



Guide Dogs for the Blind

FAQ for Common Guide Dog Puppy Medical Issues

Help keep GDB informed!

GDB puppies go to the veterinarian many times during their stay with puppy raisers. Examples include routine vaccines, minor health problems, spay/neuter surgeries, and major medical issues. Sometimes issues that appear to be minor or routine can be indicative of a larger, more complex, or chronic issue. The GDB Veterinarians have put together this FAQ to help puppy raisers and their local veterinarian better understand medical concerns that may require closer GDB attention. This FAQ is also included in the Veterinary Care Orientation Packet for you to share with your veterinary clinic and veterinarian.

Q: What medical issues do GDB Veterinarians want to be aware of as soon as possible?

A: Please notify your leader in the following situations:

- If any veterinary visit is over \$200 (therefore requiring an authorization from GDB), be sure to notify your leader to let them know what happened, if any medication was prescribed, and when the puppy will need a recheck.
- Patterns of recurrent disease (we define recurring as two or more of the same problem within a 6-month period even if those appointments are under \$200). Common examples include:
 - Ear infections
 - Skin infections
 - Lameness
 - Urinary tract infections
 - Urine leaking
- Patterns of chronic disease (we define chronic as lasting for 4 or more consecutive weeks):
 - Bile vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Q: Are there any medications that could be prescribed for the puppy that GDB wants to know about?

A: GDB Veterinarians prefer not to use long-acting medications that can mask clinical signs of disease.

- **Cytopoint** is a good example of this kind of medication, as it can mask early signs of a skin allergy. We want to treat active infections and help the puppy feel better quickly, yet we also want to know if the puppy has an underlying concern as soon as possible. Using long-acting medications such as Cytopoint can delay assessment of a recurring problem.
- **Claro** or **Osumnia** are long-acting medications that can be inserted into the ear to treat an ear infection. These medications can be used on the puppy, but if the puppy needs to have more than one application, please ensure that the veterinary records are sent to the VFA team. Notify your leader so they, or your PFM, can discuss ongoing medical issues with the VFA team.
- Any medication that is prescribed for the puppy for an extended period of time (greater than 4 weeks) should be brought to the attention of your leader so they, or your PFM, can discuss ongoing medical issues with the VFA team. Examples of these medications could include **Proin**, **Fluconazole**, or an extended course of oral antibiotics.

Q: If it seems like the puppy is better, do I need to return for a recheck or follow up?

A: Yes! We strongly encourage rechecks with the local veterinarian so they can document resolution of the problem. This information is important in determining if the puppy is having a recurrence of a previous problem or a prolonged response to treatment of a current problem. Please bring the puppy you are raising in for the recommended recheck with your local veterinarian!

Q: When do GDB Veterinarians need medical records from the appointment?

A: GDB Veterinarians will want to review complete medical records (not just the invoice or vaccine certificate) for any dog where there was a recurring issue, problem that has not resolved, and major medical issue. Complete medical records will consist of the veterinarian's notes from the exam, any lab work results, and evaluation of x-rays images (if not the images themselves). You can request these records directly and send in with your reimbursement request or request that your regular veterinarian email the medical records to GDB (vetsupport@guidedogs.com).

Please notify GDB of any issue that requires more than one vet appointment- either an issue that reoccurs or never fully resolves after the first visit.

If you are not sure if you should let GDB Veterinarians know about a medical concern or veterinary visit, please call (800) 295-4050 to let us know.

We would always appreciate hearing from you!