[http://www.alternet.org/healthwellness/123420/pesticides\\_in\\_pet\\_products%3A\\_why\\_your\\_dog\\_or\\_cat\\_may\\_be\\_at\\_risk/?page=entire](http://www.alternet.org/healthwellness/123420/pesticides_in_pet_products%3A_why_your_dog_or_cat_may_be_at_risk/?page=entire)

Ticks increase their movements in mid-morning, from about 8am - 11 am.

The largest number of ticks emerge on sunny days.

Ticks are most active from April to October.

Be sure to check your dog more than once after going in an area that has ticks.

Examine legs, armpits, belly, neck and face around ears (warm places).

The goal is to find the ticks when they are still small.

The transmission of Lyme-causing spirochete does not happen for 72 hours *after* the tick is attached and begins feeding.

There is no risk of Lyme if the tick is flat and did not become engorged with blood.

Using a flea comb helps detect and remove tiny ticks. Drown the ticks in a jar filled with water.

Get as close to skin as possible- pull out slowly with tweezers (don't squeeze).

Another method that has been brought to my attention is to circle the tick with your finger until it **FALLS OFF!** I will have to try that next time.

Before going into an area that you know has ticks, rub lavender oil or repellent (see recipes) on dog.

### **NATURAL TICK PREVENTION:**

Rose geranium, palmarosa and opopanax truly repel deer and dog ticks. You can get rose geranium essential oil in a good health food store. I am not sure about where to get the other two. As with most essential oils, do not apply directly, but rather add to some water in a spray bottle, shake and spray on.

Neem helps make animals less attractive to fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and intestinal parasites.

Puotinen recommends giving dogs one 500-mg capsule of neem per 10 pounds of body weight daily.

Beverly Cappel, DVM, makes a nutritional supplement called Fleas Flee that contains brewer's yeast, liver, and oyster shells. It is supposed to make dogs less attractive to fleas and ticks, but should not be the sole line of protection. (1-845-356-3838)

A supplement of bitter herbs that is supposed to make your dog less attractive to ticks is manufactured by Natural Rearing (1-541-899-2080).

Plant lavender, lemon grass and garlic in your yard.

### **FLEA AND TICK REPELLENTS:**

Repels fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, flies and bees:

No chemical smell.

Makes the car smell great.

Spray dogs and blankets.

Spray gives additional shine to coat.

### **REPELLENT NUMBER 1:**

Ingredients: full strength oils:

Tea Tree Oil, Rosemary Oil, Sage Oil, Cedarwood Oil, Peppermint Oil, Sweet Orange Oil, Eucalyptus Oil, Citronella Oil, Pine Needle Oil.

Directions:

Mix 4-6 drops of each with 32oz of any natural shampoo and you now have a natural flea shampoo

Mix 2-3 drops each with 16 oz water in a spray bottle. Shake before each application and spray lightly over entire body.

### **REPELLENT NUMBER 2:**

Ingredients: blend:

20 drops of rose geranium, palmarosa, or opopanax myrrh essential oil (or any combination) with 3 drops citronella essential oil (which repels mosquitoes) and enough vodka to dissolve the essential oils.

Do NOT use isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol.

When there is no longer a thin film of oil on the surface, add one cup water, herbal tea, or aloe vera juice or gel.

Apply frequently, avoiding the eyes.

### **COMMERICIALLY PRODUCED HERBAL PREPARATIONS:**

Tickweed Plus by Heart Foods (800-229-3663) which contains tickweed, neem, pennyroyal, lavender and other herbs.

NeemAura Naturals Herbal Outdoor Spray by Neem Aura (877-890-6336) contains neem, myrrh, lemongrass, orange, citronella and other oils.

Cloud Nine which is the same formula as Repellent Number 1 (you wouldn't have to buy all those oils!)

### **FOXTAILS:**

Foxtails are very serious if not caught in time. They can travel throughout the dog's body and cause severe health problems.

In some cases, silicea can be used to expel foxtail; check with your holistic vet about how and when to use silicea.

### **SNAILS AND SLUGS:**

DO NOT use snail/slug bait that your dog can reach. It is poisonous to dogs and will kill them.

### **DOG-FRIENDLY SNAIL/SLUG BAIT RECIPE:**

Mix: 1 TBS molasses

1/2 cup warm water

3 TBS corn meal

1/2 TBS dry yeast (1 package)

1/2 cup flour

Put this mixture in your yard on jar lids or something flat.

## **SPAY OR NEUTER?**

Spay or neuter at appropriate age (around 14 months) if your puppy is going to be a pet and not be shown in the conformation ring.

If you have complete control of your dog, it is healthiest to not spay or neuter your dog.

For help in deciding whether or not to spay/neuter your dog, PLEASE CHECK:

[www.caninesports.com/SpayNeuter.html](http://www.caninesports.com/SpayNeuter.html)

[www.naiaonline.org/pdfs/LongTermHealthEffectsOfSpayNeuterinDogs.pdf](http://www.naiaonline.org/pdfs/LongTermHealthEffectsOfSpayNeuterinDogs.pdf)

## **PAIN:**

Dr. Franks Pet Pain Spray is supposed to help with pain. I do not know what is in it.

## **FIRST AID KIT:**

A great sounding doggie first aid kit can be found on

<http://www.sunnydogink.com/page4.html>

For puppies specifically:

<http://www.googobits.com/articles/586-first-aid-for-puppies.html>

## **HOLISTIC VET:**

I advise every dog owner to have a Holistic vet as well as a conventional vet.

A holistic vet in the San Francisco area: Coastal Holistic in Pacifica 650-355-2810

Molly Rice or Lisa Pesch (in Sebastopol 707-823-1491, but is sometimes too busy!)

A good site for remedies for everything: [vethomopath.com/indhomeo.htm](http://vethomopath.com/indhomeo.htm)

[www.ahvma.org](http://www.ahvma.org) has a LIST OF HOLISTIC VETS -you can find one in your area!  
410-569-0795

One of many sites for information on homeopathics, shots, nosodes and lots more:

[www.backtobsicspetfood.com/articleII.htm](http://www.backtobsicspetfood.com/articleII.htm)

Bach Flower site: [www.bachflower.com/Pets.htm](http://www.bachflower.com/Pets.htm)

Some books (there are many others)

The Holistic Guide For a Healthy Dog by Wendy Volhard and Kerry Brown  
DVM

Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health For Dogs and Cats by  
Richard Pitcairn DVM and Susan Hubble Pitcairn

Also, I highly recommend that you subscribe to The Whole Dog Journal. It has lots of very helpful information. TO SUBSCRIBE: [customer\\_service@belvoir.com](mailto:customer_service@belvoir.com)

## **VACCINATIONS:**

Your Vizsla needs as few shots as possible and minimum medications- including antibiotics.

Vizslas can have adverse reactions to the usual multiple shots. Vizslas are listed as a breed that can be affected by over-vaccination.

According to The Whole Dog Journal, June 2002, the most common reason for vaccine failures in puppies is maternal antibody interference. Dr. Dodds says that if a puppy receives a particularly high level of antibodies (passive immunity) from his mother's colostrum (and to a lesser extent, in utero), these maternal antibodies may cause any vaccine

antigens that are administered to be neutralized. Then when these antibodies wane (usually between 6 and 16 weeks of age), the puppy is left without adequate protection, and has not become actively immunized.

An interesting article on vaccinations that is a little different from my protocol is...

[http://www.unitedwhiteshepherdclub.org/Articles/chf\\_confer\\_part2.html](http://www.unitedwhiteshepherdclub.org/Articles/chf_confer_part2.html)

## **ABOUT SHOTS:**

"Is it true that after the puppies have had their shot at 9-10 weeks and 14-16 weeks that they will NOT NEED ANOTHER BOOSTER - EVER- UNLESS A TITER SHOWS THAT THEIR IMMUNITY IS LOW AGAINST DISTEMPER OR PARVO?"

My former vet, Anne Hyle, DMV, answered: "YES"

The routine vaccination (3-in-1) schedule will protect your puppy from 4 diseases: distemper, parainfluenza virus, parvovirus, and later Rabies. The first three are included in one injection that is "typically" given at 8, 12, and 16 weeks. Rabies vaccine is "typically" given 4 weeks after the final puppy shot,.

**3-IN-1 SHOTS:** Lakeside Animal Hospital in Reno, Nevada, recommends that if your puppy will not be in a high risk situation (such as around unvaccinated dogs or at a boarding facility or dog show) that they not receive their first vaccine until 9-10 WEEKS OF AGE and their second (final puppy shot) at 14-16 WEEKS OF AGE.

**RABIES:** It is best to give the Rabies shot no sooner than 20 weeks of age and waiting until puppy is 6 months old would be better. Give an immune booster every day for a week after the rabies shot.

**KENNEL COUGH:** There is another optional vaccination that is appropriate in certain situations. Your puppy should receive bordetella - kennel cough vaccine (Intra Trac II) if a trip to a boarding kennel is likely or if it will be placed in a puppy training class. Most boarding facilities require that all vaccines be current (and most accept titers). This vaccine is not 100% effective, so there is still a risk your puppy may contract Kennel Cough EVEN IF vaccinated.

**TITERS:** Vaccines are very powerful and should be given only as needed. Although they should be given to puppies as protection from potentially fatal diseases, such as Parvo, Distemper and Rabies, further vaccinations should be based on ANTIBODY TITER RESULTS for Distemper and Parvo. Rabies is required by law in all states and, unfortunately, many states will not accept titers for Rabies.

## **SHOT PROTOCOL ACCORDING TO DR JEAN DODDS' PROTOCOL:**

**can be checked [www.wellpet.org/vaccines/dodds-schedule.htm](http://www.wellpet.org/vaccines/dodds-schedule.htm)**

9 weeks: PARVO- DISTEMPER 3-in-1 (Merial)

14 weeks: PARVO- DISTEMPER 3-in-1 (Merial)

16-18 weeks: boost or titer for PARVO- DISTEMPER

If low in PARVO, then only PARVO should be given

If low in DISTEMPER, then only DISTEMPER should be given

24 weeks: RABIES (Merial)

1 year + 4 months: boost PARVO and DISTEMPER (3-in-1)

OR TITER and boost only PARVO IF NEEDED or DISTEMPER IF NEEDED Do not give both if only one is needed.

1 year after first RABIES shot: RABIES (Merial)

Thereafter, give RABIES every 3 years  
Titer every year through 6 years of age. If good immunity at 6 years old, check titers every  
3 years thereafter: give only PARVO IF NEEDED or DISTEMPER IF NEEDED  
**NOTHING ELSE UNLESS YOUR HOLISTIC VET ADVISES IT.**