



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Ears, Teeth, Heartgard®, and Nexgard®

EAR CARE

To avoid unnecessary veterinary treatment and discomfort to our puppies, we ask that puppy raisers clean their puppy's ears once weekly with the ear cleansing/drying solution (EpiOtic®) provided in your puppy packet.

Video reference: <https://youtu.be/1WVI26VwGYI>

Technique

- Apply ear cleaning solution to a cotton ball or pad until it is *slightly moist* (not soaked and dripping) with solution.
- A dog's ear canal is "L" shaped, which means that you will not touch your dog's eardrum with your finger. Insert the moistened cotton ball into the ear canal and rotate it as you clean.
- Dogs will generally shake their head after you remove your finger. This will help the accumulated debris at the bottom of the canal rise to the top.
- Use a clean dry cotton ball and wipe any excess cleaning solution residue and debris from the ear canal and pinna.
- Repeat for second ear using a fresh cotton ball or cotton pad.

When is it time to seek veterinary attention?

- The puppy constantly shakes his/her head or scratches at the ears.
- Odor is noticeable – A change to a foul odor is generally an indication of an ear infection. A strong sour smell usually signifies a bacterial infection: an excessively sweet smell usually signifies a yeast infection.
- Ear feels waxy, or you see black/brown discharge or an inflamed / red ear.

Never self-diagnose: The ear is a very sensitive organ. What may appear to be similar symptoms to previous ear issue may *not* require similar treatments this time.

TEETH CLEANING

If you have never cleaned the puppy's teeth, start by spending a few minutes each day gently handling the puppy's mouth. Lift their lips and touch the outside of the puppy's teeth and gums to get them used to this new experience. After several days of doing this, introduce the puppy to the oral cleansing gel following the instructions below. Never use human toothpaste - it can be harmful and can upset the puppy's stomach.

Video reference: <https://youtu.be/f0Q8rEjKgaQ>

Teeth Cleaning Instructions:

- Put a small amount of oral cleansing gel on the soft-bristled toothbrush (use the one given in the puppy's packet) or on a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger.
- Holding the brush head at a 45-degree angle to the gum line, gently brush in circular strokes from the gum line to the tip of each tooth.
- Only clean the outside surfaces of the puppy's teeth and gums.
- Day by day, slowly work towards the back of the mouth, until the puppy is comfortable and will allow you to lift their lips and hold their head steady for several minutes.
- Please be careful to not let the puppy bite your finger or toothbrush while brushing their teeth.
- We recommend that you clean the puppy's teeth at least once weekly (and as frequently as once daily) to acclimate the puppy to being handled this way and to be more accepting later in life.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION – Heartgard® Plus

You have two different size packages:

- The first package (GREEN) is for when the puppy weighs up to 50 lbs.
- The second (BROWN) is for when the puppy weighs 51-100 lbs.
- Please read the package label and directions before each use.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Heartgard® Plus is a year-round heartworm prevention *chewable* cube given once-a-month. The following directions for administering Heartgard® Plus are provided to ensure that each puppy receives the appropriate dose. In addition to these instructions, please read the packaging materials regarding usage and storage directions. All puppies should receive their cube/cubes on the first of every month.

Heartgard® Plus Instructions

Effective heartworm prevention is very important to the puppy’s health. Please follow these directions exactly:

- Place heartworm preventative *chewable* cube in feed pan prior to feeding a meal. If the puppy will not eat the cube, contact your leader for advice.
- **Puppies weighing up to 50 lbs.:** Give 1 cube from the GREEN box. **EVEN IF THE PUPPY WEIGHS LESS THAN 26 LBS., GIVE 1 WHOLE CUBE FROM THE GREEN BOX ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH.**
- **Puppies weighing 51-100 lbs.:** Give 1 cube from the BROWN box. If you still have cubes left in the green box, you can double the dose and give 2 cubes from the GREEN box.
- **Puppies weighing more than 100 lbs.:** Give 2 cubes from the BROWN box.
- NOTE: ALL CUBES LOOK THE SAME! ONLY THE COLOR OF THE BOX IS DIFFERENT.
- REMEMBER: TWO CUBES FROM THE GREEN BOX EQUAL ONE FROM THE BROWN BOX. NEVER, EVER CUT A CUBE IN HALF (the medicine is not evenly distributed through the cube).
- If a puppy turns 8 weeks of age prior to leaving the GDB campus, they are given a dose of Heartgard® Plus on their 8-week birthday. If a puppy leaves prior to 8 weeks, this special Heartgard® Plus dose (for puppies 25lbs and under) is included in their puppy packet with the date it should be administered. The puppy’s first dose of Heartgard® Plus from the GREEN box may need to be on a special schedule to avoid overdosing. If the puppy’s 8-week birthday was on the...

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">3</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">4</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">5</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">6</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">7</div> </div>	No adjustment needed. Give HG on the 1 st of each month.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">8</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">9</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">10</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">11</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">12</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">13</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">14</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">15</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">16</div> </div>	Give the first dose of HG on the 7 th of the following month, then on the 1 st of each month thereafter.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">17</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">18</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">19</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">20</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">21</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">22</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">23</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">24</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">25</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">26</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">27</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">28</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">29</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">30</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">31</div> </div>	Give the first dose of HG when the puppy is 11 weeks of age, then on the 1 st of each month thereafter.

Note: Raisers may need to get a prescription for additional Heartgard® from their local veterinarian. Please try to get the least number of doses possible based on potential recall dates. Please return any unused Heartgard® to GDB at the time the dog is recalled or returned to campus.

FLEA/TICK PREVENTION - Nexgard® Chewable Tablets

You have two different size doses:

- The first size (BLUE) is for when the puppy weighs between 10-24 lbs.
- The second size (PURPLE) is for when the puppy weighs between 24.1-60 lbs.

- Please read the package label and directions before each use.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Given once a month, Nexgard® provides protection against fleas and ticks. Use only on dogs. Do not use on other animals in the household. Raisers may need to get a prescription for additional Nexgard® from their local veterinarian. Please try to get the least number of doses possible based on potential recall dates. Please return any unused Nexgard® to GDB at the time the dog is recalled or returned to campus.

Nexgard Instructions:

- Remove one chewable from the package when you're ready to administer the product.
- Give as a treat like you do with Heartgard®.
- Can be given at the same time as Heartgard®.
- Can be given with or without food.
- If the puppy will not eat the Nexgard®, you may crumble it up into a small amount of wet food and watch to ensure that the pup eats it all.
- If the puppy vomits within 2 hours of receiving a dose, give another dose with food the following day.

When to Start Nexgard®

Because puppies cannot receive Nexgard® before they are 8 weeks old, and because Nexgard® cannot be given within 2 weeks of another dose, it's very important to follow the guidelines below to avoid overdosing puppies on this medication.

If you received your puppy BEFORE they turned 8 weeks of age:

Puppies under 8 weeks of age cannot get Nexgard® so puppies under 8 weeks of age will not have received flea/tick prevention yet.

- If your puppy turns 8 weeks of age between the 1st and the 15th of the month, please give a dose of Nexgard® on their 8-week birthday and then start dosing once per month on the 1st of each month thereafter.
- If your puppy turns 8 weeks of age between the 16th and the 31st of the month, please start giving Nexgard® on the 1st of the upcoming month.

If you received your puppy AFTER they turned 8 weeks of age:

Puppies are given a dose of Nexgard® on campus when they turn 8 weeks old.

- If your puppy turned 8 weeks between the 1st and the 15th of the month, please start Nexgard® on 1st of the upcoming month, and then on the 1st of the month thereafter.
- If your puppy turned 8 weeks of age between the 16th and the 31st of the month, please wait until the 1st of the following month to start. Do not start on the 1st of the month after you get your puppy to avoid overdose. For example, if your puppy turned 8 weeks on July 20th and you got them on July 25th, they would start getting Nexgard® on September 1st.

In the interim while you are waiting to give them their first dose, you can decrease the likelihood of them having a flea problem by bathing them, brushing and flea combing them and avoiding areas where there is a flea infestation. Should you encounter a flea problem during this time, please contact our VFA team for advice on a safe alternate schedule for starting Nexgard®.

Note: for the second dose of Nexgard®, please give the smaller sized chewable tablet, even if your puppy weighs more than 24 pounds.