



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## Ears, Teeth, Heartgard, and Frontline

### EAR CARE

Ear care is one of the most commonly overlooked areas in dog grooming. Because of this, many ear conditions requiring veterinary treatment could have been avoided by using proper preventative ear cleaning methods. The most common conditions of the ear that require veterinary treatment are infections (otitis). Infections are most commonly caused by either bacteria or yeast which have multiplied to high levels. Each of these problems requires different treatment. Ear mites, which are parasites, are not as commonly found in dogs as they are in pet cats.

Most dogs will let you know when they are experiencing discomfort in the ear. Shaking or tilting of the head, frequent or prolonged scratching of the ears or back of the head or rubbing the side of the head along the floor are usually indicative of an ear infection or a foreign object in the ear flap such as a tick or a foxtail. Sometimes the only symptom is a bad odor, dark wax, or a reddened pinna.

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 provided in your puppy packet.

It is also important to check the puppy's ears daily when you groom them for any signs of redness, odor, or an increase in wax. If any of these signs are present, contact your veterinarian to determine if the puppy needs to be seen.

### Ear Cleaning Instructions:

- Once a week squirt a small amount of a GDB approved ear cleaning solution onto a cotton ball so that it becomes "drippy" with the solution.
- Using the cotton ball, massage the base and inside of the ear gently for approximately 10 seconds to clean and loosen debris from the ear canal. Be careful not to occlude (plug) the ear canal with cotton or apply pressure into the ear.
- Allow the puppy to shake their head. Use a dry cotton ball or gauze strip to remove any excess liquid and debris from the ear canal.
- Please DO NOT use a Q-tip as it may only push wax further down the ear canal.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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...

	No adjustment needed. Give HG on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of each month.
	Give the first dose of HG on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of the following month, then on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of each month thereafter.
	Give the first dose of HG when the puppy is 11 weeks of age, then on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of each month thereafter.

### Flea and Tick Preventative

Puppies raised in all states except Texas will receive a 12 month supply of **FRONTLINE® GOLD** (Puppies in Texas will receive **Nexgard®**)

You have two different size doses:

- The first size (BLUE) is for when the puppy weighs 23-44 lbs.
- The second size (PURPLE) is for when the puppy weighs 45-88 lbs.

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

Frontline® Gold is a year-round flea and tick *topical* treatment given once-a-month for dogs and puppies. This product goes onto the skin, not in the mouth. It is easy to use and one treatment prevents further flea infestation for at least 4 weeks and kills fleas before they lay eggs; it also kills ticks for at least one month.

Frontline® Gold remains effective following a shampoo treatment (although you should wait 24 hours after a bath to apply), swimming or after exposure to rain or sunlight. This means the puppy can have a bath, go swimming, or otherwise get wet, after 24 hours has passed, without affecting Frontline® Gold's strength or durability.

Each puppy is treated with Frontline® Gold before leaving GDB, so it is not necessary to begin use for at least 30 days after you receive the puppy.

Applied once a month, Frontline® Gold gives complete protection against fleas. Each pipette is one application. Any flea product has a potential for toxicity if applied improperly or overused, so it is very important to follow the directions exactly. Use only on dogs. Do not use on other animals. If you run out of Frontline® Gold and need more, let your leader know. Please return any unused products to your leader.

**Frontline® Gold Instructions:**

- Remove one applicator from the package and hold in an upright position pointed away from your face. Then twist dispensing tip clockwise about ½ turn while pushing down to break the tube's seal. Do not remove the dispensing tip. The dog should be standing for easy application. Position the dispensing tip on the dog's back between the shoulder blades. Use the dispensing tip of the tube to part the dog's hair so that the product will be applied at skin level. Begin squeezing out the contents of the tube, doing your best to apply the tube evenly, to form a stripe as you move from the shoulder blades along the dog's back to the base of the tail.
- It is best to apply Frontline® Gold and then take the puppy for a walk or play with them for 30 minutes or so. This allows the product to disperse over the coat.
- Frontline® Gold is VERY bitter. If the puppy licks the product, it may produce a large amount of salivation due to the taste. Try to keep the puppy from licking until the product has had a chance to dry.