



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Pet Health

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Pet Health

Pets can add fun, companionship and a feeling of safety to your life. Before getting a pet, think carefully about which animal is best for your family. What is each family member looking for in a pet? Who will take care of it? Does anyone have pet allergies? What type of animal suits your lifestyle and budget?

Once you own a pet, keep it healthy. Know the signs of medical problems. Take your pet to the veterinarian if you notice:

- Loss of appetite
- Drinking a lot of water
- Gaining or losing a lot of weight quickly
- Strange behavior
- Being sluggish and tired
- Trouble getting up or down
- Strange lumps

Prevention and Risk Factors

- 10 Poison Pills for Pets [<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/10-poison-pills-pets>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure: Protect Your Pet from Heartworms Year-Round [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/ounce-prevention-worth-pound-cure-protect-your-pet-heartworms-year-round>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/proteja-su-mascota-de-los-parasitos-del-corazon-durante-todo-el-ano>]
- Household Hazards to Pets [<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/household-hazards>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- How to Report Problems with Flea and Tick Products [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/how-report-problems-flea-and-tick-products>] (Food and Drug Administration)
- Keep Your Dogs and Cats Safe from Holiday Hazards [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/keep-your-dogs-and-cats-safe-holiday-hazards>] (Food and Drug Administration)
- Potentially Dangerous Items for Your Pet [<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/potentially-dangerous-items-your-pet>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/articulos-potencialmente-peligrosos-para-su-mascota>]
- Preventing Ticks on Pets [<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/prevention/preventing-ticks-on-pets.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/es/prevention/como-prevenir-las-garrapatas-en-las-mascotas.html>]
- Read the Label First! Protect Your Pets [<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-02/documents/pets.pdf>] (Environmental Protection Agency) - **PDF**
- Vaccinations [<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/vaccinations>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)

Treatments and Therapies

- **Animal Product Safety Information** [<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/product-safety-information>] (Food and Drug Administration)
- **Treating Cushing's Disease in Dogs** [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/treating-cushings-disease-dogs>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/como-tratar-la-enfermedad-de-cushing-en-los-perros>]

Related Issues

- **Be Prepared: Pet Safety in Emergencies** [<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/emergency-preparedness/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Disease Precautions for Dog Walkers** [<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/disease-precautions-dog-walkers>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- **Dog Bite Prevention** [<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/dog-bite-prevention>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- **Salmonella: Dry Pet Foods and Pet Treats (FAQ)** [<https://www.avma.org/salmonella-dry-pet-foods-and-pet-treats-faq>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- **Ticks and Lyme Disease: Symptoms, Treatment, and Prevention** [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/ticks-and-lyme-disease-symptoms-treatment-and-prevention>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/las-garrapatas-y-la-enfermedad-de-lyme-sintomas-tratamiento-y-prevencion>]
- **Ways to Stay Healthy Around Animals** [<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Specifics

- **About Dog Flu** [<https://www.cdc.gov/flu-in-animals/about/canine-flu.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **About Dog or Cat Tapeworm Infection** [<https://www.cdc.gov/dipylidium/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Birds (Pets)** [<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/birds.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Canine Distemper** [<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/canine-distemper>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- **Canine Parvovirus** [<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/canine-parvovirus>] (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- **Fluorouracil and Pet Safety** [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/fluorouracil-and-pet-safety>] (Food and Drug Administration)
- **Horses** [<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/horses.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- **Keep the Worms Out of Your Pet's Heart! The Facts About Heartworm Disease** [<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/keep-worms-out-your-pets-heart-facts-about-heartworm-disease>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/mantenga-los-parasitos-fuera-del-corazon-de-su-mascota-informacion-sobre-la-enfermedad-del-parasito>]
- **Medication Errors Happen to Pets, Too** [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/medication-errors-happen-pets-too>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/los-errores-de-medicacion-tambien-ocurren-en-las-mascotas>]
- **Medicines for Your Pet: What's the Difference Between FDA-Approved and Pharmacy-Compounded Drugs?** [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/medicines-your-pet-whats-difference-between-fda-approved-pharmacy-compounded-drugs>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/medicamentos-para-su-mascota-cual-es-la-diferencia-entre-los-medicamentos-aprobados-por-la-fda-y-los>]

My Dog Has Cancer: What Do I Need to Know? [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/my-dog-has-cancer-what-do-i-need-know>] (Food and Drug Administration)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/mi-perro-tiene-cancer-que-necesito-saber>]

- What You Should Know about COVID-19 and Pets [<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Xylitol and Your Dog: Danger, Paws Off [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/paws-xylitol-its-dangerous-dogs>] (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/el-xilitol-es-peligroso-para-los-perros-mantengalo-fuera-de-su-alcance>]

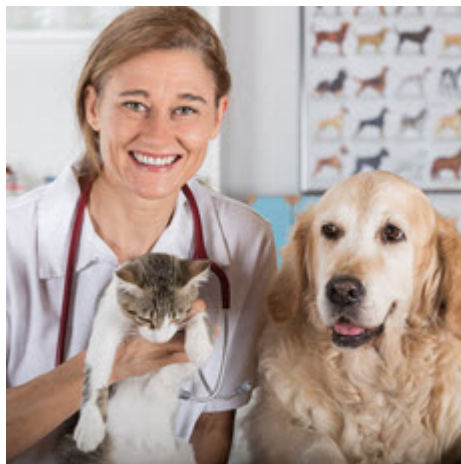
Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Relationship Between Domestic Animals, Environmental and Behavioral Factors, and Under-Five Diarrhea... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40742515>]
- Article: Triatoma dimidiata, domestic animals and acute Chagas disease: a 10-year follow-up... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40616155>]
- Article: Overcoming limitations to customize DeepVariant for domesticated animals with TrioTrain. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40456605>]
- Pet Health -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Animals%2C+Domestic%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<https://www.cdc.gov/>]
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Fleas [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001329.htm>]

Pets and the immunocompromised person [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003967.htm>]

Related Health Topics

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