



Information

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| Foster Important Medical Information | Form #198 | Revision #: 1 | Issue Date: 2/3/2021 |
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Subject: Your Foster Pup's Medical Needs

Hello TLHS Foster Parent,

Most of our communication with you is via email; therefore, please check your emails daily and respond to all our inquiries. If this is not the best email address for you or the best means of communicating with you, please let us know. We monitor emails daily.

YOUR FOSTER PUP'S MEDICAL INFORMATION

General Information

- **Please be aware: Our TLHS Medical Team provides all medical care for our foster dogs. TLHS *will not* reimburse foster parents for the cost of ANY medical care outside of TLHS.**
- It is very important that your foster pup's vaccines and monthly preventatives be given as close as possible to the date they are due. This keeps your foster puppy healthy, prevents the spread of disease, and prepares him/her to move to his/her adoptive home (maybe that's you!).
- Please let us know immediately if your foster puppy is experiencing any medical problems. **Some things to watch for are: diarrhea, vomiting, not eating and/or not drinking, seizures, hair loss, and lethargy.** If you see any of these symptoms, have other medical concerns, and/or see any other signs of illness, please contact us at dogfoster@tupeloleehumane.org or call/text the Foster Care Team at 662-372-1775. We can help you determine if your foster dog needs to be seen at the TLHS Clinic, and if so, we will schedule an appointment for you.

Clinic Hours and Location

Tupelo Lee Humane Society

2795 Cliff Gookin Blvd

Tupelo, MS 38801

Business Hours Tuesday - Saturday 10-6

After Hours - Emergency only by appointment by contacting dogfoster@tupeloleehumane.org or call/text 662-372-1775.

Dewormer

- **Dewormer** (strongid) deworms for roundworms and hookworms.



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Making sure that your foster puppy received its dewormer on time as scheduled is important to its health as heavy parasite loads can cause medical complications.

Please note that you may “see” worms in your puppy’s stool at home after deworming or a few days after you get home. This means that the dewormer is working and may look gross but does not necessarily mean your puppy needs dewormed again until its next scheduled appointment. Please email us at dogfoster@tupeloleehumane.org if you see any signs of worms in your puppy’s stool. Please feel free to send pictures of your puppy’s fecal.

Example of worms visible in stool are listed here:

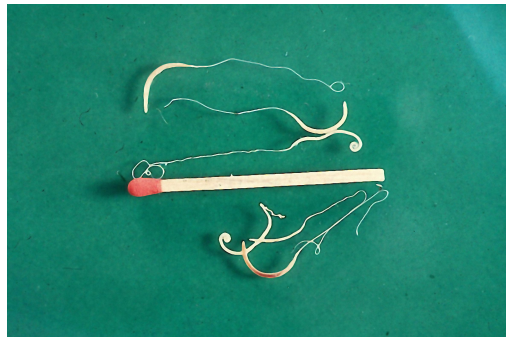
Roundworms (several inches long)



Hookworms (about 1 inch long)



Whipworms (about 2 inches long)





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Tapeworms (longer lengths can break into segments that are about an inch or less in length, short pieces look like flat grains of rice)



Vaccines

Making sure that your puppy received its scheduled vaccinations is very important to provide the most immunity against contagious illness such as **parvo and distemper**.

Parvo is a **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** intestinal illness that is spread through fecal contact from an infected puppy or dog. Parvo loves organic, warm, moist surfaces to live in and on. ***It is important that your puppy doesn't go to dog parks or outside on the ground or have "puppy play dates" until he or she is fully vaccinated.*** Parvo is **DEADLY** and is a terrible condition for puppies to endure treatment for. Treatment lasts about 1 week and is possible but success is not guaranteed as it depends on the puppy's immune system, vaccines, and how early it can be caught.

Distemper is a virus that is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** and is a systemic illness that is spread through all bodily fluids from an infected canine, skunk, raccoon, or fox. Distemper loves warm, moist environments to live in and on. ***It is important that your puppy doesn't go to dog parks or outside on the ground or have "puppy play dates" until he or she is fully vaccinated.*** Distemper is treatable and treatment can last for 2 months. Our facility and local clinics often do not have the resources to best provide care and treatment for these animals and the recommendation is usually humane **euthanasia**.

Monthly Preventatives

It is important that your pup continues to receive monthly preventative care against fleas, ticks, and heartworm disease. Please make sure that any preventatives provided to you or sent home are administered as directed.

PLEASE NOTE: You are responsible for making sure you pick up and administer your foster dog's flea and heartworm preventatives by each month as directed by your Dog Foster Manager.



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Heartworm Test

We will test puppies at the age of 6 months for heartworm disease. Puppies under 6 months are not tested as they will yield a false negative. Heartworms take 6-8 to reach maturity and the heartworm test will not pick up immature heartworm infections.

For dogs and puppies over 6 months of age, we may have to start on a heartworm treatment plan if positive.

Please make sure to direct any questions about heartworm disease or preventative care to your Dog Foster Manager.

Spay/Neuter Status

All puppies and adults are required to be fixed prior to finalizing the adoption or to transport. There are some cases where a transport is taking the puppy or dog to a rescue with a veterinarian that can provide spay and neuter upon arrival.

If your puppy or dog has a scheduled spay or neuter appointment, please make sure to keep it so that the adoption or transport process is not affected.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

If you have an emergency, please call 662-372-1775 or follow up with an email to the Dog Foster Manager at dogfoster@tupeloleehumane.org.

Please give as much detail as possible. Be sure to include:

- Your foster dog's name
- Your name and phone number
- A detailed description of your concerns
- Is your foster eating and/or drinking? If not, how long has it been without food and/or water?
- Any vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, or sneezing? If so, how long has this been going on?
- Does he/she seem lethargic?
- Any eye or nose discharge? If so, what color is it?

Symptoms of an Emergency:

- Not moving or unable to stand up
- Bleeding
- Not eating for more than two feedings if an unweaned puppy
- Not eating for more than 24 hours if an adult
- Not breathing or open mouth breathing
- Drooling profusely
- Tremors or convulsions



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- Appears drunk or unstable when walking or loses balance when walking
- Constant vomiting or diarrhea

If you aren't sure if it's an emergency, call and leave a message. You will receive a call back if it is an emergency and an email back if it is not an emergency. If you are concerned about your foster dog and haven't heard back from the Dog Foster Manager, then please contact our Executive Director at director@tupeloleehumane.org.

****IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING TLHS's MEDICAL CARE****

Mississippi has some of the highest euthanasia rates in the country. As a leader in the national no-kill community initiative and movement, TLHS must necessarily focus on saving as many animals as we safely can each day. Because of this, we must get each foster dog intaked and into their foster home as quickly as possible in order to save shelter space. Each day a foster dog spends at our shelter means another dog that will be euthanized because we had no space in which to house it.

Our medical care reflects this. At intake, each dog receives a physical exam, vaccinations, a dewormer, and flea and heartworm prevention. We do not routinely test for non-serious illnesses and conditions, such as intestinal parasites and skin parasites. Instead, we treat such illnesses and conditions symptomatically. In addition, intake exams are done by medical technicians, not veterinarians (unless we deem a vet check necessary). Please also note that because of the conditions from which most of our dogs are coming, it's very common for them to have worms, parasites, fleas, and/or upper respiratory infections (URIs). In general, our system of care recognizes that fosters are in the best position to identify non-serious illnesses and conditions, report them to the Dog Foster Manager and quickly receive treatment to address them. This system means that each foster dog is receiving appropriate treatment/care in a home environment.

In terms of ongoing care, we aim to provide the same level of care as an animal lover of average means could reasonably provide. This means that if your foster dog falls ill, suffers an injury, or is in discomfort, they can be seen by a tech or vet, as we deem appropriate, within a timeframe commensurate with the issue and can receive medications and routine diagnostics, such as x-rays and blood tests, as we deem necessary. However, just like an animal lover of average means, we are unable to go above and beyond and provide extraordinary medical care. This means we cannot provide expensive diagnostics, like MRIs (which cost thousands of dollars), or a guarantee of expensive prescription medications or foods, although we will always provide this if it is donated.

For more information, please contact us at dogfoster@tupeloleehumane.org.



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While this protocol may be different than what you have come to expect from your private veterinary care, please know that when you foster a dog with TLHS, you are not only saving the life of that dog but of another dog in need.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Contact us immediately if your foster dog is experiencing any medical problems.
- Foster dogs are NOT ALLOWED TO GO TO DOG PARKS (for medical and behavioral reasons) OR OTHER OFF-LEASH AREAS.
- If you are fostering a puppy that is: (a) younger than 16 weeks of age OR (b) 16 weeks of age or older but has not had at least one DAPP vaccine that was given at 16 weeks of age or older:
 - **Do not allow your puppy(ies) to touch the ground in any public area; this includes at TLHS.** For Clinic visits, bring your puppy in a crate or carry them.
 - **Do not take your puppy(ies) to a public place**, even if it's just to go to the bathroom! This includes parks, pet stores, veterinary clinics or hospitals, boarding kennels, play yards, running trails, etc.
 - Puppies should always be kept in a confined area unless you are providing direct supervision.
 - Our puppies will have typically moved on to their forever home before they are fully vaccinated. Until that time they are at risk for serious illnesses like Parvo and Distemper. For this reason, please have sanitizer readily available. If anyone wants to pet your puppy(ies), please ask them to "sanitize first".

Again, please email the Dog Foster Manager with any of your questions and/or concerns. If it's not something we handle directly we will connect you with the team(s) who can best assist you.

Thank you for helping us save lives!