

Bliss Kennels

Your puppy has been bathed. Over bathing a puppy will result in the stripping of oils from its skin which can lead to skin/hair issues. Do not bath a puppy/dog frequently. 4-6 times a year will suffice.

Your puppy's nails are sharp, but cannot be cut yet. Use an emery board to just slightly file the tip.

For the first 6 months, avoid parks that are specific for dogs, dog beaches, walking your puppy in PetSmart or Petco to show them off and even the next couple of vet visits the puppy should be carried and not on the ground. The reason; all these places --- despite their best efforts, are teeming with worms, bacteria and protozoa. And, puppies are susceptible to many things that adult dogs have developed immunities to. Adult dogs can be carriers of things and be asymptomatic. Cysts of Giardia and Coccidia can survive in the environment in their cyst form for months. It is suspected that up to 50% of all puppies will contract either one or both of these protozoa during their puppy stage, prior to developing an immunity to them. These protozoa can be transmitted through infected fecal matter, contaminated food, water and even grass or dirt if your puppy chews on it. Though normally 50% of all puppies contract these parasites, Giardia has been at an 80% rate the last 5 years in the Northeast.

For the life of your dog, be cognizant of your dog's bowel movements. The stool of the dog will tell you a lot about the internal health of your companion. Should one of the aforementioned protozoa infect your puppy, usually it will manifest itself quite readily in the stool. Should your puppy develop a loose runny stool, a particularly foul smelling stool, blood within the stool, or a yellowy, virulent mix within the stool --- that persists for more than two days, on the third day collect a stool sample and bring it to the vet for analysis. For Coccidia the treatment is a sulfide drug for 5-9 days and for Giardia the treatment is fenbendazole (panacur) in addition to an antibiotic, called Metronidazole, for 8 days.

If you find yourself in the unfortunate presence of a vet who is a fear monger and tries to tell you that if your puppy has Giardia your family is at risk, you should avoid that vet after the visit. To suggest that is sheer lunacy. There are several strains of Giardia and the ones dogs normally get are not the ones humans get. Even in the unlikely event that it was a cross-transfer strain, unless you are ingesting your puppies fecal matter --- You Are Safe!