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### Animal Crackers

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# Animal Crackers

## Vaccination Schedules

Vaccination schedules may vary in different situations. The program used in kennels may differ from that recommended for household pets. Follow the advice of your veterinarian.

One method would be to give three doses of combined vaccine (Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Canine Leptospirosis, and Parvovirus) at eight, eleven, and fourteen weeks, with an additional Parvovirus at twenty weeks. Rabies vaccine could also be given at fourteen weeks. There is no reason for not giving Parvovirus in combination with other vaccines. "Boosters" should be given yearly, except for Rabies which is given every two or three years. *This is only a suggested program.* In some cases, it might be advisable to start the series at an earlier age.

The most common cause of vaccination failure is the presence of maternal antibodies received in the colostrum for the first 24 to 72 hours of life. This can interfere with successful vaccination up to 12-14 weeks for Canine Distemper and 18 weeks for Parvovirus.

Puppies should be kept isolated until the vaccination series is complete. There may be a period of several days or weeks between exposure to an infectious disease and development of clinical signs. If vaccine is given during this incubation period, it may not prevent disease.



## Book Review

**Dogs Through History**, by Maxwell Riddle (Denlinger's Publishers Ltd., Box 76, Fairfax, VA 22030), \$19.95.

Maxwell Riddle is an award winning writer on dogs. He is one of the 22 judges approved by the American Kennel Club for all breeds and has judged in many other countries. This book is not an exhaustive text and makes excellent reading. The author's foreword states that it is designed to show that highly intelligent people and their dogs wandered the world long before the beginning of recorded history.

The illustrations include canine paintings, sculpture, and drawings as well as photographs of archaeological findings. There is a brick (2100 B.C.) with the footprint of a dog that walked across it while it was drying (from the University of Pennsylvania Museum). Rock engravings from Scandinavia. Egyptian tombs, and a mosaic from Pompeii show dogs. A painting by Jan Van Eyck (ca. 1422) shows a small dog of Cairn Terrier type.

There are chapters on Stone Age Dogs, the Egyptians, Greeks, Africa, the Romans, the Celts, Middle Ages of Europe, the Arctic, Tibet, China, Japan, India, Afghanistan, Arabia, North and South America, and Australia.

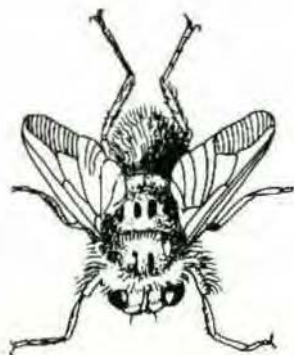
The author believes that the domestic dog was born in central Asia, and that dog and wolf developed from an unknown Pleistocene canid that lived some sixty thousand years ago. He states that modern wolf families do not differ from extinct species to a significant degree, but the dog shows astonishing divergencies—more than four hundred dog breeds are estimated to exist.

Dog fanciers will find much interesting material on the relationship of dogs and humans as well as descriptions of the types and uses of dogs in many civilizations and countries. This is a book to enjoy and talk about.

## Warm Weather Notes

Warm weather brings an increased number of Parvovirus cases. Flies may carry the virus. Remove uneaten food promptly or it may become contaminated and a source of infection.

Consult your veterinarian about heartworm. This can be a problem wherever there are mosquitoes. Preventive medication may be given daily or monthly. Always have a blood test first to determine if infection is present.



Always read the labels carefully when using insecticides. Use these products at recommended intervals only and follow directions. Some products are not safe for cats.

"Hot Spots" may appear overnight as reddened, moist areas on the skin. If not recognized and treated promptly, a serious skin problem may result. Ask your veterinarian to recommend a preparation to have available at the first sign of trouble.

Heat stroke requires immediate treatment. Hosing down with cold water, ice packs, the prompt veterinary attention will help save lives. Don't keep animals in closed cars—they quickly become death traps in hot weather. Always be sure there is adequate ventilation.



## Allergies

Allergies are quite common in dogs. They usually develop at 6 to 24 months of age and are likely to persist for life. Itchiness of skin, ears, and feet are usual signs—sneezing and runny noses usually do not occur in dogs. Certain breeds seem to be prone to develop allergies and the tendency may be inherited. Diagnosis requires a detailed history, and skin testing may be done for confirmation. Common inhalant allergens are pollen, mold spores, house dust, and dander. Some foods and drugs may cause reactions. In some cases, contact allergy occurs.

There are several types of drugs available for treatment. Antihistamines are helpful in some cases. Corticosteroids may provide quick relief but side effects limit their use. Hyposensitization involves giving small doses of the offending allergens. A treatment schedule must be worked out for each individual. If the dog goes untreated, self-trauma by scratching, rubbing, and chewing may lead to severe skin damage and infection.

## How Old Is Your Dog?

Suggested guidelines for comparing the age of humans and dogs have been developed based on sexual maturity, tooth growth, etc. It has been said that "one dog year equals seven people years," but the chart shows that this is not true.

Age of dog	Human equivalent
3 mos.	5 yrs.
6 mos.	10 yrs.
12 mos.	15 yrs.
2 yrs.	24 yrs.
4 yrs.	32 yrs.
6 yrs.	40 yrs.
8 yrs.	48 yrs.
10 yrs.	56 yrs.
14 yrs.	72 yrs.
18 yrs.	91 yrs.
21 yrs.	106 yrs.

Large breeds have a shorter life span than smaller breeds. Cats age at about the same rate as dogs.

## "Top Ten" AKC Breeds

The ten most popular breeds for 1987 are the same as for 1986—cocker spaniels, poodles, Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, German shepherd dogs, chow chows, beagles, miniature schnauzers, dachshunds, and Shetland sheepdogs. A record 1,187,400 individual dogs were registered by AKC in 1987, a record high. The Finnish spitz became the 130th breed recognized by AKC, and 811 were registered in 1987.

There were 105,236 cocker spaniels registered in 1987, but at the other end of the list there are eleven breeds with less than 100 individuals registered—wirehaired pointing griffons, Irish water spaniels, curly-coated retrievers, Sealyham terriers, field spaniels, Ibiza hounds, Sussex spaniels, English foxhounds, otter hounds, American foxhounds, and harriers.

When choosing a breed, don't rely entirely on popularity. Look at adults as well as puppies. Investigate temperament and be prepared to take the time needed for proper training. Consider the amount of grooming required. Make a decision on the basis of which breed will fit into your lifestyle. Understand the breed you choose and be a responsible dog owner.