

Mega-Guide to Everything

Morkie

SMALL DOG EXPERT DEB GRAY



Your Mega-Guide to Everything Morkie

by small dog expert Deb Gray

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The author of this book is not a trained dog health professional. It is the reader's responsibility to consult with a licensed, practicing Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine (DVM) (or equivalent in your country) before making any changes to your method of feeding, grooming or any other matter of dog care for any dogs for which you have any responsibility or contribute, in any way, to his or her care. This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace the advice of your own Veterinarian.

Important Disclaimer!

Only a Veterinarian armed with your dog's complete medical history can determine which vaccines should be given and when they'll be most effective - however as a knowledgeable consumer, you should understand what the diseases are that can be prevented with vaccines, and where there is some controversy, then make up your own mind. This information is not meant to replace that of a professional.



A word on spelling... Throughout, Canadian spelling has been used, so you'll see words like *flavour* instead of *flavor* as you might expect.

Why You Need This Book

Your Morkie is a unique combination of its parents, the Yorkshire Terrier and the Maltese dog.

Although both animals are small, affectionate and hypoallergenic, they are different from one another in many ways. There's no guarantee any Morkie will be a true 50/50 split of characteristics and looks of each parent.

And because crossbreed or designer dogs are so new, there's not a lot of reliable information about them. That's why I wrote this **Mega-Guide to Everything Morkie**.

Information you can trust

My mission is to bring you honest, unbiased info about raising a happy, healthy Morkie. There is so much **mis**information out there, it's scary. The pet care industry is so huge; it's a SIXTY BILLION DOLLAR market just in the USA. So there are lots of groups interested in selling you their products and point of view.

- When it comes to nutrition advice, do you ask your Vet? He SELLS pet food.
- Online puppy sales are mostly frauds.
- Big Pharma can sell pet medications and vaccines with minimal oversight from any responsible group.
- What about the cranks promoting natural cures, energy healing and holistic nonsense? They're often the fake gurus who are promoting their own line of ridiculous "organic" products, for big profits.

I'm a pet lover like you, who's tired of misinformation and out-and-out B.S. when it comes to dog care.

I am not a trained pet care professional; I am not a Vet and I am not connected to any pet food companies or pharmaceuticals. Instead, I'm a dog lover and a self-taught expert in small dog care.

In my studies, I've uncovered information you'll find interesting, helpful and even shocking (wait until you read about dog food!) So you are armed with information to make up your mind yourself.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this **Mega-Guide to Everything Morkie**, and that you get to spend many happy years with your delightful pup. I look forward to hearing from you, at deb@morkienation.com

Sincerely,

Deb Gray

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Part One: All About Morkies

The magical blend of Yorkshire Terrier and Maltese Dog

Maltese + Yorkie = the adorable Morkie!



Meet the parents

A purebred Yorkshire Terrier + a purebred Maltese = a Morkie, also known as a Malky, Morky or Yorktease.

To really get to know your Morkie and why he behaves the way he does, you'll want to learn more about the founding breeds: the **Yorkshire Terrier** and the **Maltese** dog.

After all, your Morkie's looks, personality and health are inherited from both breeds, and not always in equal proportions.

The more you know about Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese dogs, the easier it will be for you to understand your Morkie.

More Maltese or more Yorkie?

Chances are your Morkie will have both good and not-so-good features of mom and dad! So do your homework on the Yorkshire Terrier and the Maltese and be sure their "flaws" or downsides can fit with your household.

The Yorkshire Terrier

Yorkies are active, bright little dogs with very big personalities. In fact, they need plenty of socialization and training to keep that big personality on track or they can become too assertive and even bossy. Though small, the Yorkshire Terrier is active, loves attention and is protective of his owners. The Yorkie is no lapdog.

History

The Yorkshire Terrier's history is new compared to many dog breeds which span back over the centuries.

Originally part of the Terrier family of dogs, Yorkies were developed in the 1850s in northern England, where they were first bred as **working dogs** to chase rats and other vermin in factories around Yorkshire. Even today, they like to have a job to do, but like most terriers, they can be stubborn and aggressive.

Today Yorkies are classified in the **Toy Dogs** category along with the Maltese. However, they retain their original terrier character. Terriers are known to be intelligent, confident, friendly, playful, and brave. They're energetic, affectionate, loyal and brave. Terriers are also mischievous and fearless which can get them into trouble. They can be stubborn, sometimes making training a challenge.

Appearance

Yorkshire Terriers have a long, single coat that's glossy, fine, straight and silky. This coat takes a lot of care, with daily combing and brushing, which is probably why many owners prefer to keep their Yorkies in the short "puppy cut."

Born almost pure black, it takes Yorkie puppies about 3 years to develop their final colour. Adults are black and what's called "steel blue," (a blue-gray) with tan on the head, high chest, and legs. Some Yorkies are much lighter overall, almost blond.

Temperament

Introduce another dog or a new person to the Yorkshire Terrier and you won't see anything timid or curious about the Yorkie... just full out barking and standing in the alpha dog position.



Yorkie traits include:

- affectionate, loving
- loyal
- smart, bright natures
- high-spirited
- confident, independent

Here's just one example of how smart and dedicated the Yorkie is...

Smoky, a World War II Hero!

Meet Smoky, a tiny Yorkshire Terrier who fought in World War II alongside her adopted owner, William Wynne of Cleveland, Ohio.

This tiny dog somehow found her way to the *New Guinea Jungles*, (southwest Pacific, just north of Australia), where she was found roaming in the jungle. Corporal Wynne won her in a poker game.

Smoky was such a fighter, she became a famous symbol of the times - even parachuting with Wynne's platoon.

In one instance, the dog saved the Air Force several days of work tearing up an airfield to run a communication cable under the pavement. A line was attached to Smoky's collar, and the brave little Yorkie ran with it through a long culvert filled with sand, often with only 3 or 4 inches of clearance at the top.

Smoky thrived on the coral rock New Guinea islands for over a year, weathering typhoons, kamikaze attacks onboard ship, famously poor WWII food and primitive living conditions— tents in equatorial heat and humidity.

The little dog soon became famous among the soldiers. With her bright nature, she easily cheered up the wounded in hospitals. In fact, **she was the first "therapy dog,"** championed by Dr. Charles Mayo himself, who later founded the Mayo Clinic. Smoky entertained soldiers at bases with a variety of tricks.

After the war, Smoky gained great fame in the United States performing tricks in movies, television shows and at personal appearances. To read more about this amazing little dog, visit www.smokywardog.com



Origins of the Yorkshire Terrier

- In the mid-1800s, workers from Scotland came to Yorkshire in northern England in search of work, bringing several different varieties of small terriers to work with them.
- Yorkshire Terriers were bred in 19th century England from a mixture of Scottish Terriers: Clydesdale, Skye, Paisley and Waterside Terriers.
- Today's Yorkie descended from the matings between three different dogs, a male named **Old Crab** and a female named **Kitty**, and another unnamed female.
- The Yorkshire Terrier's current breed standard was recognized in the late 1860s thanks to a famous show dog called "**Huddersfield Ben.**"
- Since then, breeders have selected pairs of smaller Yorkies to downsize them, sometimes even breeding them with Maltese to get the size down.



Most experts agree that a dog called "Huddersfield Ben" (left) was the 'founder' of today's Yorkshire Terrier. Naturally he lived in Yorkshire, England (1865 - 1871). "Ben" won more than 74 prizes in major dog shows although he lived only 6 years.

The Yorkshire Terrier was popular in England during the Victorian era, as a pet and as a show dog. Americans loved all things Victorian, so the Yorkshire Terrier became popular in the United States too.

However, the breed's standing dropped in the 1940s, when the popularity of *all* small breeds took a big dip - an all-time low of just 18% of registered breeds were toys. Large dogs were favoured during war times.

Today, the Yorkie is **the 3rd most popular breed in America;** and #6 in Canada. In New York City, the Yorkie is the #1 registered breed!

Despite their popularity, a Yorkshire Terrier has won the prestigious annual Westminster Kennel Club dog show only once - Champion Cede Higgins, in 1978.

Yorkshire Terrier Quick Facts

Average lifespan - typically 12 to 15 years.

Size - 5 to 7 pounds, 5 to 7 inches high at the shoulders. Can be up to 12 or 14 pounds.

Temperament - Big dog in a small body! Yorkies are affectionate, lively and brave.

Easy to house train? Potty training a Yorkie isn't always easy because they can be stubborn... but with some patience, it can be done.

Grooming needs - Yorkies need regular grooming. Keep hair out of their eyes with a ponytail or pigtails. Many owners prefer to keep their Yorkies in short hair, or puppy cut.

Allergy-free? Technically, no animal is 100% allergy free. But the good news is, Yorkies hardly shed at all and they have less dander, or the stuff that makes us sneeze, than most dogs. They have hair, not fur and this hair comes out only when they are combed. They don't shed all over the house.

Bark a lot? Well they are terriers, and terriers are barkers. Plus the more spoiled any dog is, the more he barks.

Exercise needs - at least one leashed daily walk.

Intelligence - above average dogs... in fact, Yorkies are in the top third of the doggie intelligence pack - ranking 27th out of the 132 breeds tested. (from Dr. Stanley Coren, an expert on animal intelligence.)

Good with small children? No, Yorkies are much smaller than they might seem, based on their lively, outgoing natures. Their bones are small and a little fragile. It's easy for a small child to get carried away and hurt the Yorkie without meaning to.

Origins - northern England (Yorkshire area) late 1800s.

Terrier Trivia

The word Terrier comes from the French, terre or earth... Terriers were bred to flush prey from the earth. They came in handy as hunting dogs, able to chase foxes, badgers and other small animals from their burrows.



Can a Yorkie be too small?

YES! Later you'll read more about so-called teacup Yorkies, Morkies and Maltese and the problems they have.

But in the meantime, freakishly small pups have been born - and Yorkies happen to hold a few records for being THE smallest dog.

Sylvia, a Yorkshire Terrier owned by Arthur Marples of Blackburn, England, was the smallest dog in recorded history. The dog passed away in 1945 when she was not quite two years old.

Sylvia was only 2 1/2" tall at the shoulder, measured 3 1/2" from nose tip to tail, and weighed a mere 4 ounces.

A Yorkie named *Thumbelina* held the Guinness World Record for smallest living dog up until 1995; she was 5 1/2" tall and 8" long. Sadly, she died in her first year.

Between 1995 and 2002, a Yorkshire Terrier named *Big Boss*, was recognized as the smallest dog in the world. He stood 2 1/2" tall at the shoulder, measured 3 1/2" from nose tip to tail, and weighed 4 ounces. *Big Boss* died in 1945 when he was barely two years old

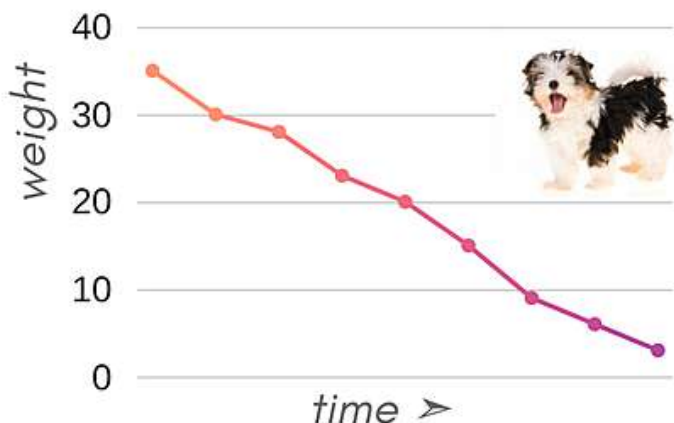
Dogs Keep Shrinking!

The miniaturization or dwarfing of pets is a dangerous trend, and leaves heartbroken owners with sickly, runty dogs who live only a few short years. Although breeds can adapt over time to be smaller, it's not done by breeding runt-to-runt. Instead, healthy but smaller dogs are carefully matched up and *may* produce smaller puppies.



Tiny Pinocchio, an unusually small Yorkie, has appeared on many TV shows including Oprah and the Today Show.

Miniaturization of dogs

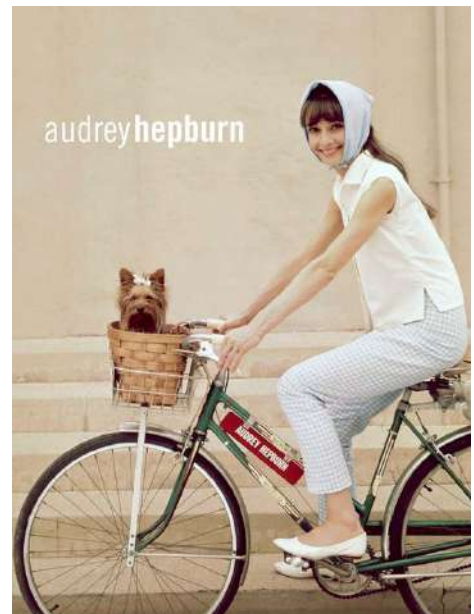


The Yorkshire Terrier, which has been around for only about 200 years, started out much larger than today's version. Bred to work with men in fabric mills and mines to chase out vermin, the first Yorkies weighed around 35 pounds. When movie star Audrey Hepburn had her famous Yorkie (called of course, Mister Famous) in Hollywood's heyday, he looks like he's around 15 pounds. Today, consumers are eager to find 3 pound or 4 pound Yorkies. It's crazy!

Yorkies: Stars of Stage, Screen and the White House

Right: On the TV show *Green Acres*, Eva Gabor's character (Lisa Douglas) owned a Yorkshire Terrier named Mignon.

Below: A Yorkie lived in the White House — President Nixon's daughter Tricia had one called Pasha.



One of the more famous Yorkies in Hollywood was "Mr. Famous," the Yorkie loved and adored by Audrey Hepburn in the mid 1950s. Mister Famous even appeared in the movie "Funny Face" with her.

More Celebrity Yorkies



Ivana Trump



Kristen Cavallari
with Yorkie Bardot



Tara Reed and Stolie



Vanessa Williams and
Yorkie Veronica



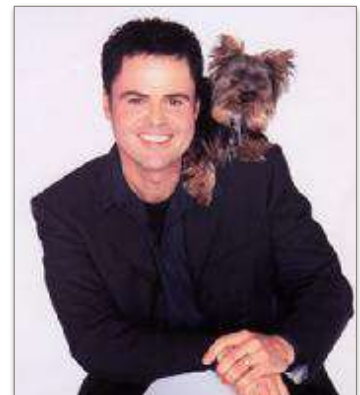
Miranda Kerr



Missy Elliott and Poncho



The late Joan
Rivers, with Spike



Pop Star Donny
Osmond with **his** Spike



Depp Drama - Johnny Depp and partner Amber Heard made headlines when they took their Yorkies to Australia, skipping the country's strict quarantine laws for animals.



Paris Hilton and
Cinderella



Whitney Houston and her
Yorkie Doogie

Celebrities owned by Yorkies

Below: Kevin & Danielle Jonas of the Jonas Brothers have a Yorkie AND a Maltese. They're almost ready for a Morkie!



Hillary Duff with Jack



Even Simon Cowell loves Yorkies



Molly Sims and Yorkies



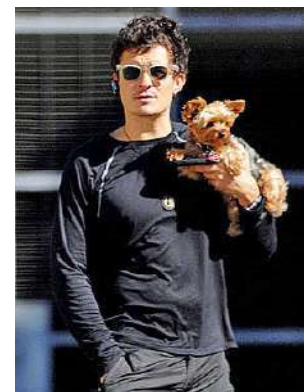
Naomi Watts with her Yorkie Bob



Ozzie & Sharon Osbourne



Jay Mohr



Orlando Bloom



Ashely Tisdale and Kenny Ortega



Natalie Portman

Was Toto a Yorkie?



Paramount Pictures

"Toto" is one of the best-loved small dogs in movies and books. In the original 1939 movie, Dorothy's sidekick was a Cairn Terrier called Terry, but what about the original Toto in the books written by L. Frank Baum?

The dog's actual breed is never mentioned in the original books; however, based on the illustrations and some background history of the illustrator himself, W. W. Denslow, it looks like Toto definitely started out as a Yorkie.



Left: one of W. W. Denslow's illustrations in the original book, **The Wizard of Oz**, published in 1900. Denslow owned a Yorkie and his illustrations of Toto look like that breed.

Right: a pencil sketch of Toto by Denslow.



The Maltese Dog

Like the Yorkie, the Maltese features a beautiful, flowing coat - but pure white, no other colours are allowed in a purebred Maltese.

Bred thousands of years ago, Maltese dogs were developed to be pampered lapdogs, and they take that job seriously. They are among the most gentle of all dogs, and are sweet natured and affectionate. Maltese are the ideal companion - loyal, vigorous and devoted.

History

Maltese **originated about 6000 B.C.**, likely in Asia, and were worshipped by the ancient Egyptians.

- Although the breed originated in Asia, Maltese are usually associated with the Isle of Malta, a tiny island off the coast of Italy. Phoenician traders may have brought the dogs to Malta and around the 10th century B.C.
- It's believed Maltese descended from a Spitz type dog found among the Swiss Lake dwellers, then selectively bred down in size.
- The Maltese dog is **one of the ancient breeds**, which means it has strong DNA ties to wolves. Other dogs in this category include the Lhasa Apso from Tibet; the Pekingese from China; the Shih Tzu, also from China, and the Samoyed from Russia.
- In the 1600 and 1700s, the breed was made even smaller, by cross-breeding with poodles and miniature spaniels. It has been the same size since then.



Above: Is this a Maltese dog? Historians think that it IS and it is on a Greek vase is from 500 BCE!

We're talking OLD!

The oldest record of Maltese was found on a Greek amphora or vase that was found in Tuscany, Italy. On the vase, a Maltese-like dog is portrayed along with the word Μελιταίε (Melitaie).

Archaeologists date this vase to around 500 BC.

References to the Maltese can also be found in ancient Greek and Roman literature and many art objects adorned with the Maltese image, pre-dating Christ, have survived to this day.

—from Wikipedia



Adult Maltese dogs and a 12-week-old puppy.

Other Names for Maltese dogs

This ancient breed has been known by a variety of names throughout the centuries including the "ancient dog of Malta," the "Roman Ladies' Dog," and the "Maltese Lion Dog."

In Great Britain, first to recognize today's standards for the Maltese, the The Kennel Club settled on the name "Maltese" in the 19th century.

Is the Maltese a terrier?

NO! Although some people refer to the Maltese as a "Maltese Terrier," the Maltese is **not** a terrier. The breed's long bloodlines are through the Spaniel group, not terriers, and they don't have any terrier characteristics, such as being aggressive and chasing prey.

There's also no such thing as a 'teacup' or 'miniature' Maltese; these are just smaller (and often unhealthy) dogs - the runts of the litter.



*Often called Maltese Terriers, even by some breeders, **Maltese are not terriers.***

Appearance

Like the Yorkshire Terrier, Maltese have hair, not fur. Since neither breed has an undercoat, there's very little shedding.

That hair should be perfectly straight, and the longer the better. In a Maltese show dog, the hair hangs to the ground.

Black lips, dark brown eyes and a black nose complete the little Maltese - which ideally doesn't exceed 7 pounds, but can be 12 to 14 pounds.

Maltese have a slightly rounded skull, with a finger-wide dome, and a black button nose and eyes. The body is compact and fine-boned but sturdy; it's slightly longer than it is tall, with a level top line. The Maltese chest is deep.

The drop ears with long hair and dark eyes surrounded by darker skin pigmentation (called a "halo"), gives Maltese their expressive look.

Temperament

Maltese were bred from the beginning to be **luxurious companions**. They love human company and are loyal to their owners. Maltese are lively and playful, but always gentle. Even as a Maltese ages, his energy level and playful personality remain high.

Maltese are cuddly, playful, spirited and loving. The Maltese is active within a house, and, preferring enclosed spaces, does well with small yards. So they do well in apartments and townhouses, an ideal urban pet.

Because they're so devoted to people, Maltese can suffer from separation anxiety. Like any small dog who is spoiled, they can also fall victim to "Small Dog Syndrome," although less so than the more forceful Yorkshire Terrier.

Is Maltese barking 'bred in the bone?'

Maltese will almost always bark when someone comes to your door or enters your space, especially when that someone is a stranger.

Barking is one habit of the Maltese that is difficult to break and it may be because (according to legend) Maltese, dogs of court ladies for hundreds of years, were taught to bark to warn their owners that their husbands were returning home so it was time to get other 'gentlemen visitors' out!!



Maltese barking, like Yorkie barking, can get out of control if the dog:

- doesn't get enough positive attention
- is not exercised enough
- the owner doesn't know how to manage and train against excessive barking.

bred-in-the-bone:

Deeply instilled; firmly established. Persistent; habitual.

from thefreedictionary.com

Don't despair!

Excessive barking - Yorkie, Maltese or Yorkie - can be managed and it's easier than you think. You can read more in Part 8: Behavior Problems.

Maltese Dog quick facts

Average lifespan - typically 13 to 16 years.

Size 4 to 7 pounds is the ideal breed standard, established by Kennel Clubs around the world, and 8 to 10 inches high at the shoulders. The body is compact with the length equaling the height. The Maltese has been a very small dog since it was introduced centuries ago.

Temperament Bred to be cuddly companion dogs, Maltese thrive on lots of love and attention. They are lively and playful dogs, and stay puppy-like into old age.

Easy to house train? Potty training a Maltese can be challenging just because they're toy dogs, which are always more difficult to train. However, with patience and firmness, it can be done.

Grooming needs Maltese need regular grooming which includes combing, brushing and baths. Their hair is kept out of the eyes with a ponytail or top-knot.

Allergy-free? Not technically but just like Yorkies, Maltese hardly shed at all and they have less "dander" than most dogs - the stuff that makes us sneeze. Because they have hair, not fur, they mostly shed only when they are combed. Yorkies, Morkies and Maltese are just like Poodles that way.

Bark a lot? Maltese dogs can bark a lot; in fact it's the number one reason they're given to a shelter.

Exercise needs - Maltese love a small enclosed yard to frolic and romp.

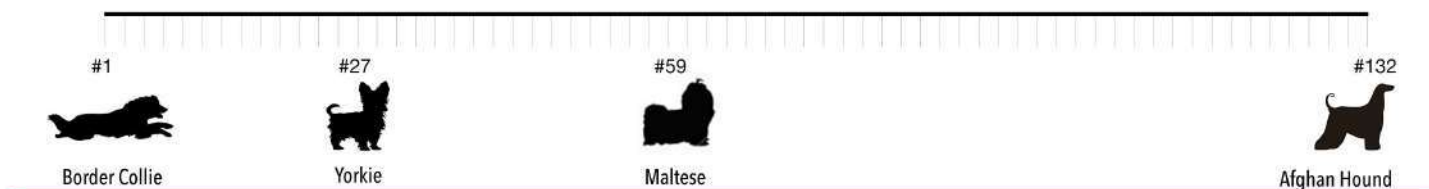
Intelligence - average. Maltese rank 59th out of the 132 breeds tested. (*Dr. Stanley Coren, an expert on animal intelligence in **The Intelligence of Dogs***). This compares to Yorkies, who rank #27 on the intelligence scale.

Good with small children? Yes, Maltese are a little more sturdy than Yorkshire Terriers; however like any small dog, they can be hurt by small children playing too roughly.



Who can resist a Maltese puppy?

The Smart Scale



Maltese dogs in history



Painting by Goya, 1790. The Duchess of Alba with Maltese.



Queen Elizabeth I, with her Maltese, 1560.



Elizabeth I's cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, with her Maltese, 1570.



French royalty in the 1700s, with Maltese dog.



Prince Albert Kamehameha, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Hawaii, 1862, and his Maltese dog in Honolulu.



An enthusiastic fancier of Maltese, Mrs. Stallibrass exhibited several of her prize Maltese at dog shows throughout England in the late 1890s.



Painting of a Maltese on red cushion, 17th century.

Maltese Dogs and their famous owners

Right: A Maltese dog was one of the richest pooches in the world: "Trouble," the Maltese owned by New York hotel titan, Leona Helmsley, was left a **\$12 million trust fund** when the "Queen of Mean" died in 2008! The courts later overturned that will; leaving poor Trouble with only \$2 million.

Another well-do-do Maltese was Sugar, actress **Elizabeth Taylor's Maltese**, and the self-proclaimed "love of her life." When Sugar finally passed away, La Liz adopted another Maltese, related to Sugar, called Daisy.



Above, Elizabeth Taylor with Sugar the Maltese; Right, Liz with Larry King and Sugar.



Maltese have also been owned by Heather Locklear, Eva Longoria, Lindsay Lohan, Frank Sinatra and Liberace.

Modern day celebrity Maltese



Snoop Dog



Ashton Kutcher



Anna Nicole Smith



Halle Berry



Susan Sarandon



Emma Watson and her (temporarily) pink Maltese



Britney Spears



Below: Heather Locklear with her Maltese on the cover of People's InStyle magazine



Above left: long time animal activist Betty White and her Maltese, one of many pets she cares for.

Above: Eva Longoria and Jinxy.

Left: Cindy Crawford with the family Maltese, Widget.



Earlier fans of Maltese Dogs

elvis loved maltese!



Left to right:

Priscilla Presley with her Maltese from Elvis. (But not the one shown at right)

Elvis Presley with a Maltese puppy bought for another girlfriend for Christmas.

Elvis Presley with Sweet Pea in 1956, purchased for his mother.



Far left: Actress Marilyn Monroe, with a Maltese given to her by Frank Sinatra. Named Maf, the pup was bought by Sinatra from Natalie Wood's mother.

Left: Tony Bennett and Happy.



'30s and '40s Movie Star Bette Davis was well known as a true dog lover, and was rarely without 2 or 3.



Actress Lee Remick



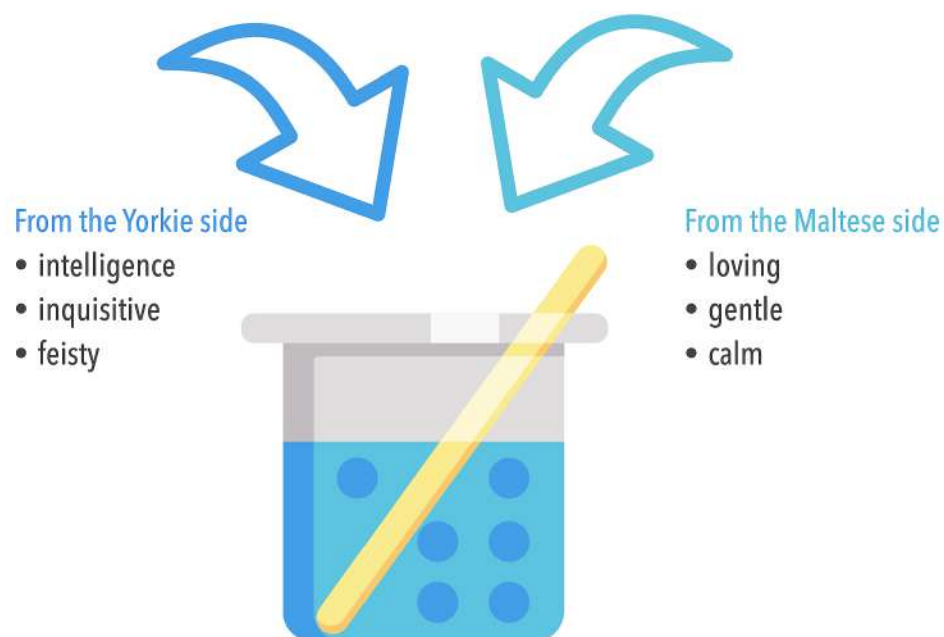
Diana Ross and two Maltese. It's not clear that these were her pets, because record producer Berry Gordy often posed the Supremes with domestic touches like cute dogs.

And here's the Morkie!

The Morkie, or Maltese-Yorkshire Terrier hybrid, is one of the most popular small designer dogs around today.



They're tiny, adorable looking dogs, weighing anywhere from 4 to 10 pounds. And because they have hair, not fur, they don't shed like most dogs and are good for people with allergies.



Morkies-at-a-glance

Like Maltese and Yorkshire Terriers, Morkies are affectionate, loyal and devoted. Thanks to the Yorkie's brainpower, they can be trained to perform tricks and basic obedience.

Morkies tend to have lots of energy, and remain puppy-like throughout their lives.

Because they can be willful like their Yorkie founding breed, Morkies need challenges and 'jobs' to do - don't baby them too much or they can develop Small Dog Syndrome (more on that later).

They do well with dogs and cats they've been raised with. They bond closely to their family and so do not do well if ignored or left alone for extended periods of time. Boredom and loneliness can result in destructive behavior and incessant barking.

The Morkie may be a little stubborn and difficult to housebreak. They will not respond to harsh or heavy-handed methods. Training must be done with firmness, fairness, patience, and consistency.



Being such small dogs, Morkies don't need a lot of exercise, although all dogs are better behaved and more healthy if they have at least one walk a day on a leash.

Keep your Morkie close on a good leash and collar or harness, beware - their small size can attract larger, less-than-friendly dogs and the Morkie doesn't back down, his Yorkie heritage coming through!

Morkie size

If you keep your Morkie at an appropriate weight for his size, you'll find his overall health is much better.

Both breeds -- the Yorkshire Terrier and the Maltese -- are ideally bred to be under 10 pounds, often 5 to 7 pounds. A quick way to check the weight is to take an overhead view of the adult dog - you should see a definite "waist" looking overhead (the Morkie may have to be wet to really see beyond the fluff!). You should be able to feel their ribs when you run your hands along their sides.

Because Morkies are not as frail-boned as Yorkshire Terriers, thanks to mixing in the Maltese, they're good for children who have been taught to be careful and respectful with animals.

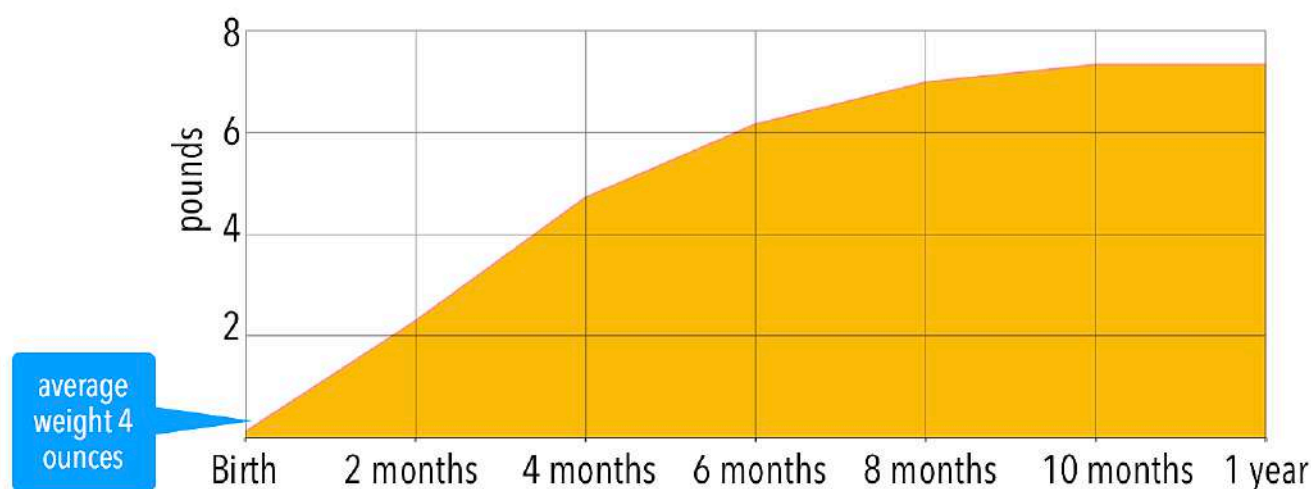
How big will my Morkie get?

Here are a couple of guides to keep in mind:

- small dogs **reach their adult weight at about 10 months** - which is faster than large dogs, who take a year to a year and a half to grow into their adult size
- Morkie puppies are usually around 4 ounces when they're born
- by the end of the first week, they often will be double their birth weight
- Morkies, Yorkies and Maltese tend to grow quickly in the first few weeks - up until week 5 or 6 - generally gaining about 1/2 ounce per day most days, or up to 4 ounces a week until week 5 or 6
- generally, the pup's weight at 6 weeks x 4 = his adult weight

See worksheet in Appendix "How big will my Morkie be?"

Typical Morkie size



Like their parents, typically Morkies are typically around 5 to 8 pounds, and often up to 12 pounds and more.

Height: From 6" or 7" high at the shoulder up to 10" or 11" high.

Small dogs getting smaller

Did you know the first Yorkshire Terriers, used to kill rats in industrial England in the 1880s, were about 30 pounds. Since then, they've been downsized by breeding smaller dogs to smaller dogs, and even cross breeding with the occasional small Maltese.

Even though we see smaller as cuter, small isn't always a good thing. Dogs that are too small are:

- frail, easy to injure
- sickly, with fragile health
- prone to dangerous hypoglycaemic attacks where their blood sugar drops to a dramatically low level
- the worst characteristic of super-small dogs: they don't live as long

*A super-small dog in this case is under 4 pounds as an adult

Morkie characteristics

Appearance

- compact body
- traditional canine head: rounded dome and mid-length muzzle
- wide variety of coat colours, from single to multi-coloured coat
- tail may be docked (Yorkie style) or not (Maltese style)



Morkies come in a wide variety of colours; typically they weigh around 5 to 8 pounds, but many go to 12 pounds.

Morkie ears: floppy or not?

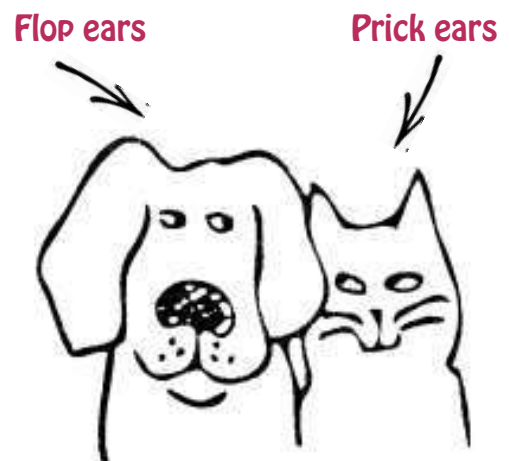
There are **more than 22 types of dog ears**, including *Blunt-Tipped, Button, Candle-Flame, Flying, Folded* and *Heart-Shaped*.

The Yorkshire Terrier has "prick ears" like a German Shepherd's - they're meant to stand up in a triangular point.

Maltese ears, on the other hand, have "flop ears" (also called drop ears).

Your Morkie could have either type and both are cute. Sometimes it can take 6 to 8 months for your Morkie pup's ears to stand upright. However, starting around 3 or 4 months old, Morkie puppies begin teething and that usually means their ears flop down, or won't start to stand up during teething.

Don't panic - this is perfectly normal during teething, which can last for 3 to 6 months.



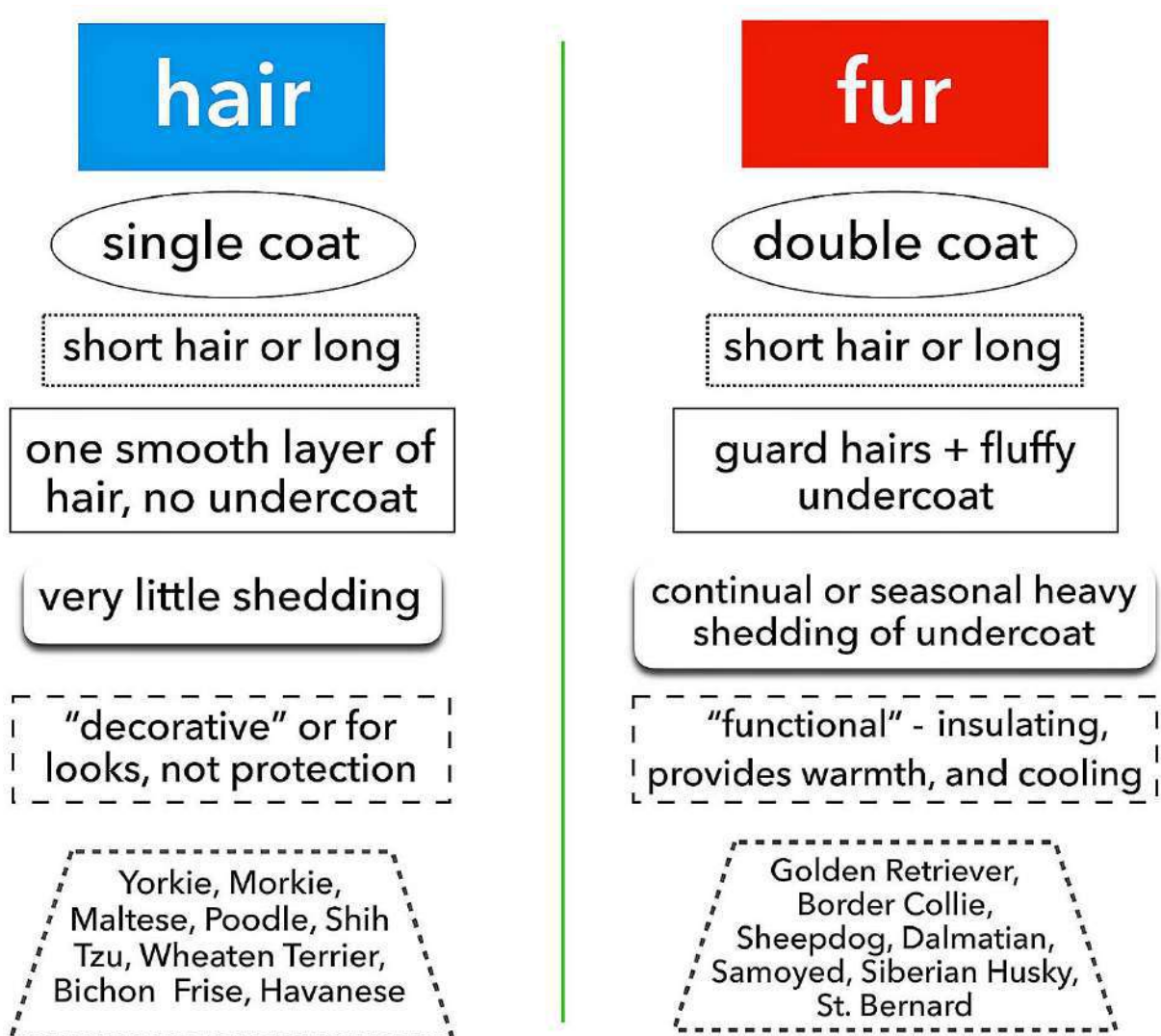
In summary, if your Morkie has prick ears like a Yorkie, expect them to stand up at 6 to 8 months. Teething or illness can sometimes slow the full development of stand-up ears.

If your Morkie is lagging, you can trim the hair on the upper half of the ears (both sides); massage them or tape them temporarily to help them stand up. (Check *YouTube* for more details.)

Colour and coat

Bonus: Morkies are also hypo-allergenic dogs!

What makes Morkies low-allergen pets? Instead of a double layer of fur like most dogs, Morkies have a single layer or coat that is **hair**, like humans. Each hair grows from a follicle, which eventually dies and the hair drops off.



Most dogs have fur - not Morkies

Most breeds have double coats, including the Collie, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Lab and most terriers. Double coated dogs actually have **three** types of hair – whiskers, guard hair and undercoat.

The soft, fluffy undercoat sheds continually or at certain times of the year, in significant amounts.



Right, something you don't have with a Morkie - shedding! This Golden has just been groomed to try and reduce shedding.

The many colours of Morkies

Morkies come in a wide combination of colours, even within the same litter. Some will be a solid colour, from beige to dark brown or nearly black.

Some Morkies have two primary colours: white and brown, or white and black; or black and brown.

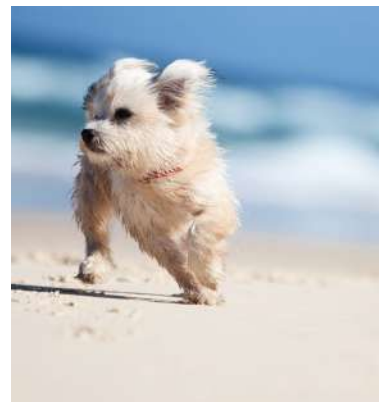
Other coats are three or more colours, including a warm, taffy brown, darker brown, grey, white, beige and more.

Here's a sampling.



Light-coloured coats

From beige to almost pure white, these Morkies have a single colour coat. Ears, as you can see, can be floppy or not.



Two-colour coats

Combinations of white and brown, white and black, white and grey.



Tricolour coats

Combinations of white and brown, white and black, white and grey.



Multicolour coats

Combinations of white and brown, white and black, white and grey.



Is the Morkie a mutt or a designer dog?

The Morkie is often called a **hybrid** or **designer dog**, and are part of a popular trend. They can cost more money than either of their purebred parents, the Yorkie and the Maltese. But basically, they're what we used to call "mutts."

So what's the difference?

	purebred dog	designer dog	mutt
parents	2 purebreds of the same breed	2 purebreds of different breeds	unknown
breeding	planned; carefully selected to avoid certain hereditary problems common to that breed	planned; intentionally bred for certain characteristics	probably not planned
offspring	purebred of the same breed	mixed breed	unknown
characteristics of offspring	identical to parents	combination of parents, but not necessarily 50/50	unknown
temperament of offspring	identical to parents	could be more like either parent; or an equal blend, or something else altogether	unknown
recognition and registration	that country's official Kennel Club	cannot be registered; no credible associations or clubs yet	cannot be registered
cost	relatively high; typically around \$1,000	often much higher than the purebred parents!	adopted from a shelter or rescue, fees cover costs for neutering, dental care and vaccinations. Typically around \$300

The downside of designer dogs

Not everyone agrees that they're great.

If you visit a message board like pets.ca -- you'll see that some dog owners disagree pretty strongly with the whole idea of "designer dogs" or so-called hybrid breeds.

What's their beef? Often designer dogs are really just someone's get-cash-quick scheme. They own a purebred, a friend has another - so let's just mix them and see what happens. While there are many ethical breeders of hybrid dogs, some are fly-by-night and aren't necessarily raising the most healthy, happy puppies.

The website petguide.com has noted concerns of one of the leading Kennel Clubs, the British one:

Britain's Kennel Club is concerned that some unscrupulous breeders may be breeding these types of dog simply for financial profit, rather than with the health and welfare of the dogs in mind. This can mean that they will mass produce puppies to meet the latest celebrity-driven trend and will sell them to people who are buying the dog as a fad rather than based on an educated decision about what is right for them.....

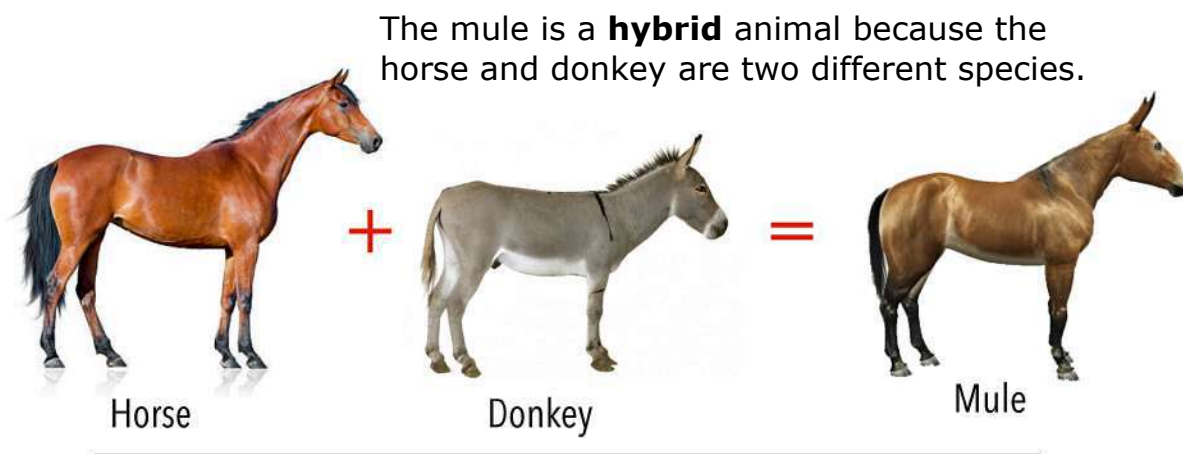
... the crossing of these breeds may result in health problems if the breeder is more interested in making money than about welfare. It can be a gamble.

Combining different breeds doesn't mean you will end up with the best of both, and it doesn't mean a 50/50 split of characteristics. **Lack of consistency in the dogs** is one of the major hurdles for designer dogs looking to breed a new combination.

Hybrid or not?

Well, actually.....There's really no such thing as a **hybrid dog**... unless you're crossing a dog and a cat!

A mule is a hybrid animal, since it comes from breeding a donkey and a horse which are **two different species**.



All dogs are the same species

No matter how different they look from one another, all dogs are the same species: ***Canis familiaris***. All originate from **the grey wolf**.

Thousands and thousands of years ago, there were five distinct types of dogs:

- Mastiff
- Wolf-like dogs
- Greyhounds
- Pointer-type
- Sheepdogs

Over the centuries, interbreeding, genetic mutation and man's desire to 'refine' certain qualities in some dogs, resulted in the 400+ distinctive dog breeds we know today.



Are designer dogs actually healthier?

The myth of hybrid vigour

Some fans of the mixed breed believe that the offspring of two different breeds are actually healthier than purebreds.

The theory goes that mixed breeds with their deeper gene pool - are less likely to have common genetic disorders found in virtually all purebreds. By combining two different breeds, these problems in effect, cancel one another out. But in reality, combining two different breeds can result in the problems doubling!

Genetics is a complicated science

Mixed breeding alone is not enough to eliminate genetic disorders. And in fact,

“in the new, unscrupulous world of puppy-farmers, they produce much unhealthier animals, by breeding without the health checks long-term pedigree breeders have insisted on for decades.”

-quoted from the Daily Mail, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2564373>

More popular designer dogs



Two popular designer dogs

The Labradoodle at left, is a smart and sociable dog originally bred as a non-shedding service dog. Today he's ideal for families.

The Cockapoo, above, is intelligent and outgoing, friendly dog. He's a cross of Cocker Spaniel and miniature or toy poodle.

The first intentional cross breed was created by a man called Wally Conron. The 85-year-old crossed a Labrador and a poodle to help a blind woman, whose husband was allergic to most guide dogs.

His kind gesture fuelled a new, lucrative and wildly popular trend. The winsome-looking **Labradoodle** became popular among celebrities, including Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston, and model Elle Macpherson.

Cockapoos - Cocker Spaniel and Poodles - were cross bred as early as the 60s to introduce the hypoallergenic qualities of the poodle to a favourite dog, the Cocker Spaniel.

- **Puggle** - Pug and Beagle
- **Labradoodle** - Poodle and Labrador Retriever
- **Yorkie-Poo** - Yorkie and Poodle
- **Cockapoo** - Cocker Spaniel and Poodle
- **Maltipoo** - Maltese and Poodle
- **Shih-Poo** - Shih Tzu and Poodle
- **Morkie** - Yorkie and Maltese
- **Golden Doodle** - Golden Retriever and Poodle
- **Pom-Chi** - Pomeranian and Chihuahua
- **Shorkie** - Yorkie and Shih Tzu
- **Zuchon** - Shih Tzu and Bichon Frise
- **Schnoodle** - Schnauzer and Poodle
- **Mal-Shi** - Maltese and Shih Tzu
- **Peekapoo** - Pekingese and Poodle

More Maltese designer dogs



Malti-poo - Maltese + poodle



Malchi - Maltese + Chihuahua



Mauzer - Maltese + Schnauzer

More Yorkie designer dogs



Dorkie - Yorkie + Dachshund



Borkie - Bichon Frise + Yorkie



Pomkie - Pomeranian + Yorkie

Celebrity Morkies!

One of the biggest fans of the Morkie is songwriter-singer **Jann Arden**. Her Morkie, called Midi after a musical term, accompanies Jann almost everywhere.

In fact, scheduled to perform at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Canada one Sunday in 2012, Jann Arden was unceremoniously thrown off a Via Rail passenger train (the country's national railway) because she brought her dog on board in a small bag. The porter noticed this only after she'd been on board for hours. The train stopped and she was left in Oshawa and had to rent a car to drive to Ottawa.



Singer-Songwriter Jann Arden's Morkie, Midi.



jann arden 
@jannarden



Replying to @VIA_Rail

@VIA_Rail you guys suck...a four pound dog in a bag and you boot me off in the middle of nowhere? Nice....

10:19 AM - Mar 11, 2012



24



20



3



More Celeb Morkies



Hugh Jackman and his Morkie Allegra and French Bulldog Dali.



Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler credits his Morkie and Yorkie with keeping him sane.



Ashley Tisdale, star of High School Musical, Scary Movie and more.



American actress, singer-songwriter Emmy Rossum and Cinnamon



Britney Spears is well known for having (too many) small dogs. The pack includes 2 Yorkies, a Maltese, a Chihuahua and a Morkie.



Modern Family star Jesse Tyler Ferguson and his partner Justin Mikita, announced their upcoming nuptials with their Morkie Leaf, center stage.



Rapper, singer, songwriter and producer **Drake** and his new Morkie. Here he is above, with the pup's breeder.



Mylie Cyrus and (the late) Lila the Morkie

Teacup Dogs: beware!

They sound so adorable: tiny teacups, babyface puppies or supermini (insert your favourite toy breed here). But these extra-small dogs are really just a heartbreak waiting to happen.

No responsible breeder would ever purposely breed down the size of her line; national organizations like the American Kennel Club and the Canadian Kennel Club, set out breed standards which stipulate the ideal weight for toy dogs.

So dogs that are super-small are either from an unscrupulous breeder preying on your emotions, or a puppy mill!

What's wrong with super-small toy dogs?

Dogs bred to be small within one or two generations are the result of breeding runts with runts. Runts - undersized, sickly and poorly developed puppies - are of course not what you want for your beloved pet. Being too small can result in:

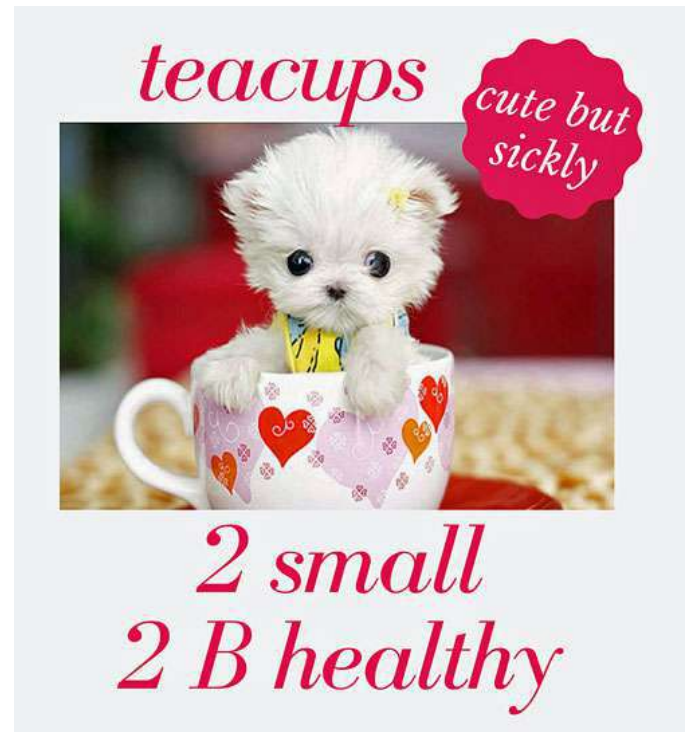
- excessive shyness
- cottony or woolly texture coat
- overshot or undershot bite

Over time, professional dog breeders do change how breeds look, including their size.

The first recognized Yorkshire Terrier, for example, was introduced to the American Kennel Club in 1872. He weighed about 15 pounds; now the breed standard is 5 to 7 pounds. Yet teacup puppies are offered at just 2 or 3 pounds.

Dogs that are smaller than they should be, are vulnerable in 6 ways:

1. First, teacups have more health problems in general. They are more sensitive to potential hazards around the house; for example, a jump from the couch can break a leg. Plus small dogs often suffer from chronic diarrhea.
2. A super-small dog faces higher risks if an operation is needed, even common neutering.
3. Very small dogs are harder to house train. Their bladders are that much smaller and owners say it takes *at least* 6 months to potty train a teacup.
4. Teacups normally need a lot of attention and can't be left alone for a long period of time. They need food more often - 3 or 4 meals a day minimum. They can be high strung and more prone to separation anxiety.



5. Teacups are unlikely to live as long as "full size" versions. Most toy dogs have a life expectancy of 12 to 15 or more years but teacups typically live only 5 or 6 years.

AND THE BIG PROBLEM....

6. Hypoglycaemia and your super-small dog

Teacups are prone to Hypoglycaemia or **critically low levels of sugar in the blood**. Low blood sugar can be a temporary problem for many small breeds when they are puppies. But when teacups are under 5 pounds when fully grown -- they're always at risk of this common yet serious problem.

Hypoglycaemia is caused because the small dog is not able to store enough energy (food) in its tiny digestive system. Any kind of stress can cause a drastic drop in blood sugar levels which can actually be fatal!

Causes include:

- stress
- over-handling
- shipping
- not enough food
- cold
- intestinal parasites
- infection

Resulting in these symptoms:

- blurred vision, leading to disorientation and confusion
- weakness
- low winery
- loss of consciousness
- seizures in some cases
- anxiety, restlessness
- tremors, shivering

Prevention can be as simple as providing 4 or 5 meals a day for your super small Morkie, spaced out throughout the day.

Immediate treatment for hypoglycaemia:

- rub some corn syrup along your Morkie's gum line; keep him warm.
- Follow up with an emergency Vet visit right away



Part Two: Your New Morkie

Getting a Morkie

Adopt, Rescue or Buy a Morkie – which is best?

IT CAN BE A CHALLENGE TO FIND A GOOD QUALITY MORKIE – especially since you don't want to support puppy mills.

There are no registered breeders of Morkies.

Since the Morkie isn't recognized as a breed, you won't find registered breeders – generally the best way to go for a happy, healthy and cruelty-free pet. But, there is some good news: there are friendly, decent people who raise a few of these cross breeds every year. And you can also look for a Morkie to adopt or rescue.

Three Legit Ways to Add a Morkie to Your Life

BUY

To buy, look for a reputable individual who is breeding Morkies because he/she has a genuine interest in them.

If you can't adopt a Morkie (or Maltese or Yorkie), then look for a good breeder. Because the Morkie isn't a real breed – there are no recognized breeders. But there are friendly, decent people who raise a few of these cross-breeds every year. That's the kind of person you want to find, not a puppy mill.

The last thing you want is to support the scum who run puppy mills.

ADOPT

Shelters are run and funded by local government, like Humane Societies and the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). City pounds are another example of a shelter where you can adopt pets. Usually, they're funded by local government to some extent.

There is usually a modest set fee to adopt, and guidelines in place for potential pet parents (including a background check).

Shelters ensure that the dog is spayed or neutered before being adopted.

RESCUE

Rescue groups are funded mainly by private donations, and staff are volunteers. Rescue organizations often focus on a breed or size of dog, such as "Yorkie Rescue." Rescues are often housed in volunteers' homes, overseen by the rescue.

It can be harder to adopt through a rescue. That's because they look closely at potential applicants. They may ask you to foster your potential dog first, before adopting, to check fit.

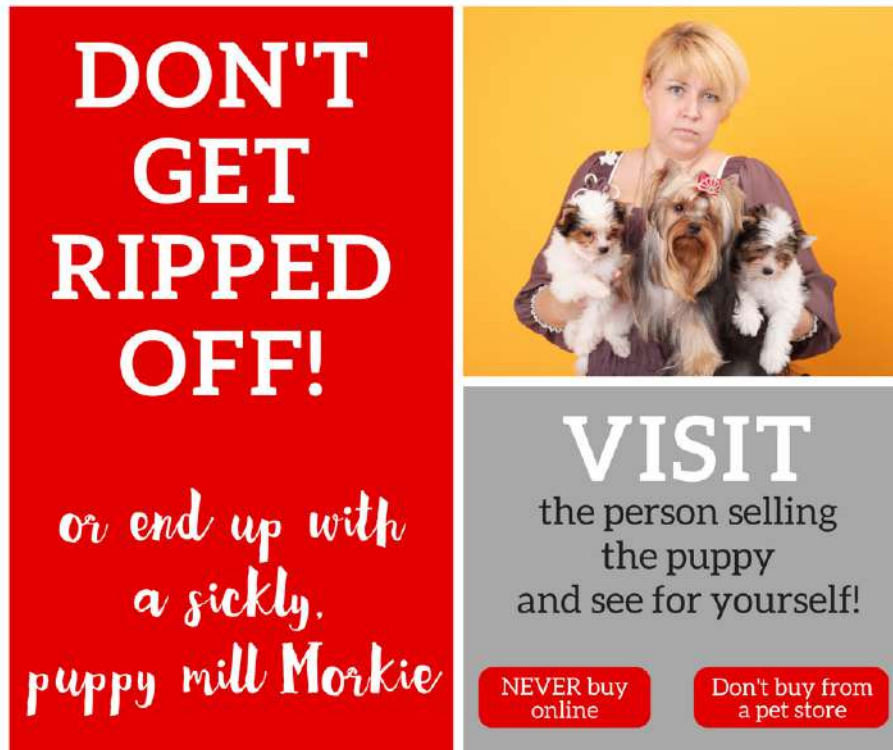
Try not to feel defensive: this can increase the odds of a good fit, and if it *doesn't*, you know you did all you could.

If You Decide to BUY a Morkie

Look for a reputable individual breeding Morkies and avoid supporting a puppy mill

Casual but ethical breeders will offer Morkies — but just be VERY SURE that their pups have been raised by them; you don't want a puppy mill dog that they are simply brokering. You are looking for a reputable individual who is breeding Morkies because he/she has a genuine interest in them.

Breeders you can trust **raise the pups themselves, usually in their homes.** The only sure-fire way to determine if the person selling the Morkie is legit, is to VISIT their facilities.



**DON'T
GET
RIPPED
OFF!**

*or end up with
a sickly,
puppy mill Morkie*

VISIT
the person selling
the puppy
and see for yourself!

**NEVER buy
online**

**Don't buy from
a pet store**

How to recognize an irresponsible breeder

- ✗ Has run-down, dirty or crowded facilities
- ✗ Is reluctant to show you around
- ✗ Has dirty, unhealthy, and/or unsocialized animals
- ✗ Sells animals without vaccinations, Veterinary checks or guarantees against genetic defects
- ✗ Doesn't allow you to come and meet them and/or their animals before purchase
- ✗ Will not take the pet back should a problem arise, or will try to simply offer you another animal should the first one get sick

Read questions to ask a breeder, in the Appendix.

If the seller isn't willing for you to see where the puppy was born and raised, or wants to meet you at a coffee shop or mall – RUN! These are sure signs of puppy mill operators or brokers.

How to recognize a responsible breeder

- ✓ Has no more than 2 or 3 breeds of dogs or cats
- ✓ Has clean and spacious facilities with an exercise area for the animals
- ✓ Does not seem to breed animals that are too young or too old
- ✓ Puppies or kittens are raised indoors, kept clean, warm, well-fed and don't go to new homes before 8 weeks of age
- ✓ Provides regular Veterinary care for all their animals
- ✓ Asks you questions about your lifestyle to ensure a good match between you and your potential pet
- ✓ Has healthy animals and will discuss inheritable disorders in the breed(s)
- ✓ Provides, at no extra charge, valid paperwork for vaccine certificates and checkups
- ✓ Asks you to sign an agreement about treating the dog well
- ✓ Provides a health guarantee



Your local “puppy mom”

This is the person who owns a Yorkie or a Maltese and just wants to have a litter of Morkies.

This person does not make tons of money from breeding (if any), and may breed the parents just once or twice in a lifetime. Different from what the pet industry calls the “backyard breeder” who’s essentially a small-scale puppy mill.

You’ll find someone like this in your local newspaper or a local notice. The key to ensuring that this isn’t a puppy mill, is meeting the seller in person and seeing the facilities.

Remember, there are **no registered breeders of Morkies**, and Morkies and Morkie puppies cannot be registered. Anyone who claims to be selling you a “registered” cross-breed, should be viewed with doubt.

**Registered?
Take that with a
grain of salt**

Worst choice for buying a Morkie: pet stores

What about pet stores?

The. Worst. Place. To. Buy. A. Puppy. Period.

Dogs and puppies for sale at pet stores come from despicable puppy mill operators.

You can be **sure** that the pups you see in a pet store, or at a farmers market or flea market, are from a puppy mill. No dog breeder or even amateur, who cares about animals, would allow them to be put in a pet store for sale.

No matter what the store manager might tell you, these are puppies from mills and they've been badly mistreated. Their parents' lives are a living hell.

Many States in the U.S. are outright banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.



Dogs and puppies for sale at pet stores come from despicable puppy mill operators.

Please note: this does not include the "adoption days" or efforts which reputable stores like PetSmart host. At these events, the store works with the local shelter or humane society, to publicize the need for forever homes for pets. Dogs and cats may come in to the store, but just for the day.

Dogs in pet stores are treated poorly, and get a bad start in life.



Almost as bad: buying a puppy online

Besides being home to every kind of dog selling scam you can imagine, buying a dog online, sight unseen, is almost sure to get you a puppy mill dog.

There are several ways unscrupulous people get your money for nothing:

- advertising a dog that doesn't exist.
- free puppy – but you are asked to pay high shipping costs. The dog never arrives. As the DogInfoCentre says, *"These scams are usually run out of foreign countries, posing as USA or Canadian breeders selling adorable little puppies. In fact, they don't even own the dog they're advertising, let alone have a puppy to sell."*
- these crooks even create elaborate websites to advertise the non-existent pets they're selling.

Be extra cautious of ads found in free classified ads (and websites where it is free to post an ad) such as **Kijiji** and **Craigslist**.

You don't have to completely avoid sites that run free listings, some have legit ads, but do be extra cautious, and again, ALWAYS TAKE THE TIME AND EFFORT TO VISIT THE SELLER.

The headline says it all:

Beware of fake dogs: U.S. customers fall prey to online pet sale scams

The Better Business Bureau released a report in September, 2017 that warns that **fraudulent animal sales are "victimizing Americans at an alarming rate."** As they point out, this is the natural consequence of two trends merging:

online shopping
+
a growing pet population
=
record number of complaints about *fraudulent sellers*

It's so bad, that Delta Airlines filed a lawsuit against what it called a "bogus" site that tricks people into believing it provides pet transport services on Delta jets. The scam site is called DeltaPetTransit.com



FAKE! This website, www.DeltaPetTransit.com is part of a scam in which crooks charge you to ship a "free dog." There is no dog! (Read the "About Us" page for a good laugh.)

Hub for dog selling scams

The West African nation **Cameroon** is home to hundreds of fake websites offering terrific looking dogs that don't even exist.

Area codes to be wary of: 268, 284, 473, 664, 649, 767, 809, 829, 849 and 876, 900, 876

Watch out for these common online scams

DOG & PUPPY Scam #1

Switch pictures

A common trick of online scammers selling dogs, is to run an ad that features gorgeous-looking little dogs for sale on their website.

“Don't let a pretty web page fool you into thinking a breeder is reputable.”

Should you actually buy and receive one, you'll notice that your puppy looks nothing like the one in the ad.

That's because the scammer has stolen pictures from a legitimate website and claimed this dog was his to sell. If a dog arrives at all, it's usually a sickly specimen from a puppy mill. If a dog even arrives.

Here's the dog shown in the ad



And here's the dog shipped to you - *if you get a dog at all*

How to outsmart this trick

Save the picture of the nice looking dog to your computer drive.

Go to Google search, and select Images.



The screen will change to this:

Now upload the "good" photo you've saved on your computer, to the search bar.



WOW!

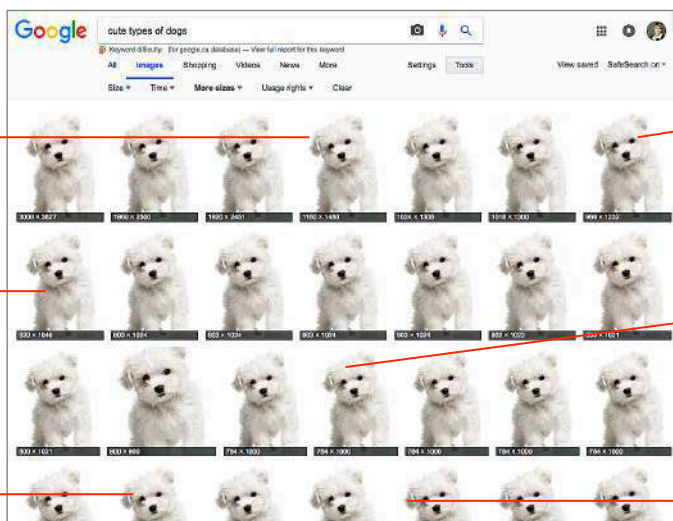
Look at the results - this same image has been used online **THOUSANDS OF TIMES!** So it's obviously not the property of the seller.

Notes on the Google results show that this picture has been used many, many times before; and in fact it's a stock shot, or model's photo, not a pet dog at all.

*Douglas
County News*

PetsPlus.com

Pinterest



*Stock photo
site: 123EF*

*www.theodyssey
online.com*

*Dog grooming
tutorial*

DOG & PUPPY Scam #2

Free to a good home

This one really hurts, because in all likelihood there isn't even a puppy behind this offer.

Instead, the crooks lure you in on price, and when the hook has been set they ask you to pay for shipping, which is suspiciously consistent at \$400.

Buyers are asked to send payments via a **Western Union wire transfer** or **money order**. These methods are favourites among scam artists because they are the equivalent of sending cash--the money can't be recovered by the victim.

Since you don't suspect them, you send the money off - usually to another country (unknown to you), and the dog, of course, never arrives.

Free to a good home?



beware!

DOG & PUPPY Scam #3

The "registered-and-approved" scam

Mixed breed dogs, hybrids, designer dogs - whatever we call them — cannot be registered or approved. Period.

Yes, there are organizations that claim to be registries for designer dogs, but they are storefronts only, providing useless certificates to puppy mill breeders.

Only an authorized Kennel Club can register dogs. The Canadian Kennel Club for example, has a 59-page document on the ins and outs of registration, including subjects like *Policy for Parentage Testing (DNA Testing)*, *Processing Applications and Certification Numbers*.

There are mixed breed clubs, organized so that people can enjoy fun meets, competition and more. Registering the parentage of mixed breed dogs is not legit.



DOG & PUPPY Scam #4

Fake Morkie rescue

The ASPCA has identified another dog-selling scam. Sellers put up a website featuring terrible pictures of animal abuse, and claim they are rescuing dogs from a puppy mill.

There's no rescue; they ARE the puppy mill and the dogs are sickly, weak and nervous. Instead of doing a good thing by helping dogs, you end up with heartbreak on your hands.

You can tell this is a scam when you see the price tag -- the "adoption fees" for these dogs often exceed \$1,000!

Breed rescue groups charge nominal fees-usually no more than a few hundred dollars because their goal is not to make money, but to find wonderful homes for their rescues.

How to outsmart them

Check the rescue website. Is the rescue site listed on Petfinder or Petango? These two huge networks do not allow breeders or puppy farms to list pets for sale.

Ask questions. Like "where is the dog currently housed and can I visit him?"

Or "Can I meet the pet before I adopt him?"

A no to either of these questions should start alarm bells ringing. This is not a real adoption or rescue group.

"What services are included with the adoption fee?"

Legitimate rescue groups and shelters will be able to tell you the basics about the dog's health and history. They adopt out dogs that are up to date on shots; are neutered; and have been seen by a Vet.

Can you help save Mitzi?

Adoption starts at just \$299.00*

*Plus shipping costs

Our organization is dedicated to finding a loving home for abandoned dogs...

After the Texas floods, Mitzi was left homeless and alone

Call us 24/7 to speak to an animal agent

FAKE

DreamHome Rescue World

If you buy a puppy on a classified site (Kijiji or Craigslist) there is a good chance it will be sick, genetically unsound and poorly cared for - a dog that will cost you a fortune in Vet bills down the road. You may also be supporting puppy mills without even knowing it.

Beware of Craigslist and Kijiji

85% of dogs advertised there come from puppy mills

As many as 85% of the puppies sold on classified sites like **Kijiji** and **Craigslist** came from puppy mills and backyard breeders, according to a 2012 study by The International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Although none of these classified sites purposely try to aid puppy mills and backyard breeders, they have created an environment that facilitates unethical practices.

It's estimated that since classifieds have allowed pet sales the puppy/dog trade has increased 300% in North America.

The result is overpopulation and the euthanizing of four-to-six million healthy dogs annually, most under the age of two.

This is vile and inhumane and the cost to house, feed and ultimately euthanize is outrageous. Because puppy mills and backyard-breeders have found an easier way to sell, unethical commercial breeding has skyrocketed.

So-called "urban mills" are epidemic, with people breeding dogs in basements, garages, dining rooms and even spare bedrooms.

Four dogs will fit into a two-foot by three-foot pen, which can be stacked almost anywhere. Easy money, no taxes, little overhead.

Online animal sellers are not subject to regulation: no licensing, no inspections. It's a relatively safe way to hide income while preying on unwitting animal lovers.

To stay off the grid, such breeders don't take dogs to Veterinarians. They inbreed mother to son, and brother to sister, and many puppies are born deathly ill with genetic defects.

Many people aren't aware of puppy mills, and some even deny their existence. But denying it doesn't make it less real or less dangerous for unsuspecting buyers, or lessen the suffering of mill dogs.

In Ontario, Canada, **Mennonites** are leading operators of puppy mills.



*The unspeakable nightmare
of puppy mills.*

*From Pam Chin, The Sarnia
Journal, August 7, 2014.*

Where CAN you get a good Morkie?

If you're careful, you can buy a good quality Morkie puppy or adult from a breeder who isn't a puppy mill operator or agent of one. An even better idea:

Think *Adopt* or *Rescue* first.



There's a difference between shelters and rescue groups.

Shelters are supported by local government. Examples include Humane Societies and shelters run by the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). City pounds are another example of a shelter.

There is usually a modest set fee to adopt, and guidelines in place for potential pet parents, including a background check. Shelters ensure that the dog is spayed or neutered before being adopted out.

Rescue groups are funded mainly by donations and most of the staff are volunteers. Rescue organizations often focus on a breed or size of dog.

Rescues are usually housed in foster homes in the approved network.

As a pet parent, you may find it harder to adopt through a rescue. That's because the volunteers who work with the animals look closely at potential applicants, with a goal of finding a match that benefits both the animal and the person.

They may ask you to foster your pet for a while before adopting to ensure you are a good fit. This can be beneficial for both you and your new pet, in case it isn't a good "fit".

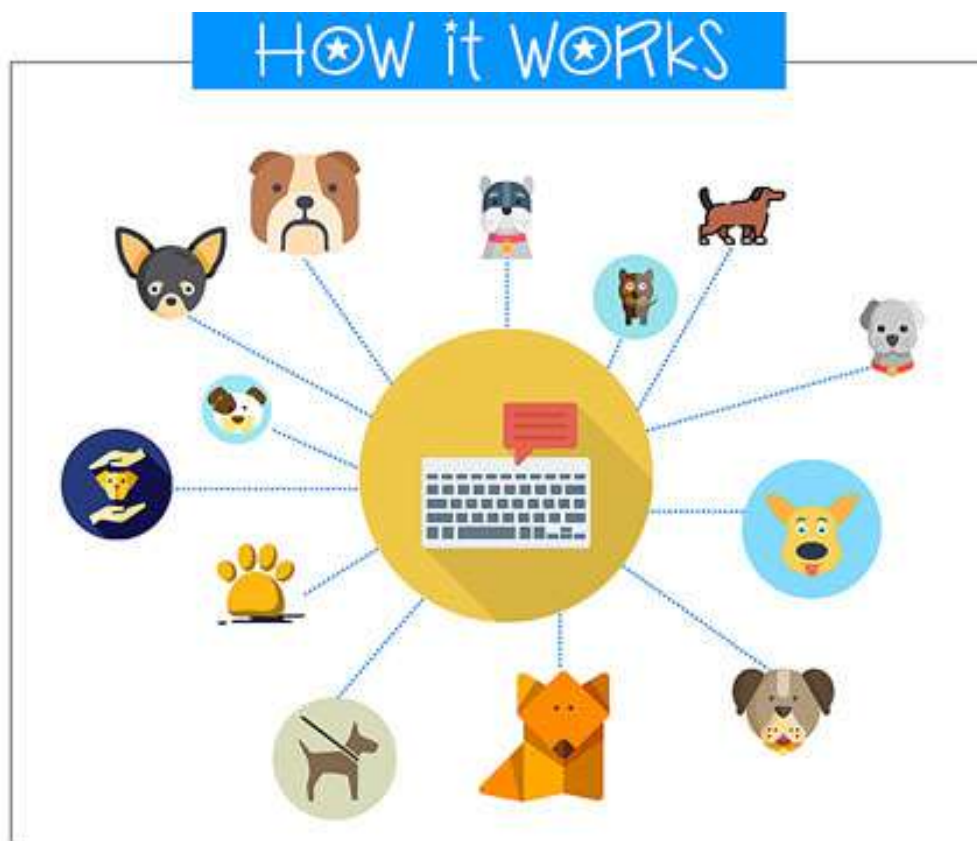


If you want to adopt or rescue a Morkie, check these trustworthy websites:

Legitimate online sites for adopting or rescuing

You can start with these large websites. They are charities who specialize in listing pets for adoption from literally thousands of shelters, rescue kennels, municipal facilities and more. They are **Petfinder.com**, **Petango.com** and **Adoptapet.com**

They act as **aggregators** – that is, they are websites that feature feeds from hundreds and hundreds of shelters and rescue organizations across North America, listing pets available to adopt. It's quite possible you could see the same Morkie on 2 or 3 of the sites.



Aggregator sites like Petfinder, Petango and AdoptaPet, are non profits that use the power of the internet to gather information on thousands of pets across North America that are available for adoption or rescue. Breeders are not allowed to advertise.

TIP Enter the breed as Morkie but if you don't have any luck, search again with "Yorkshire Terrier" and then with "Maltese" - crosses are often listed that way.

LARGE ADOPTION WEBSITES YOU CAN TRUST

Petfinder.com



Petfinder is the largest pet website on the Internet, connecting homeless animals with the people who want them. Petfinder works almost like an Internet dating service. It allows prospective adopters to search a database of available pets based on search criteria such as breed, age, size and gender.

At any one time, Petfinder has over 300,000 adoptable pets listed from more than 13,000 shelters, humane societies and rescue organizations. Listings are updated daily. Last year, over 1 million animals were adopted through the site.

Petango.com



Petango is another popular website for pet adoption. Partnered with over 1,860 animal welfare organizations across the U.S. and Canada, Petango.com is the only adoptable pet search site to offer **real-time updates** of adoptable pets in shelters.

Over the last 2 years, Petango partner shelters have taken in over 4.2 million animals!

Adoptapet.com



Adopt a Pet, (formerly 1-800-Save-A-Pet.com) is one of North America's largest non-profit pet adoption website. They help over 17,000 animal shelters, humane societies, SPCAs, pet rescue groups, and pet adoption agencies advertise their homeless pets to millions of adopters a month, for free.

Like Petango and Petfinder, on Adopt a Pet, you just **type in your zip code / postal code and select the type of pet you want, then click the search button.**

You will see photos of matching pets. Click on a pet's photo to see that pet's information. If you're interested in that pet, click on their green or blue "Ask About Me" button to contact that pet's shelter or rescue. For shelters that have public visiting hours, you will also see their address so you can physically go to that shelter to adopt a pet.

More ways to find a Morkie online

LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETIES, THE SPCA, SHELTERS AND POUNDS

Adoption 411

The Humane Society or SPCA

- an organization dedicated to animal welfare
- usually run a shelter and animal adoption program
- also run education programs
- often mandated to enforce state/provincial and federal animal cruelty laws

Shelter

- the physical building where animals are held until adopted
- usually run by a human society, SPCA or municipal animal services
- often do physical exams, neutering and temperament testing

Rescue Organization

- usually run out of someone's home or by a group of like-minded people
- network of foster homes until the pets are adopted
- can focus on a particular breed or size

Pound

- municipal animal shelter
- some municipalities contract their local humane society or SPCA to provide pound service, and some are run independently from the humane society

Satellite Adoption Centre

- pet store or other location that doesn't sell dogs or cats, but offers their space for the humane society or SPCA to display animals available for adoption. PetSmart often does this.

The main pages for the SPCA and Humane Society in each country, have searchable pages to look for a dog near you.

Just google **SPCA + [your location]** or **[Humane Society + your location]** to get started.

The screenshot shows the ASPCA website's search interface for adoptable dogs. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: 'Key Issues', 'Our Response', 'How You Can Help', and 'About Us'. Below this is a dark header with the text 'ADOPT A PET' and 'Adoptable Dogs in Your Local Shelter'. The main content area has a paragraph encouraging adoption and a search form. The form includes dropdown menus for 'Breed' (set to 'All breeds') and 'Sex' (set to 'Either'), a 'Distance' field (set to '25 miles'), and a 'zip/postal code' field (containing '33805'). A 'Search' button is below these fields. At the bottom, there are several filter categories: 'Qualities' (Needs a foster, House trained, Declawed, Special needs), 'Sizes' (Small, Medium, Large, X-Large), 'Ages' (Baby, Young, Adult, Senior), and 'Good with...' (Cats, Dogs, Children).

www.asPCA.org/adopt-pet/adoptable-dogs-your-local-shelter

RESCUE GROUPS - ONLINE WEBSITES

This is one of the bigger lists of adoption websites. They're not always up to date, but it's a good place to start:

rescuegroups.org/adoption-listing-websites/

SEARCH TERMS TO USE

Try these when you're looking to adopt or rescue a Morkie:

- pet adoption centers near me
- small dog rescue near me
- small dogs for adoption
- maltese-mix adoption
- yorkie-mix adoption
- morkie rescue adopt
- yorkie cross breed adopt rescue



SET UP A GOOGLE ALERT

This is way to get alerts about Morkies automatically. You need a Google account, but it's easy to set up. (Visit *Create Your Google account* for detailed directions) And by the way, you do not need a gmail address; you can use your own email address.

Now go to www.google.com/alerts

- enter the search term for the topic you want (so in this case, something like *rescue adopt morkie near me*)
- choose **Show Options** to narrow the alert to a specific language, region, etc.
- Select **Create Alert**.

Call or visit your local shelter

This can take some time, but sometimes dropping in to shelters, pounds or humane societies near you can be worthwhile.

Check Breed Clubs

For a Morkie, check Yorkshire Terrier and Maltese Breed Clubs.

They are often asked to advertise crossbreeds, and may be able to help you.

Some questions to ask yourself about your new pet

Should you get adult or a puppy?

	Pros	Cons
Puppy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- you can shape the puppy's behavior and temperament to suit you (provided you know how to train your dog and have the time)- you can enjoy that super-adorable time in your dog's life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- you must house train or potty train your pup- there's a narrow window to train your dog for life- it takes a LOT of time, energy and patience to start a puppy off right- you will have to spay or neuter your puppy at the appropriate time
Adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- if you're adopting from a shelter or rescue, you are saving a life - one of 2-4,000,000 adoptable dogs and cats euthanized each year because of overpopulation- rescues can be well trained, well behaved, friendly -- just in need of a caring human companion- often they are already be potty trained and socialized; just need a bit of a refresher- you know what your dog will look like since she's already grown!- your new Morkie is probably already "fixed"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- habits, manners, and temperament are already well established (for better or for worse)- rescues <i>may</i> have been surrendered because of difficult behaviour problems (although most are there because their original owners' lives have changed, or owners have done a poor job in raising the puppy)- you may not know your new dog's exact age, although your Vet can guesstimate

5 myths about adopting an adult dog

Myth 1: An adult dog won't bond with me

This myth is just wrong, wrong, wrong. An adult dog may take a little while to adjust, but he *will* bond with you. It will just take patience and love, and you'll have a new best friend in no time at all. One who's grateful for that second chance.

Myth 2: An adult dog will have bad habits

While some adult dogs may have bad habits, it will take less time to retrain an adult dog than to completely train a puppy! When deciding to adopt a puppy or adult dog, consider that adults may have already been trained out of many of their bad habits.

Myth 3: An adult dog will have health problems

While dogs do tend to develop some health problems with age, these often won't develop until your dog is a senior. A younger dog or adolescent should be perfectly healthy. If you want to avoid getting a dog with health issues, consider a young adult or adolescent dog. No matter the age of the dog you get, you should always have a Veterinarian check her out before your final decision.

Myth 4: An adult dog will not live as long

All dogs will eventually pass on (within about 10 years for large dogs and 14 years for small dogs). It's a sad fact of life that you will eventually lose your pet. If losing your dog early still really bothers you, consider getting a younger adult or adolescent dog. These dogs will still have plenty of years left to enjoy with you.

Myth 5: An adult dog will be less energetic

This is a bad thing? Dogs, especially puppies, tend to have way too much energy for most people anyway. You can also put an adult dog on a weight loss program to add spring to its step and years to its life.

Should you get a male or female Morkie?

If you have a choice between male and female, which would you pick?

There is an old saying that has circulated for a long time among dog lovers: *"If you want a good dog, get a male. If you want a great dog, get a female and cross your fingers."*

Are there really differences between male and female or are sayings like this more about cultural stereotypes?

As the website www.pedigreedatabase.com says, "If men or women have certain concepts about each other, they may have a tendency to project them onto animals in a way that is not entirely appropriate."

One more thing: when we talk about differences that may really exist between male and female dogs, remember these are generalities. While a male or female dog may be more likely to possess a certain characteristic or behavioural trait, this does not mean these generalities apply in every case.

There is one thing that all dog breeders and trainers agree on, and that is that **the personality differences between individual dogs** are definitely greater than that which may exist between the sexes.

That said, what ARE the differences between male and female?

Neutered or not, all **male dogs** tend to 'mark' their territory by lifting a leg. No matter it's your best white furniture! You can try to train a dog not to mark his territory, but you're asking him to go against his instincts.

Two males in a household can mean a lot of bickering, as each fights it out to be alpha dog. However, **females** will also take part in dominance tests, so picking a female doesn't guarantee this won't happen. Many experts suggest that if you already have a dog, chose the opposite gender for the best compatibility.

Gender isn't the only predictor (or even a good predictor) of how a dog will behave; however, experienced dog owners often agree that a **female** can be easier to train, but a **male** can be more affectionate.

When it comes right down to it, the choice of male or female is entirely subjective. There is no substantial evidence that one gender behaves differently from the other; instead there are many, many factors at play including the breed, how the dog was raised and the environment.

If you consider some of the more famous dogs in our movie culture, and realize they often played the opposite gender, you'll agree, there's really no difference.

Should you get two dogs at a time?

With some exceptions, pets are generally happier in pairs.



"Best friends." Two dogs not only keep each other company but they also keep each other 'dog like,' reducing the risk of becoming anxious and neurotic.

Two pets will entertain one another and learn from each other while you're away. Adding a dog or cat to a single-pet household can help reduce the incidence of separation anxiety, which often arises from the fear of being left alone. An additional pet can also help revitalize an aging or older dog.

On the other hand...

Some dog professionals feel that while more than one pet can be a good thing, there's a downside to getting more than one dog at a time. Like first-time parents who think twins would be wonderful, the experienced mom and dad know it won't be all easy going!

Many experts recommend that you get one puppy at a time:

- buy one
- house train
- crate train
- obedience train
- socialize
- **then** when the first puppy is approximately 10 months to a year of age, and if you are ready, you add the second.

Should you bring home TWO from the litter?

This is a whole different discussion than adding a second dog later and has its pros and cons:

Advantages of two dogs at one time	Downside of getting two dogs at one time
<p>It's good companionship for your new pup to have another one (but you still need to socialize your dogs with others outside the litter).</p> <p>If you ultimately want two dogs, this is the easiest way, instead of introducing a young pup to the old master of the household.</p> <p>Really reduces the chance of separation anxiety, a growing problem today with two and three career households.</p>	<p>One dog can be mischievous; two can be downright devilish - it seems when they get into trouble in pairs, it's much bigger trouble.</p> <p>The pair will age together, with all the emotional, medical and even financial concerns that brings you, all at the same time.</p> <p>It may be a bit harder for your dogs to bond with you when there are two of them; on the other hand, they'll be less neurotic.</p> <p>In fact, two puppies together can bond so tightly that they get frantic if separated for even a few minutes. They can naturally develop into the bold puppy/shy puppy combo.</p>



If you get a brother and a sister, don't think they won't mate the minute their hormones kick in. They don't know they're related and that their owner isn't keen on incest! **Get both neutered or spayed sooner rather than later.**

All about pet insurance

How does pet insurance work?

Dog insurance is a service that will help you plan for and manage the cost of maintaining your dog's health. You usually pay a small amount per month - around a dollar a day - and major illnesses or injuries are covered up to a certain amount.

More and more today, companies will also pay some portion of regular maintenance or preventative type of expenses such as neutering or spaying and vaccinations. This is sometimes called **comprehensive care**.

Some policies will also pay out when the pet dies, or if he's lost or stolen.

Pet insurance: worth the money?

If you're hit with big medical bills for your Morkie, you have four choices:



1

Pay whatever the costs are and go into debt

- not ideal since some surgeries can cost thousands and thousands of dollars



2

Be forced to put your dog down because you just can't pay

- no need to say more about this option



3

Self-insure by setting aside a set amount each month

- a great idea but do you have the discipline?



4

Buy pet insurance

- wade through the jargon and restrictions and find a policy that's the best combination of price and value

The first two choices are not ones you'd want to make. But what about **self-insurance**?

The idea is that you put aside a certain amount, say \$30 a month, in a separate account earning minimum interest. Then, when your Morkie has a major medical expense, you withdraw the money.

A couple of flaws with this plan though:

- What happens if your Morkie gets ill early on? Puppies swallow things that need surgery; accidents can happen at any age.
- Will your modest savings cover some of the complex procedures that are available today? As Veterinary care gets more sophisticated, it also gets more expensive.
- And finally, will you *really* do it?

If you think you've got the discipline it might be a good idea to put some money aside AND get a low-cost, no frills insurance policy.

Pet insurance coverage depends on where you live

It's complicated, depending on the kind of coverage you're looking for and where you live.

	U.S. and Canada	Britain
What the insurance company pays	a percent of the Vet costs (usually up to 90%) or a set amount for that injury or illness (called their "benefit schedule")	usually pays 100% of Vet costs but not always
how they pay the pet owner	you pay the Vet and submit a claim; then you get paid	many UK pet insurance companies discount their policies by offering their customers the chance to pay an "excess fee," just like car
.... and for high bills	sometimes the insurance company will pay the Vet direct some Veterinarians allow the owner to put off payment until the insurance claim is processed	insurance deductibles (that excess fee is a fixed amount)

Two main categories of insurance - non-lifetime and lifetime

	non-lifetime	lifetime
What it covers the first year	- covers conditions suffered by the pet during the course of a policy year.	covers a pet for ongoing conditions throughout the pet's lifetime.
On renewal the following year	- but, on renewal in a following year, a condition that has been claimed for, will be excluded.	if you make a claim for a specific condition in the first year, it will not be excluded in subsequent years.
So be aware....	If that condition needs further treatment the pet owner will have to pay for that himself.	However, lifetime policies also have limits: some have limits "per condition." Others have limits "per condition, per year," and others have limits "per pet."

Questions to ask

- Ask whether genetic and hereditary conditions (like hip dysplasia, heart defects, eye cataracts or diabetes) are covered.
- Review any age limits for coverage. Some insurers require the pet to be 8 weeks old, some don't cover pets over a certain age and some have no age limit.
- How the reimbursement is calculated (based on the actual Vet bill, a benefit schedule or a percent?).
- Whether there are any limits or caps applied (per incident, per year or over the pet's lifetime).

Here's an easy shortcut to picking the right coverage:

Visit the Pet Insurance Review - found at www.petinsurancereview.com*

At this site, you can:

- Read reviews and opinions from thousands of customers.
- Compare rates and coverage from the leading pet insurers.
- Get free quotes from multiple pet insurance companies.

**Please note: I have no connection to, or interest in, PetInsuranceReview.com*

What insurance companies are included in PetInsuranceReview.com?

Canada	U.S.	Other options
PetCare Trupanion Petsecure PurinaCare PC Financial Hbc Petfirst Healthcare	Hartville Embrace Petfirst Healthcare Petplan USA Trupanion VPI AKC Pets Best 24PetWatch PurinaCare ASPCA Healthy Paws	Pet Assure Banfield PetSmart PETCO United Pet Care

Some policy terms you should know

- **'Benefit schedule'** – a document created by a pet insurance company that lists allowances paid for a given diagnosis and treatment.
- **'Deductible'** - a fixed amount that must be paid by the policyholder for covered Veterinary services, before the pet insurance company will pay benefits. Higher deductibles usually translate to lower policy premiums. Deductibles are either annual or per-incident. Once a pet owner reaches the annual deductible limit, any future claims during that policy year won't be subject to any more deductible. The per-incident deductible must be paid each time the pet has a new problem.
- **'Exclusion'** - a condition that is excluded, or not covered under a pet insurance policy.
- **'Policy Limits'** - there can be several types of limits applied to a pet insurance policy. When a policy limit is reached the policy will normally no longer pay applicable claims. Typical policy limits are lifetime, annual and per-incident.

Welcome home little Morkie!



new puppy
Do's

To-do list for your new dog

Get a dog license - 5 reasons why

1. It's the law - a local license is mandatory virtually everywhere.
2. Fees from licenses (usually between \$10 and \$20 for the year) support local shelters.
3. It proves your dog has up-to-date rabies shots (be sure and bring your rabies certificate when you apply for a license).
4. It could help your Morkie get back home if he gets lost.
5. It's cheaper than the fine you can get for NOT having a license (often \$200 to \$300).

To Microchip or not?

No single method of identification is perfect. Keep current identification tags on your dog at all times, consider microchipping as a backup, and never allow your dog to roam free. Millions of dogs get lost each year. Tragically, few are reunited with their owners. Many lost dogs end up in shelters where they are adopted out to new homes or euthanized.

That's why your dog needs identification at all times. Collars and tags are essential, but they can fall off or get damaged. A **microchip is permanent identification.**

How it works

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It is a tiny computer chip housed in a type of glass made to be compatible with living tissue.

The microchip is implanted between the dog's shoulder blades with a special syringe.

There's little to no pain - most dogs don't feel it being implanted. Once in place, the microchip can be detected immediately with a handheld scanner that shows its unique alphanumeric code.



A microchip compared to uncooked rice.

Did you know? All dogs must be microchipped now in the U.K. If they're not, the owner can be fined approximately \$750.

Things you should know about Microchips

- they are designed to last for the life of a dog.
- no need to charge or replace a battery.
- a microchipped dog can be easily identified by anyone with a special scanner.

Do Microchips cause cancer?

Studies conducted in the 1990s suggesting microchips may cause cancer, have recently resurfaced. This time published by the Associated Press, the story gained some momentum and was picked up by the New York Times, ABC News and other major media sources.

The fact remains however that, in the last 10 years, no evidence has been found that in any way connects microchips and cancer in cats or dogs.

One of the industry's leading voices, Dr. Walt Ingwersen is a highly credible doctor and has this to say: *"This is extremely rare, although there appears to be a higher incidence in certain families or lines of animals indicating a genetic predisposition."*

Puppy proofing

See the full checklist in the Appendix.

To really see what's getting your Morkie's attention, take a look from his perspective. Get down on the ground and take a visual inventory.

Anything small, shiny or interesting-looking poses an immediate threat.

- Doors shut securely - the closets, bathroom and kitchen cupboards and of course any doors to stairs. No doors? Try a baby gate or block the stairs with a heavy board.
- Crazy as it sounds, there have been small dogs and puppies who've gone out the window; the screen was missing or loose and the animal fell to his death or extreme injury.

The number one cause of dog poisoning is our own medication.

- keep meds out of your dog's way.
- if you drop a pill, find it.
- make sure cabinets and doors are safely secured.
- keep pills off your nightstand if your Morkie can get up on your bed.

Puppies look for things to chew, out of mischief and to relieve their teething. Put away:

- papers
- electric cords
- shoes and boots
- garbage from wastebaskets
- window blind cords

Indoors and out, there are plants that are poisonous to dogs.

- here are the most common:



Above, left to right: azalea; daffodil; sago palm; cyclamen; lilies; oleander

Shopping for your new pet

You can find a full printable list of what your new dog needs in the **Appendix**, but in the meantime:

- dog bed
- dog crate or indoor pen
- small blanket
- food and water dishes
- food
- lead or leash, collar and harness
- chew toys, squeaky toys
- shampoo, brush, comb
- Nail trimmer if you're going to cut your Morkie's nails yourself
- training pads (or "pee pads") for a puppy
- carrying crate - for safe travel in the car

First days home

At last! It's time to bring your new friend home. Give him the best welcome possible. With love, patience and mutual respect, he will feel like part of the family in no time.

Start off on the right foot (paw) with your Morkie with these suggestions.

Day one

When you bring your new Morkie home, leash-walk him around outside so that he can take in the smells of the turf and relieve himself.

Pick a special place and encourage him to **potty** there. Be patient; it may take 10 or 15 minutes. Always praise warmly when he relieves himself in an approved spot. (Lots more on potty training in **Part Three: House Training your Morkie.**)

Next, enter the house and show him around **the one room** where he'll start off spending most of his time.

No need to tour the entire home - your new Morkie will be confused and anxious enough on his first day home.

The puppy doesn't need to explore all the rooms in your home until he's settled in.

Show him where the water dish is and if he's due to eat, put the food dish down. Your Morkie may not eat right away. Taking food out of the dish and offering it out of your hand is a good way to get puppy eating and also works to establish your pack leadership. Just don't make it a permanent habit.

Remember, your dog will be apprehensive about his new home. Don't be surprised at him panting and pacing, housetraining accidents, excessive drinking or chewing, or a **little** diarrhea or vomiting.

Plus any dog, especially a male who has not been neutered yet, is likely to **mark** new territory - particularly if other pets have lived there. Urine marking is a bad habit of both males and females. The dog tries to pee as high as possible on a vertical surface (hence the lifted leg). This tells other dogs that the territory has been 'staked out.' It's also a sign of anxiety.

Day Two

Time for your new Morkie to meet his housemates: other dogs or cats.

Introduce the newcomer to one pet at a time.

Be sure all animals are healthy, have current vaccinations and have been tested and treated for parasites like worms and fleas.

Both pets should be leashed.

Make the meeting fun with a walk and some treat as a reward for good behavior.

Take the introductions slow, and make sure all animals are calm. Give the resident dog or cat lots of extra attention, assuring him or her that everything's OK (but don't let him bully the new Morkie). If it's going well, introduce them later.

Watch for warning signs such as fur raised on the back or a curled lip. If one dog reacts aggressively, don't punish the aggressor; remove him to a neutral place and ignore him. Try again later in the day.

As the first week progresses

Introduce your new Morkie to other people who come and go in your home - friends, neighbours, etc.

Explain to the visitor that your Morkie may want to sniff him out before he's comfortable being patted.

Ask your guest to stay calm and quiet meeting your Morkie (no matter how adorable your pup is!) and to avoid rough housing, tug of war, and so on.



Read cues from your dog: how comfortable does she appear? Many dogs love new people, while others feel overwhelmed.

Expect your new dog to engage in behaviors you'll need to correct, such as growling or jumping on people. Allowing a small dog to jump on people is a common mistake, but to avoid frustration later, start to teach your dog "off" from the start.

Do take it slow. Your new dog, puppy or adult, will make mistakes. Some days you'll wonder why on earth you decided to get a dog... but be patient, this will pass and soon you'll have a great little dog who's a faithful and loving companion.

Don't baby your Morkie. It's a whole new world for your dog:

- loud noises or a busy household can startle him and make him anxious.
- the smells and sights of the new house can be a lot of sensory overload.
- your Morkie may be meeting housemates like another dog or a cat.
- if he's a puppy, he'll be missing his mom and litter-mates.

DON'T console a startled or scared puppy.

- if a loud noise or new object startles your new puppy, take no notice of the reaction or encourage him to approach and investigate the new object.
- overdoing soothing words and cuddles only serve to reinforce the puppy's notion that there was something to be afraid of.
- try to expose the puppy to whatever startled it as often as possible and keep your tone happy and positive. He'll get used to this situation or noise and come to understand it's not a threat at all.

Give your puppy plenty of chew toys. Make sure you get them from a reputable pet store such as PetSmart or Amazon. Watch out for 'dollar store' dog toys - they have been in the news lately because of their toxic fillings, lead or unsafe trim that a dog can easily chew off and swallow.

Even good quality toys should be checked to make sure pieces haven't come off which your Morkie could ingest.

For a small dog, and especially for a small puppy, give him something to relieve teething as well as some 'play' toys that you'll play fetch with him.... Morkies love to play fetch, so get some small, soft toys for that.

Summary:

Take it slow

Don't baby your Morkie

Have plenty of chew toys

Provide a comfortable, den-like bed

Regular potty breaks

Set the ground rules early



Quality toys for your Morkie, from your local pet store or online at PetSmart or Amazon. Don't buy any toys from dollar stores - they can be dangerous.

Do arrange a comfortable, warm dog bed for your new puppy. Whether you put this bed in a crate or not, your Morkie still needs a cozy, warm place to call her own. More on beds in the next section [Dog Beds, Carriers and Crates](#).

Do watch over your puppy whenever he is around small children in the house. It's highly unlikely that a Morkie puppy would bite anyone - other than puppy nipping - and cause any serious pain or damage.

BUT... children can seriously hurt your puppy, or even an adult dog. Excited play can easily result in your puppy's accidental death. Sadly, hundreds of puppies are injured or even killed every year because of kids roughhousing when an adult is not around.

Do provide a regular potty break schedule as well. More about training in [Part Three: Training your Morkie](#). Dogs are creatures of habit and above all, they want a routine and rules. Although it may seem your Morkie is pushing the rules and testing your good humour, stick with it and she'll soon understand - and love - the idea of routines and rules. Which brings us to the next point:

Do set the ground rules early. For example, is the dog going to be allowed to sleep in your room? In your bed? Can he get up on the couch? Will he understand that too much barking is not welcome?



Should your Morkie sleep with you?

Research shows that about 60% of all dog owners let their pets sleep in the same bed with them.

Naturally there are fans and detractors for both sides. The American Kennel Club isn't keen on the idea, citing a poor quality of sleep and potential for allergies for the human. (No drawbacks for the dog.)

Psychology Today thinks it's not so bad: owners benefit from the cozy warmth, (a dog's temperature is about 3° higher than our own). It makes us feel safe to have the dog in bed, no matter the dog's size, say psychologists. And, having our pup nearby increases our flow of oxytocin, a hormone associated with affection and happiness.

Dog beds, carriers and crates

It's hard to believe, but your little Morkie **still has many characteristics of her direct ancestor: the wolf.**

Wolves have a strong drive to **have a cave or den, where it's safe and reasonably comfortable to bed down.**

You want your Morkie to be physically safe, especially when you're out of the house; and to feel calm and at ease, and not destructive around the house.

To meet these needs, there are three tools you'll need:

1. a good dog **bed**
2. a **carrier** for those times you're traveling in the car, going to the Vet and so on
3. a way to **contain your dog** when you're out, which could be a crate or a small fencing system

Let's look at details of each.

1. A Good Dog Bed

Put your Morkie's bed in one place and keep it there. If she likes to nap somewhere else during the day, consider a second bed.

Some beds, as you can see, are really over the top!

Talk about spoiling your Morkie!



Choices that are a little more down-to-earth



Above, the basic foam slab bed. Below, called a **Cuddle Cup**, this type of bed has high walls for comfort and a sense of protection for your Morkie. They're great for anxious dogs or dogs with separation anxiety.



In any bed, look for:

- ✓ Plenty of stuffing or padding, especially on the bottom of the bed.
- ✓ machine washable fabric.
- ✓ water resistant bottom to protect your floors from any accidents.
- ✓ sized right to your dog: small dogs need small beds; the bed should be just big enough for your Morkie to stretch out on; anything much bigger won't feel insecure.



2. A carrier cage for your Morkie

At some point, you'll take your Morkie out with you - on a trip, to the Vet, visiting friends, and so on. So you'll need a good quality carrier that she's comfortable in, and that you can strap into your car seat belt for safety.



This is the classic carrier or Kennel Cage. It has plastic sides and top and a carrying handle. One sized for your Morkie is about \$40.

Can be washed out easily; easy to strap into your car seatbelt system; comes apart for easier storage.

There are other versions including these ones below. Not all have hard sides, and so aren't great for car travel. Carriers that look more like handbags can be useful for shopping or visiting. Some models are ideal for stowing under your seat on a plane or train.

Make sure the carrier you pick is big enough for your Morkie to stand, and to turn around.



3. The dog crate to contain your Morkie at home

A dog crate or cage is the ideal way to replicate the Morkie's deep desire for a cave or den. Crates can be great house training tools, because the one thing that's ingrained in all animals is **"don't mess in your nest."**

For big dogs, crates are great - they sleep in them at night and when the owner is out, the large dog is quite comfortable and happy in his crate/cave, assuming of course that the owner has introduced the crate in a positive way.

However, for small dogs like Morkies, there are limits to what a crate can be used for, and the reason is simple.



A small dog has a much smaller bladder. It's not realistic for him to hold on for much longer than 3 hours before he has to relieve himself. Keeping him in a crate for longer will result in anxiety and/or messing in the crate.

Small dogs like Morkies can't hold it that long.

Their bladders are simply too small. As your Morkie matures, you may be able to leave him longer, 3, 4 or even 5 hours. But that will take some time and some patient training on your part.

Always allow your dog to eliminate before placing him in the crate and always allow him to eliminate immediately he is out of the crate.

- Never force your dog inside the crate. That's punishment to him.
- Don't crate your dog if you see signs of anxiety when she's crated.

While crates can be used for Morkies, they're not as effective in housetraining unless you're home all day to let them in and out every few hours. (More on that in [Part Three: Training your Morkie.](#))

So why would you get a crate for a Morkie?

A crate **(with the door left open)** can be like a private den for your dog - a safe and secure place he can go to willingly any time of the day.

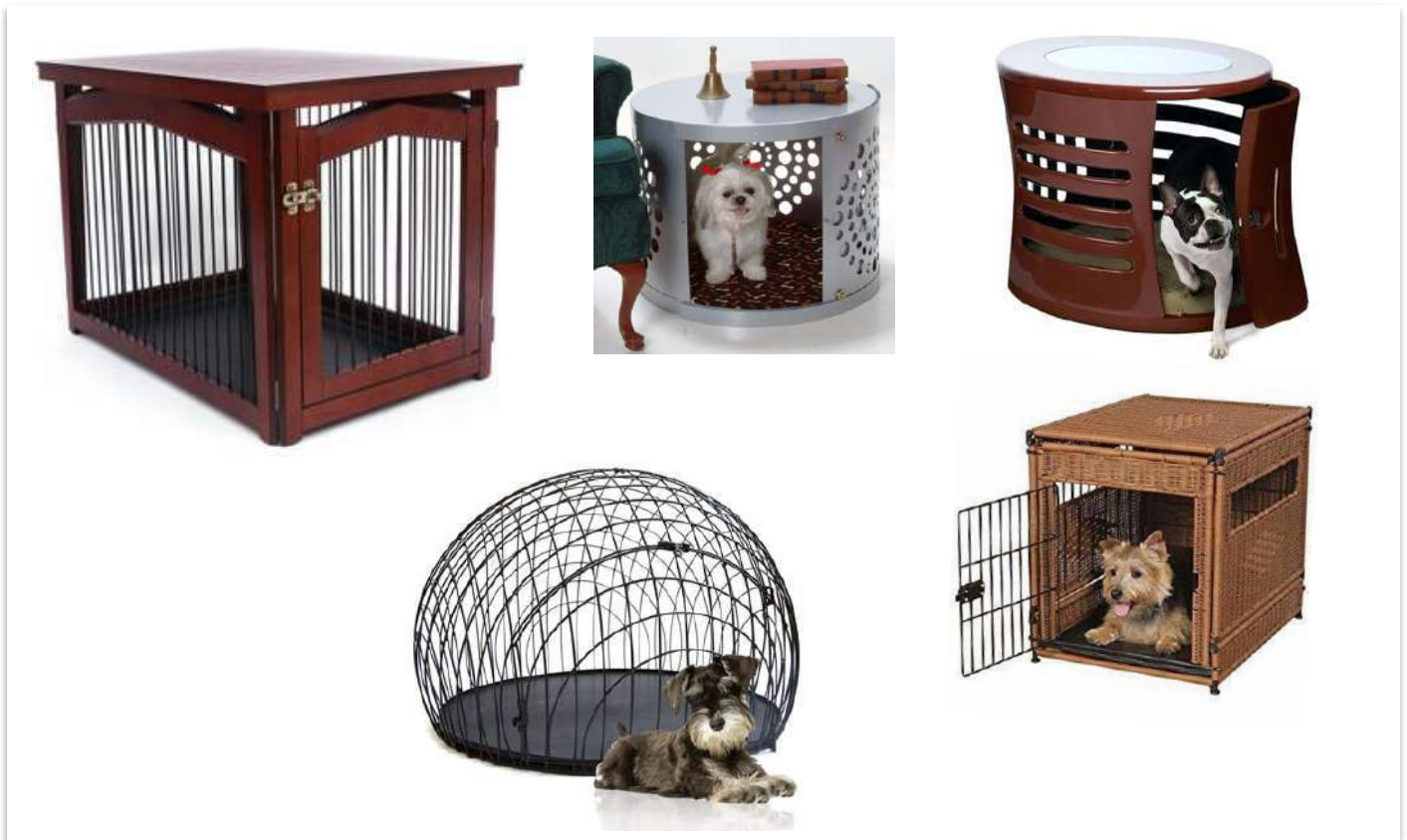
A crate can be used for 3 or 4 hours at a time to safely contain your adult Morkie, if you have other dogs visiting, young children or if your adult Morkie is sick. Or, for those times when you need your dog 'out of the way'.

If you're picking a crate for one of those reasons, here's what to look for:

- one that will be big enough for your full grown Morkie to stand, turn around and stretch.
- if you have a puppy, the crate will be too big at first so you can either use the divider that comes with it, or fill some of the extra space with an empty box.
- If your dog is sick with diarrhea or has been vomiting, don't put him in the crate.
- At nighttime, be sure to **limit you Morkie's liquids** starting about 2 to 3 hours before bedtime.
- The minute you open the crate door in the morning, direct him to his "Go Potty."
- Many dogs like the feeling of a blanket put over the crate, for ultimate privacy.

More styles of crates

Besides the basic version, you can choose from a huge variety of crates, including ones that blend in with your furniture.



If a crate isn't ideal, what works? You want to contain your Morkie if you're out for the day. Who needs pee and poop everywhere!

To keep your Morkie safe, **the ideal solution is to divide off a portion of a room or get an indoor fence system.**

From simple to elaborate, an ideal area for your Morkie when you're out all day: [the Mini-Room](#)

the Mini-Room

The basic set up



pee pad as far as possible from food and water

light from windows

comfy dog bed

some favourite toys

fresh water and food

oops-proof flooring

Under the stairs areas



Checklist for the Mini-Room

- water
- food
- pee pad
- bed
- toys
- mat or blanket
- optional: carrier
- optional: dog puzzles
- cover electric plugs and wires
- no exposed cords

The Morkie Mini-Room

- ✓ cozy, comfortable temperature
- ✓ safe - nothing he can chew up, electric plugs covered, no exposed cords
- ✓ filled with your Morkie's favourite things
- ✓ include his bed, water, food and a separate area to relief himself on a training pad or newspapers

A spare corner works perfectly!



People who've bought these pens to set up as mini-rooms rave about them:

"I love this little pen for my puppy.. It is just the right size to help in the potty training, as well as so light weight and easy to take apart for transportation. I recommend this item to anyone who is going to have a small dog. Not recommended for a larger puppy as it is light weight and can be moved with a rambunctious dog." (Amazon review)

These products, and similar ones are available at pet stores like PetSmart or online at Amazon.com



Training your Morkie to love her Pen or Mini-Room

- Make your Morkie's Pen or Mini-Room a positive space that he *wants* to visit.
- Start off slowly - show her the pen or mini-room but leave the gate open so she can go in and out.
- Fill the enclosed area with toys and chew sticks and treats. Try a Kong toy filled with peanut butter.
- Be sure there's a cozy bed inside the pen.
- Include plenty of fresh water and some food.
- Use a training pad in the far corner of the area for your dog to relieve himself.
- Put your Morkie in the pen and close the door, gradually increasing the time from just a couple of minutes to several hours.
- Always try to walk your dog before putting her in the Pen or Mini-Room and be sure he has a potty break before, and right after, the Pen or Mini-Room.
- Leave your dog's gate or door open so that she can access her space at all times. Many dogs choose to rest inside their enclosed space even when they don't have to.
- Keep in mind that teaching your dog to love the enclosure takes time.

Potential problems - containing your Morkie

Whining

- needs to be let out or is bored and lonely?
- if you're convinced that your dog doesn't need to eliminate, the best response is to ignore him until he stops whining. Ideally, remove yourself from his line of vision.
- don't give in; if you do, you'll teach your dog to whine loud and long to get what he wants.

Separation Anxiety

- containing your Morkie may prevent him from being destructive, but he may injure himself in an attempt to escape.
- Separation anxiety problems can only be resolved with counter-conditioning and desensitization procedures. Read more about separation anxiety in [Part Eight: Behaviour Problems.](#)

Part Three: Training your Morkie

Job One: potty training

Potty training or housebreaking your Morkie

Everyone's excited about the new puppy,... until those "little accidents" around the home get really frustrating!!

Potty training your small dog is a real test of your patience, but it is also one of the first opportunities that you and your Morkie puppy will have to bond.

Dog house training is a lot of hard work, but it is necessary. In fact, it's job one. 😊

The rate at which the puppy succeeds is determined by the amount of **consistent training** that you, as the owner, give him.

Just keep in mind, when it comes to house training, **every dog succeeds at a different rate**. Morkies – being among the **smarter** dogs, can be **mischievous**, making potty training a challenge. But with some patience and sense of humour on your part, you WILL survive Morkie puppy training!

No matter the breed, it takes some dogs only a few weeks to learn, where it may take other dogs several months.

Here is perhaps the most important thing to know about *Morkie puppy training*: the rate at which the puppy succeeds is determined by the amount of **consistent training** that you as the owner give him.

It's even harder to train toy dogs

Why is this?

There are a number of reasons why it's harder to train a small dog. They include:

Toy dogs like Morkies are not usually crate-trained.

Most often they have the run of the household, so the dog's natural aversion to soiling where he sleeps and eats, doesn't come into play.

Why it's harder to house train a toy dog

First, toy dogs like Maltese or Yorkies, are hardly ever crated.

Second, we tend to pick them up and carry them outside, so they don't know how to tell us they need to go.

Even if you *don't* keep your puppy in a crate, you can still contain her in a small area, to take advantage of this natural instinct.

As a rule of thumb, small dogs like Morkies need to relieve themselves every 3 to 5 hours; puppies much more frequently.

Toy dogs have small bladders and can't hold a lot of liquid for long. With so many households where everyone's out working all day, this can be a real challenge. There's just no way a toy dog, with such a tiny bladder, can wait 6, 8 or more hours to eliminate.

We usually carry small dogs to the door, rather than waiting for a signal from the dog himself. Let your dog get used to feeling he has to go, and then signalling you (if you're putting him outside to go).

We tend to ignore the small messes they make, until one day we wake up to realize our carpets or flooring has been ruined and our home smells!



One "mistake" by a 160 pound Bernese Mountain Dog for example, can hardly compare to a 3-pound Morkie puppy's mistake. That's where owners fall short - *consistency* in house training techniques.

Small dog breeds can be much more challenging to train because of their **intelligence, head-strong nature** and **mischievous personality**.

Small dog breeds often view discipline and training as **games** and will use the opportunity to test your patience. It's not unusual for a toy dog to quickly understand the training, but still clown around to lighten the mood.

Cold weather! The sudden change from a warm, cozy room to a bitter winter evening is likely to make your little dog run right back inside without doing her business.

We're inconsistent. We haven't decided whether our pup will be paper or puppy pad trained; or trained to go outside. Mixing the two methods is asking for trouble, since your dog has no consistent pattern of where he is good to go (outside or inside?) and where you really want him to go.

One more theory why it's so hard to potty train toy dogs

A possible reason toy dogs don't get the idea of house training easily is that they don't consider their house their "den."

They're so small, the house or apartment is like their whole *world*. So it is easy for them to simply go to another part of their world, usually out of everyone's sight, and eliminate. Toy breeds think if they've gone off to the far edges of the living room, for example, and peed there, that they've done the right thing.

To the larger dog, the house is the den and they instinctively choose to wait to go outside to eliminate.

Decide WHERE you want your Morkie to go



You've got a new puppy coming home: how are you going to approach potty training?

There are a number of different choices – the key is – pick one and stay with it.

Changing house training methods will confuse your Morkie and will ultimately lead to accidents.

*If you pick **Going Outside***

From the moment you bring your new Morkie home, take him to the spot outdoors that you want to designate as his "dog potty area." Use your command phrase such as "go outside" or "go potty."

As soon as he goes, woohoo! Give lots of immediate verbal praise, treats and kisses! Repeat "Go Outside" in a happy, warm voice as he's going and even after. He'll associate your verbal praise with what he's doing.

Consistency (yes, that word again) is important. Take your Morkie to the same spot in your yard or park every time you take him out to "Go Potty" (or your own phrase). Use the same phrase every time and keep it positive.

If you are not consistent about when you take him out and where you take him out, it will be hard for your dog to know what is right and what is wrong.

If you pick *Going Inside*

If you want to train your Morkie to go indoors, you have several choices:

- paper training (newspapers)
- use puppy-pads
- try a kitty litter pan



Paper training

This is one of the original ways to train a mostly-indoors dog. This isn't a stage in house-training - it's a method of its own.

A tray like this can hold newspapers or puppy pads. I find a boot tray can work as well for about one quarter of the price.

You simply put several layers of newspaper inside your house (use a boot tray, fits perfectly), where you want your puppy to go potty. Be sure to use the same spot at all times.

You change the papers after each use, but THE KEY IS that the newspapers are always available for the puppy's use.

As mentioned, this is not a preliminary step to house training. This is a COMMON mistake among people and i've certainly done it myself. (The only exception is for young puppies who are too small to go outside.)

If you decide to teach your puppy paper training, then that's the method you'll use for the rest of his life.

Paper training works well for:

- small dogs
- apartment dwellers
- elderly or handicapped owners
- Morkies that haven't had all their immunization shots yet (you don't want to expose them to other dogs, or the germs on their droppings)
- people who work long hours and have to leave their Morkies home alone



Puppy training pads

Similar to paper training, puppy training pads are a method of their own, and not a “stage” on the path to being house-trained.

These absorbent pads are specially treated to attract your Morkie to go; plus they have a plasticized bottom to prevent leakage onto your floor or carpet.

Use the same steps for the puppy training pads as you do paper training:

- puppy pads in the same place every time
- change them when your dog goes
- always available
- give plenty of praise in a positive, sing-song voice when your pup uses his papers, using your key phrase such as “Go Potty.”

Although the cost adds up over time, puppy pads absorb moisture well and are easy to use. They’re also great for traveling with your Morkie.



Puppy pads are absorbent, and backed with plastic. They’re easy to use.

How to train with a litter pan

Believe it or not, you CAN train a small dog to use a kitty litter pan!

Again, you set it up the same as paper training or puppy pad training:

- always available for your Morkie
- clean and fresh
- in the same place all the time

Use regular kitty litter or shredded newspapers, and the potty mess is all contained.



A sturdy plastic litter pan can be easily washed with hot water and dish detergent to keep it fresh.

To get your Morkie started using the litter pan, put a bit of newspaper with his urine on it in the pan. Or, leave a small piece of his poop in the pan. He will be drawn by his own scent.

Let him sniff around, place him in the pan, and say an encouraging command such as “go potty” or “use your tray.” You can also lift your Morkie and set him in the litter box, while encouraging him to use it. When he does go potty, praise him tons.

Keep using **your key phrase** "Go Potty" or whatever you choose - in a positive, high tone, even after he's done his business. That will teach him he's done the right thing and you're pleased.

Fake grass potty training?



There are a number of systems on the market now for your Morkie that include some form of grass - real or fake, along with a system to clean up after he goes potty.

Some can be used on your porch or patio and include running water as the rinsing agent. These can cost \$500 and up. At the other end of the scale, the simple tray with layers of artificial grass, available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for about \$25.

Although it's an odour-resistant mat with a drainage system, I can't vouch for how sanitary it is. Plus, it's advertised as an *alternative* for when your dog can't get outside. As you read earlier, you can't switch up where you want your dog to go based on the weather, our schedule and so on. It's indoors OR outdoors, or he will simply be confused and go anywhere.



Grass potty patches can be plastic turf or real grass, and they can range from \$25 up to \$500 plus. They offer a variety of drainage systems for cleaning.

Three shortcuts to easier housetraining

First, be consistent in letting your Morkie know where you want him to go.

- do you want her to go on papers, puppy pads or in a litter pan - or outdoors?
- you can't mix methods or switch from one to the other.
- use the same phrase every time, whether it's "go potty," "do your business" or whatever you choose - many dogs can be trained to go on command, just by using this simple phrase.

Second, be consistent with feeding times.

- because they're so small, most dogs like Morkies, Yorkies or Maltese, should be fed three times a day to avoid low blood sugar shock, or hypoglycemia.
- usually, they will need to eliminate within 10 to 20 minutes of eating, as well as upon rising and before bed time.
- in between, if you see your dog looking around and sniffing, be sure to take him out or to his papers right away.
- Use your action phrase often.

Third, be lavish in your praise, and avoid old style training, like whacking the dog with a newspaper.

- never, ever rub your dog's nose in a "mistake," and never use her name in a "no" statement like *"No, no! Bad Bella. Bad dog."* Just a firm, "no no no" will do. Trainers like Cesar Millan tell us that this old style of training is really counterproductive, since the dog probably doesn't even know why you're mad.
- swatting your dog with a rolled up paper is definitely not the way to do it.
- all these negatives will leave your pup confused and upset.
- instead, focus on all the times your dog does well, and give her lots of praise, using her name and keeping your tone positive.

One trainer, dog expert **Sharda Baker**, suggests a great idea; even when your dog is trained, continue to reinforce the behaviour by saying "Go potty" (or your phrase), while he or she is actually going, be it on puppy pads or outside. That will cement the behaviour thanks to positive reinforcement.

So although there are challenges specific to house training a small dog, it IS possible to overcome these hurdles and have a happy, healthy and potty-trained toy dog!



Five things to keep in mind when potty training

1. When your Morkie puppy wakes up, even from a short nap, take him to the potty place.
2. Feed your Morkie on a regular schedule which will eventually be three to four times a day. After he eats or drinks anything, take him to the potty place.
3. After your Morkie plays or exercises, take him to the potty place.
4. Withhold water for two to three hours before your Morkie puppy goes to bed.
5. Just before bedtime, take him to the potty place.

Mistakes will happen

After a mistake:

- clean up the area right away with a pet cleaner to remove the odour so he doesn't go there again. Vinegar diluted with water also works well. If it's on a carpet, blot the accident, then apply some cleaner or vinegar solution and blot again. Don't rub - *blot*.
- praise your puppy when he does go potty where you want, and you'll see real progress.
- but remember, he's just a puppy, so you need to be understanding.
- nothing replaces motivation, patience and consistency on your part. And a sense of humour definitely helps.

Potty training may be hard or difficult but it's **NOT IMPOSSIBLE**. It's only impossible if you think it is.

Potty training the older dog

Despite the cliché, you CAN teach an old dog new tricks, even senior dogs that have not been properly housebroken.

First, **an older Morkie must un-learn his old ways** of peeing and pooping wherever he likes, indoors or out.

Start by taking your Morkie outside* every two to three hours, especially at first. (*Or to your preferred potty spot - be it inside on newspapers, pee pads or a litter pan, or outside)

Be patient, because the older dog was probably punished for going in front of his owner, so this can make it hard for the mature dog to relieve himself in your presence.

Ensure your older dog isn't suffering from any of these conditions that can cause him to be suddenly "untrained." Your Vet can advise you if there are:

- kidney stones, infections, or genetic conditions or diseases

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN



NEVER hit your puppy or rub his nose in the waste... no dog deserves too be trained through fear... and your Morkie is far too small, too sensitive and too fragile. Be patient and you'll soon have a wonderful little [trained] companion.

- bladder infection or a disease including bladder stones
- possible hormonal imbalance
- bladder problems in female dogs after having puppies
- prostate problems in male dogs
- incontinence that is age-related

As dogs mature and become senior dogs they may experience some level of incontinence, as they begin to lose control of the bladder and sometimes even the bowels. There are special dog diapers and pads available for senior dogs with incontinence problems.

Separation anxiety can cause incontinence

If your mature Morkie urinates in the house frequently when you're out, but does not seem to have a problem when you're home, chances are the cause is anxiety or fear of abandonment.

Sometimes dogs who are anxious, may urinate or dribble a little, when they see you. When accompanied by a cowering stance, this is often a sign of submissive behaviour. The dog is saying, "look, I'm not a threat." Dribbling can also mean your Morkie is over-excited.

**Read
more about
separation
anxiety in
Part 8**

A sense of humour is a must when it comes to potty training toy dogs. It's harder, but it *can* be done.



Dealing with submissive urination

(See page 312 as well.) Do rule out medical causes with your Vet, because submissive urination or dribbling pee CAN be the result of a change in diet; upset stomach (usually accompanied by diarrhea) or a urinary tract infection. Submissive urination can also be the result of medications, a young puppy whose bladder isn't fully developed, or incomplete house training.

Finally, submissive urination can be another side effect of separation anxiety.

To reduce the severity and frequency of the problem, **try some of these suggestions:**

- greet your dog outside when you come home.
- dial down the greeting to low-key; no high voices and happy smiles from you. Instead, don't make eye contact with your dog, and simply ignore him, for the first few minutes you're home until he calms down.
- distract your Morkie from an overly enthusiastic greeting by giving him some treats as soon as he sees you; throw them on the ground and go about your own 'getting home' rituals.
- if your Morkie gets too excited during play and starts dribbling, keep your play focused on toys, not on handling the dog.

Remember, shouting at your dog or scolding him for these dribbles, won't stop him and will likely **make the problem even worse**. Any form of punishment will probably bring out more submissive behaviour, not less. Ignore it while you put some of these other tactics into play.

5 REASONS WHY YOUR MORKIE IS STILL PEEING IN THE HOUSE



He's overexcited. So he pees as he jumps and wiggle all over.

He's fearful and submissive.

Something in your body language and tone has told your dog to be afraid.

He was never trained properly and thinks that it's ok to go in the house.

He has a medical problem, like a urinary infection, bladder stones, kidney disease, diabetes, etc.

Dogs usually growing out of submissive urination by the age of one.

Urine marking

This is similar to submissive urination or dribbling, except your male OR female Morkie is marking territory *on purpose* with his/her urine.

The causes of urine marking vary, from social triggers (such as over excitement and overstimulation) to a reproductive drive in non-neutered dogs. In fact it often starts when your puppy has reached sexual maturity (6 to 9 months).

Again, rule out medical causes for marking and consider spaying or neutering your Morkie - this is just one more good reason to make that decision. Keep in mind though, that neutering doesn't guarantee this behaviour will be automatically cured.

If there are no underlying physical causes, then discourage marking by:

- restricting your Morkie's access to things he's likely to mark.
- resolve any conflicts in the household - between pets and between human and pet.
- put treats around areas where your dog typically marks (such as biscuits on the ground). This may be enough to distract your Morkie from marking.

Scolding or punishing your dog in any way will not help. You can however **distract him or her** by clapping loudly when you see the marking start or use a small squirt gun to give him a shot of water to distract him from his negative activity.

Always **clean up the mark right away** and use a special pet product to remove any trace of odour, or vinegar and water, so that he's not reminded to repeat the marking.

Your Morkie may also mark territory because of anxiety; like submissive urination, it can be another sign of separation anxiety or an overly-stimulated dog. You may want to talk to your Vet about an anxiety-reducing medication to break this bad habit.

For both submissive urination and urine marking, start by scent elimination where the accidents happened. And don't forget the power of positive reinforcement.

Build trust while potty training

Litter training or paper training will often work for smaller breeds of dogs, but again, if the dog has been punished for relieving himself **in the house** he may be uncomfortable doing this until he has built a relationship of trust with you. He may be in the habit of hiding his "bad behaviour" and you'll find mistakes in the strangest places possible.

You might want to **try outside** instead.

Take things slow, and give lots of praise when the dog goes outside. Respond as soon as your Morkie lets you know he needs to go.

For outdoor training, don't play with the dog, simply take him to the designated area and wait about five minutes. If the dog does not relieve himself return to the house with no comments, treats or play. Repeat the process until the dog does toilet, then give lots of praise and attention. Soon the mature dog will understand what you want and that going outside is rewarding for them.

Components of Training



Challenges training the small dog

Let's face it, we're all guilty of this at times: overprotective behaviour towards our small dogs. Like true helicopter parents, we grab them up the moment something untoward happens. And if the dog starts whining and crying, we soothe and comfort them, which reinforces that whiny behaviour.

We also tend to reward them just because they're so adorable. But dogs were designed to work for a living; they used to hunt all their food, look for their own shelter and raise their own young. Giving them a task, even if it's a simple sit command, THEN rewarding them, keeps dogs less neurotic and happier.

We allow our small dogs behaviours you'd never accept in an 80 pound pet - jumping up, barking too much, disobeying basic commands, chewing on your things and destroying them.

Yet a well trained, obedient toy dog can be a real joy. Plus, he is much safer. Think about your dog dashing out the door and running into the street. If he won't stay, stop or come, tragedy can result.

Other than a few strategies to accommodate his size, training the small dog should be no different than training a large one.

How to accommodate your Morkie's size

- get down to his level when training.
- use smaller rewards.
- adjust treats.
- warn him that 'liftoff' is coming - think how scary it must be to be suddenly swiped up off the ground!

Get ready for lift off!

Well-known expert **Dr. Karen Becker** suggests we have a signal or command, to warn our little dogs that we're about to pick them up.

Imagine how you'd feel is a giant about 30X your size swooped in without warning and lifted you to the sky.

Basic principles of training today

The bad old days of whacking your dog on the head with a newspaper for peeing in the house, are long over.

Instead, trainers today encourage **positive and negative reinforcement**.

How it works

I found this principle confusing and it took me a while to get my head around it so I hope this will help you get there faster.

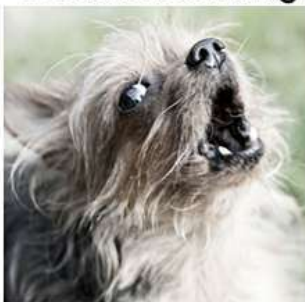
Negative reinforcement means to take something away that is valued by the dog. That could be a toy, a treat or your attention.

Your message is, "keep doing this behaviour and you will lose something you value."

Negative Reinforcement

What you want to change:

too much barking



Use negative reinforcement



Ignore your barking dog and immediately walk away

Barking stops

No positive reinforcement is needed

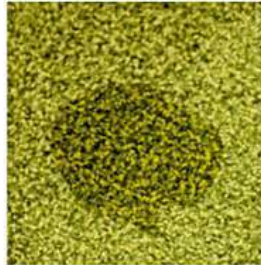
You've *taken away* what your dog wants; your attention

Positive reinforcement means to ADD something that is valued by the dog, especially when you catch him doing something right.

Quite often, that 'something' is simply your presence or attention. You can offer dog treats, words of praise, and even a pat on the head to convey such a positive message. It could be an extra little walk. Watch carefully and see what really matters to your Morkie.

Positive Reinforcement

What you want to change:
peeing on the carpet



Unless you catch your Morkie in the act, there's not a lot of point in 'correcting' him after. He won't know what you're talking about and will be confused and stressed by your displeasure.

Use positive
reinforcement



Your dog HAS gone on his pee pads.

Give him effusive praise and even a treat – double positive reinforcement!



You've *added* what your dog wants; your approval, plus a treat.

Although your first impulse is to punish your dog for going on the carpet, that won't work. Especially if it's after the fact. He won't understand why you're mad, and will start hiding where he goes. Now, you've got pee marks under the table and in other hiding spots.

A subtle response, such as a single, NO with a frown is OK, but beyond that, it's counter-productive. Instead, catch him doing what you *want*, and give him tremendous praise. Believe me, it will work. And faster than negative, old school punishment.

How dogs learn: the difference between dogs and people



Our different learning styles can make training challenging at first, but a well-trained dog is happier, more secure and safer. It's worth the effort.

	Humans	Dogs
the brain	10 times bigger than a dog's	1/10th the size of a person's
sense of smell		1,000 to ten million times more sensitive than a person's, depending on the breed! Dogs can discriminate odours at concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans.
# of scent glands	5 million	125 to 300 million
the nose itself	dry	wet - helps capture scents more efficiently
sensing energy around them "energy or emotion"	non existent	very good at this - universal sense of others
order of the senses	1. hearing 2. seeing 3. smelling	1. smelling 2. seeing 3. hearing
sense of hearing	hear a more narrow range: 64 - 23,000 Hz	67 - 45,000 Hz (varies with different breeds).
ears	6 muscles	18 or more muscles to tilt, rotate, raise, or lower a dog's ears to hear better.
sight	see a full spectrum of colour	Studies have shown that dogs see in colors of various shades of blue and yellow. For example, a dog sees orange, yellow and green all as shades of yellow.

Be the pack leader

No, I'm not asking you to get down and wrestle your Morkie to the ground and 'poke' him. But a couple of the principles of Cesar Millan can be helpful. (He's the dog trainer, famous for his dog-whispering, no-nonsense ways of training.)

He has two core philosophies:

1. calm, assertive energy
2. exercise, discipline, and affection... in that order

First, calm, assertive energy

According to Cesar, '**calm-assertive energy**' is the what you project to show your dog you are the calm and assertive pack leader. Assertive doesn't mean aggressive or angry. It doesn't mean you're a jerk.

As any Morkie owner knows, Morkies can sometimes be overly assertive and aggressive towards other dogs, children in the house and yes, their humans (it's the Yorkie coming out). We ourselves tend to make them 'little divas.'

Think about an incident of too much barking ... you probably shout back, to stop the barking! Now, you're both being too loud, upset and not in control.

The second cornerstone of Cesar's Way

Exercise, discipline and affection, in that order - is Cesar's other recipe for a happy, well-balanced dog.

While most dog owners give plenty of affection, they fall far short on exercise and discipline. Even those owners who provide all three elements necessary to a happy, well behaved dog - don't always provide the essentials in the correct order.

First, exercise

Walk your Morkie on a leash for at least half an hour every day; this is a ritual to your dog, and one of the most important ways to create lifelong bonds.

Then Discipline

Like a child, your dog needs rules, boundaries, and limitations. And just as you wouldn't abuse your child, you don't abuse your dog when you exercise these rules, boundaries and limitations. You apply them with positive and negative reinforcement.

And Finally, Affection

This is like the icing on the cake. Once exercise and discipline have been completed, AND your dog has shown his "calm submission" as your pack member, THEN we're ready to give ourselves and our dog a reward.

Dogs are simple

Cesar Millan bases much of his training on a simple idea: that DOGS are simple. They are animals, and their needs are quite straightforward and uncomplicated. Our job is to:

- understand they are animals, and pack animals at that.
- understand what they need.
- understand how they communicate.
- understand why they behave the way they do.

When we understand these basics, we can learn how to achieve balance and establish pack leadership with Cesar's amazing tips and techniques.

Be careful not to praise undesired behaviors. For example, petting and soothing an agitated or growling animal will reinforce the wrong response. Reward only calm, desirable or at least neutral behavior.

Positive reinforcement means to **add** something that is valued by your dog. Quite often, that something is simply your presence or attention. You can offer dog treats, words of praise, and even a pat on the head to convey such a positive message. Watch carefully and see what really matters to your dog and then try it!

Your biggest training problem

"What's the worst thing you can do when you're trying to train your dog?"

And the answer is -- **wait too long.**

Although there are no hard and fast rules, most professional trainers agree that a pup should begin his training the day you bring him home. By the time the dog is just 8 weeks old, his brain is developed enough to absorb training.

From that point until your dog is about 4 months old everything you do is important and sets patterns for the dog's lifelong behavior.

So these 9 to 10 weeks are critical in building a well adjusted, well behaved dog.



As soon as you know you're getting a new puppy, you could check into local dog training classes for you and your dog.

It is certainly possible to train a dog after 16 weeks. Most of the formal dog-training sessions start after she is six months old. However, by this age, behavioural problems that she has

already acquired become rooted and you may have to put in extra time and effort to correct these older habits.

Training for young puppies should include house training, fear and aggression control, chew training, and basic commands like sit, come, stay, and familiarizing her with leash and collar.

At young age, your dog's attention span is low. Do not bore her with lengthy and serious training sessions. They will make your dog averse to learning.

The goal: at least 15-30 minutes of training every day.

You can get there with small 3-5 minute sessions all through the day. Spread it out and try to incorporate training in whatever she does.

Make training fun, not boring for your Morkie.

Best training treats

Unlike big dogs that are more driven by food, a treat isn't always a motivating reward for your Morkie. And, commercial bacon or sausage flavoured treats are full of chemicals and unhealthy fats, so are best avoided. Try using a piece or two of your dog's dinner as a treat or a bit of cheese.

In training, the goal is to expose your little dog to a wide variety of experiences, activities, animals and people, without forcing him into situations he fears or putting him in danger.



The Big Three: Sit, Stay, Come

SIT!

This is the most important command your dog can learn - it's the basis of many other commands and the foundation of training.

1. Have some small dog treats on hand.
2. Tell your dog to 'sit' while you move the treat from in front of his nose and over his head. As you raise the treat up and back, your dog's head should begin to follow the treat.
3. As soon as your dog sits, even though it will actually be by accident at this point, praise your dog by saying 'good dog.'
4. Give the treat right away.

Practice in small sessions (no more than 5 minutes), 2 or 3 times a day. Continue to reward your dog as he continues to progress, but gradually offer the treats on a more intermittent basis in order to maintain your dog's attention and interest. Always keep your verbal praise high.

Offering intermittent rewards will help your dog to maintain the behavior you want.

Mastered "sit?" Time to move on to "stay."

STAY!

Now it gets more difficult - the key is to take your time and remain patient.

Again, short sessions, more often, works best.

1. Have your dog sit at your command - offer praise and a little treat.
2. Then say "stay" firmly - once - and take a single step backward.
3. Make sure you do not go any further. Repeat the 'stay' command and if your dog does not move, provide him with a reward.

Really master this "one step away" sit command and then gradually increase the distance between you. You can use a long lead in order to work with your dog from a distance while reinforcing sitting.

Make sure you work in small increments - don't go from one step away to across the room in one training session - it just won't take.

COME!

The 'come' command is one of the more helpful ones you can teach, and also one of the most difficult for your Morkie to learn.

The come command is vital when your Morkie veers into danger:

- running out of the house.
- approached by a big dog.
- getting too near the street.
- ... and dozens of potentially dangerous incidents.

Despite these scary situations, you need to stay calm no matter how frightened you might be, when you command come. If you run after him in a panic, he will only run faster and farther away. With some practice and a calm attitude, it's more likely your Morkie will return to you.

Every time you use the "come" command there should be a positive reward and lots of praise. He should want to come to you no matter where he is, or what he is doing.

The three ways to teach the come command: practice, practice, practice.

Start by standing on the other side of a room from your dog. Say "come" once - firmly and calmly. As soon as he comes all the way up to you, offer lots of praise and a treat.

Repeat this process as often as you can.

Your dog will enjoy the positive response pretty quickly.

Try practicing down a long hallway or by going into another room.

Three more: Down, Off and walking on a leash

DOWN!

Now that your Morkie has learned 'sit,' 'down' will be a snap! Down is the command for your dog to lie down (not get off the furniture).

1. Give the sit command.
2. Hold a treat in your right hand between your thumb and index finger, with your palm facing down towards the floor.
3. Your hand, along with the dog treats, will be in front of your dog's nose.
4. Lower your hand slowly to the floor behind your dog's right paw and then back towards his buttocks. Lower the treat on at an angle to the floor, keeping it close to your dog's body.
5. Your dog will follow the lure and he will lie down on his hip. (This is called a *relaxed down* and is a safe and stable position for the dog's body.)
6. Once he is lowered all the way to the floor, give him the treat and lots of praise. Repeat this several times until you are confident that he will go down every time.

Repeat at different locations inside and outside. Lots of distractions? Good - you can help him improve his concentration.

OFF!

The “off” command is used when you want your Morkie to get down from the furniture or stop jumping up on someone.

It a handy command when your Morkie gets so excited he stands on his hind legs, clawing at visitors’ legs.

1. Start when your dog is either on the furniture or in the act of jumping up.
2. Have a treat in your right hand and hold it up high and close to your body.
3. Your dog will try to reach up for it, so move your right arm with the treat to the right and down. When your dog has all four legs on the ground, give him the treat and lots of praise.

Walking on a leash

Walking a dog properly on a leash is something that will take some practice. Many Morkie owners don’t worry too much about it - after all, if a 5 or 6 pound dog is pulling on the leash, how much of a big deal is it?

But over time it gets really annoying, and over time it’s harder to correct, so you’ll want to teach this early.

Not a game of tug-of-war

When you let your dog pull on the leash during a walk without any correction, she’ll (naturally) think it’s ok to pull. And since you continue your walk, she will think she’s actually being rewarded for pulling! On the other hand, if you pull back on the leash when your dog pulls, she’ll think “*this is a fun game,*” and will pull all the harder.

How to correct your Morkie

When your dog begins to lean forward or starts to walk forward, lean your body backwards or take a few steps backwards, but **DON’T PULL BACK. Just stop walking.**

Hold your hands against your body and stand still. There may be tension on the leash, but just wait. Do not make eye contact with your dog.

Once your dog slackens his pull, or when he looks up to you, give him verbal praise and extend your arm down by your side and give him a treat.

Continue your walk. Once your Morkie puts tension on the leash - don’t say anything. Just stop. Once he releases the tension, then you can once again praise him and give him some dog treats and continue your walk.

When your dog resumes a standing position next to you, you can begin to walk again.

It won’t take him long to realize that when his collar is tight, the walk stops - sooner or later he’ll realize he can’t pull on the leash.

If your dog walks properly without pulling forward, continue to walk and reward him occasionally with verbal praise, but don't overdo it... this is a walk. It's what dogs are supposed to do!

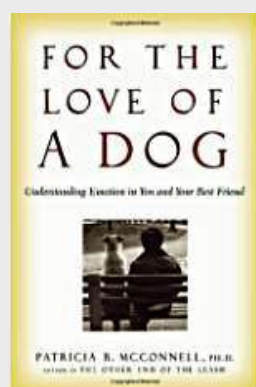
When you need help with training

There are a lot of good resources online. Along with YouTube, check out these sites:

What?	google or click*	Details
Dog obedience training review	link	Includes obedience training, potty training, problem behaviours, crate training, clicker training and more.
Animal Planet How to Train a Dog	link	Training resources from this outstanding site.
Wiki How	link	Illustrated instructions plus video on how to teach your dog to sit, and more.
Sign up for daily training tips via email	link	From UltimatePuppy.com
Dog Behaviour Issues and help	link	From the ASPCA

**in case the links have expired, please google the subject.*

Top Training Books



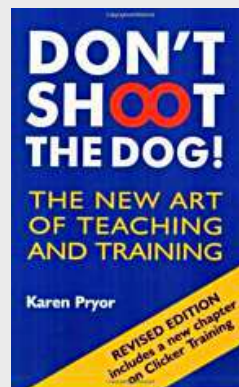
*For the Love of a Dog:
Understanding Emotion in
You and Your Best Friend*

by Patricia B. McConnell



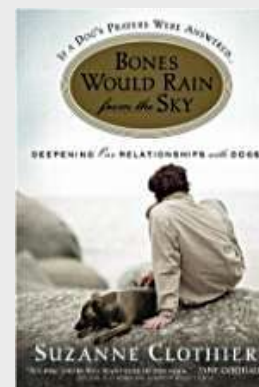
*The Other End of the
Leash: Why We Do What
We Do Around Dogs*

by Patricia B. McConnell



*Don't Shoot the Dog!:
The New Art of
Teaching and Training*

by Karen Pryor



*Bones Would Rain from
the Sky: Deepening Our
Relationships with Dogs*

by Suzanne Clothier

Training classes

To find dog training in your area, check your community newspaper ads, google "dog training (your city or town)" or ask your Vet.

Beginner classes are lots of fun; they're usually fairly small with one instructor. All the owners attend, and the dogs learn at the same pace. At the end of the 8 or 10 week course, your dog will "graduate" with a little degree (something for the scrapbook).

One local group in our area is called Scholars with Collars, and it's really great. They also offer Levels 2 and 3 after the basic training has been completed.

During the dog training class, you learn commands, practice them in class, and you are assigned "homework." This is where the real practice takes place. Like real school, you gotta do the homework!

It is a good learning and socializing opportunity for both the dogs and the owners. Dog training classes are fairly inexpensive.

Private dog trainers

If your dog is having more significant obedience and behaviour problems, you may want to consider a private dog trainer or behaviour specialist.

This will naturally cost more money, but you can expect undivided attention to your Morkie's problems. Since it is so focused, it's usually fairly short duration - a few weeks should do it.

Again, you'll be trained how to train your dog, and you will practice between sessions. Prices vary depending on the trainer and the extent of help your dog needs.

For a reference check online or ask your Vet or local humane society who they might recommend.

Obedience training an older Morkie

Yes, it can be done - especially if you can add an extra measure of patience.

Morkies are smart little dogs, and eager to please, so the same techniques you use on a young Morkie will work on your older dog.

Remember, your dog is never too old for training.

Part Four: The 4 Building Blocks to Good Health

If you're like me, you want your Morkie to live as long as you do... that's not going to happen of course, but you can increase your Morkie's lifespan with good care.

The average life span of a Yorkshire Terrier or a Maltese dog is between 12 and 16 years. Some have lived to 17 or 18 years of age. That can be how long your Morkie lives.

Four elements of good health

The key is to keep your Morkie healthy. To do that, focus on four building blocks:

1. Expert Veterinary Care
2. Routine Exercise
3. Dental Care
4. Optimum Nutrition



1. Expert Veterinary care

Quality Veterinary care builds the foundation for your dog's overall health.

When you're looking for a new Vet, keep these tips in mind:

- Be honest with the Veterinary staff -- tell them why you are searching for a Vet, and specifically what you are looking for.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Work with your Veterinarian -- ask about routine care and questions about diseases or procedures that you are unsure about.

At the same time, think carefully about **vaccinating your Morkie**, and make an educated decision about *which* vaccinations will be given, *how often*. More and more dog owners are deciding to reduce the number of vaccinations their pets receive. See **Part Six: All About Vaccinations** for more.

Picking a Veterinarian

Your Veterinarian can be a lifesaver, literally. Here are some tips on picking one who suits you:

1. Don't wait until you really need a Vet

- ask friends and neighbours to recommend an animal doctor.
- visit some nearby clinics - friendly? busy but not frantic? clean?
- check any online references or comments about local clinics you're considering.
- have any complaints been filed about this practice? Any kudos?

2. Arrange to meet the Vet

- a brief meeting to introduce yourself (without your Morkie) can go a long way.
- you'll see if your styles mesh, and confirm that the Veterinarian enjoys and is well-trained in small dog care (many Vets specialize).
- jot down your questions ahead of time.

3. Make an appointment for your Morkie

- assuming all has gone well, the next step is to take your Morkie in for a brief checkup or wellness assessment.
- if you're not 100% comfortable, go with your gut feel and keep looking.
- again, don't wait until there's a big emergency to introduce your dog to the Veterinarian.
- find out what the fees are for various procedures so you're not shocked when the bill comes.

Some questions you might ask (see Appendix for printable version)

- What is available for 24-hour emergency care? (**Note the phone number now.**)
- In an emergency overnight situation, will someone be at the clinic non-stop?
- Ask if the office accepts insurance plans if you have one, or credit cards or payment plans.
- Does the doctor refer difficult cases to colleagues who may have more experience in that area?
- Is the clinic equipped to handle x-rays, blood work and other diagnostics? (to potentially save you time, hassle and money).
- Do they offer discounts for multiple pets from the same household? For senior owners?

You and your Veterinarian: a partnership

The Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria, Australia has an excellent and concise list of what you can expect from your Veterinarian:

- a thorough examination of your animal.
- to be advised of treatment options.
- to be advised of the likely outcome.
- to be advised of the recommended treatment.
- to be given estimates of the cost of the proposed treatment.
- to be made aware of any significant risks of treatment.
- to be involved in deciding the course of treatment.
- to be offered referral to Veterinarians with more experience or specialist skills if appropriate.
- that a positive response be given to your request for a second opinion.

At your first Veterinarian visit with your Morkie, you can expect your Vet to weigh your dog, take his temperature, look in the ears, eyes and examine the teeth; listen to the heart; palpate organs (feeling the shape and outline of the organs with light pressure of his fingers on the dog).

The Vet will also check body condition, look for fleas and any other parasites as well as lumps, cuts and sores.

Bring a stool sample so the Vet can run a fecal test to check for parasites (that will cost extra, as will any deworming medications).

Your Vet will discuss with you:

- any necessary vaccinations.
- testing for heart worm.
- flea and tick medication if necessary.

Keeping lines of communication open with your Vet



It can be difficult talking to your Veterinarian, especially when your Morkie is ill or injured. Your emotions are running high, making it hard to think straight. Add the doctor's 8-syllable medical descriptions, and confusion and misunderstanding can result.

How to deflect medical jargon

1. You know that old expression, "*there's no such thing as a dumb question*" ... Well there is -- the question that doesn't get asked. **Be sure to ASK** your Veterinarian for clarification, to repeat herself or to explain in more detail. Bring a pad of paper and pen so you can jot down notes to review later.
2. **Be honest.** If the Vet suggests a treatment plan that you can't afford or that you're not comfortable with, just say so. He won't mind. Nor will he mind if you ask for a second opinion, particularly if it's a serious situation.
3. Keep your own **Morkie Health Journal** (see the Appendix for a printable version) and bring it with you when you take your dog to the Vet; don't assume that your Vet has all the information on the tip of his tongue.
4. Also bring along any medications, supplements or vitamins you're giving your Morkie, along with the name of his dog food and ideally, the ingredients label.

Things your Vet won't tell you - from Reader's Digest

Here are some of the things you'll never hear directly from your Vet, even though he or she is probably thinking it!

"We're a Vet Hospital, not a hotel."

"People will get upset because their dog got a sheet instead of two fluffy blankets or because their dog didn't get hand-fed. We're just trying to get your dog better so he can come home and you can spoil him."

—Jessica Stout-Harris, a Vet tech who runs confessionsfromtheanimalshelter.com

Aggressive behaviour - by your dog or by YOU, is noted.

"Most hospitals keep comprehensive records of behavior—of both your pet and you! If you are aggressive to the staff, you will be treated differently."

—Oscar Chavez, DVM, program director for the Vet tech program at California Polytechnic State University in Pomona, California.

Don't underestimate the dangers we face as Veterinarians.

"People always ask, 'How do you handle pit bulls and Rottweilers and big German shepherds?' The truth is, the dogs that scare me most are the little Chihuahuas. They're much more likely to bite."

—Mark Howes, DVM, owner and medical director of Berglund Animal Hospital in Evanston, Illinois

"Giving food is not giving love."

"The reason your pet is fat is because you are too. I would never say that to someone in an exam room, but the fact of the matter is, if you have an owner who overeats and is inactive, they are likely to have an obese pet."

—Oscar Chavez, DVM.

We don't mind the occasional 'thanks.'

"Looking for a way to say thank you to your vet? Last year, one pet owner gave us a check for \$100, saying we could use it at our discretion for an animal in need. That was a wonderful gift."

—Patty Khuly, VMD, a Vet in Miami, Florida.

Don't fudge on the facts because you haven't been the most responsible dog owner.

"We know when you're twisting the facts. If your dog has a five-pound tumour hanging from his skin, please don't tell me it wasn't there yesterday."

—Phil Zeltzman, DVM, a traveling Veterinary surgeon in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and the author of *Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound*.

Cheapskates!

"Here's a pet peeve: owners who don't want to pay for diagnostic tests but then cop an attitude because you don't know what's wrong with the animal. Since you wouldn't let me do the blood work or X-rays, how the heck do you expect me to know?"

—A Vet in South Carolina.

The 7 things pet owners do that drive Veterinarians crazy

From www.vetstreet.com



This article is so good, I'm reproducing most of it right from the website... to see the other excellent resources on Vetstreet.com, [click here](#).

1. **Answering your cell phone** during examination or consultation! Really? This is just plain rude.
2. **Bringing the kids** - especially if they're young and/or badly behaved. Unless it's an emergency Vet visit, there's no reason to have the children along.
3. **Letting your dog run wild.** A retractable leash, or no leash, is asking for chaos especially when a strange dog or a cat comes into the office.



Answering your cell or texting during your Vet visit is just plain rude.

4. **Bringing your cat in, in your arms.**
Where's the carrier? And what will happen if a particularly determined dog wants to pick up on your cat's cornered prey vibes?
5. **Denial and contrary behaviour.** After you get an expert diagnoses from your Veterinarian, you decide '*no my dog's not fat,*' or '*no, her teeth aren't rotten.*' Why did you come to the Vet after all, if you know better?
6. **Refusing to pay.** Yes, it really does happen! The Veterinarian prescribes treatment, outlines the cost and performs the work. Suddenly the deadbeat client has forgotten his credit card, is tight for money or forgot to mention at the outset, is unemployed and can't afford it. *All fees are due when the services are rendered.* If you can't pay, discuss it first with the doctor to see what other options are available.
7. **Doesn't bother to follow through.** If you can't give your dog a pill, or are afraid to cut her nails, no problem: just say so! Otherwise your Vet is likely to think you just don't care about your Morkie.

The annual Vet visit

Most dog owners believe that a dog needs to visit a Vet once a year, primarily for vaccinations and perhaps a wellness check.

This isn't true!

There's more to owning a pet than providing love, exercise and proper nutrition. **Regular check ups** with a Veterinarian are essential to making sure your dog is as healthy as possible.

According to the ASPCA, dogs should have an annual checkup or "wellness visit" with their Vet. This is even more important as they age, so talk to your Vet about whether such visits should become more frequent than annually.

The Vet will listen to your dog's heart and lungs, take his temperature and examine your pet's skin, ears, eyes, mouth, teeth and feel around internal organs.

The doctor may also order routine screening tests for early detection of problems.

Don't wait until it's obvious your dog needs medical attention. Regular visits help in prevention.

What to take to the Vet visit

Pet supply manufacturer Hartz® recommends a list of things to bring to the appointment:

- Your dog's collar and license tag.
- A leash and harness or small cage if appropriate.
- A muzzle if your dog barks excessively or bites.
- A favourite toy or a few treats, especially if your dog is anxious.
- Health care information if you're switching Vets or were seen by a different Vet since your last visit.
- Put medications, including vitamins and supplements, in a zip-lock bag to show the doctor.
- Recent stool sample to test for intestinal parasites.
- List of questions or concerns to ask.
- Insurance card (if you have pet insurance).

On the other hand...

90% of Vet Clinics test positive for E. coli!

That's because, as Veterinary hospital studies have shown, there is an increase in antibiotic resistance with common bacteria including E. coli.

Animals are more likely to become infected with various bacteria than people; they are closer to the ground, and will consume whatever is on it.

Some experts recommend that you avoid having your pet hospitalized, if at all possible, so that you'll lessen their exposure to the common veterinary pathogens.

From holistic Veterinarian, Dr Andrew Jones, DV ["The Online Vet."](#)

Traditional, holistic or naturopath Vet?

Alternative or complementary treatments are becoming more popular with pet owners, who can choose from traditional Veterinarians, or those who practice holistic and naturopathic medicine. **My personal recommendation is to start with a traditional Veterinarian, and ask his or her opinion of alternative treatments as a supplement to the basic care you get from that Vet.**

What's the difference?

You *can* combine traditional (called Allopathic), medicine with alternative forms. Most doctors are open to this concept.

Holistic or Naturopathic Veterinarians also have training in traditional Veterinary science; their specialties are in addition to that basic training, so you don't have to worry that you are turning your Morkie's health over to someone who is not fully accredited or knowledgeable.

Holistic and naturopathic practices are similar and may incorporate:

- **acupuncture** - treats patients by manipulating thin needles that are inserted at specific points in the body. According to Traditional Chinese medicine, this can correct imbalances in the flow of energy.
- **botanical medicine and herbal tonics** or *phytotherapy* . These 'drugs' are used together with other therapies, and can potentially benefit any pets who are chronically ill, debilitated or older geriatric patients who lack energy and vitality. **Ginseng** is probably the best known of tonic herbs.
- **chiropractic care** is concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disorders of the neuro-musculoskeletal system. Practitioners say that for dogs, chiropractic care can help repair muscles to allow the joints to move freely. Your dog's muscles are healthy if they are free of spasm, weakness, discomfort, knots or degeneration, which is especially common in elderly dogs.
- **homeopathy** is based on the principle that you can treat 'like with like.' That means that substances which cause symptoms when taken in *large* doses, can be used in *small* amounts to treat those same symptoms. The goal is to trigger the body's natural system of healing. An example of this is allergy shots, which are small doses of allergens such as pollen, injected to de-sensitize allergic patients.
- **massage therapy** is the manipulating of surface and deeper layers of muscle and connective tissue to enhance function, aid in the healing process, and promote

QUICK TIP:

Holistic Veterinary medicine

looks at the animal's life and doesn't just focus on symptoms.

Holistic Vets should be used *in conjunction with your regular Veterinarian*, not as a replacement.

Holistic treatments work best with long-term problems like arthritis. In medical emergencies, take your pet to your regular Veterinarian.

relaxation and well-being. There are a number of Canine Massage Therapist (CMT) Certification Programs available. You can teach yourself canine massage with books such as [The Healing Touch for Dogs: The Proven Massage Program for Dogs](#), by Michael W. Fox

- **nutraceuticals** are naturally-occurring compounds that come from animal and vegetable sources. Typically, they are rich in amino acids, antioxidants, fatty acids, minerals and vitamins. Common examples include **glucosamine** for arthritis and **antioxidant compounds** to help prevent cancer.

To learn more, check online with the American Holistic Veterinary Association (AHVMA) at www.ahvma.org

5 reasons to avoid 'natural cures' without a Veterinarian's blessing

Natural cures sound great and the lower price is a big draw. However, be sure to work with a holistic or homeopathic Veterinarian who practices both traditional medicine and alternative forms.

1. Holistic and natural medicines **often haven't been thoroughly tested** - especially those sold over the counter.
2. Regulating the dosage can be difficult, which is critical for a small dog like a Morkie. Using too little is almost as bad as using too much.
3. Your pet could be misdiagnosed and given the wrong remedy.
4. Herbal companies are not required to list their ingredients, nor are they regulated in the US or Canada, so how can you be sure you're getting what your dog needs?
5. Herbal supplements don't have to be naturally preserved, and don't need expiry dates on the label.

U.K. bans Vets offering homeopathic remedies



On November 2, 2017, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) called for a ban on Veterinarians offering homeopathic and alternative medicines in the U.K.

The RCVS defends their ban on homeopathy and holistic medicine with this statement:

"Homeopathy exists without a recognized body of evidence for its use. Furthermore, it is not based on sound scientific principles."

The argument between traditional and homeopathic approaches, has not been settled yet.

2. Routine exercise

Many owners underestimate just how important exercise is for their dogs. Even small dogs need exercise for both physical and mental health. Daily exercise will keep your Morkie physically *and* mentally healthy.

Without enough physical activity, dogs have excess energy that gets burned off through:

- **destructive behaviour** like chewing, digging and barking too much.
- **behavioural problems** like separation anxiety, hyperactivity, excitability, excessive night-time activity, play biting and rough play.
- **attention-getting behaviour** like whining, excessive barking and scratching.

Dogs who don't get enough exercise are more likely to bark at neighbours, dig holes in the garden and generally get into trouble. Is your Morkie acting up? Before you blame her, ask yourself if she's had her regular daily walks recently. It's amazing to see the correlation between exercise and good behaviour.

Many people choose a toy dog because they can't or don't want to walk a dog, but even the smallest of dogs benefits from daily exercise.

More exercise = better health and better behaviour



Without enough exercise, your Morkie could suffer from hip dysplasia and arthritis. If he is overweight, his joints, ligaments and tendons can be stressed.

PORKIE Morkies

Being overweight is a major factor in dog diabetes, respiratory disease, and heart disease.

How MUCH exercise?

What's the best exercise for a dog like a Morkie? Nothing beats a brisk, *leashed* walk. If you simply put your dog out in the yard, it's unlikely he'll keep up a healthy pace for any length of time.

Most dogs benefit from 30 to 60 minutes of exercise a day. Every day of the week. That can be good news for owners, since we can also benefit from more cardiovascular activity. If your Morkie is sociable, regular play sessions with other dogs are another great way to have a workout.

Psychological benefits of leash walking

Your Morkie will be better-behaved and calmer with regular walks.

Dogs need walks for both exercise and mental stimulation. They love to explore and sniff new areas of the neighbourhood, and a good walk on the leash assures them that YOU are the pack leader, not him.

Regular walks also help timid or fearful dogs build confidence and trust.

Dogs also need MENTAL stimulation

Like their wolf ancestors, dogs need mental exercise as well. Wolves had to hunt for all their food, raise their young, defend territory and be problem-solvers, just to survive.

Your dog needs some of those challenges. Stimulating toys are one way to engage your Morkie's brain, along with daily walks that allow him a little leeway to sniff and explore the environment. Games, training and chew toys can also provide a mental workout for your Morkie.



Just 20 to 30 minutes
a day for good health



More benefits of exercise

- maintains vital muscle tone.
- keeps your Morkie at a healthy weight.
- helps joint mobility.
- supports good circulation.
- helps to reduce digestive problems and constipation.

If you haven't exercised your dog much before this, start out slowly.

- warm up with 2 to 3 minutes of slow walking.
- add minutes to the walk gradually until you are up to your goal, between 30 and 60 minutes a day.
- remember, sustained jogging or running is not recommended for toy dogs like Morkies.

Other forms of exercise besides walking:

- play - throwing a ball or other toy to fetch.
- being (safely) outside with you when you're doing yard work.
- playing with other dogs; a dog park with separate area for small dogs could be an occasional alternative to the daily walk.
- swimming - Morkies are not natural swimmers, so never force your dog in. Toss a ball out a couple of feet into the water to encourage him to venture in a little deeper.
- off-leash hiking - staying close to you.
- running without a leash on a beach. (Rinse your dog's paws after visiting the beach to wash off irritating sand and salt water.)

Stop and smell... whatever

You want to make progress on your walk, but it's also good to let your Morkie stop and check out his environment.

While we are visual creatures, dogs are all about scent. While they are actively sniffing stuff out, they're also exercising their brains. Every bush, shrub, and light pole is covered in millions of interesting smells.

A walk where your Morkie can get his fill of both physical AND mental exercise, is the best of all worlds.



Too much exercise?

Signs include: panting, agitation, inability to focus, inability to settle.

3. Dental health

Care of your Morkie's teeth is so important it gets a big chapter all by itself. Why? Without good dental care (read "clean teeth") your Morkie's health is impact in a number of ways.

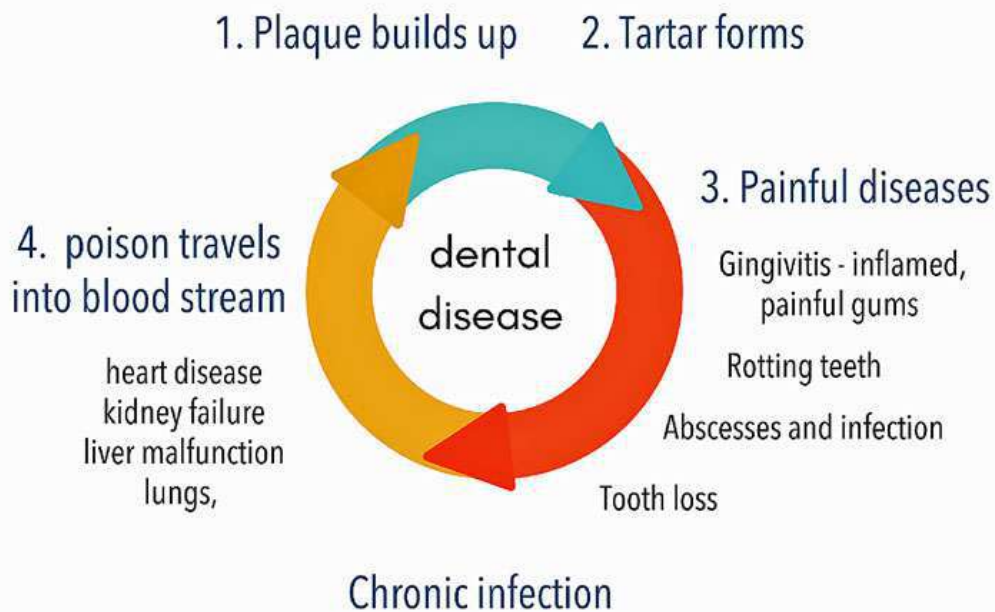


Your #1 goal is to keep the clear film called **plaque** from building up on your dog's teeth and turning into hard, yellow tartar. You can't get tartar off with a toothbrush. Now your Morkie needs to have dental cleaning at the Veterinarians. That means he has to be put under anesthetic, with all its associated risks, AND it's a **lot** of money.

If you just ignore it, you are literally—

- **shortening your Morkie's life**, because the ugly bacteria of dental disease eventually can make its way into the blood stream, where it causes permanent damage to vital organs like the heart and kidneys.
- **sentencing your Morkie to pain and suffering** from bad teeth. Pain he can't even tell you about.

What happens when you don't brush your dog's teeth



Plaque and tartar build up leads to a myriad of other health problems in dogs, *including heart disease*.

Unfortunately, small dogs have the worst teeth because they're jammed into the jaw so tight, there's no room for water or saliva to circulate between teeth, keeping them cleaner. And, of all small dogs, YORKSHIRE TERRIERS are renowned for very bad teeth.

How to care for your Morkie's teeth

Remove plaque with any or all of these actions:

1. brush - ideally daily, but at least every other day.
2. use one of the new plaque sprays or gels.
3. feed RAW bones, like chicken wings.
4. get his teeth cleaned at the Vet's when necessary.

Ignore your Morkie's dental care and his teeth can look like this, causing plenty of damage AND leaving him in pain he can't tell you about.



1. Brushing

To brush your dog's teeth, you'll need:

- **dog** toothpaste
- a small toothbrush, a special finger cap with little nubs on it, or some gauze. Any of these can be used effectively to clean your dog's teeth.



Little finger caps with brushes on them, are available to help you clean your Morkie's teeth.

DANGER - People toothpaste can make your Morkie really sick or even kill him. So pick one of the flavoured brands formulated specially for dogs. You can select natural or artificial flavours and Vet-recommended brands.

Top recommendations from online reviews:

1. **Petrodex Enzymatic Toothpaste for Dogs** - Petrodex products are highly rated in all categories.
2. **C.E.T. Toothpaste** - the number one best-selling dog toothpaste on Amazon. This is an enzyme based paste containing glucose oxidase which creates hydrogen peroxide in the mouth, chemically reversing and preventing tartar buildup.

How to brush

Lift your dog's lips and start gently brushing in a circular motion. Be sure to brush where the tooth meets the gum-line.

Don't forget to get the back teeth, since this is where your dog is most likely to develop problems. When you are finished the top, move on to the bottom.

Alternatives to commercial dog toothpaste

Some owners use simple baking soda or just water on the toothbrush to brush.

Others rely on raw bones to supplement brushing, and help keep their dog's teeth plaque and tartar free.

Some people do both, PLUS use a gel to help fight buildup.

The appearance of your dog's teeth will tell you which works best for you.

Help! My dog HATES having her teeth brushed!

Start out slow. At first, you may just get a couple of teeth brush; that's OK. Start by getting your Morkie used to having his mouth handled. Introduce the toothbrush once he's relaxed, and then add the dog toothpaste. Over time, your Morkie will see this as a regular event.



2. Plaque sprays, gels and wipes

These new products are formulated to mix with your pet's saliva to coat the teeth and mouth, killing harmful bacteria and loosening plaque and tartar.

Typically they contain holistic ingredients that work to kill bacteria:

- Grapefruit and grape seed extract.
- Thyme oil.
- Neem oil.
- Rosemary oil.

These products are not meant to replace brushing, although they could be a last resort if your Morkie absolutely, positively will NOT have his teeth brushed.

The results will depend on how closely you follow the directions, the age of your Morkie, and the current condition of your dog's teeth. You should notice a reduction of tartar and plaque between the tooth and the gum line and a reduction in redness within the first few weeks of application.

Products include:

- **plaque sprays** - use two or three times a day at first, then once a day. They work by stimulating enzymes already found in your dog's mouth. Popular brands include *Plaque Attack* and *PetzLife Oral Spray*.
- **water additives** - add to your dog's water every day. Ingredients in *some* of the products are troubling (see below)*. Others, like *KissAble Oral Care Water*, have simple ingredients like Aloe Vera and baking soda. Look for those.
- **gels** - are simply concentrated version off the water additive.
- **powder** - added to dry or wet food. *PlaqueOff by ProDen* is natural, made from seaweed.
- **dental wipes** - usually contain baking soda for mild abrasion. A popular product is *KissAble Dental Wipes for Pets*. (Make your own with simple gauze, wrapped around your finger and wetted. Rub along your Morkie's gum line to remove debris.)

Look for products that are *truly* natural

Look for an all natural, organic product. Check the ingredients yourself, don't trust the claims on the label. Terms like 'safe and natural' and 'all natural' are marketing terms and have no scientific or legal meaning. Their definitions are loose, and favour the manufacturer, not the consumer.

To find safe products for your Morkie, **read the label yourself, and decide**. You can always google the ingredients individually if you're not sure.

*Here are just some of the ingredients you don't want to see:

- zinc gluconate, a mineral zinc salt used as an anti-bacterial agent.
- CPC or cetylpyridinium chloride, is a chemical antiseptic found in some pesticides. This is a troubling ingredient since it should be kept well away from your pet's eyes and ears.
- chlorhexidine, another chemical antiseptic that's questionable for dogs. Reported to cause diarrhea in some.

NEVER use a product which contains artificial colouring or artificial flavours. Alcohol and xylitol are highly toxic for dogs.

Mutanase and *dextranase* are natural enzymes which can break down filmy plaque. They're safe to use.

FOR A FULL DISCUSSION OF COMMERCIAL VERSUS NATURAL DENTAL CARE PRODUCTS,
PLEASE CHECK OUT THIS BLOG: ottawavalleydogwhisperer.blogspot.ca

Do treats work to clean your dog's teeth?

Greenies, made by the Nutro Company, have been around for about a decade, and were designed to help keep the dog's (or cat's) teeth clean through mechanical abrasion. According to their [website](#), the company says Greenies are the #1 Vet recommended dental chews and are clinically proven to deliver "total oral health solutions."

Greenies and other dental chews like Dentabone®, Dentastix® and dozens of others, probably do help to keep your Morkie's teeth cleaner to some degree. However, they can cause problems for you and your Morkie:

- dental fractures.
- gastrointestinal obstruction.
- gastroenteritis (among other problems).

Dental sticks and bones can get stuck in your Morkie's windpipe or even in his intestines. Emergency surgery may be needed to get the treat out safely. Plus, they can be hard for small dogs to digest and can cause upset stomach and gas.

Antlers are particularly hard for small dogs, and can even cause fungal infections at the gum line. Cow hooves and even pigs ears, can also cause tooth fractures, and their cleanliness is often suspect.

Please see more about dental treats on pages 155 - 156.

For occasional doggy breath, minty products like *YipYap* or *White Bites* can provide some relief. These products work to mask any more serious causes of doggy breath. If it continues, look for the root cause.



3. Feed raw bones for good dental health

Dogs that eat lots of soft foods don't benefit from *natural dietary abrasion*. Soft foods include canned food, and also home-made food that's well cooked. Dogs on soft diets can end up with worse teeth and gums than dogs on natural, meaty, and raw diets.

Some of the best foods for cleaning your dog's teeth?

Raw meaty bones. These are excellent toothbrushes. Please note: these bones must be RAW. Make sure there is still some meat on the bone. Try raw chicken necks, turkey necks and chicken wings, small bones which are suitable to a Morkie's size.

- Raw bones are considered safe and digestible for most dogs. Because they can splinter, never use cooked bones of any kind.

Bones are safe as long as they have NOT been cooked.

Kibble and the Myth of Cleaner Teeth

One expert, Mike Sagman of the DogFoodAdvisor.com site comments,

"Imagine going to your dentist and being told to forget your toothbrush. Because all you really need for good dental health... is to simply eat a few crunchy tortilla chips every day.

And like magic... your teeth will be sparkling clean.

Sound absurd? Well, yes it is!"

What kibble does for teeth

While crunchy kibble can remove *some* of the plaque near the tops of a dog's teeth, it's completely ineffective within the critical zone near the gum line. And that's where plaque and tartar do their ultimate damage, causing cavities and gum disease. Therefore:

Dry dog food does *not* help create healthier teeth and gums

In fact, since most kibbles are loaded with a much higher carbohydrate content, dry dog foods may actually **increase** plaque and tartar levels. So kibble can cause more dental problems than it supposedly prevents.



Just as crunchy foods like potato chips, don't help clean our teeth, kibble doesn't help clean a dog's teeth either.

Dog dentistry

Dog dentistry was rare until the 1980s, when Veterinarians and dog owners became convinced of its benefits.

Reasons for dentistry for your dog:

- **Scaling and Cleaning** - If you don't clean your dog's teeth, chances are you'll have to get his teeth professional scaled at some point to remove the extreme buildup. That means anesthetic and a large expense

If you're cleaning your Morkie's teeth regularly, this scaling can sometimes be done without putting the dog under, reducing risks and keeping the dog calmer.

- **Dental fractures** - common in dogs, and must be treated right away if the tooth's pulp is exposed. This exposed pulp is not only painful, but also becomes dead tissue

(or necrotic as scientists call it). This in turn can lead to a painful tooth abscess, making a root canal necessary.

Dog orthodontics

No, it's not so your Morkie will have a perfect smile; Veterinary orthodontics ensures your dog's bite is healthy and that he can eat without pain.

Any corrections are limited to situations where the bite problems have caused the dog pain and discomfort.

Oral surgery

The most common kinds of oral surgeries for dogs are:

- **extractions** - unfortunately not all teeth can be saved and extraction is often the only choice. At least techniques have improved to minimize the pain and discomfort for your dog.
- **jaw fracture repair** - this is a fairly common injury after a major traumatic event like a car accident. Again, new techniques have improved our pets' comfort.
- **oral tumour management** - sadly, the same type of oral cancer that occurs in people, is also the most common type in the dog. Watch for lesions, sores, masses or swellings in your Morkie's mouth and report any to the Vet right away.



Lesions like this that indicate your dog has some kind of tumour or pre-tumour should be reported to your Vet right away.

What is Canine Periodontal Disease and how does it occur?

Periodontal Disease is a combination of infection and inflammation of the periodontium, the specialized tissue that surrounds and supports the tooth). After cleaning, a thin film quickly collects on the teeth; the film is invaded by bacteria within 12 hours (plaque). If this plaque is not brushed off completely within 3 days, it will mineralize into Calculus (tartar). Calculus must be professionally removed by scaling. Brushing alone will not remove it.

The pet's immune system reacts to the bacteria by causing inflammation. Some of the bacteria release toxins that create *additional* inflammation.

The tissues surrounding the teeth get caught in a war zone. The result is destruction of these tissues (bone, gum tissue and periodontal ligament). The only way to stop the destructive process is to professionally clean the area thoroughly (with scaling, polishing, root planing & sub-gingival curettage).



The cycle of plaque, tartar and inflammation gets worse until professional treatment is necessary.

4. Optimum nutrition: feeding your Morkie

Feeding your dog well is harder than ever today. That's because -

Pet food is today's Big Tobacco

Like cigarette makers in the 1950s and 60s, pet food manufacturers:

- lie to us about what's in their products
- use terrible ingredients
- spend tons of money on advertising
- ignore existing regulations without any penalty
- "regulate" themselves
- know full well that what they make is killing our pets

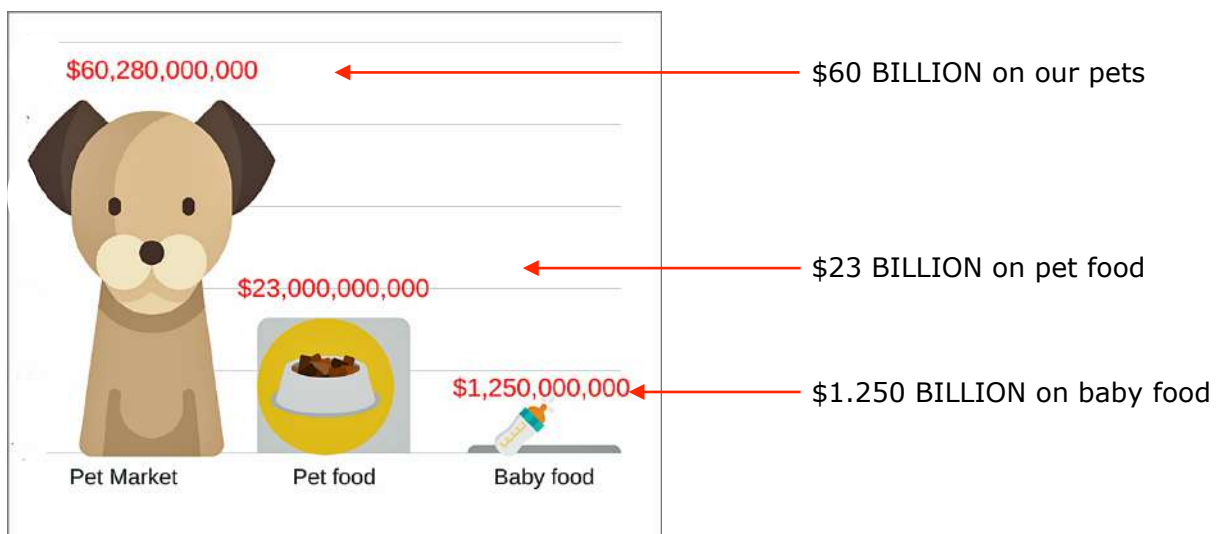
What's their motive?

Money.

The pet food industry is one of the most profitable in the world. And it's growing by leaps and bounds every year.

It is a multi-billion dollar industry, much bigger than baby food. In 2015, we spent **\$60.28 billion** on our pets in the U.S. Pet food alone represents \$23 BILLION in sales per year, compared to baby food, at \$1.25 billion.

How much we spend every year



Annual spending in the USA; 2016 statistics

It's all about marketing

With a market this size and tremendous profits to be made, it's all about the marketing of pet food, not necessarily *making* great dog food.

- there are hundreds and hundreds of brands on the market.
- competition is fierce.
- multi-national global corporations like Mars, the chocolate bar makers, are buying up local pet food companies, turning quality, small-batch food into factory production lines.
- packaging laws are either non-existent or just aren't enforced.
- manufacturers are allowed to use **rendered waste** in their products. More about that later.

The brands you know and trust are lying to you



How can these popular brands NOT be good for your dog? Well, they contain stuff that would shock you. Their packaging does **not** have to resemble what's inside; it's a kind of given in this industry and it's allowed.

Claims made such as *original*, *natural*, *prime cuts*, *tasty*, *organic* and more, mean **nothing**; there's no legal standard for the wording that describes pet foods.

Some of the most appealing and popular dog foods are the worst nutritionally. And they are the most secretive, from an ingredients standpoint.

Instead, vague terms cover up a host of grisly ingredients.

Take chicken for example.

You would expect a food that's called "chicken" and lists "real chicken" as a main ingredient, would include **chicken**. Not so fast.

The food can be made up of chicken by-products, which is essentially slaughterhouse waste. Beaks, heads and feet. But the picture on the left is the one that will appear on the package.

The difference between chicken... and chicken by-products



And it gets worse... gruesome products like these are allowed

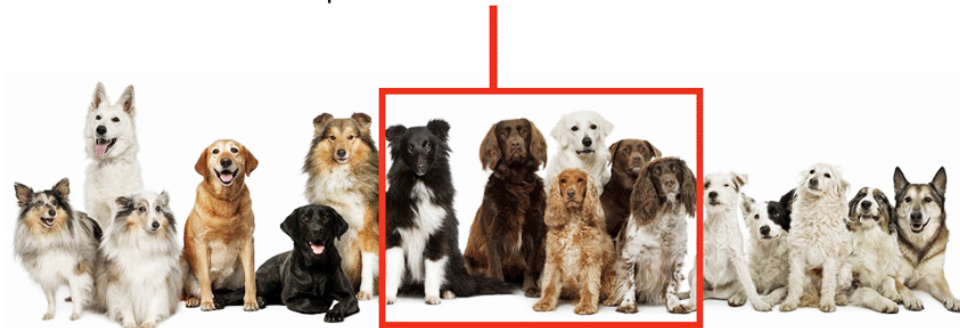


“But what about ‘complete & balanced’? Doesn’t that prove the food is OK?”

The industry runs feeding trials, but the trials are designed for **cattle** not dogs. Here is what’s required:

- At least eight dogs are fed the same diet for 26 weeks.
- During the test, 25% of the dogs (or two of them) can drop out.
- The remaining six dogs can lose up to 15% of their weight, and the test is considered successful.
- The dog food will pass the feeding trial and be labeled "complete & balanced."

As long as **6 dogs** in the feeding trial,
don't lose more than
15% of their body weight, the food
passes AAFCO standards.



The problem with pet food today

- **No one is regulating the industry** - No single group controls exactly what goes into pet food, and whether or not it is healthy and appropriate for dogs.
- **Conflict of interest is rampant.** Executives of food companies are on the board of the “regulatory organization,” the AAHA. Veterinary Colleges are sponsored by pet food and drug companies. Vets sell dog food.
- **There are no repercussions for companies who cheat and lie.**
- **Labels that lie.** Pet food labeling laws are full of loopholes that manufacturers exploit whenever they can, in order to increase their profits.
- **Three largest companies** control almost the entire market. To consumers, it looks like there are plenty of competitive brands; there are not.

Today’s scandal is even bigger: rotting meat, waste and scrap
and **dead dogs and cats in dog food.**

Feet, eyes, brains, rotten limbs, stinking carcasses. It all goes into dog food. Horrible as that is, lately there is something worse.

Independent labs have identified **Pentobarbital** in pet food. What does that mean?

- ➔ Pentobarbital is used only to euthanize household-size pets (not livestock).
- ➔ It is used only by Veterinarians.
- ➔ There is no other reasonable way it gets into dog food, except via the euthanized animal itself.
- ➔ Therefore, euthanized pets are used to make dog food. There's really no other reasonable conclusion.

An industry in denial

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) confirmed that Evanger's *Hunk of Beef canned dog food* contained pentobarbital. AND horse-meat. (Feb. 2017)

How it got there was apparently a "mystery" to the manufacturer, according to the headline in the industry's trade publication, *Petfood Industry*.

How can this be allowed, you ask? It goes back to the fact that no single organization or agency has oversight of the powerful pet food industry.

The **AAFCO** (American Association of Feed Control Officials) is not a government authority or inspection agency. It is made up of pet food manufacturers and industry volunteers. They are free to ignore recommendations from the FDA (the Federal Food and Drug Administration in the U.S.) and they often do!



**How
dead dogs & cats
end up
in our pets' food**

What pet food makers can no longer hide

The rendering process

Some truly revolting ingredients end up in pet food, thanks to a process called **rendering**, which crushes, blends and boils ingredients until you can't tell what's what.

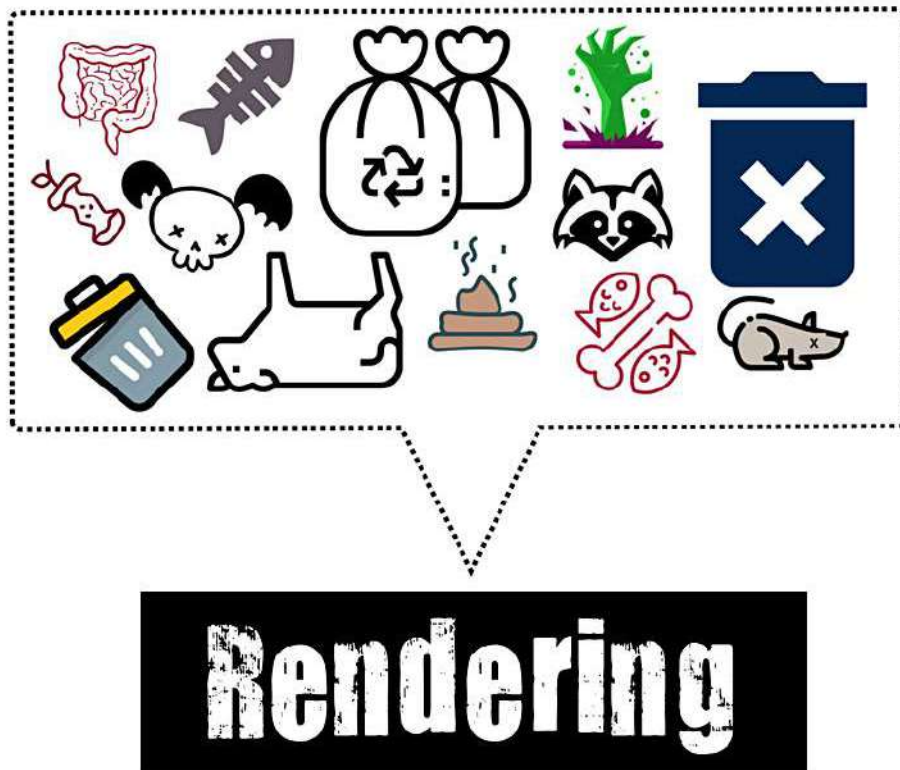
Rendering has been around since ancient times. It's a process of recycling food and general waste to make it useful for something else. That something else today, is often pet food.

So far, so good. Except that **quality control** is a huge problem. Anything that's deemed too disgusting or unsafe for human consumption - even for hot dogs - goes into the big grinders to start the rendering process.

This includes:

- putrid flesh - from dead¹, diseased, disabled and dying animals.
- parts of animals which are not allowed in our food, including hide, bones, the digestive system and its contents, brain, feces, udders, hooves, chicken beaks, even tumours.
- roadkill (which may have been drying in the sun for some time).
- rotten meat from grocery stores, styrofoam packaging and all.
- pets that have been euthanized at the local shelter, including their collars and tags and the sodium pentobarbital used to kill them.

“Rendering is like making a big, messy stew that’s purposely overcooked. **Everything** gets thrown in”



crushing > grinding > boiling > baking

¹ “dead” refers to any livestock that has died on the way to slaughter, not slaughtered animals.

Thanks to the rendering process, this waste is turned into valuable ingredients for our pets' food.

In cheaper foods, what comes out of the rendering plant is included in your dog's food as protein. It's called **meat by-products** and **meat digest**.

To avoid these ingredients, read labels carefully and don't pick any foods that contain the generic term "meat." Instead, pick a specific or named meat such as beef or chicken. And if that generic "meat" is a by-product, it could be *any part of almost any animal*.

All meat is not the same

Whether it's used in dry food (kibble) or wet (canned food), in the world of pet food, protein isn't that simple.

- There's **meat**
- There's **meat by-product**
- There's **meat meal**
- And there's even **meat by-product meal**

It should be easy to understand, when you read the label. But it's not. That's because the definitions of these terms are *owned and copyrighted by the pet food industry itself*. So understanding what these terms mean is tough. Unless you have \$300 every year for the industry's manual.



HUMAN GRADE FOOD

Let's face it - you'll never see this kind of meat being used in dog food. Especially at the price.

OK FOR PET FOOD

But that doesn't mean you have to accept gruesome ingredients like THESE in your pet's food.



How can this happen?

The industry itself defines what various terms like 'meat' or 'chicken' mean in pet food. And believe me, it's nothing like how WE understand meat, chicken, etc. One reason why is that, to the industry, this is animal **feed**, not food.

AAFCO - the Association of American Feed Control Officials - owns these definitions, as just mentioned. It even owns the copyright on every definition! BUT - their definitions are a *guide* for manufacturers, not rules or law.



Who regulates pet food?

In theory, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates pet food at the federal level in the United States,² under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the law). In practice, they leave almost everything up to the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO).



The problem with that:

- the FDA regulates pet food according to federal laws. Only it doesn't. The reason?
 - technically, they have authority, but the FDA claims it is overworked looking after *people's* food and drugs.
- the FDA has passed responsibility on to a non-government organization that has no power to enforce standards (that is, AAFCO).
 - Plus, that organization **is** the industry itself, made up of volunteers from several areas, including pet food manufacturers.
- AAFCO does *not*:
 - test food
 - approve foods
 - certify pet foods
 - enforce standards
 - regulate pet food production



Pet food regulation is a hot potato everyone wants to pass along.

² Other countries such as Canada and Great Britain, have similar regulatory structures. In fact, other countries work closely with their American counterparts.

State involvement

Regulation of *what* goes into pet food is mostly handled by those individual states that care.

Some states, such as Florida and Nevada, have no regulations at all. Some states allow bad stuff: for example, California allows rendered, dead pets in dog food, as long as it's labeled "dry rendered tankage," like the consumer can understand that!

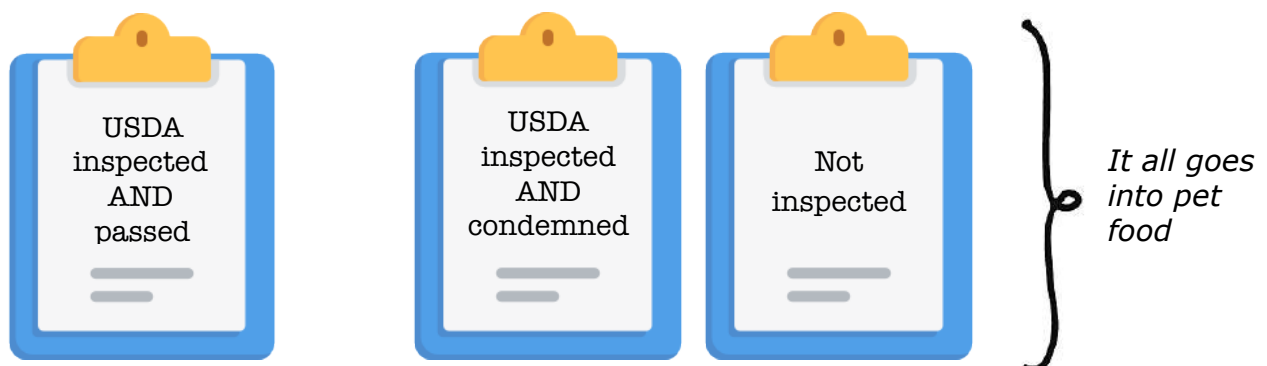
And more players...

- **The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has no authority over pet food, but it gets involved by offering a voluntary inspection of canned foods, through its Food Safety and Inspection Service.
- **The Pet Food Institute, (PFI)** established in 1958, is a trade group representing virtually all of U.S. pet food manufacturers. According to their website, it serves as the voice of the industry to Congress, state and federal agencies. (Not, we should note, the voice of the consumer, or the pet!)
- **American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, (APPMA)** also started in 1958. It's more of a commercial group that runs conferences and seminars about selling pet food, etc. Safety of food is not on their radar.
- Within the FDA, **the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)** is responsible for the regulation of "animal feed products." But only if that feed contains animal drugs or medication, which is rare with dog food.

USDA Meat Inspection

The United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) ensures that **meat**, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. This work is done through their agency, The Food Safety and **Inspection** Service (FSIS). But it's done for people only.

The problem for pet food, is that USDA inspection is **voluntary**. So dog food can be made with meat that has been:



The only way you can find out if the ingredients in the pet food you buy was inspected, or passed inspection, is by phoning the manufacturer and asking if their ingredients are USDA inspected and approved.

Even with all the official organizations involved, pet food is a shady industry. Why do I say that? Because of **Compliance Reports**, which wipe any and all rules for manufacturers right off the map.

The FDA's dirty little secret: Compliance Reports

To recap:

The Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act is **the law** that governs the safety of all food (ours, pets and farm animals).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is charged with **implementing these laws**.

The FDA writes its own **exceptions to the rules**, called "compliance policies."

You can see Compliance Policies on the FDA website. Compliance Policies are FDA decisions about what part of the law they are going to enforce, and what they are going to ignore.

Here's an example of one (CPG SE. 690.300 Canned Pet Food).

It says -

"Pet food consisting of material from diseased animals or animals which have died otherwise than by slaughter, which is in violation of 402(a)(5) will not ordinarily be actionable, if it is not otherwise in violation of the law. It will be considered fit for animal consumption."

Wait, what? According to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, **that's illegal.**

Exactly. It means that some of the most important aspects of the law, are ignored. Farm animals with HUGE tumours can be thrown into that dog food stew. So can road kill.

The FDA openly allows diseased meat and rotting animal carcasses into pet food...without warning you.



Compliance Reports = big fat lies and broken promises There are many more FDA Compliance Policies that allow filthy, contaminated ingredients, rodent and bird sh*t, and even industrial chemicals into pet foods.

When all is said and done, the pet food industry might *seem* to be regulated, but all the laws, regulations and rules in place can be ignored with no consequence to the manufacturers.

Just very sad consequences for our pets.

Protect yourself from a corrupt industry: read the dog food label

If you can decode the label, you're well on your way to providing better food for your Morkie.

All of the ingredients must be listed in order. Focus on the first five; this is where the bulk of the nutrition comes from.

Another way to judge the ingredients, is to look at what is above the fat line. For example, look at the ingredients in **Wellness CORE Grain-Free Small Breed Healthy Weight** kibble, a top quality product:

By either measure, we can see that this is a quality food.

TIP: check the first 5

Individual ingredients in dog food are listed in descending order by weight (pre-cooked weight).

It's the first 5 ingredients that matter most.



Ingredients above the fat line:

Deboned Turkey
Turkey Meal
Chicken Meal
Peas
Dried Ground Potatoes
Pea Fiber
Ground Flaxseed
Tomato Pomace
Chicken Fat

The first 5 ingredients

1. Deboned Turkey
2. Turkey Meal
3. Chicken Meal
4. Peas
5. Dried Ground Potatoes

Sign up for dog food recall alerts

You can sign up for free, no-obligation alerts when dog food, treats and other products are recalled. Here are 2 sources:

1. TEXT DogFoodInsider.com for alerts: Text **Recalls** to 313131
2. Dog Food Advisor offers email sign up: www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-recall-alerts/

Plus you can search on the FDA site to see if the food you buy has ever been recalled:

<https://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/safetyhealth/recallswithdrawals/>

Wet or dry - is there a difference?

Canned dog foods typically have much less grain and carbs than kibble, which needs these ingredients to bind the product together.

Canned food can have fewer preservatives, since the canning process takes care of that; however, canned food typically uses a lot of thickening agents such as carrageenan, which has been associated with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), acid reflux, and intestinal ulceration.

Most dog food cans today are lined with Bisphenol-A (BPA), declared a toxin in many parts of the world.

Kibble costs less per serving and is more convenient to use; however it's less protein-dense, so your Morkie must eat more to get the same benefits.

Whether you choose canned (wet) or kibble (dry), foods are compared by calculating out the water content.

Diet Rotation

You wouldn't want to eat the same food, day after day, year after year. Neither does your dog. Plus, no single brand is perfect. The answer is **diet rotation**.

It's simple. Every few months, slowly change your Morkie's food (dry, moist or canned) to another brand or another type within the same brand.

Do the changeover slowly, so you don't trigger GI upsets and diarrhea. Add about 1/4 new to the old food for a week, increase it weekly until it's all new food.

When the dog food contains MEAT

AAFCO says - Meat is the clean **flesh** derived from slaughtered mammals. Along with the muscle that's attached to the skeleton, "meat" is supposed to be limited to muscle, tongue, diaphragm and heart. Plus fat, skin, blood vessels and sinew.

AAFCO says "It shall be suitable for use in animal food." That doesn't sound so bad.

BUT a simple *FDA Compliance Report* can change all that. Now, that meat for our pets can include bones, beaks, feathers, hair, teeth, hooves, manure and blood.

In plain English: MEAT can be anything.

Named meat, like beef, chicken, lamb, salmon, etc.

The actual parts used aren't necessarily appetizing, like the esophagus, but at least you know the animal the meat came from.

Generic “meat”

This can be literally anything, including animals that didn’t make it to the slaughterhouse and died on the way (the infamous 4-D meats, dead, dying, diseased and disabled). It can be **road kill**. It can be dead cats or other dogs, picked up after they’ve been euthanized at the pound or shelter.

Always pick food with a *named* meat, such as beef, chicken, venison, etc. Avoid generic descriptions like *meat*, *poultry* and *fish*.

Avoid food with MEAT BY-PRODUCTS

Meat by-products can include organ meat, most of which is just fine for dogs. Lungs, spleen, brains, kidneys and liver may not be to our tastes, but they provide excellent nutrition for dogs.

HOWEVER, meat by-products can also include NON-MEAT ingredients such as horns, feathers, feet, hides, beaks, hooves and teeth. Ugh. They won’t even put this stuff in hot dogs and bologna.

Whether the meat is named or not, this ingredient should be avoided.

By-product meal should also be avoided of course; it is simply more highly processed forms of meat by-products.



A sample of chicken by-products: this carcass is covered in skin cancer tumours. It’s allowed.

Avoid by-products in dog food, especially generic “meat by-products.”

Avoid food with MEAT MEAL

Meal refers to an ingredient that’s been through the rendering plant or other high level processing. There is some controversy about whether or not we should be feeding our dogs meal, since it’s a lower quality protein, usually found in cheap dog foods. (The quality of protein is measured by scientists as “biological value” - the ability of the food to deliver protein’s ten amino acids.)

There are two kinds of meal:

- *Named meat meal*: beef meal, chicken meal, lamb meal, etc.
- *Generic meal*: meat meal, poultry meal, fish meal



The final product of rendering and drying: meat meal.

Meal is a highly concentrated protein powder; if it's from a named source, its acceptable, or just "OK," say many experts. Others are against named meat meal, because of the chance it can contain noxious ingredients.

Bear on mind, even though the meat is named, it could come from a carcass that failed USDA inspection. If it is called simply "meat meal," it can contain shocking ingredients, including intestines with feces, road kill, and more.

Although not the best quality protein, a named meat meal provides concentrated, affordable, cheap protein.

Avoid food with MEAT AND BONE MEAL

AAFCO defines this ingredient as "rendered product from mammal tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hooves, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents."

Whether it's from a named meat, or is generic 'meat,' the main drawbacks of MEAT AND BONE MEAL are:

- it's harder to digest.
- it's a lower quality protein.
- there is some scientific evidence linking bone meal to cancer.



In Meat and Bone Meal, there's no way to determine the amount of bone versus 'meat.'

Avoid food with "meat and bone meal" even if the meat is named.

Avoid food with ANIMAL DIGEST

Animal digest is a highly processed product that is used to flavour dog food that doesn't have much taste otherwise. Even when it is identified, for example Chicken Digest, the dog food may **taste** like chicken thanks to the digest, but it does not have to **contain** chicken.

Then why's it there? Manufacturers like Purina brag that their product is "highly palatable" or in other words, it tricks dog into thinking their food has a great flavour.

Avoid all dog foods with animal digest, including a named meat digest.

More ingredients to avoid

Avoid food with too many carbohydrates



Meat is a quality, complete protein. It contains all ten essential amino acids — nutrients dogs cannot live without. Plus, dogs can easily digest it, especially compared to plant proteins like corn or grain. But high quality, meat-based proteins are also the single most expensive ingredients in dog foods. So manufacturers use grains and other carbohydrates as fillers that also deliver *some* protein.

The problem is, dogs don't **need** corn, or wheat, barley rice, soybean meal, dried beet pulp and potatoes. Carbohydrates aren't necessarily *bad* for your dog, but they're just not needed for good nutrition. For a small dog like a Morkie, food with too much corn or grain can fill him up before he gets enough quality meat protein.

Kibble has to have some form of carbohydrate in the recipe to bind it together, but grains shouldn't be at the top of the ingredients lists.

Here are the first 5 ingredients in a popular kibble, **Alpo Prime Cuts Savory Beef Flavor**. As you can see there's virtually no 'meat' in this food.

1. Ground yellow corn
2. Corn germ meal
3. Beef and bone meal
4. Soybean meal
5. Beef tallow



Avoid dog foods with more than one carbohydrate in the first 5 ingredients.

Avoid foods with generic “animal fat”

Fats are a concentrated source of energy for your dog, and are vital to his good health. They help regulate the normal function of body cells and development.

An ideal diet provides about 10 to 15% fat. But as with meat, you want to see fats that are *named*, like beef fat, chicken fat.

Otherwise “animal fat” can come from other species, including road kill and euthanized pets. It can even be used restaurant grease! When fats come from the rendering process, they can contain who-knows-what.

Beef tallow, a product used to make candles, biodiesel and soaps, is often sprayed on kibble to disguise its flavour and is a definite AVOID among ingredients.

Always opt for a NAMED fat in your dog’s food, such as Beef Fat, Chicken Fat, and so on.

Avoid dog foods with a generic fat source, rendered fat or beef tallow.

Avoid food with artificial colours

Manufacturers use artificial colours to appeal to **us**, not the dog. There’s no valid reason for agents like Red #40, 4-MIE or Yellow #5, to be in pet food. More health-conscious brands may use natural ingredients, such as carrots, to enhance colour *and* nutrition.

Avoid dog foods with specific sources of colour such as Blue #2, in the ingredients.

Avoid food with artificial preservatives

There’s no getting around it – dry dog food needs preservatives to keep it from spoiling and going rancid.

For decades, manufactures have used a variety of synthetic chemicals to preserve kibble. They extend the food’s shelf life up to a year, but can also trigger cancer and other serious diseases.

The better brands have switched to healthier options for preserving dry food, like vitamins C and E — called *tocopherols*.

Avoid the following cheaper, dangerous preservatives in your dog’s food:

BHT - *butylated hydroxytoluene* is still used in our pets’ foods, even though it’s also used in making rubber, jet fuel, and embalming fluid.

BHA - *butylated hydroxyanisole*. This preservative has been called a time bomb, thanks to its proven connection to both cancer and reproductive toxicity. Besides dog food, it's an important ingredient in petroleum products and rubber.

Ethoxyquin - a controversial preservative that's also used as a pesticide! Ethoxyquin is banned from our foods, but is used in pet food despite its connection to liver damage and blood disorders. It usually sneaks in via poultry or fish meals, that are manufactured offshore.

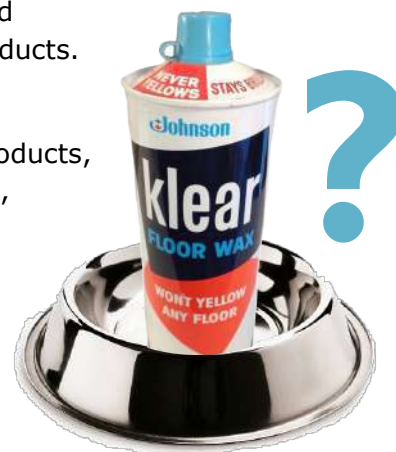
Propylene glycol. This chemical is similar to its much more dangerous cousin, **ethylene** glycol. Ethylene glycol can be found in highly concentrated amounts in automotive antifreeze and some windshield de-icing products. It's deadly for dogs; just 3 Tablespoons can kill a 20 pound dog.

Propylene glycol, on the other hand, is found in a wide variety of products, including "animal friendly" antifreeze, flavoured ice teas and coffees, packaged frosting and cake mixes, floor wax, commercial salad dressings, artificial sweeteners, deodorant and baby wipes.

That list doesn't give me great confidence that this is a healthy, non toxic ingredient.

In dog food, propylene glycol is used to keep moist foods fresh. (It's never used in wet foods.) AAFCO allows it in any quantity, and manufacturers like Nestle Purina claim it is completely harmless in small quantities. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta (the CDC) allows that it is **GRAS**, or Generally Recognized as Safe.

You can find propylene glycol in Purina's Beneful, some flavours of Purina Dog Chow, Bakers Complete Adult (a U.K. brand) and in many treats, including Pup-Peroni.



Avoid food with BHA, BHT, Ethoxyquin and PG (Propylene Glycol).

Avoid food with sweeteners

Sucrose, cane molasses, corn syrup, sucrose, fructose and glucose are just some names for sugars hiding in your Morkie's food.

Sugar is used for one reason: to make horrible dog food more palatable. Just like in humans, eating sweets can result in tooth decay, restless behaviour, obesity and diabetes.

Sugar *substitutes* like **xylitol**, are highly toxic to dogs. Sorbitol can lead to chronic diarrhea.

Avoid food with added sugars and watch for its other names.

See "Pick this, not that" in the Appendix to help you choose safe, nutritious food for your Morkie.

There's still one more hurdle

So you sort through the foods and find one that has actual meat, not meat by-products, meat meal or meat meal by-product.

There is one more thing to watch for. How MUCH of that protein is in the food, depends on exactly what it is called.

Straightforward BEEF for example, is a much better choice than "Delicious & Complete Beef Dinner." You might think the opposite.

That's because of these four rules, developed by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to try to standardize the naming of dog food.

What it's really done, is confuse things even more.



Naming Rules

The 95% Rule

The first rule requires that at least 95% of a product's pre-cooking weight must come from the named animal source, to be called *[MEAT] for dogs*.

For example, at least 95% of the ingredients in *Beef Dog Food* must come from beef. When two or more meats are named, it means that the combination of meats must total 95% of the meats.

The 25% or "Dinner" Rule

If the named meat makes up 25% of the product (not counting added water), then the dinner rule applies. It means a descriptor must be used, such as Nuggets, Formula, Entree, Dinner and so on.

The 3% "With" Rule

This really gets tricky - foods labelled "with" a named ingredient need contain just 3% of that ingredient. So *Dog Food With Beef* has only 3% beef, while *Beef Dog Food* must have 95% beef. Nice work clarifying food, FDA!

The Flavour Rule

This one is the worst - a food can be named something like *Beef Flavour Dog Food* and not have any beef at all. A specially trained testing dog must detect the flavour. What?!

When dog food has a simple name like

Beef for Dogs



It is following the

95%
rule

...which means it contains 95% beef.



Watch for named meats like chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, venison, etc. No other descriptors.

Example: Acana Heritage Dog Food - Adult Small Breed; Wellness Complete Health Chicken and Sweet Potato

When the name gets fancy, like *Dinner, Entree, Recipe* or...

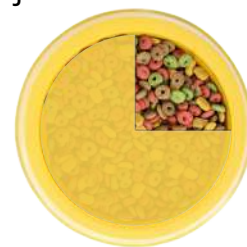
Tasty Beef Bites Dinner



It is following the

25%
or *dinner*
rule

...which means it is just 25% beef.



Watch out for foods with names like Dinner, Entree, Plate, Special, Diet, Plan, Bites, Morsels, etc.

Examples: Sojos Complete Beef Recipe; Beneful Chopped Blends with Beef; Kibbles 'n Bits Beefy Bits

Food that says **WITH** a name of meat, like...



Dog food with Tasty Beef

... is following the

3%
or *with*
rule



... and has just just 3% meat.

Look out for **WITH** before the name of the meat.

Examples: Pedigree High Protein with Red Meat; Iams So Good Wholesome Blends with Beef; Purina Beneful originals With Real Beef

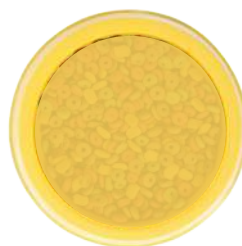
Food that say **FLAVOR**, such as...



Tasty Beef Flavor Dinner

... is following the

flavor
rule



... and doesn't necessarily have *any* meat, just the *taste* of the named meat.

Look out for **FLAVOR** with the name of the meat.

Examples: Ol' Roy Cuts in Gravy Country Stew or Dad's Dog Food (Dry); Cesar Savory Delights Angus Beef Flavor

So to sum it up, today's dog food:

- operates with the same morals that Big Tobacco demonstrated in the '60s and '70s.
- enjoys little regulation; and the regulations that do exist, are not enforced.
- is run by an industry that has a nice cozy arrangement of policing *itself*.
- uses ingredients that don't have to be truthfully named. In fact, the industry itself has defined and trademarked what their terms actually mean. Want to know more? You have to order a manual for \$300.

this means they can buy up rotting carcasses and scrap from slaughterhouses, and they can even use roadkill, used restaurant grease and euthanized dogs and cats if the label says "meat by-products."

- that picture of a steak on the can? Not a chance. Packaging is so dishonest, that a *Gourmet Deluxe Dinner with Beef* - can contain as little as 3% beef. And that "beef" can be hide, hooves and scrap, not actual flesh.
- ghastly as it is, meat by-products are at least protein.
- the rest of the ingredients can be useless fillers, like corn which is cheap, harder for dogs to digest and of limited nutritional value to a dog or, harmful additives sugar and preservatives.

It all means that now, more than ever, you must look closely at your dog's food label to see what's there - and what's missing.

The first 5 ingredients on a label tell the story. Below the 5th ingredient, the amount is too small to make much difference.

Let's look at some examples of popular commercial foods - these foods are presented as an example to show how you can read labels to understand the food you're buying. There are many more good quality foods than listed here, and unfortunately many more poor foods as well.

For a printable list of *145 things you don't want to see on a dog food label*, please see the Appendix.

DRY FOODS - not recommended, and why

You might be surprised to see so many well-known brands on this list.

Brand Example	First 5 ingredients	Comments
Alpo Prime Cuts Savory Beef Flavor	Ground yellow corn, corn germ meal, beef and bone meal, soybean meal, beef tallow preserved with mixed-tocopherols	Corn is a cheap filler that dogs don't digest well. Beef and bone meal is made of dry, rendered waste from beef slaughter. Soybean meal has some protein value but not as much as meat. Beef tallow is high in saturated fats.
Cesar Roasted Lamb Flavor	Lamb, chicken by-product meal, ground yellow corn, ground wheat, brewers rice	Lamb is a quality food, but chicken by-product meal is made from slaughterhouse waste. Corn and ground wheat are not well digested by dogs. Brewers rice is what's left over after rice has been milled.
Kibbles 'n Bits	Corn, soybean meal, beef & bone meal, whole wheat, animal fat (BHA used as preservative), corn syrup	Again, corn and soybean meal are inferior to a named meat. Beef and bone meal is made from slaughterhouse waste; animal fat can be from any animal, and is preserved with a toxic preservative, BHA. Corn syrup is actually the 6th ingredient but is worth noting: dogs don't need sugar.
Pedigree Pedigree Small Dog Complete Nutrition Roasted Chicken, Rice and Vegetable Flavor	Ground whole grain corn, meat and bone meal (source of calcium), corn gluten meal, animal fat (source of omega 6 [preserved with BHA & citric acid]), soybean meal	Corn is the first ingredient, followed by a mystery meat and bone meal; animal fat is also not from a named source plus it is preserved with BHA, believed to be a cancer trigger. Soybean meal has limited nutritional value for dogs.
Purina Dog Chow Little Bites	Whole grain corn, meat and bone meal, corn gluten meal, beef fat naturally preserved with mixed-tocopherols, soybean meal, poultry by-product meal	Again, corn is the #1 ingredient, followed by unnamed meat and bone meal. Corn gluten meal and soybean meal (lower nutritional value for dogs). Beef fat is a good ingredient. Poultry by-product meal is processed from slaughterhouse waste such as beaks and feet.

DRY FOODS - recommended, and why

Brand Example	First 5 ingredients	Comments
Acana Heritage Dog Food Adult Small Breed	Fresh chicken meat (12%), chicken meal (12%), turkey meal (12%), red lentils, whole green peas, field beans, chicken fat (5%).	Fresh chicken meat is an excellent source of protein, and chicken and turkey meals are an acceptable, concentrated form of protein. Red lentils and peas provide some protein as well as fiber. Chicken fat is high in omega-6 fatty acid.
Evanger's Grain Free Dog Food	De-boned chicken, sweet potato, chicken meal (a source of glucosamine), chicken fat, fish meal.	Chicken is a good source of protein and chicken meal is even more concentrated. Sweet potato is rich in beta carotene and dietary fiber. Fish meal is a concentrated form of fish protein.
Go! Fit and Free	Chicken meal, turkey meal, salmon meal, de-boned chicken, de-boned turkey, de-boned trout.	This food has a wide variety of quality proteins, used as meat or in concentrated form as meal.
Nutrience Grain Free - Grain Free Pork, Lamb & Venison Dog Food	Deboned Pork, Pork Meal, Lamb Meal, Green Peas, Lentils, Sweet Potatoes.	Deboned pork is a good source of clean protein. Lamb meal and pork meal are highly concentrated protein sources. Peas are a good source of carbohydrates, and like all legumes, they're rich in natural fiber.
Orijen Dog Food	Fresh chicken meat (13%), fresh turkey meat (7%), fresh whole eggs (7%), fresh chicken liver (6%), fresh whole herring (6%), fresh whole flounder (5%).	Fresh chicken meat is an excellent source of protein; as is turkey meat and fresh whole eggs. Very few carbs in the Orijen line.
Stella and Chewy's Raw Coated Kibble Small Breed	Chicken, chicken meal, chickpeas, peas, chicken liver, chicken fat.	Good quality chicken protein, along with its concentrated source (chicken meal); chickpeas and peas provide fiber; chicken liver offers more good quality protein.
Wellness Core Small Breed Formula	Deboned Turkey, Turkey Meal, Chicken Meal, Potatoes, Peas, Dried Ground Potatoes.	Turkey, turkey meal and chicken meal are all good sources of concentrated protein for your dog. Potatoes are a gluten-free source of carbs, easy for dogs to digest but limited value.

WET FOODS - not recommended, and why

Brand Example	First 5 ingredients	Comments
Cesar Classics Top Sirloin Flavor	Sufficient water for processing, beef by-products, animal liver, meat by-products, beef, chicken, chicken by-products.	Water is to be expected as the first ingredient in canned or cup food. Beef by-products are the waste from slaughtering cattle and can be any part of the cow. Animal liver is not identified as to <i>which</i> animal; same with meat by-products. That means this food could contain roadkill or euthanized pets. Plus, this food contains artificial colour and flavour.
Hill's Science Diet Small and Toy Adult Light with Liver	Water, whole grain corn, pork by-products, pork liver, soybean mill run, pea protein, corn gluten meal, powdered cellulose.	Water is to be expected as the first ingredient in canned or cup food. Corn, the second ingredient, is not well digested by dogs. Pork liver is a good protein. Pork by-products are slaughterhouse waste from pigs. Soybean mill run is the leftovers like empty husks, from milling soybeans themselves not a great source of nutrient for dogs.
Pedigree Senior Morsels in Sauce with Chicken and Rice	Sufficient water for processing, chicken, meat by-products, pork liver, animal plasma, wheat gluten, wheat flour, beet pulp, corn starch.	Water is to be expected as the first ingredient in canned or cup food. Chicken is a good quality protein ingredient and is second after rice. however, meat by-products are slaughterhouse waste and other waste, from unknown animals. This could include roadkill and even euthanized pets. Pork liver is good nutritionally. Animal plasma is blood, once the blood cells have been removed. And again, blood from what animal or animals?
Rollover Super Premium (Rolls)	Beef (heart, lung, liver & kidney), barley flour, oat flakes, sugar, salt, peas, carrots, flax.	Beef organs are the first named ingredient and are good nutrition for dogs. Barley flour and oat flakes provide limited nutrition to dogs. Sugar and salt! are poor ingredients and the sugar can skyrocket your Morkie's blood sugar levels.

WET FOODS - recommended, and why

Brand	First 5 ingredients	Comments
Blue Buffalo Blue's Stew (Canned)	Beef, beef broth, water, peas, egg, potato starch, carrots, guar gum, whole potatoes, natural flavor.	Quality beef and beef broth for optimum nutrition; peas deliver some plant-based protein; eggs are easy for dogs to digest as are potatoes. Guar gum is refined from de-husked guar beans and has a lot of fiber.
Evanger's Classic Dinners (Canned) - Lamb and Rice Dinner	Lamb, water sufficient for processing, rice, liver, guar gum.	Lamb is a quality ingredient. Water is to be expected high up on the ingredients, in a canned food. Above average protein and above average carbohydrates, although the liver source (species) is not named.
Freshpet Select Dog Food (Rolls) - Chunky Chicken and Turkey	Chicken, chicken liver, chicken broth, carrots, eggs, peas, brown rice.	Chicken, chicken liver and chicken broth are all good sources of clean protein for dogs. Carrots have fiber plus beta-carotene. Eggs and peas increase the level of protein, and brown rice is another source of fiber which also boosts the protein level of the food.
Go! Daily Defence (Canned) - Chicken Stew	Turkey, turkey broth, salmon broth, turkey liver, dried egg whites, potatoes, carrots.	Turkey is a good source of protein and the two broths are better liquid than plain water. Turkey liver is another good source of protein, as are dried eggs whites.
Merrick Classic Dog Food (Canned) - Grain Free Grammy's Pot Pie	Deboned chicken, chicken broth, potato, carrots, peas.	Sounds good enough to eat myself! Clean, named ingredients delivering excellent nutrition.
Newman's Own Organics Grain Free (Canned) - Turkey and Liver Dinner	Organic turkey, organic poultry broth, organic turkey liver, organic yeast extract, calcium carbonate.	This food contains quality protein in the form of organic turkey and organic turkey liver. Organic yeast extract is a good source of amino acids, vitamins, and minerals.
Wellness Core Dog Food (Canned) - Grain Free Turkey, Chicken Liver and Turkey Liver	Chicken, turkey, chicken liver, chicken broth, chicken meal, turkey liver, sweet potatoes.	What a great lineup - named sources of meat, not rendered and processed into by-products or meal or by-product meal.

Thinking of trying RAW food?

Switching to a raw diet isn't as difficult as you might think. But you may read a lot of information online that discourages you, or your Vet may be less than enthusiastic.

That's because it is in many people's interest to support commercial pet food. Manufacturers run massive public relations campaigns in favour of their cooked and processed products. Animal colleges are supported by pet food manufacturers and Vets themselves sell commercial food.

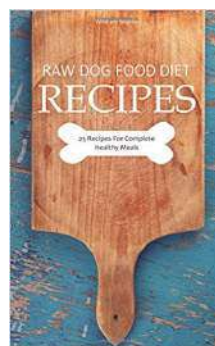
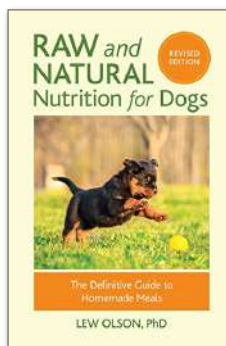
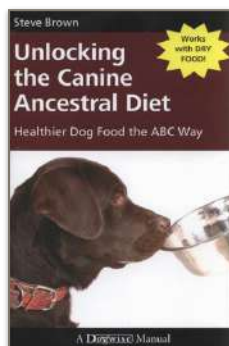
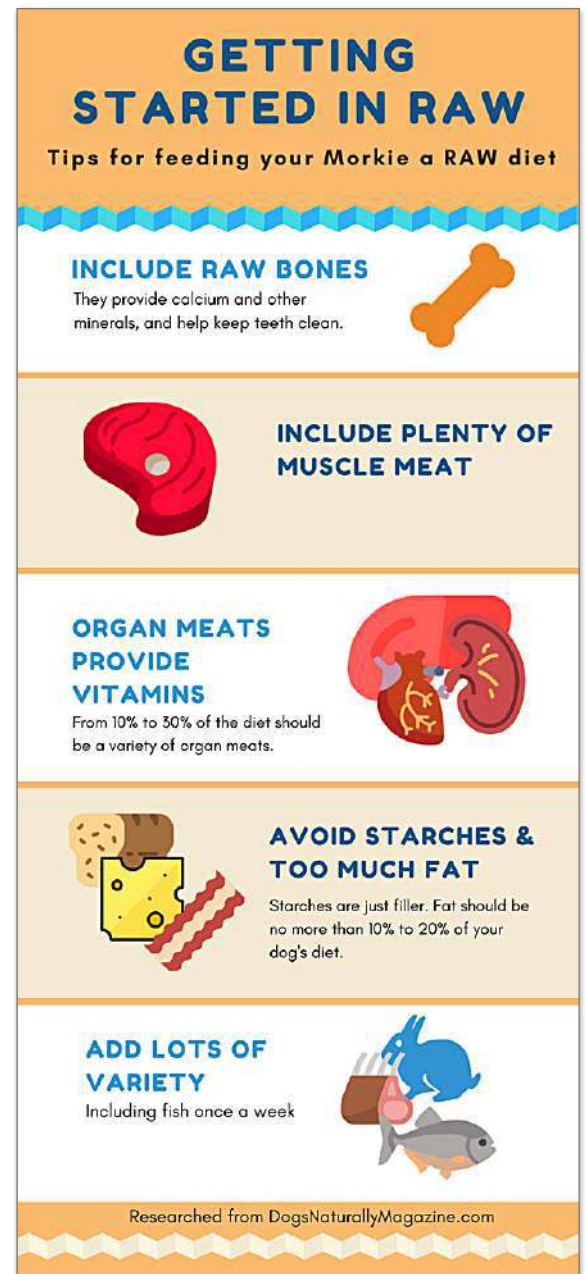
The RAW diet is more than simply our meat, served uncooked. It includes:

- plenty of raw bones
- muscle meat
- organ meats
- plenty of variety

More resources

If you're looking for information on how to start feeding RAW from another perspective, please check these resources:

- DogsNaturallyMagazine.com/starting-puppy-on-raw-diet/
- rawfed.com
- DogFoodAdvisor.com



Steve Brown's book Unlocking the Canine Ancestral Diet is an EXCELLENT place to start.

Raw and Natural Nutrition for Dogs by Lew Olson, PhD is another good choice.

Raw Dog Food Diet Recipes: 25 Recipes For Complete Healthy Meals by Whitney Bryson. Great resource.

Dog Treats

Fears for our dogs' safety doesn't end at commercial food - treats cause us serious worry:

- jerky style pet treats
- rawhide chew sticks
- commercial dog biscuits like Milk Bones (Del Monte)

Treats aren't part of a complete and balanced diet for your Morkie, so you might want to reconsider them altogether, or switch to safe alternatives.



Deadly Jerky Treats

Some 500 dogs and nine cats may have died after eating chicken jerky pet treats made in China, according to updated complaints logged by U.S. Federal Veterinary health officials.

Several years ago there was quite a scare in regard to the presence of arsenic in rawhides and melamine in China-sourced products.

These so-called treats also can contain:

- the three most dangerous preservatives, BHA, BHT, Ethoxyquin
- sodium nitrite, which is linked to cancer
- antibiotic and disinfectant residue
- e-coli and Salmonella, which can sicken the pets who eat it, and put us at risk simply by handling these contaminated pet products
- standard ingredients such as the preservative Sodium Metabisulfite, which is so dangerous that workers using it must wear hazmat suits³
- cancer-triggering agents like the airplane de-icer propylene glycol, and titanium dioxide, a food colouring usually used for paint and plastic
- unknown or falsified additives

Serious complaints have been levelled at virtually every brand of commercial treats:

- *Waggin' Train Jerky Treats or Tenders* (Nestle Purina)
- *Canyon Creek Ranch Jerky Treats or Tenders* (Nestle Purina)
- *Milo's Kitchen Home-Style Dog Treats* (Del Monte Corp)
- *Purina Busy Bones*
- *Simple Essentials Treats* (Hill's Science diet)
- *Pup-Peroni* (Del Monte)
- *Beneful Snackin' Slices* (Purina)

³ Sodium Metabisulfite (the preservative in Milk-Bones) is harmful if ingested or inhaled (as in sniffed). It reacts with WATER and acids (like those in your dog's stomach) to release toxic sulfur dioxide gas. It can cause life-threatening asthmatic reactions after ingestion as well as gastrointestinal, circulatory and central nervous system problems. from <https://goodnessgracioustreats.wordpress.com/2010/06/12/where%E2%80%99s-the-beef/>

A long history of recalls

Waggin' Train and *Canyon Creek Ranch Chicken Jerky*, both from Nestle Purina, have been recalled recently because of **dangerous antibiotic residue**. The antibiotics in question aren't approved for use in most countries, including the United States, but are OK in China, where pet food and treat manufacturers source many of their ingredients.

Del Monte's *Milo's Kitchen Chicken Jerky and Chicken Grillers* have also been pulled from shelves nationwide because of the same thing, along with *Hartz Chicken Chews Soft and Tenders* and *Hartz Oinkies Pig Skin Twists*.

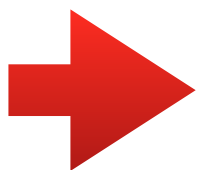
Breeder's Choice Pet Food has issued a voluntary recall for a single batch of *Active Care Biscuits-Healthy Dog Treats* due to the **presence of mold**.

Strippin' Chicks Pet Treats by Diggin' Your Dog has been recalled because of concerns about **Salmonella poisoning**. Other snacks recently pulled for the same concerns include *Nutri-Vet's Chicken Jerky Dog Treats*, all pigs ears, chicken chips, hip and joint beef jerky -- anything made by *Kasel Dog Treats* - and sold at Costco, Target, Petco and many other locations. This includes *K9 Jerky Treats* and *Boots and Barkley Jerky*.

Sadly, the FDA has backed off full-out war against these lethal treats, and has said:

"We know that the illnesses and deaths reported are most often, but not always, linked to jerky pet treats sourced from China. Pet owners should be aware, however, that manufacturers are not required to list the country of origin for each ingredient used in their products."

— <https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/ucm360951.htm>



That's right - pet food and treats can say "Made in America" as long as the *ingredients* themselves (which can be sourced anywhere in the world) are ASSEMBLED here.

Who needs it!

Besides their obviously harmful, toxic ingredients, treats can also contain sugars, mysterious meat by-products, animal digest, corn and other ingredients dogs don't need.

Most commercial biscuits are all starch and sugar



Commercial dog biscuits you buy in the grocery store are almost entirely potato, tapioca, GMO wheat, corn, rice or another grain. So they deliver too many calories, little nutritional value and can trigger allergies.

Plus, gluten and GMOs (genetically modified foods) can irritate the bowel and wreak havoc with the immune system.

Some brands have so much sugar, they've been compared to cereals for kids like Lucky Charms. *Milk Bones Essential plus Oral Care*, for example, lists sugar as a third ingredient. This is a product that's supposed to *help* a dog's teeth.

Rethinking rawhide

We give our dogs treats made from rawhide to satisfy their need to chew, and to keep them busy. Chewing can relieve anxiety. Rawhide is even supposed to be good for teeth.

And... we give our dogs rawhide because they LOVE it! But, rawhide treats are dangerous, even deadly.



What are the dangers with rawhide for dogs?

1. **Toxic ingredients.** They are so contaminated that both the Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA⁴ classify them as dangerous, in the same category as *pesticides* and *cleaning chemicals*. Between 2008 and 2011, there were 6 major FDA recalls of rawhide due to Salmonella and e-coli infection.⁵

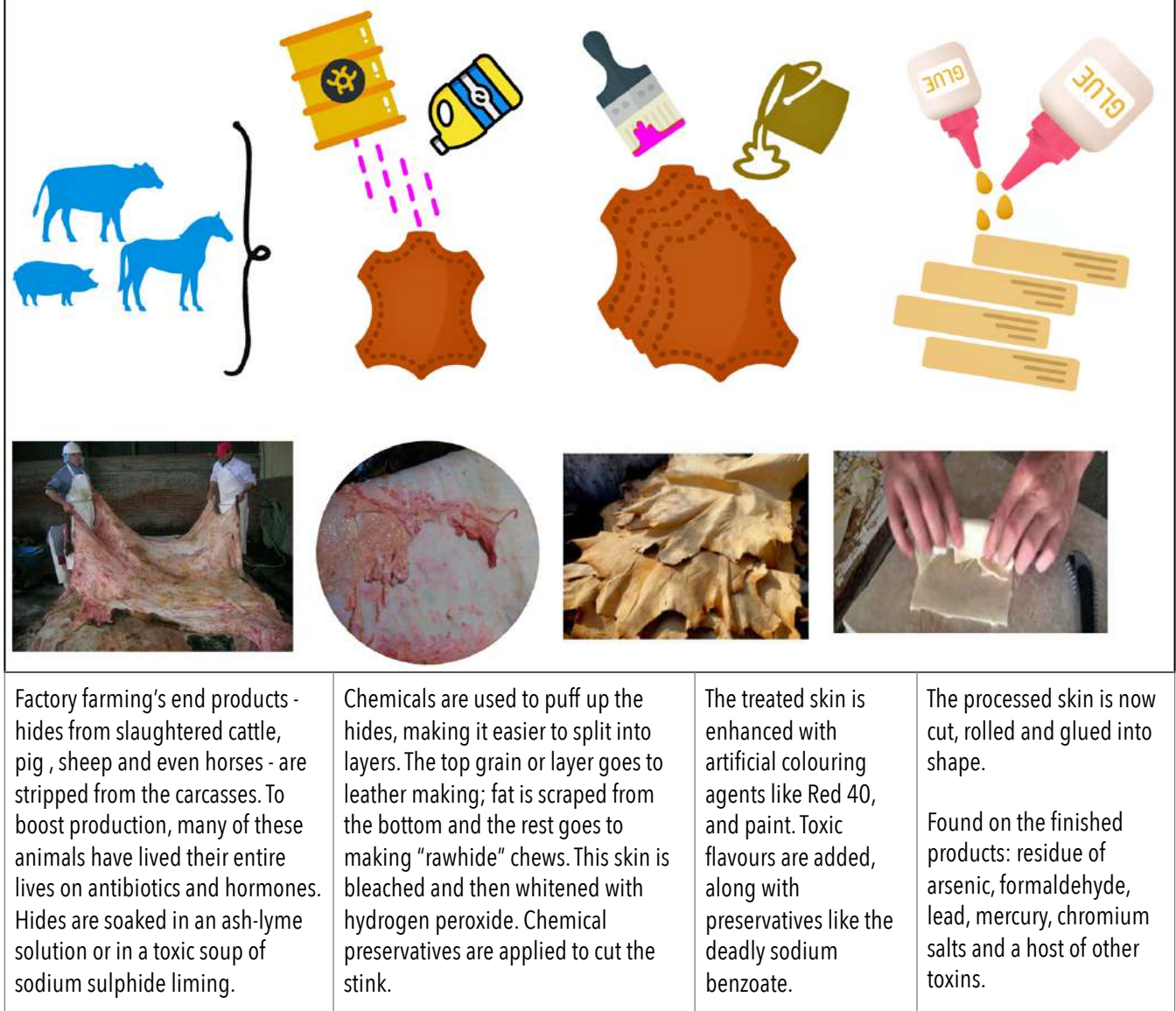
Rawhide chews can cause acute pancreatitis, which can vary from mild gastrointestinal upset to collapse and death! And for dogs with sensitive digestive systems, rawhide can trigger diarrhea, vomiting, gagging and other upsets.

2. **Serious choking hazard.** Once your Morkie has chewed one for a while, the rawhide stick gets slippery and slimy. It could choke him, or get caught in his throat or intestines. In some cases, the sticks twist in the intestines, which means emergency surgery is ready.

⁴ American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

⁵ EmbracePetInsurance.com

Making rawhide chews



How rawhide chews are made

Rawhide is a misleading name, because the stuff is highly processed, not raw. It's not hide, it's a layer below. And it's not even food - it's a by-product of leather tanning.

Hides usually come from factory-farmed cattle, which are filled with hormones and antibiotics. But the hides can also come from other animals such as pigs, sheep and even horses.

When hides are processed, they are scraped of all flesh, and the hair is removed with heavy duty, poisonous chemicals used in tanneries:

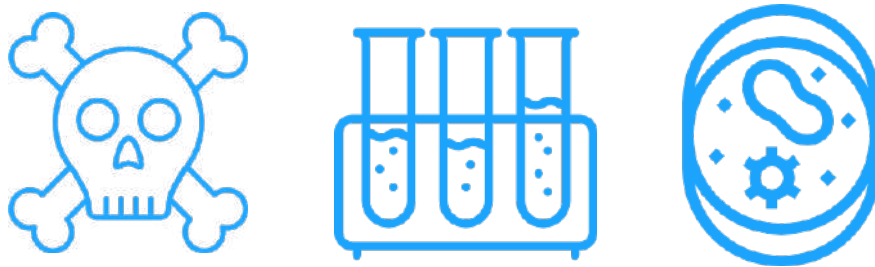
- hydrogen peroxide and bleach,
- preservatives like sodium benzoate;
- traces of lead, insecticides,
- even arsenic or formaldehyde.

The hide is then split and the top layer goes on to become leather. The next layer of mushy raw skin, begins a journey to become rawhide treats. Fat on that skin has been removed to use in dog food.

The skin is spun in circles and dried into rolls or shapes. Most chews have glue holding them together. The light coloured, 'natural' look chews are bleached and soaked in hydrogen peroxide and bleach. Darker ones are smoked and coated with artificial colours and flavours.

According to Whole-Dog-Journal.com some rawhide is even "painted with a coating of titanium oxide to make it appear white and pretty on the pet store shelves."

In the most disgusting expose of all, it was found that some rawhides contain the skin from dogs. This is not an urban myth!



An investigation by Humane Society International stated,

"In a particularly grisly twist, the **skins of brutally slaughtered dogs in Thailand are mixed with other bits of skin to produce rawhide chew toys for pet dogs**. Manufacturers told investigators that these chew toys are regularly exported to and sold in U.S. stores." -- *The Humane Society*⁶

Dental Sticks

They can be made with the same grain-based garbage as other treats, along with high levels of salt and sugar. They're harder for your Morkie to digest, and there's no real evidence that they help his teeth much. The Dentastix brand, made by Pedigree, is an example of products that can contain questionable ingredients:

- sodium tripolyphosphate - a preservative used to make detergents.
- smoke flavour - can cause, duh, cancer.
- meat and animal derivatives - remember dog foods with meat by-products? Yes, that's right, this includes things like chicken beaks, feathers and feet and worse.
- poultry flavour - what poultry? This spray-on stuff is made without actual meat.

⁶ <https://thebark.com/content/dangers-rawhide-dog-chew-toys>
<http://theleadernews.com/dear-tabby-are-rawhide-chews-getting-a-raw-deal/>

Greenies by NUTRO

Greenies can be a serious choking hazard for small dogs like Morkies. It's too easy for them to get lodged in the dog's intestines or throat, and they don't break down quickly. Dogs may love them, but you should avoid them.

In 2006, CNN investigated consumer complaints about Greenies. Over a 3-year period, they uncovered 40 cases in which Veterinarians extracted Greenies that had become lodged in the dogs. Sadly, 13 of those dogs died.

The fact is, NUTRO has been trying to fix problems with their product for years -- first in 2006 by clarifying usage instructions, followed in 2007 by a reformulation which was supposed to make the chews easier to swallow and digest.



Chew TOYS can be dangerous too

Pick chew toys made from a quality rubber, not PVC-laden vinyl. Ropey pull toys are often made with toxic dyes and are notorious for becoming entangled in the intestines.

Using Nylabone? Be vigilant if you have a larger dog in the home. Big dogs can sometimes work pieces — the 'nubs' of the Nylabone off. The the smaller dog can eat these pieces causing serious complications.

Why not try raw, uncooked meaty bones?

They're much better for your dog and will do a great job on cleaning his teeth.

Do supervise your Morkie with raw bones, at all times. Anything can be a choking hazard.

Don't be alarmed when your dog eats the entire bone; it's good for him and is entirely digestible. Raw bones are rich with minerals such as calcium and phosphorus.

Do use thinner, lighter bones such as chicken necks. Be careful there's not too much fat on the bone.

NEVER COOK BONES before giving them to your Morkie. Cooked bones can break teeth, obstruct your dog's bowel and puncture his insides.

Alternatives to mass market, commercial treats

If you're looking for a treat during training, a tiny amount of your Morkie's regular kibble can be used. Or try a fresh carrot or piece of apple.

And there are several quality commercial treats available:

- Stella and Chewy's Raw Carnivore Crunch Beef Recipe
- Zuke's Mini Naturals Fresh Peanut Butter Formula Dog Treats (semi moist)
- Canidae's Pure Heaven Grain-Free Salmon and Sweet Potato Biscuits (baked)
- Blue Buffalo Health Bars Baked with Chicken
- Orijen Original Dog Treats
- Dogswell Super Boost Squares Chicken with Cranberry Treats
- *Wellness CORE Marrow Roasts Natural Grain-Free Dog Treats*

Single-ingredient treats without all the harmful additives, are a good way to go. They don't contain the additives, preservatives, grains and gluten. One example is freeze-dried liver snaps.

Hard to believe, but Jerky Treats from China are back!

Starting in 2007, thousands of dogs became ill or even died, thanks to **jerky dog treats imported from China**. The FDA 'investigated' literally thousands of consumer complaints, but never came to a conclusion, after 11 long years.



Now the website TruthABoutPetFood.com is receiving reports of sudden illness and deaths from pets who have eaten **Walmart's Golden Rewards Chicken Jerky**. The only indication this product is made in China, is a tiny line on the back of the package at the bottom.

So please be warned: these deadly 'treats' are back.

Beware!

What to look for in treats

- no artificial preservatives and dyes
- no meat by-products or meat meal
- no treats with corn, wheat or soy fillers
- no added sugars or other sweeteners



Read labels for:

Single-ingredient treats without all the harmful additives. One example is freeze-dried liver snaps.

Worst place to buy treats and toys:

The Dollar Store

Part Five: Keeping him healthy

Hypoglycemia and your Morkie

Hypoglycemia or low blood sugar can be a temporary problem in toy puppies, or a permanent concern with adult toys that are very small. Their tiny livers aren't able to store enough glucose, or blood sugar, for long.

What is hypoglycemia?

It's a **sudden drop in blood sugar levels**. The brain requires glucose (blood sugar) for normal functioning, and unlike many other organs, the brain has a limited ability to store glucose. So, the brain is the organ that is most affected when blood sugar gets too low.

The result can be fatal; however, when it's caught right away, it is completely treatable.

Feeding your Morkie puppy, or small Morkie adult (4 lb. or under) 4 or 5 times a day, is a good way to reduce the chances of a Hypoglycemic attack.

Signs of hypoglycemia?

Listlessness is often the first sign of hypoglycemia. In many cases, the dog will then begin to shiver or tremble.

- your dog will suddenly go limp
- breathing gets shallow
- gums may turn pale pink
- may vomit some green bile or a foamy liquid
- unsteady, shaky appearing 'drunk' walking
- drowsiness, shivering, collapsing, disorientation, seizures, listlessness, depression, muscle weakness and tremors.

Seizures are a common symptom of hypoglycemia in toy dogs.

Often, a hypoglycemic attack is preceded by some type of stress. Common examples include teething, weaning, a change in environment, vaccinations, over-handling or even playing too hard.

Treatment

- * be prepared and **keep corn syrup on hand** -- Rub it on the dog's gums, under the tongue, and on the roof of the mouth at the first sign of symptoms.
- * **warm the dog against** your body or use a hot water bottle

Your Morkie should revive quickly. If not, call the Vet immediately - your dog is in serious danger. Let the Vet know that you have a hypoglycemic dog.

Neutering and spaying

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. - and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, 4 to 6 million animals are euthanized every year in the USA.

Rule #1: male *or* female, think neuter

Pets do not psychologically associate themselves as *male* or *female* in the same way people do. So there is nothing traumatic or personality changing about spaying and neutering. Many people fear that a pet's behavior may change after, but any changes will be for the better.

Besides the number of unwanted pets euthanized each year, what are some other reasons to ensure your dog is neutered or spayed?

Neutering your pet will eliminate some common causes of cancer in dogs, namely breast, uterine and testicular cancers. When those organs are removed, it's pretty clear they can't be the site of deadly diseases.

Spaying your female can also reduce the incidence of uterine infections such as *Pyometra* (abscessed uterus), which can quickly kill a small dog.

Reduce the
risk of
cancer

Castrating a male reduces the risk of prostate and testicular cancer. Plus, your Morkie is less likely to develop unwanted behaviours such as marking, sexual aggression, and mounting. Neutered males are also less likely to escape, roam, or fight with other dogs.

More than
4,000,000
pets are
euthanized
every year

Are you procrastinating because you think you might want to have a litter? There are more than plenty of dogs in the world.

Cut down on frustrating urges for your pet. A dog that isn't neutered, be it male or female, spends its whole adult live dealing with natural urges to procreate. The result can be a frustrated, overwrought animal.

Cut down on
your pet's
frustration

What is “fixing” your Morkie?

Spaying and neutering are surgical procedures which make your pet unable to reproduce because its reproductive organs are removed.

Neutering is often used when speaking of males

Spaying for females.

Slang for both is “**fixing**” your dog.

What is spaying?

Spaying is the surgical removal of the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes. Under general anesthesia, an incision is made in the abdominal wall, the organs are removed and the incision is sutured.

The surgery can be performed using a traditional open approach or by *laparoscopic keyhole surgery*. Open surgery is more widely available since keyhole surgery setup costs are expensive.

While a spay is often considered to be a routine surgery, the procedure is not without risk. Complications are uncommon. As with any surgical procedure, however, risks include anesthesia reaction, excessive bleeding, bruising and infection. Some dogs will develop hormone-related urinary incontinence, but this is also uncommon. Overall, the prognosis for a full recovery is excellent in healthy patients.

What is neutering?

Neutering or castration is the removal of the male dog's testicles through an incision made in the animal's scrotum, often performed on male puppies around the age of six months (sometimes earlier).

Dogs are typically neutered in order to eliminate the possibility of reproduction and hormone related behaviors like marking. Neutering dogs reduces the risk of prostate cancer and various testicular diseases.

While neutering is considered routine surgery, the procedure is not without risk. Complications are uncommon. As with any surgical procedure, risks include anesthesia reaction, excessive bleeding, bruising and infection. Overall, the prognosis for a full recovery is excellent in healthy patients.

When is the best time to spay or neuter?

Females and males should be spayed or neutered by 6 months of age - this early age ensures they can't reproduce as they enter puberty.

Some clinics are performing surgeries on animals as young as 8 weeks of age. Older animals can be done any time, as long as they are in good health.

Spaying and neutering myths

<i>The Myth</i>	<i>The Reality</i>
It's too expensive.	<p>Many people want to have their pets spayed or neutered, but when they find out how much it costs, they decide they can't afford it.</p> <p>There are many shelters, veterinarians, and organizations who are ready and able to help financially if you can't afford neutering or spaying. Check at your local Humane Society for more information.</p>
It's better to have one litter before spaying a female.	<p>Many people believe that female dogs and cats are healthier if they are allowed to have one liter before being spayed. <u>THIS IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE</u>. According to the United States Humane Society, there is medical evidence that pets are actually healthier if they are spayed <i>before</i> coming into heat or being allowed to have any litters.</p>
Females need their ovaries to be healthy.	<p>Absolutely not true - in fact, the extra estrogen can stimulate cancer among other problems.</p>
I'm worried about my Morkie undergoing anesthesia.	<p>Although there is always a slight risk involved, the anesthetics currently used by Veterinarians are safe.</p> <p>Most Vets use equipment that monitors heart and respiratory rates during surgery to ensure that their patients are doing well under anesthesia. So the medical benefits of having your pet spayed or neutered far outweigh the slight risk involved with undergoing anesthesia.</p>
I want my children to experience the miracle of birth.	<p>The miracle of birth is quickly overshadowed by the thousands of animals euthanized in animal shelters in communities all across the country. Teach children that all life is precious by spaying and neutering your pets.</p>
I don't want my male dog to feel like less of a male.	<p>Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change your Morkie's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.</p>
My Morkie will get fat and lazy.	<p>The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise.</p>
But my Morkie is so special, I want a puppy just like her.	<p>Your pet's puppies or kittens have an unlikely chance of being a carbon copy of your pet.</p>
I'll find good homes for all the puppies.	<p>You may find homes for your new pups. But you can only control what decisions you make with your own pet, not the decisions other people make with theirs.</p>

Shopping for a dog spay or neuter:

- **Tip:** Find out which type of anesthesia is used and whether the dog is hooked up to a heart monitor during surgery. CanisMajor.com has a list of questions to ask.
- To find a good Veterinarian, ask fellow dog owners, breeders or humane associations. Or, search the [American Veterinary Medical Association](http://AmericanVeterinaryMedicalAssociation) website to find your state's Veterinary medical association for a referral.
- Ask the Veterinarian how long he or she has been practicing, and how much continuing education he or she receives per year. Then, tour the clinic to check cleanliness, attitude and clinic policies and prices. VeterinaryPartner.com offers guidelines on how to find a Vet and which questions to ask a Veterinarian.

from pets.costhelper.com/spay-neuter-dog.html

What to expect after your Morkie has been neutered or spayed

Your Veterinarian will provide you with the information you need, and tell you what to expect when you take your dog home after the procedure.

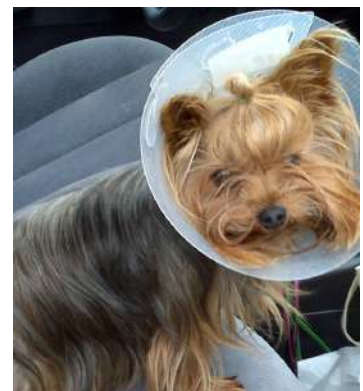
For males: this is often a day procedure; so you bring your male Morkie in to the Vet's in the morning and pick him up late in the day.

For both males and females: Your Morkie will be groggy and even a bit confused. Chances are he will also be quite tired.

Follow your Vet's advice to the letter - including what to feed your Morkie after the surgery. You may receive:

- pain pills.
- antibiotics to stave off any infections.
- an "Elizabethan Collar" for your dog so he won't lick at the incision.

For females: because the procedure is more complicated, your Morkie may stay overnight at the Vet's. When you pick her up, she's likely to be groggy and disoriented, and will need to be kept quiet at home.



This "Elizabethan collar" from your Veterinarian prevents your Morkie from licking at wounds or trying to remove stitches.

Always follow your Veterinarian's directions to the letter - if you have a question or concern, just ask!

Keeping pests and parasites at bay

The agony caused by fleas

Whether it's **fleas, mites, ticks or worms** -- finding parasites can be disturbing. But don't worry, nearly all dogs have worms at some point in their lives, and most will get a case of fleas too. With quick treatment and follow up care, you'll conquer these yucky problems.

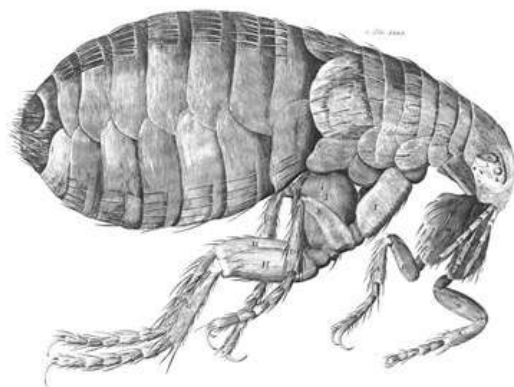
“They are wingless, with mouthparts adapted for piercing skin and sucking blood.”

- Wikipedia “Fleas”

A new creature from Anne Rice? Something out of a sci-fi nightmare?

No - it's **fleas!**

Fleas are more than a nuisance. In the Middle Ages, the Oriental Rat Flea carried the bubonic plague or Black Death, one of the most devastating pandemics in human history. The Black Death killed an estimated 75 million–200 million people in the 14th century -- up to 60% of the world's population!



Robert Hooke's spectacular drawing of a flea, thanks to the then-new microscope, was published in 1665.

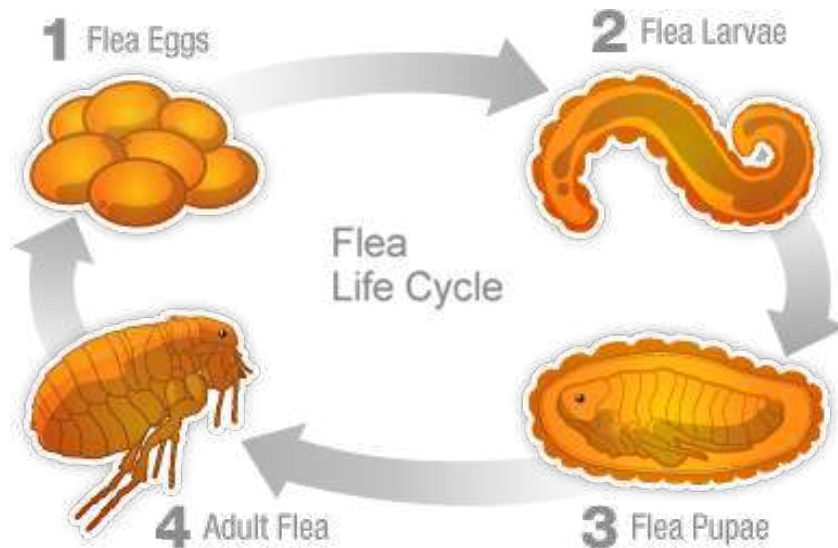
More things to blame on the flea:

Besides the Black Plague, blame fleas for:

- **Skin Infections:** "Hot spots" are frequently seen in animals with flea infestations. Hot spots can pop up from intense scratching and licking, which can take the hair right off, leaving a raw, red spot.
- **Tapeworms:** Fleas are an essential link in the life cycle of the **tapeworm** that infects dogs and cats. Fleas are the 'intermediate host' or go-between. They're infected with the tapeworm larvae - dogs ingest the flea and that larva hatches into a full blown tapeworm, attaching to the pup's intestines.
- **Anemia:** A pet heavily infested with fleas can lose a significant portion of its circulating blood. This may lead to decreased resistance to other disorders and cause your pet to be lethargic.

Fleas can make your dog's life miserable, and yours too.

- fleas live on blood - your Morkie's, yours, or blood from a wide variety of mammals and birds, including cats, chickens, rabbits, squirrels, rats, ferrets, and mice
- a flea's bite, to get blood, leaves skin itchy and uncomfortable
- and, if the victim is **allergic to fleas** (usually flea saliva)... that itch is much worse; it's called *allergic dermatitis* and can be serious.



Flea facts

- if you see a flea, experts say there are likely 100 more you don't see.
- fleas get around; they can jump from 16 to 36 inches!
- in moist, warm weather the entire flea's life cycle is only 14 days; it is longer under extreme weather conditions, when they can 'hibernate.'
- fleas only jump on their victims to dine; the rest of the time, they're in the carpet, grass, furniture, etc. So the entire environment must be treated to get rid of them.
- The adult female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day.



Fleas. relative to the size of a dime.

Spotting fleas

Fleas move quickly and unless your Morkie has light coloured hair, they are difficult to spot. They're small, and range from black to dark brown or mid-brown in colour.



Fleas, highly magnified

What you will see, however, is the flea's 'dirt' or poop, in your dog's hair. (Right) It looks like pepper, and it is almost entirely dried blood.

To find out if it's actual dirt or if it's flea poop, wipe a wet paper towel across some of these specks; reddish brown streaks means it *is* dried blood - flea feces - so you have a flea problem.



*Below left, **flea eggs** on person's finger. Eggs are small and semi-transparent. Each adult female lays up to 50 eggs a day, after biting a victim and getting a blood meal.*



A fine-toothed comb like this one for fleas, can help you spot the parasites.



Treating fleas safely and naturally

Fleas are horrible to have around the house, but flea treatments can literally kill your small dog! In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been warning consumers about flea prevention products and small dogs for some time.

“Small dogs between 10 and 20 pounds – are most susceptible to the problems, which include rashes, vomiting, diarrhea and seizures....Small breed dogs were more commonly affected with the number of incidents out of proportion to their popularity.”

— the EPA, “Pesticides and Consumers” 2010

Flea and tick bands, white plastic collars embedded with at least one type of insecticide, are one of the least expensive ways to kill fleas and ticks. And they produce HUGE profits for the manufacturers. Back in the early 1970s, the flea collar alone contributed \$15 MILLION in annual sales to the Hartz Mountain Corporation. (That’s about \$95 million today.)

The flea and tick collar is also **the most dangerous way to fight pests**, especially for small dogs. It's amazing these collars are still being sold, given the damning findings about them:

- "even when used as instructed, [they] can cause serious health consequences to pets and humans"
- "dangerously high levels of pesticide residue can remain on a dog or cat's fur for weeks after a flea collar is put on the animal"
- "residues from two pesticides used in flea collars ... were high enough to pose a risk to children and adults who play with their pets"
- "residue levels produced by some flea collars are up to 1,000 times higher than the EPA's acceptable levels"
- "the high levels of toxic chemicals in flea collars can pose a risk of cancer and damage to the neurological system of children" **

**These statements are from the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), an environmental action group funded entirely by its members’ donations. Their findings are backed up by many other credible groups across the United States and Canada, including CBC Marketplace, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada and WebMD.com.

Flea collar toxins invade your dog's system

In a recent survey, more than 90% of pet owners thought that flea collars worked by emitting a kind of vapour that keeps fleas and ticks away. This vapour, they reasoned, was completely harmless to dogs.

The truth is, these deadly chemicals are absorbed right into the animal’s bloodstream and metabolized by the dog or cat’s liver.

Flea and tick collars are not worth the serious risk to your dog, to you and to your family. They're suffused with at least one toxic chemical, often more, that permeates your small dog's system and can make him deathly ill.



Just how dangerous are flea collars? A March, 2014 press release from the EPA is headed:

**Companies Agree to Stop
Selling Pet Collars
Containing Pesticide in
order to Protect Children**

Flea & tick powders are just as bad as flea collars

The products work for up to 7 days, according to package directions. The fine dust in these products can be irritating if breathed in. In fact, warnings on the package include:

- "Avoid contact with eyes, skin or clothing."
- "Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling."
- "Keep away from children and babies."

If the person applying the powders or sprays gets any on his skin or clothing, he is to run the area under "plenty of water for 15 to 20 minutes and call a Poison Control Center."

Again, you have to ask. *Is this really something you want or need to expose your small dog to? Of course not.*

Flea shampoos are the worst choice for your Morkie

Unless it's marked CERTIFIED ORGANIC, flea shampoos are **dangerous for small dogs**. That's because they contain heavy duty doses of insecticides like Pyrethrins, Permethrin and Phytosphingosine, designed to stimulate fleas *to death*. Imagine what these neurotoxins can do to your pet?

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns that these insecticides are "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" along with other chemicals in flea products, carbaryl or propoxur.

Safer protection from fleas

- look for products that say **Certified Organic**. Anything that claims to be natural, or organic, pure, safe, etc. can be dangerous, since there is no real regulation around pet products and false advertising.
- check the ingredients on the label yourself: avoid Pyrethrins, Permethrin, sulphites, sulphates, preservatives or propylene glycol. Also avoid products with artificial colours.
- don't use these natural oils or essential oils: citronella, clove, wintergreen, geraniol, thyme and pennyroyal.

Wash your Morkie in this gentle bath

- wet your Morkie all over with lukewarm water (dogs feel hot more than we do).
- apply a natural dish soap from your local health food store (such as **Seventh Generation**).
- dish soaps like Dawn are too harsh for your Morkie.
- or use pure Castile soap, which comes in both bar and liquid form.
- after bathing, rinse your Morkie in a solution of 1 part organic apple cider vinegar to ten parts water. The acidity will help discourage new fleas.
- spray him with an all-natural flea treatment like this one:

Repeat weekly until all signs of fleas are gone

Natural Lemon Flea Spray

- 1 organic lemon
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 1 sprig of garden sage
- 1 quart of filtered water
- Optional: a sprig of lavender



Cut the lemon into thin slices and add to a large bowl, together with the rosemary, and optional lavender. Add a quart of boiling water, and leave overnight to cool and settle. Then strain into a spray bottle. Refrigerate after use. Lasts 1 - 2 weeks.

Banish fleas from your home

- wash your dog's bedding in hot water and at the hottest dryer setting.
- do the same with your own bedding if your Morkie sleeps with you.
- vacuum every day and throw out the vacuum bag each time.
- check any other pets for fleas and treat them too.

You can use the **Magic Tick and Flea Fighting Dust** shown on **page 179**, to sprinkle on your carpet, on your dog's bed and all around your home. Use along baseboard cracks. It's safe and will kill fleas and ticks. You can even use it in your yard and garden.

Ticks on dogs: small dog nightmare

Like fleas, ticks can be a big problem for dogs AND for people.

Ticks are hard to treat and control. They have the tenacity of cockroaches. Some types can live for two years without a meal. Ticks can hang on a small branch or stem for up to six months, waiting for a victim to walk by. Then they latch on and start their "blood fest."

Ticks bite the victim, or host, then burrow their heads under the skin. A barbed feeding tube syphons off the host's blood. As they gorge, ticks expand up to 100 times their original size, filling themselves with blood. A tick that starts out the size of a poppy seed, can blow up to the size of a freakish grape after feeding (see page 174).

How do I know if it's a tick?

Here's the one sure sign you're looking at a tick: it has 8 legs. Of all these common pests, only spiders and ticks have 8 legs. All other insects have 6.

Ticks are dangerous



Ticks carry deadly diseases

Ticks carry some serious diseases that can hit small dogs hard, including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme Disease and a host of others.

Ticks can cause infection

Even when ticks are not carrying any diseases, their bite alone can be dangerous. That bite, filled with bacteria, can generate a nasty infection. The same bite obviously packs a bigger punch in a 5 pound dog, than in a 95 pound pet.

Some dogs (and people) have bad allergic reactions to ticks

Any dog, or human for that matter, can have an allergic reaction to a tick bite. But for a tiny dog, this allergy can turn into a life-threatening reaction. It's like what some schoolchildren suffer from with their peanut allergies - an *anaphylactic reaction*.

In people, our lungs are most affected. We start wheezing and our mouths and faces swell. But for dogs, an extreme allergic reaction hits the liver hardest. This brings on sudden diarrhea, defecation, urination and vomiting. A small dog quickly dehydrates, could lose consciousness and slip into a coma and death if left untreated.

Tick bites can mean excessive blood loss

Another tick danger for small dogs: female ticks can consume more than 100 times their body weight in your dog's blood. A big tick infestation on your small dog can actually lead to anemia from blood loss, specifically the loss of red blood cells. This isn't common, but if it is going to happen, it will happen to a small dog versus a large one.

The 6 Most Common Ticks in North America

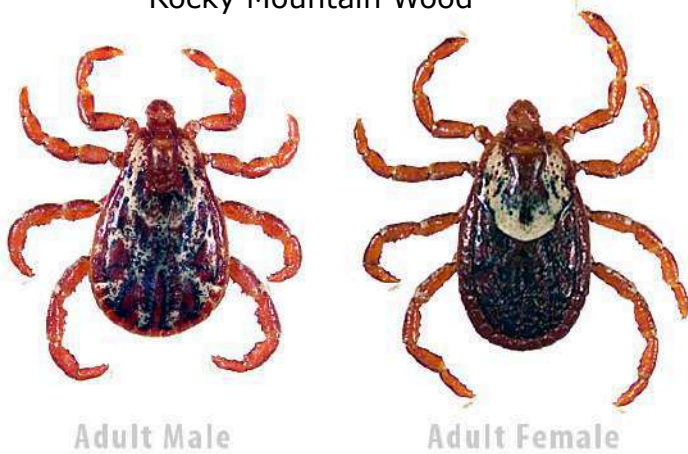
Black legged or Deer Tick



Western-Blacklegged or Deer Tick



Rocky Mountain Wood



American Dog Tick



Lone Star Tick



Brown Dog Tick



Ticks will attach to any warm-blooded creature they can

They have special sensors to detect a potential host, and climb up to the tips of grass to wait for their victim. Ticks can't jump like fleas, but will attach themselves as you walk by, and then burrow close to the skin. They are much slower moving than fleas, but once they've found a host, they are quick enough to insert their heads beneath the skin to gorge on blood.

Right: before and after Feeding ticks increase in size many times their normal body size. "Before," ticks look like small spiders; the "after" the picture looks like a freakish, plumped-up raisin with legs - really disgusting!



Ticks bite any animals as well as humans

Although deer are often hosts for ticks, they don't discriminate among mammals. An animal with some fur is preferred, so they can latch on and hide.



How do you spot ticks on dogs?

- run your hands all over your dog's body, feeling carefully for any small bumps.
- if you feel one, put on latex or rubber gloves.
- carefully part your dog's hair to check the spot - ticks tend to latch on where there's less hair, such as where the legs meet the body, around the ears or on the belly.

Black or dark brown, the tick can be as small as a pinhead or (ugh) the size of a grape. Depending where it is, and its size, you might see its legs too.

Lyme Disease is spread by ticks

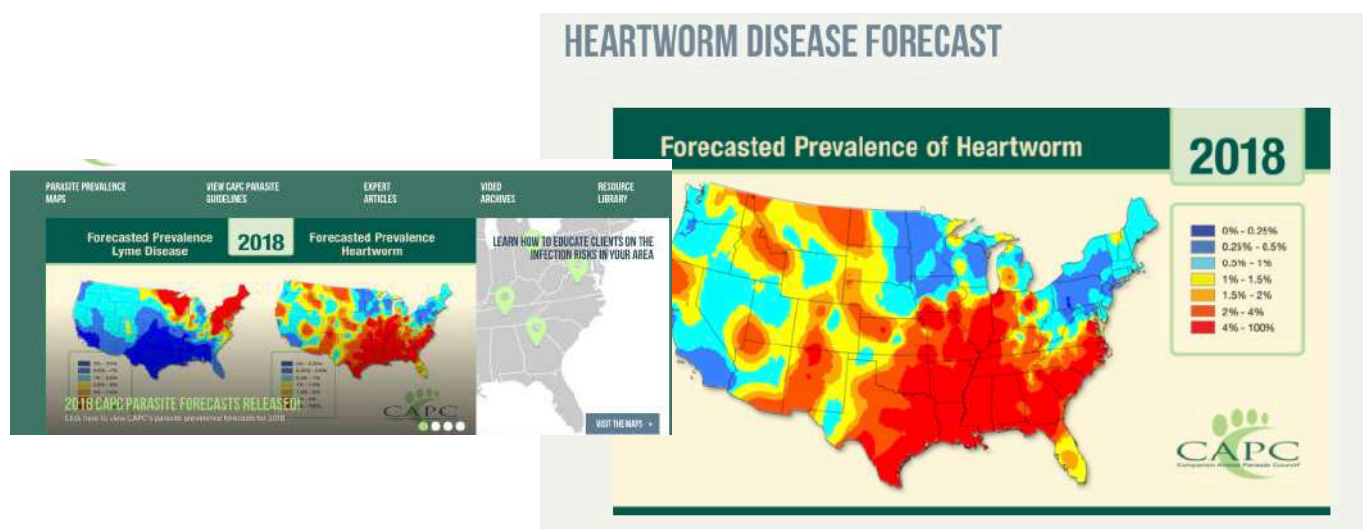
More and more cases of Lyme Disease are reported each year and the disease has spread geographically. Connecticut was the epicentre of infected ticks and Lyme Disease when identified in 1975. Today, infected ticks are found throughout the U.S.A. and the number of cases is increasing.

Is the Lyme Disease panic real?

When you're reading information online about the growth and spread of disease-bearing ticks, you will see some scary numbers and projections for lyme disease in dogs - see this website for example, published by the **Companion Animal Parasite Council** —

<https://www.capcvet.org/>

It looks like a legit, quasi-scientific site, helping readers understand the dangers of parasites and our pets. It's full of red coloured maps, warnings, updates and forecasts.



But take a look who sponsors this website – the American Heartworm Society, among others.

That Society has a website, again, legit and scientific looking, warning about the myriad dangers of heartworm. And who sponsors them? All the heavy hitters in animal pharmaceuticals, who make the highly profitable tick, flea and heartworm treatments.



Both animals and people can get Lyme Disease, although dogs are 50% more likely to pick up an infected tick than a person is. Even though dogs are exposed to the disease much more often than people, **dogs are far less likely to become sick.**

There's no evidence that Lyme Disease can be passed from dog to person and vice versa. And although both people and pets can get it, the effect of Lyme Disease is very different on each.

Unfortunately, it's hard to diagnose Lyme Disease, which can cause serious, ongoing health problems in both dogs and people. With so many different symptoms, Lyme Disease is often called *the Great Pretender* since it seems to mimic many other illnesses.

Lyme Disease symptoms in dogs aren't always serious

Only about 5 to 10% of infected dogs have symptoms of Lyme Disease. Let me put that another way — 90 to 95% of dogs who have Lyme Disease, have no symptoms and live quite happily.

They can live comfortably without any treatment.

The number one symptom in dogs is lameness, which can come and go and even move from one leg to another. Other symptoms in dogs:

- joint pain and fever (102-105° F) - often 2 to 5 months after a bite.
- swelling of a lymph node.
- loss of appetite.
- lethargy, fatigue, depression and paralysis - a general reluctance to move
- difficulty breathing.
- disorders of the nervous system including aggression, confusion and overeating.

Lyme disease is so difficult to diagnose in dogs, that it can appear as arthritis, heart disease or severe neurological problems.

The most damaging results of Lyme Disease in dogs (unlike people) can be **kidney failure**.

What's worse than ticks? Commercial tick control.

Commercial products are made to KILL ... parasites
and they can KILL YOUR MORKIE

Commercial tick fighting options:

1. Spot-on products.
2. Flea and tick collars.
3. Powders and sprays.
4. Oral medications.
5. Preventative treatment.

When we buy products for ourselves and our household, we assume that they've been subjected to rigorous testing by "the government," eager to look after us.

The truth is quite different.

Regulations around pet products are quite

sketchy. For example, products for pets don't have to be tested on actual pets. Many are tested on rats instead.

Flea and tick shampoo, dips or powders can cause tremors, drooling, seizures and worse for your small dog. Let's face it, commercial flea and tick products are made with strong poisons. Poisons to repel and kill very hardy pests. It's no wonder they're dangerous for a dog, and even more so for a small dog.

There is no governing body that regulates the use of flea and tick-fighting products for our pets. That's because they are considered "insecticides" not medicine or food.

Never assume that pet products just couldn't be sold if they are that dangerous.



Deadly ingredients in tick and flea fighting treatments

The two most dangerous ingredients are **Fipronil** and a group of ingredients called **Pyrethrins and Pyrethroids**. Immediate side effects can include vomiting and diarrhea, skin irritation, lethargy, incoordination, dilated pupils, facial swelling and convulsions. Longer term impacts include heart failure, extreme asthma, thyroid cancer, liver toxicity, kidney damage and lots more.

Dogs under 20 pounds are most likely to have bad reactions.

Other ingredients and their potential side effects:

Imidacloprid - difficulty breathing, loss of the ability to move, and slight tremors

Amitraz- found mostly in flea and tick collars. Potentially cancer-causing, this ingredient can cause low blood pressure, decreased body temperature, high blood glucose, dilated pupils, slow heart rate, vomiting, diarrhea or seizures.

See the full list of spot on products, with their ingredients, in the Appendix.

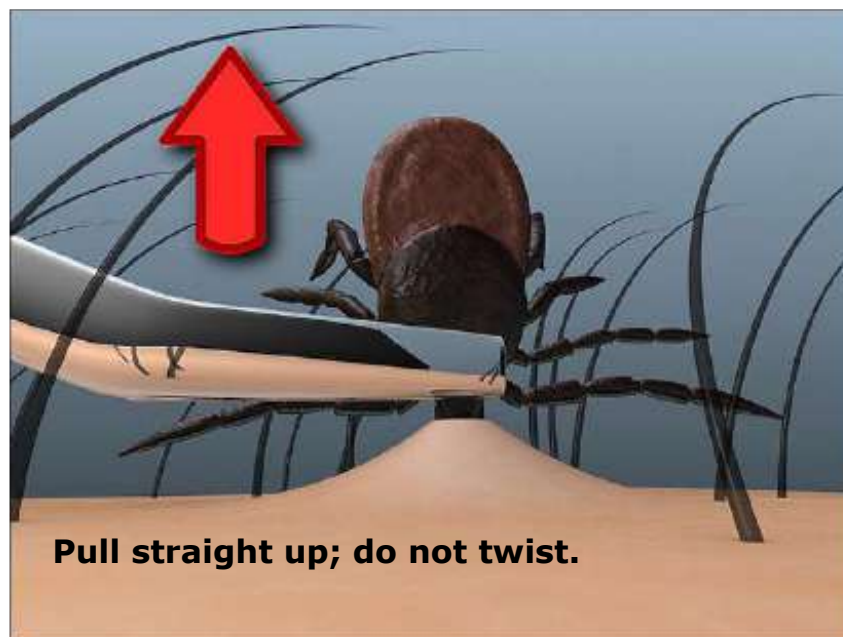
See a tick? Remove it right away!

Your Vet to can safely and cleanly remove a tick; but you can do it yourself too. It's important to get the tick out as soon as possible, but don't worry, in most cases, the tick must be attached at least 24 hours to infect the victim with a disease.

You'll need tweezers and rubbing alcohol or iodine and tweezers. The alcohol or iodine is for cleaning up the bite area after you've removed the tick. Plus, you should have a small container filled with rubbing alcohol to pop the tick in to kill it, and keep it for reference in case of illness.

Be very careful - any contact with the tick's blood can transmit infection to your dog or even to you. **Wear rubber gloves.**

Gently but steadily pull the tick straight up.



Use your tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Start steadily pulling straight up.

DO NOT TWIST OR TURN THE TICK. DO NOT SQUISH THE TICK.

Once the tick is out, thoroughly wash your dog's wound with water and mild soap and apply rubbing alcohol or iodine. Wash your hands thoroughly when you're done.

Follow up

Keep an eye on the area where the tick bit to see if an infection develops. If the skin remains irritated or infected, see the Veterinarian as soon as possible.

Don't do this when removing a tick

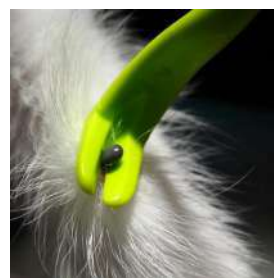


Anything like nail polish remover, gasoline or vaseline can make the tick "vomit" his poison right into your dog's bloodstream. The tick won't or can't, unscrew himself from the victim. Along those same lines:

- Do not try to burn the tick.
- The tick hasn't literally screwed itself into the skin, so don't try to 'unscrew' it.
- Don't prick or squish the tick to make it let go. Again, you'll just release potential disease and bacteria. Pull straight up with tweezers.
- Never remove a tick with your bare hands, and never crush a tick between your fingers. You can put yourself at risk of contracting Lyme Disease or one of the other tickborne diseases.

The tick remover tool

A special tick remover tool can be found online or in stores, sold as the **Tick Key** (which clips onto your key ring); the **Tick Nipper** (which has a handy built-in magnifying glass) or the **Original TICKED OFF** tool. Of course you'll need to be prepared with one BEFORE you actually spot a tick, since time to safely remove the tick is short.

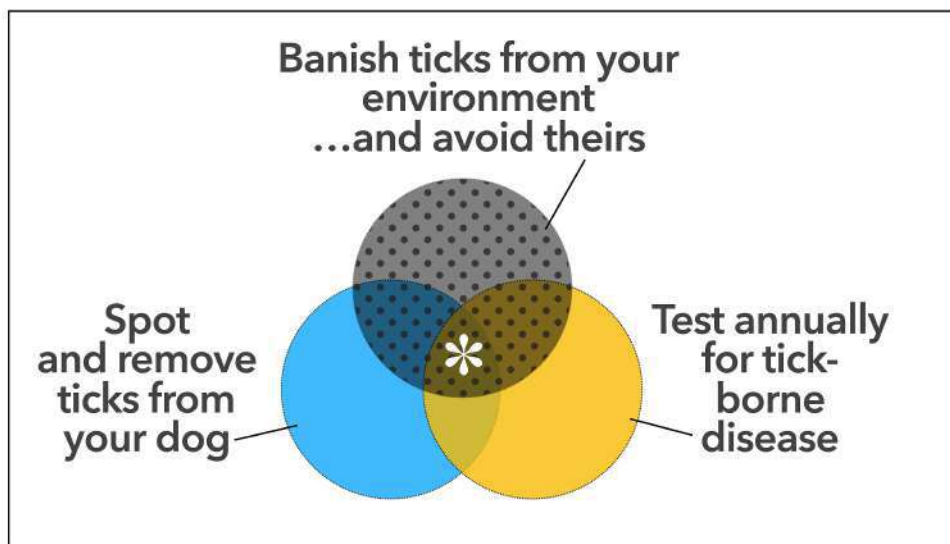


A safer way to control fleas and ticks

In my book called "Ticks on Dogs: Small Dog Nightmare," I've developed a more sensible, 3-part approach to managing fleas and ticks without using deadly spot-on products, collars, powders, sprays or vaccinations. It's sound protection, without the potentially deadly risks of commercial control products.

At a glance, here's the program:

- 1. BANISH TICKS** from your home and yard, and avoid places where they hang out.
- 2. SPOT & REMOVE** any ticks from your dog and watch the bite area carefully. Check him every time he comes inside.
- 3. TEST ANNUALLY** for tick-borne diseases at your Veterinarian's, via blood tests.



* *The Sweet Spot: Keeping your small dog safe from ticks*

Some specific tips:

- Clear out debris and tall grasses from your yard.
- Try a lower-risk commercial tick-fighter for a pest-free yard.
- Experts say one chemical treatment of your yard in June can do wonders in reducing the tick population for the entire summer. If you decide to use a commercial product, examine labels carefully to choose the least toxic of the poisons.
- Keep your small dog out of grasses and woods.
- Commercial products to repel ticks can be deadly - don't use them on your small dog. In fact, they can be just as dangerous for small dogs as the ticks themselves. The insecticides in these products are poisonous. Even the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is warning us about the dangers of spot-on flea and tick products, particularly for dogs under 20 pounds.

Magic Tick and Flea Fighting Dust

One recommendation is to use natural pest fighters like this recipe, with thanks to www.PrimallyInspired.com Use it safely in your yard, your home, on your Morkie and other pets, and on yourself.

- 1 cup FOOD GRADE Diatomaceous Earth or DE
- 1/2 cup Neem Powder
- 1/2 cup Yarrow Powder
- 20 Drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil



Mix everything together and put in a shaker jar. To use it dry with a powder applicator or a simple shaker jar outdoors, you'll need about 1 pound per 500 square feet of lawn. You can also mix it up as a paste and apply it with a hose-end sprayer, using 2 tablespoons per gallon of water. Reapply at least once a month for best results.

Ingredients are available online from Amazon and other online stores, or in health food stores and many drugstores.

- **Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth or DE.** This is made from sedimentary mineral rock and contains the important trace metal silica. It's very important that you pick FOOD GRADE, not the DE that's for pool filters.
- **Neem Powder** is ground from the bark, seeds, leaves and flowers of the Neem Tree. It's been used for centuries as a general cure-all in Indian medicine. Drugs.com notes that neem leaves have been used to treat worm infections, leprosy and ulcers, and for heart disease.
- **Yarrow Powder** is made from the the common weed yarrow, native to most of the Northern Hemisphere. It is used as a herbal treatment for many things, such as fever, cough, the common cold, diarrhea, skin allergies and more. It's often used in "natural" shampoos.
- You'll find **Eucalyptus Essential Oil** at almost any health food store. It's thought to be stimulating, healing and regenerating, and it repels pests. This is the same Eucalyptus Oil used in aromatherapy.

Apply **Magic Tick and Flea Fighting Dust** directly on your dog; use in your yard and in your home to protect you, your family and your Morkie from ticks and fleas.



Available on amazon.com

Worms and your Morkie

Like fleas, worms can plague dogs at any stage in their life. Worms don't usually cause diseases, but they do steal nutrients from your dog, leaving him tired, lethargic and losing weight. Unappetizing as WORMS sound, there's no need to panic: they can be treated and eliminated.

How dogs get worms

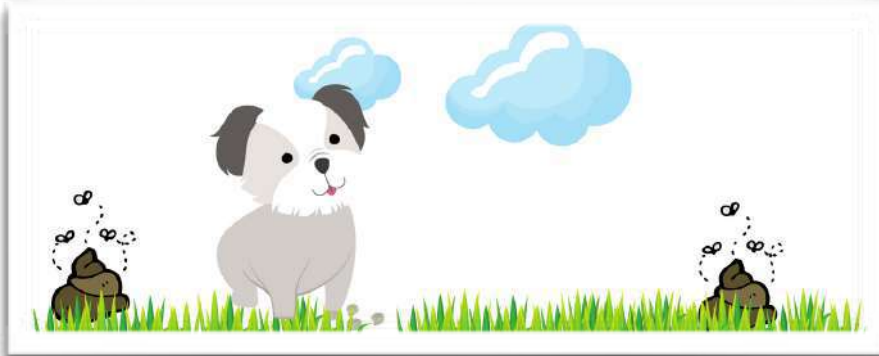
The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) says that typically, dogs get worms through contaminated soil. Worms "lay eggs that are passed in the dog's stool and infect other dogs when they eat contaminated soil, lick contaminated fur or paws, or drink water contaminated with the stool from infected dogs."



An infected dog leaves poop; another dog approaches the area.



Worms from the poop lay eggs by the hundreds; the newly infected dog leaves another poop.



Another dog approaches; there's more poop, eggs and worms in the grass.

From licking his feet, eating grass, or ingesting some dirt, this latest dog is now infected.

The 4 most common worms in dogs

Tapeworms. Long, flat and white, with visible body segments.	Carried by fleas, mice and other rodents. Once inside the body, these parasites bury their heads in the lining of the small intestines and absorb a small portion of the nutrients that flow through.
Hookworms. Tiny, thin worms less than an inch long. Have hook-like teeth to attach to the dog's intestinal wall.	Larvae enter through the skin, are eaten or passed through mother's milk. They live on your dog's blood. Symptoms: black, tar-like stool; dog is weak, and if a puppy, may stop growing.
Roundworms. The most common type of worm in dogs. White or light brown; resemble spaghetti.	Roundworms live in the dog's small intestines. Often found in puppies. Victim has swollen or distended belly. Symptoms: lethargy, weight loss, coughing.
Whipworms are not as common, but still pose a threat.	Whipworms live in the large intestine, and cause chronic diarrhea, along with bloody stool.



Can we catch worms from our pets?

People can get a type of **roundworm** called *Toxocara*, which can lead to eye, lung and nerve damage in humans. Very rarely, a specific type of **tapeworm** can cross over to people. Some **hookworms** can infect humans by penetrating the skin.

For more info on parasites, including tips to protect yourself and your pet, see the Appendix.

Eradicating worms

To find out if your Morkie has worms, take a recent stool sample (4 hours old or less) to the Vet's. There, the sample will be tested and any necessary treatment will be identified. A deworming medication is almost always recommended.

Although some deworming medications are effective against more than one species of worm, no single medication is effective against all.

Canine Heartworm

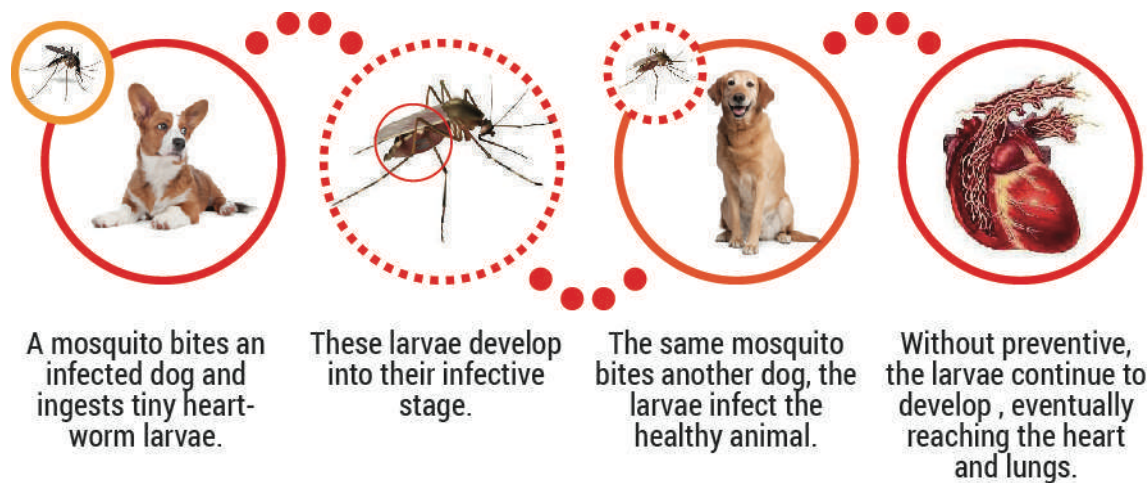
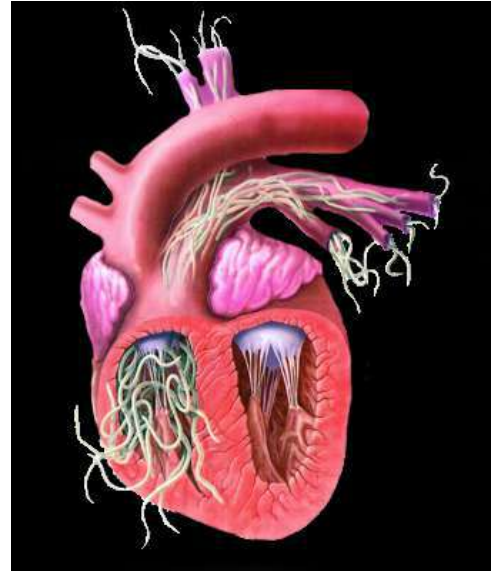
Heartworms sound really ghastly because, well, they are!

Dogs get heartworms from the bite of an infected mosquito. *And only an infected mosquito.* Heartworm can't be spread between dogs or from dog-to-person.

Instead, the complex life cycle of these parasites lasts about 7 months, from the first bite of the infected mosquito, to a mature, adult heartworm.

Canine heartworm has spread well beyond its original boundaries, and is now found right across North America, South America, Japan, Australia and Europe.

Heartworms look a lot like spaghetti and can reach lengths of 12 to 14 inches.



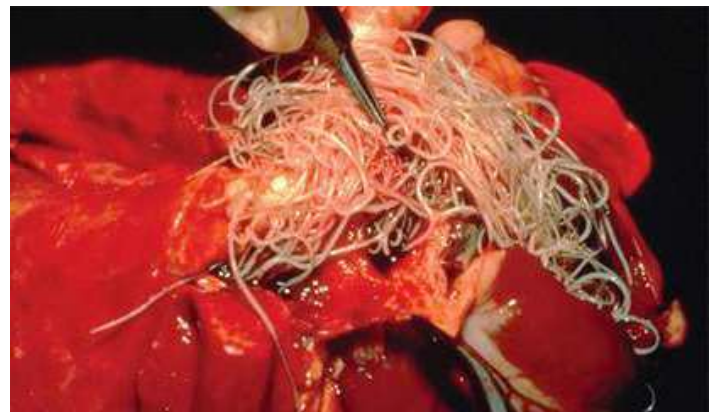
<http://perrin410animalhospital.com/>

Complex life cycle

In their first stages, the worm grows in a mosquito. Then these creatures circulate through the dog's blood stream until they reach the pulmonary vessels of the lungs. All the while, they're growing and growing. **Heartworms can live for 5 to 7 years in dogs.**

These worms clog up the victim's arteries, and ultimately lead to congestive heart failure and death.

Right: a dog can have as many as 250 heartworms in his system.



Symptoms of heartworm infection

Dogs with heartworm often cough a lot, as they struggle to get oxygenated, full breaths. With heartworm, the dog's heart must work harder for substandard results. Victims become lethargic and tired.

Heartworm Prevention



Just like vaccines themselves, heartworm prevention treatments carry hazardous side effects.

Heartworm prevention pills work by **killing the heartworm larvae that is already in your dog's system**. So it's basically a sophisticated *insecticide*, and it's being given to animals who are not infected.

Side effects of these medications (reported to the FDA⁷) can include:

- vomiting and loss of appetite; shock; tremors; coma; fever and diarrhea; seizures and convulsions; respiratory failure; death.

Dogs most affected? Those under 20 pounds!

And now, manufacturers are recommending year round treatment, despite the fact that mosquitos need temperatures of 57° F (14° C) for two weeks straight in order to develop.

Treating year round makes no sense unless you live in Florida, Texas or Hawaii.

It's baaaack!

Proheart 6, an injectable heartworm prevention, was withdrawn from the market in 2004 because of the large number of side effects it was generating. These includes severe allergic reactions, bleeding, seizures, collapse, lethargy and even death.

The internet is full of sad stories of pet deaths associated with this drug. Despite this, after a few changes, it came back on the market in 2008.

⁷ Food and Drug Administration

Treating a dog infected with heartworm

Everyone agrees; treating heartworm is complicated, expensive and time consuming.

The protocol calls for hospitalizing the dog, giving him a series of injections to attack the heartworm in its various stages. If it is very severe, (the heartworm infestation has been there for years), then surgery might be an option.

You can ask your Vet for more information, or you might see ads for specific products or you may read a barrage of public relations information from the American Heartworm Society (AHS). The AHS also delivers university courses to Vets-in-training.

The only problem? **BIG conflict of interest:** *the AHS is sponsored by the heavy hitters in animal pharmaceuticals including -*

- Merck & Co. - one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world
- IDEXX Laboratories - biochemistry leaders
- Virbac Animal Health and its 31 subsidiaries
- Boehringer Ingelheim - one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies
- Zoetis Inc. - the world's largest animal health company

Alternatives to dangerous commercial heartworm treatments

Although there are some alternative treatments — herbal solutions and the like — to keep mosquitos away from your dog, these aren't reliable or proven.

BUT, if you think about how heartworms develop, then **there are better solutions.**

Remember, heartworm can be transmitted only by an infected mosquito, from dog to dog.

Thinking of the lifecycle of the mosquito and the heartworm itself —

1. it must be warm enough for mosquitos and heartworms to develop and grow

- above 57° F (14° C) night and day, for at least 45 days - with at least two weeks of temperatures over 80° F

In many cities, such as Chicago and New York, the weather pattern is like this:

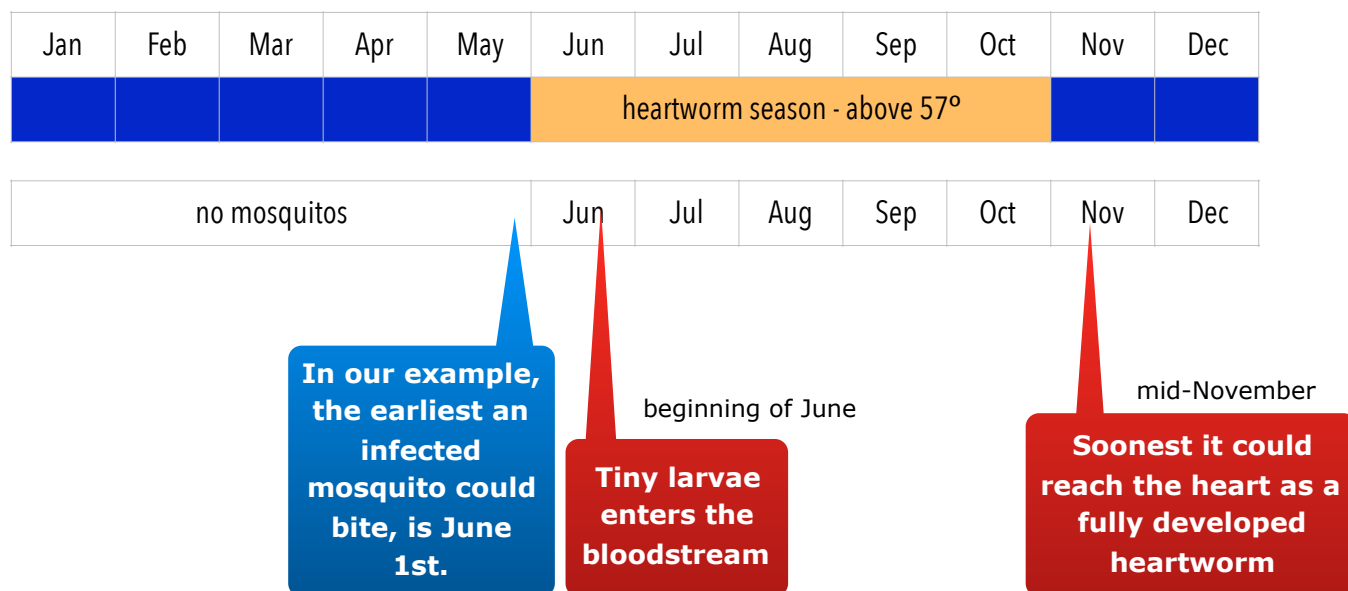
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					heartworm season - above 57°						
no mosquitos					Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	no mosquitos	

2. Once an infected mosquito bites a dog,

- it takes **2½ to 4 months** for them to develop into the tiny worm-like microfilariae creatures that enter the bloodstream.
- THEN it takes **3 to 4 more months** to reach the heart muscles, and reach maturity.

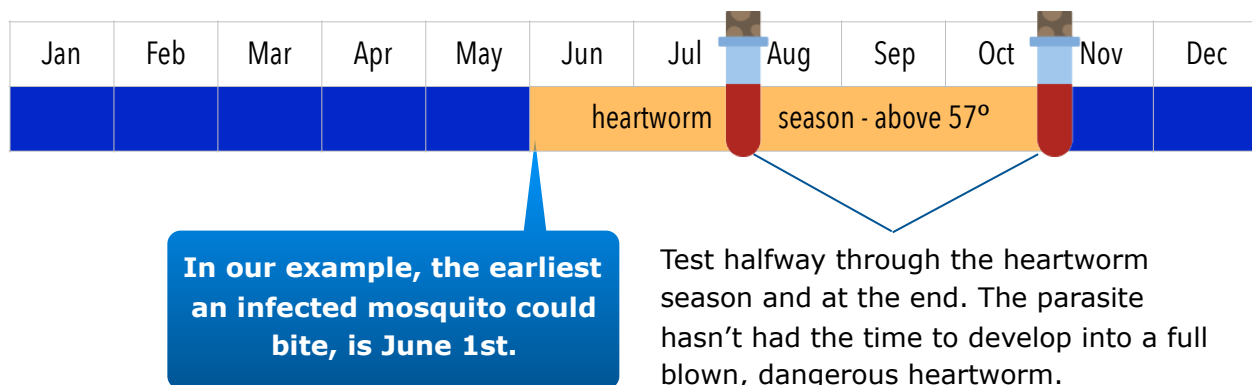
In other words, it takes 5½ to 8 months from bite to dangerous heartworm.

3. Let's look at the calendar again



3. You are going to TEST for presence of heartworm before and during this cycle.

New DNA tests for heartworm by **Healthgene**, are done by collecting blood and sending it out to be tested. Be sure this is the actual DNA test, not the old antigen type test, which detect specific heartworm proteins, (called antigens), which are released by adult female heartworms into the dog's bloodstream.



Other climates

Depending on how warm an area is, the heartworm season could last year-round for for just a few months. That, in turn, drives the number of heartworm DNA tests needed to identify and treat pre-worm larvae.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Never above 57° for 45 consecutive days = no tests needed

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
						heartworm season					

Less than 4 months of above 57° for 45 consecutive days = 1 test at the end of the season

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				heartworm				season			

4 - 8 months of heartworm season (above 57°) = 2 tests, one in the middle at one at the end

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
heartworm season - above 57°											

8 - 12 months of heartworm season (above 57°) = 3 tests, one every 4 months

Eye and ear care

Eye care and common problems

Preventative eye care is all about giving your Morkie:

- a high quality, balanced and nutritional diet.
- exercise.
- plenty of clean water, available at all times (filtered is best).
- PLUS, keeping his eyes clean and clear of debris, mucous and 'guck.'

If your Morkie is prone to eye problems, try adding one of the following to her diet: a few pieces of leafy green vegetables every day, parsley, any blue or purple berries, carrots, sesame seeds or sunflower seeds.

Swelling below one or both eyes

If your Morkie has facial swelling below the eye, it's likely caused by a **tooth infection**, not something in the eye.

The two **carnassial teeth**, show here, have the biggest roots and therefore the biggest chance of infection.



These dogs have a badly infected carnassial tooth; it looks like an eye problem, but it's actually the tooth.

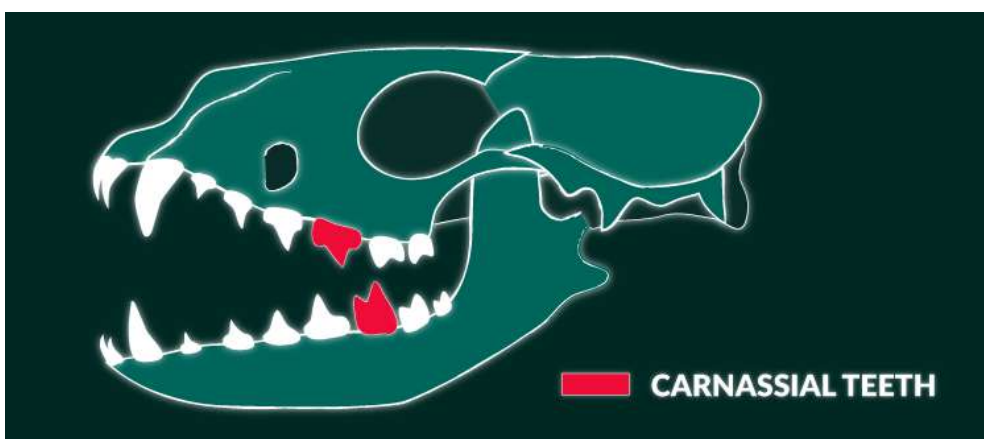








Illustration from www.petpooskiddoo.com

Problem		Symptoms	Treatment	
Pink Eye	Or Canine Conjunctivitis. Starts from an allergy, virus or chronic irritation. Highly contagious. Quite common.	Very red, itchy eyes. Discharge from eyes. Eyes swell up in advanced stages.	Flush the eye 3 or 4 times a day with an over-the-counter sterile saline eyewash (in the contact lens section). See Vet for antibiotics and other treatments.	
Dry Eye	Not enough tears are produced. This is a very painful condition that can lead to blindness if ignored.	Yellow, thick, sticky discharge from the eyes.	Eyes should be washed regularly, cleaned and kept moist with special drops or ointment, often for life. If infected, antibiotics are usually prescribed.	
Eye Inflammation	Often caused by an eye infection, which is caused by allergens, bacteria, viruses and other microbes.	Eye or area around the eye is inflamed.	Clean well and apply special dog eye drops like Vetericyn or a homeopathic remedy like Newton's. (See below) If it doesn't clear up within 2 days, see your Vet.	
Corneal Ulcer	A complex eye injury, usually caused by a cat scratch, thorn or other foreign object scratching the cornea (the surface of the eye).	Very painful! Hard to see, but your Morkie will have lots of tears and a partially closed eye. May squint or blink a lot.	Your Vet will remove the object and prescribe an antibiotic; you can try plenty of sterile, saline eyewash at home. *Untreated, your dog can go blind.	
Cataracts	Don't confuse this with the normal, bluish-grey eye colour that comes with aging. Can affect one or both eyes. Caused by aging, injury and hereditary factors.	Pupil gets cloudy or white. It causes the dog's vision to worsen over time, eventually to the point of blindness.	Removing the cataract surgically can help, but unfortunately the eye will never return to normal. Your dog will need special monitoring and drops after surgery.	
Cherry Eye	An inherited weakness common in breeds like the Beagle, Bloodhound, Boston Terrier and Bulldog. Rare in Yorkies, Morkies and Maltese.	Unlike humans, dogs have a THIRD EYELID. When the gland of this eyelid 'splurges out' and is visible, it looks like a red tumour or mass on the dog's eye.	Condition isn't painful but if it is ignored, your dog may need daily drops for life. Treatment is usually surgery to reposition the gland to its normal position.	

Itchy, running eyes, sneezing

Just like people, dogs can have allergic symptoms when their immune systems begin to recognize certain everyday substances—or *allergens*— as dangerous. Runny eyes can indicate that something in the atmosphere is bothering your Morkie.

Weekly bathing may help relieve itching by washing environmental allergens and pollens from your dog's skin. Or, your Morkie may need a medication designed for dog allergies. Your Vet can tell you more.

Staining below the eyes

This is a big problem with light coloured dogs. It's called Poodle Eye and it refers to the reddish brown staining beneath a dog's eyes, and sometimes on his feet (from licking).

What causes this staining?



What causes excess tears? Here are some causes:

- Puppies' eyes can get watery and stained if they are teething.
- Hair growing too close to your Morkie's eyes can make them water. If you must, carefully trim hair around the eyes with **blunt-nosed scissors**. Or better, leave the hair long and comb it down, out of the way.
- Simple irritants like dust or wind blowing in your dog's face causes tears. Don't let your Morkie stick his head out the car window when you're driving.
- Small rogue eyelashes growing into the eye can cause great pain and tearing.
- Allergies to dust, ragweed or other airborne particles can cause tears. As can a food allergy.
- Your Morkie's tear ducts could be blocked. That makes tears overflow onto the face.
- Conjunctivitis or Pink Eye. Yes, dogs can get it too. A sure symptom is clear, watery discharge. Or, in more serious cases, a green or yellowish discharge. It's important to get this treated immediately by your Vet.

- An irritated or scratched cornea causes excess tears. This is very painful and must be treated right away.
- Especially narrow tear ducts can mean more tears.

To attack stains, start by cleaning the eyes



Never leave dirty debris under your Morkie's eyes. Use a wet tissue or make up remover pad, and gently wipe it away - every day, if necessary.

Start from the corner of the eye, and wipe outward.

First, remove the gucky stuff that's under the eyes now.

Use warm water on makeup pad removers or facial tissues, and gently wipe from the inner eye to the outer eye to remove the guck. You might have to use lukewarm water to soften the brown stuff. (If you do this every day, you'll find it gets a whole lot easier over time.)

Now DRY that hair. Try one of these:

- A touch of cornstarch on the wet hair.
- Vaseline or petroleum jelly. Apply a small amount on the wet area; it will help keep the fur dry because the stain-causing tears will roll off. The wet hair underneath will dry eventually. Keep well away from the eye itself.
- Use a paste made from equal parts lemon juice and baking soda. Rub this into the stained fur - **being careful to avoid the eye itself**. Leave it on for 10 minutes. Wash out and rinse very thoroughly and apply a touch of cornstarch.
- **Antibiotic ointment** will help keep moisture off the hair under the eyes. Apply to hair that's as dry as possible, keeping it well away from your dog's eyes. This not only creates a waterproof barrier, it will help clear up the bacteria growth. A thin coat of **diaper rash ointment** after the area is washed and dry, will do the same thing.

Now you can carefully trim the stained hair, and wait for new growth. Continue daily cleaning.

What about commercial products like Angel Eyes?

Angel Eyes is a **diet supplement** that you feed to your Morkie every day. The main ingredient is Tylan, (also called Tyrosine). Tylan is a powerful antibiotic used to fight a wide range of infections. It's also used to treat canine diarrhea and inflammatory diseases.

There are two concerns:

1. **Should you give your dog an antibiotic every day** indefinitely, for what is basically a cosmetic problem? Daily use of antibiotics can cause drug-resistant bacteria.
2. **Tylan has some powerful side effects.** In worst case scenarios, it can lead to teeth staining, liver failure and even eyesight problems. Other side effects include:
 - diarrhea
 - trouble swallowing
 - dizziness
 - hives
 - an inflamed tongue
 - sensitivity to light
 - loss of appetite
 - nausea
 - vomiting
 - swelling of the eyes and vision problems

Alternatives to Angel Eyes

Over-the-counter Tylan Medication

Tylan is sold as an over-the-counter medication for livestock. Farmers often use it to "control swine dysentery, animal colitis and severe diarrhea." (Source: FDA*)

You can give your Morkie Tylan, which is a cheaper alternative to Angel Eyes, but it is the same result: giving your Morkie a daily dose of antibiotic.

The FDA issued a paper about Tylan, including these warnings:

- "Warning: TYLAN may be irritating to unprotected skin and eyes."
- "When mixing and handling TYLAN use protective clothing and impervious gloves."

(source: FDA/Animal Veterinary Products)

Now, does this sound like something you want to give to your little dog every day?

Topical products

Pet supply stores sell a number of commercial products to apply to the stained areas on your Morkie's face, including liquids and wet wipe pads.

Not all of these contain pure natural ingredients. Be sure to check the label carefully and *skip products like Four Paws Crystal Eye that don't show ingredients*. Products that claim all natural ingredients include:

- Beta Bridges Tear Stain Remover.
- Fresh Paws Tear Stain Remover.
- Excel Tear Stain Remover Pads.
- And a product from Burt's Bees, called Tear Stain Remover with Chamomile.

I-Stain from Thomas Labs

This company produces an antibiotic-free solution to what they call a much larger problem than excessive tearing. In their view, reddish stained fur or hair can be caused by a number of conditions including diet, the dog's overall health, breed disposition and shallow tear ducts.

Their product is a vitamin-probiotic-enzyme formula for dogs that addresses these underlying conditions. It's worth looking into.

NaturVet Tear Stain Supplement

This product is a supplement powder, but it contains all natural ingredients and no Tylan or Tyrosine. Active ingredients include citric acid, dried whey, rosemary extract and lutein. Talk to your Vet about this product.

A new product - Always Bright Eyes Tear Stain Remover

This new product has real promise as a good replacement for Tylan-based antibiotics.



It attacks the yeast, germs, bacteria and porphyrins that create staining infections under your dog's eyes. But it is a topical treatment only - no drugs to give your Morkie. Plus it is free from bleach and peroxide.

Always Bright Eyes is available from the manufacturer's site (made in America) AlwaysBrightEyes.com or from [Amazon](http://Amazon.com).

Left: Product includes Tear Stain Remover liquid, powder and two brushes, along with complete directions.

Ear care and common problems

Monitoring and cleaning your Morkie's ears

Whether your Morkie has the sticking up "prick ears" of the Yorkshire Terrier, or the drop ears of the Maltese, it's very important to keep close watch, cleaning his ears regularly and plucking out the hair inside the ear.

Drop ear dogs are more susceptible to problems because the inner ear isn't exposed to sunlight or oxygen -- two of nature's best cleaners.



Morkies with **prick ears** or **stand up ears**, don't have as many ear problems as a result of dirty, waxy build up.

Keeping your Morkie's ears clean with regular care, will prevent many common ear problems.

Cleaning your Morkie's ears

Always use a commercial cleaner made for dogs' ears, or a good recipe for a homemade cleaner.

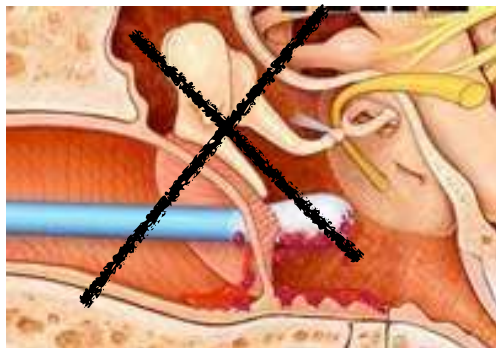
Never use just water in your Morkie's ears and **don't use rubbing alcohol**. It is too harsh.

NEVER EVER use a Q-Tip in your dog's ear for any reason. Use a cotton ball or makeup remover pad.

There's an old expression to remember: "never put anything in your ear smaller than your elbow!"

Even with your best intentions, you'll simply be packing down the dirt, waxy build up, infection and more INTO your Morkie's narrow ear canal.

This illustration from Northwestern University says it best: punctured ear drums, infection and worse result when cotton swab meets ear!



To use an ear cleaner, hold your Morkie on your lap and tilt his head. Hold up his ear flap, and then use a dropper (or the product's bottle) to pour a generous amount of cleaner into his ear. Massage the base of the ear, to get the liquid into all the folds. Then stand back - your Morkie will shake his head hard to get that liquid out. Use a cotton ball to wipe off any excess.

Homemade ear cleaner

Some Vets are not crazy about homemade ear cleaners and will recommend you use a professional or commercial quality cleaner. But if yours is in agreement, these work well:

1. Recipe 1 - mix 1/3 cup of organic apple cider vinegar to 2/3 cup of lukewarm purified water. This must be made up each time, since it's warm.
2. Recipe 2 for cleaning the external ear only, not pouring into the canal - hydrogen peroxide, a few drops on a cotton ball dabbed in coconut oil

NOTE: If your Morkie's ears are filled with really thick or impacted gunk, it's best for your Veterinarian to handle the first ear cleaning. A Vet can use specialized equipment to loosen the debris, flush it out of the canal, examine the ear for damage. Then he or she can design an appropriate home treatment plan based on what's found in the ear.

Three main causes of ear infections in dogs

1. allergies to something in the environment or even something your Morkie ate. This triggers inflammation throughout the body, and the ears are especially hard hit.
2. ears are left wet after swimming or a bath; bacteria and yeast build up in the warm ear canal.
3. waxy buildup; every dog produces different amounts of ear wax.

Removing excess hair from the outer ear canal

With a calm Morkie sitting comfortably on your lap, and a pair of tweezers, gently fold back your dog's ear and pluck out the excess hair that is growing in the outer ear canal.

You can use blunt-end, rounded tweezers, or grip tweezers for dog grooming or even just your own fingers. The fine hair pulls out easily and your dog can't feel it at all.

By keeping narrow ear canals open, you'll help avoid infections down the road.



Left: Before cleaning the ear and plucking excess hair; Middle: After - nice and clean! And on the right, what your Morkie's ears can look like without care.

Treating ear problems

- head shaking, excessive scratching.
- bad smell from the ears.
- red, inflamed skin in and around ear (from excessive scratching).
- whimpering, crying.

These are just some symptoms of bad ears. Ear problems can make your Morkie absolutely miserable - burning pain, itching and even loss of balance.

If you're keeping your Morkie's ears clean, but he is experiencing pain or discomfort, chances are the problem is more complex. See your Vet right away to find out if the cause of the infection is fungal or bacterial, or if there is another problem.

It goes without saying: always see the Vet if you suspect an injury or your Morkie is in pain.

Common ear problems

Problem		Symptoms	Treatment
Allergies	Allergies can cause ear and eye problems and can lead to serious ear infections.	Shaking his head, excessive ear scratching. Skin around ears is red and inflamed.	See your Vet to discover the underlying allergy and how to address it.
Bacteria or yeast infection	Common in toy dogs because of their narrow ear canals.	Scratching; shaking the head. Possibly a bad smell from the ears. Excessive black/brownish ear wax or cerumen, often smelly.	If regular home cleaning doesn't improve the situation right away, see your Vet for a proper diagnoses; different types of ear infections are treated differently.
Parasites like ear mites	Ear mites and fleas can get into a dog's ear canals. Mites are highly infectious and are nearly invisible. Fortunately, they are not as prevalent as you might fear.	Scratching and shaking the head. Brownish-black crusty debris (looks like coffee grinds) in and around the ear canal.	Vet treatment; your Vet will do a good, deep cleaning and then may give your Morkie an antibiotic injection to fight any further infection.
Foreign particles / debris	Anything your Morkie picks up outside could get into his ear canal and cause discomfort and pain, and even an infection.	Dog bothers at the ear; ear may be swollen. Violent shaking of the head.	If you can see and easily reach the object, remove it and gently flush the ear with a cleaning solution or sterile saline water. Otherwise, see the Vet right away.

Grooming

Pros and cons of professional grooming

Use a professional groomer or look after your Morkie yourself? It depends on 3 things: time, money and expertise.

Time

You can save time if you send your dog out for grooming. Or can you? It takes time to find a good groomer, then set up appointments, drop your dog off and pick him up again.

Some groomers offer pick-up and delivery, which is helpful. Others have mobile grooming salons that come right to your driveway and work there.

Money

The cost of grooming depends on where you live, and what's included in the service. Prices vary widely, from \$20 to \$90 and up.

CostHelper (www.costhelper.com/dog-grooming.html) is an independent website that prices out all sorts of goods and services. It surveys thousands of prices across the United States. On this site, surveys indicate that grooming runs **between \$30 and \$60**. That's for:

- small breeds that do not have thick hair; do not need a complicated cut and are not matted.

The cost includes bathing, drying, cleaning ears, trimming nails and clipping the dog's coat. Add-on services are more and can include things like de-matting, hand clipping, flea treatments, and brushing teeth.

Expertise

There's no doubt that the professional groomer is more knowledgeable. Fully qualified, competent groomers spend around 400 hours training and studying. The welfare of the animal in their care is their top concern.

Groomers are also trained to recognize potential health problems in their canine customers, and they are schooled in dealing with problem behaviour.

If you are going to use a groomer, ask around

Many Veterinarians offer grooming as an add-on service. If not, they can usually recommend someone local. Make some calls to ask each grooming facility about their services, costs, hours of operation, whether pick up and delivery is available and what vaccinations are required for your dog to attend.

The internet to the rescue!

Before you visit a groomer, check these sources:

- simply Google the groomer's name and see what comes up.
- check Yelp, under *dog grooming* for instant reviews.
- the online Yellow Pages listings often have consumer reviews.
- look at consumer advocacy sites like Ripoff Report.

Once you've put together a short list, drop in for a visit without your Morkie.

Trust your own gut feel - what's the vibe you get from the place? Are they experienced with Yorkies, Morkies or Maltese? Do they have any special accreditation? (Varies province by province and state by state.)

It goes without saying that the shop must be clean, fresh smelling and tidy. Many groomers today do their work behind a glass wall, which is great. See for yourself that they handle the dogs gently; that old or arthritic dogs are treated with special consideration; that shampoos and flea and tick products meet your needs. What is their policy around natural products versus commercial ones?

If you like what you see, ASK FOR REFERENCES.

Don't automatically trust the Petcos and PetSmarts of the world. It's just as important to check the larger outlets as the small ones.

Avoid a Monster Groomer

99.9% of groomers are professional and compassionate people. Sadly, there are also terrible stories about animal abuse in grooming. Unscrupulous, unqualified, inept and incompetent dog groomers are out there, as rare as they are. A quick search online shows that there are hundreds of stories about these few bad apples.

Fly-by-night schools and garage groomers

Legitimate groomers are the first to agree with the movement to license the grooming industry's operators. The first change would be a written test, administered at the State or Provincial level. There would also be minimum training requirements at accredited schools.

That way, it would no longer be possible for someone to read a few books on grooming then open up a business.

Established groomers also want shoddy, inadequately trained schools regulated or shut down. Many are understaffed; they don't offer the best training. Some are in business just to make money from the students they are teaching. On top of that, they push cut-rate grooming by these students, who aren't trained yet.

Why groom your Morkie yourself?

Grooming is about much more than looking good... it's also about:

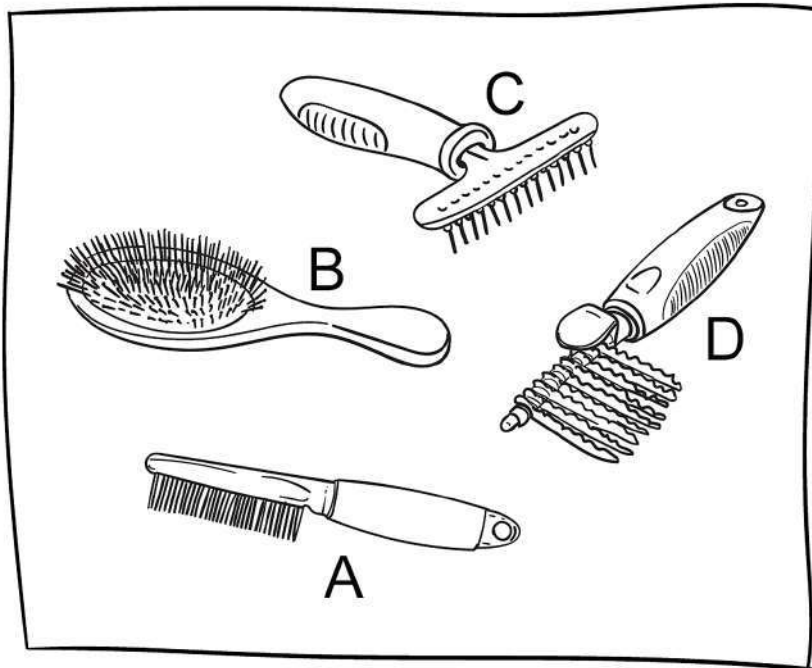
- bonding with your dog
- showing him you are the alpha
- checking on his health

If you brush your dog at least twice a week, you'll prevent mats. Mats can be very irritating and can cause skin diseases.

- In just a couple of minutes a day you can keep your Morkie's hair untangled, long and luxurious.... and forget those funny-looking puppy cuts.
- After all, long silky hair is one of the drawing cards of the Morkie, and his parents, the Yorkie and the Maltese dog. Why not enjoy it?

First step: combing

Equipment you'll need



- A. Steel Comb
- B. Wire Pin Brush
- C. Coat Rake
- D. De-matting comb

A. Steel Comb

Although it is handy to have a good brush, I recommend that you focus on the comb. Select one with average-spaced teeth. (The combs with very fine teeth are for finding fleas.) Metal is best, with a sturdy rubber handle for your comfort. Expect to pay between \$10.00 and \$20.00 for a superior comb that will last for years.

B. Select a quality brush

For the brush, pick a "Wire Pin Brush." As the name suggests, it has stainless steel wires or pins, rounded at the ends for the dog's comfort. Wooden brushes are comfortable for you, but personally I prefer a rubber-handled brush. Expect to pay between \$20.00 and \$35.00 for a brush that will last your dog's lifetime.

C. Coat Rakes are handy, especially for wet dogs

The third piece of equipment that's helpful is called a dog rake or coat rake. It's a comb/brush combination, with a single row of teeth set very far apart, up to 1/4". Look for a **small** rake, with **long** pins. They are usually under \$10.00.

Dog rakes are promoted for dogs with a heavy undercoat. But they're also good at untangling long, silky coats like the Morkie's.

D. The secret weapon: a de-matting comb

One of the best investments you can make in grooming products is the de-matting comb. Look for a well-made one with a comfortable rubber handle. The de-matting comb has few, single teeth set far apart like the rake, but there's a big difference. The teeth are actually **sharp blades** on one side. (They have rounded tips to protect your dog's skin.)

Gently drag this through your Morkie's coat in the direction of hair growth. *Mats will be sliced apart and tangles cut out, without pulling!*



Three brushes you DON'T need for grooming

1. The slicker brush

Slickers have fine metal pins, bent at an angle. This brush will break off your Morkie's long, silky hair. He will end up with a frizzy, messy looking coat.

2. De-shedding brush

The most popular one is the FURminator. They strip out fluffy undercoat of double coated dogs like Golden Retrievers, but break the hair off single coat dogs like Morkies.

3. Curry comb

The third kind of brush, a curry comb, is made of rubber with short, flexible teeth. It's ideal for getting loose hairs off short-haired dogs. But it won't work on a Morkie's coat.

Two more necessities: specialized scissors

For the final touch in grooming, you'll need scissors.

Find some made for pets, with stainless steel blades and a **round tip top**. A rubber-handled pair of scissors, 4 or 5 inches long, will serve you well. You can find a great pair of scissors at Amazon (*Pet Magasin Grooming Scissors*) for about \$20. I've seen these same scissors in retail stores for \$50+.

Another handy tool is **thinning scissors** that you can buy at any beauty supply store or online at Amazon. Prices are wide-ranging, from about \$10.00 to \$50.00 and up.

Sometimes called texturizing shears, one of the blades on these scissors has teeth. Only every few hairs gets cut each time.

This takes away that hard line look when you need to do a little trim with the blunt-end scissors. Use it at the end for a professional touch.



Thinning scissors, or texturizing shears, are very helpful in doing a pro grooming job on your Morkie.

Grooming Basics : Start with frequent, short sessions

With a little bit of daily combing means you CAN keep your Morkie in his long, beautiful coat, and ditch the puppy cut. The good news is you only need to comb your dog for a few minutes at a time. Five or 10 minutes every other night should keep your Morkie mat and tangle free.

If you don't comb your dog at least every third day (ideally more often) you will have a very matted, dirty coat quite quickly.

Because Yorkies have notoriously oily hair and scalp and fine hair, your Morkie needs constant care if she's more Yorkie-than-Maltese.

The hidden danger of mats

Mats can trap moisture, making the warm skin under them ideal breeding grounds for bacteria. In serious cases, skin irritations from mats can lead to lesions and sores. Those nasty sores are hidden under the coat, and can become infected.

The matted coat can pull (hard) on your dog's skin and will hurt. This can cause him to start chewing at the mat to try and get relief. Plus, that hair pulling the skin can bruise it and even cause circulation problems.

Mats can cover up issues that you didn't even know about, including hot spots, parasites, cuts, bruises, eczema, growths and worse.

Bath time!



How often should you bathe your Morkie?

One of the big mistakes first-time dog owners make is bathing their dog too often.

Regular combing keeps your Morkie's coat smooth and mat-free. It even reduces smell. But eventually, you will need to bathe your dog.

Generally speaking, **you should not bathe your Morkie more than once every 8 weeks.**

Too many baths will strip the natural oils from your dog's coat and can cause skin irritations. Your Morkie's skin can become dry and flakey, and his coat can go dull and frizzy when the natural oils are washed away.

Picking a shampoo

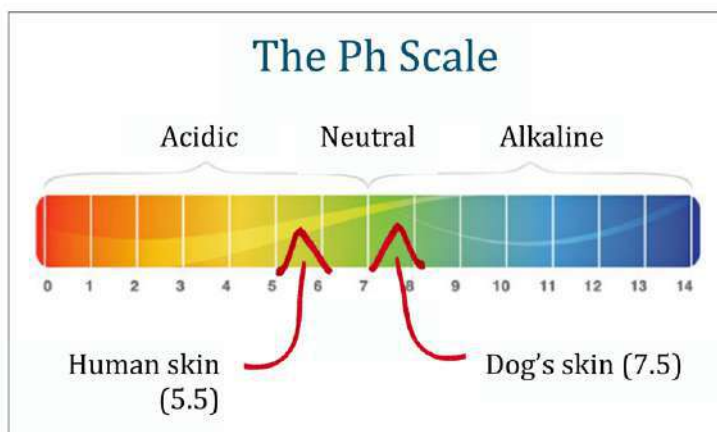
"Is my shampoo OK for my Morkie?"

This is a question I hear quite often and the short answer is NO.

Although you might have to use in a pinch, dog shampoo is quite different than ours. It's made to match a dog's natural PH levels.

(Remember grade 9 science? The pH level of the skin refers to how acidic or alkaline it is. On a scale of 1-14, 1 is the most acidic and 14 is the most alkaline. 7 is a neutral reading.)

A dog's skin has a pH balance of 7.5, compared to our skin, which has a pH balance of 5.5. So you can see our skin is quite a bit more acidic, while your Morkie's is almost neutral.



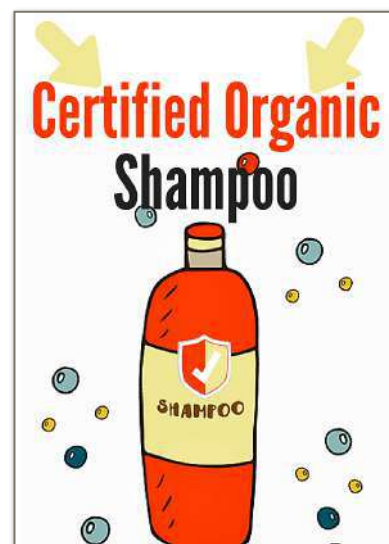
Plus, our skin is 5X thicker than a dog's! So our shampoo must be stronger to do its job, and will be too harsh on your dog's skin.

It may not seem like much of a difference, but people shampoo is just not designed to clean a dog's thinner, more alkaline skin. If you're stuck and must use human shampoo, dilute it with plenty of water before applying.

Pick a shampoo without preservatives and cancer-causing chemicals

It's hard to believe, but products for pets can be sold which:

- contain poisonous chemicals, many of which are known to cause cancer
- claim to be all natural and organic, but are not at all. Just one drop of a true organic ingredient, qualifies the shampoo to be labelled as organic, pure or natural.



Look for a product that's labelled "**Certified Organic Shampoo.**" That's the only way you can be sure the shampoo isn't packed with deadly sulphites, preservatives or propylene glycol, the same ingredient used in windshield washer fluid.

Pick only **CERTIFIED ORGANIC SHAMPOO** for your Morkie. Otherwise, you may be exposing him to cancer-causing chemicals and additives, and harsh formulation that could burn his skin.

Three easy steps to bathing your Morkie

Step One: gather everything you need before you start

- 2 large towels
- washcloth
- a rubber, non-slip mat for the bottom of the sink
- good quality, gentle dog shampoo, ***certified organic***
- cotton balls
- hair dryer
- ear cleaner

Step Two: start the bath

- run some medium warm water in a large sink or a laundry tub — **dogs feel heat more intensely than we do**, so don't make it too hot.
- take your Morkie's collar off and put one or two cotton balls in each ear - don't jam them in with anything other than your finger.
- gently place your dog under the lukewarm, running water, getting the body wet first. Leave the head and neck area for last.
- as you're getting your Morkie wet, be sure and praise her for being calm, and talk to her in a low, gentle voice.
- as she gets used to the water, put the plug in the sink and let it fill to just the top of her legs.
- now, pour some of the dog shampoo in the palm of your hand, and rub it to warm it up; then apply to your Morkie.
- gently massage your dog all over starting with the top of the body and working your way round to the tummy - give the tail and genitals area extra attention.
- wet the head area and shampoo there; try to avoid getting water into the ears and avoid using shampoo on the face itself. If the dog's ears stand up, cup your hand over the opening of the ear while wetting and rinsing. Shampoo under the muzzle, where dogs sometimes get food stuck. Use as little shampoo as possible; instead, wet a facecloth and simply wipe down any debris and dirt on his face.
- let the plug out of the sink, rinse your Morkie with *medium warm, not hot*, running water, starting with the head.
- **no waterboarding** - don't run the water directly into your dog's face - that's like waterboarding! Hold his head up, and let it run on top of the head and down.
- there's no need to 'rinse and repeat' with your Morkie - one shampooing will do the job. And Morkies don't *need* a conditioner; but if you use one, apply and rinse well. Conditioner should also be CERTIFIED ORGANIC.

Step Three: finish the job

- lift your dog out of the sink and place her on the waiting towel.
- give her a quick all over pat-drying, wrapping her snugly in the towel - **don't rub the coat - that will cause mats.**
- remove the cotton balls if they haven't already fallen out.
- pat her dry with the towel, and then dry the body area with the hair dryer on LOW, moving the nozzle constantly. Never stop on just one spot - it will be too hot.
- remember, your Morkie will hate that air being blown directly into her face.
- keep the dryer at low temperature setting and move it all around your Morkie.
- use a very wide toothed comb, or a coat rake, to comb out her coat while you're blow drying.
- finally, wrap your dog in the second, fresh towel and give her a good snuggle.
- if necessary, dry the *visible part* of the ear with another **cotton ball. Never use Q-tips.)**
- put her collar back on and you're done.

Safety Notes:

Never let your Morkie lick himself when covered in shampoo; avoid getting any shampoo on your dog's face.

It's not unusual for a younger dog to get sick from the excitement of a bath. Don't worry, just carry on and continue to reassure your dog.

Make sure your Morkie can't dash out of the sink and jump to the ground - a fall like that could be disastrous.

Finishing touches

Sprays

Professional groomers often use a finishing spray at the end of bathing and drying. These are leave-in treatments to make the dog's coat shinier and great smelling. These sprays can be used (sparingly) between baths too, to freshen up your Morkie.

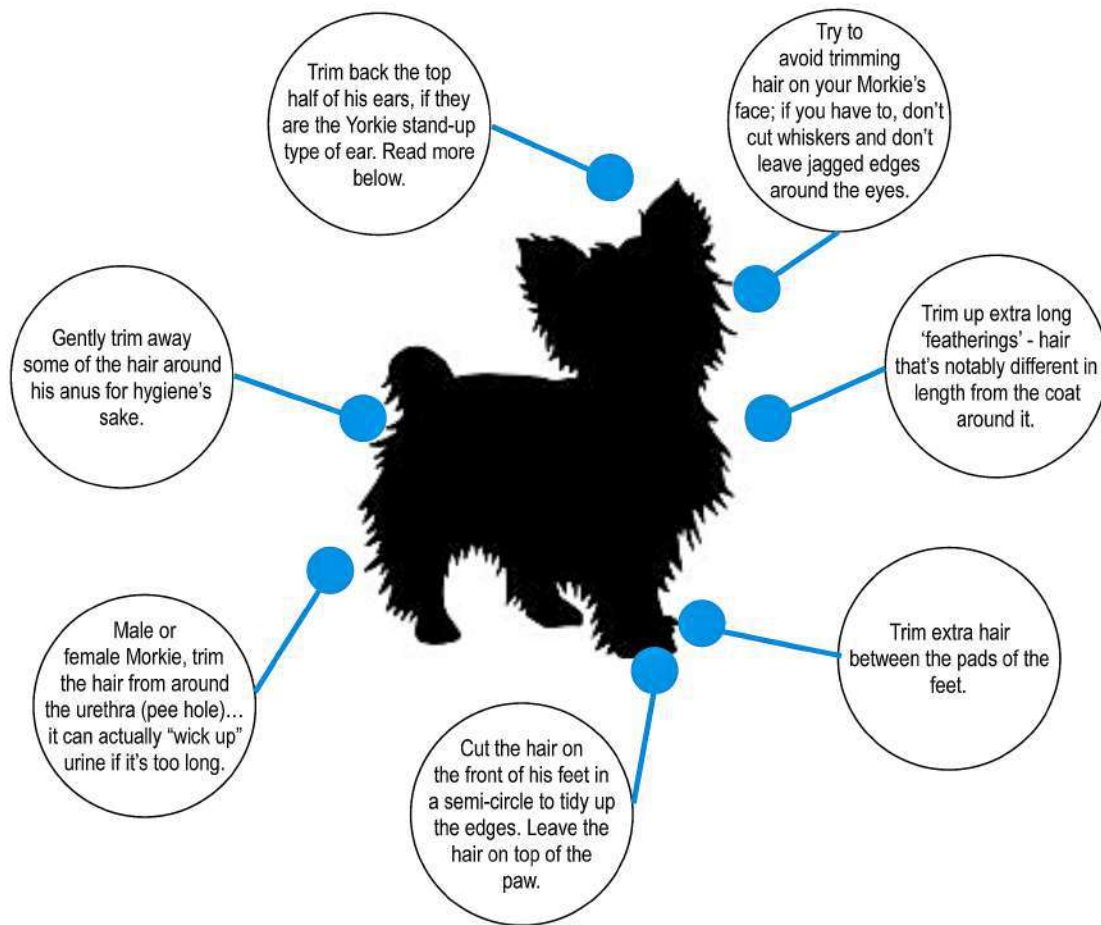
But as with shampoo, it's important you avoid anything toxic or any sprays that contain alcohol, which will dry out your Morkie's coat and skin. Pick only those products that say "**Certified Organic.**"

Argon Oil

Argon oil does amazing things for hair - people's and their pets. This natural plant oil is harvested from the kernels of the argon tree found in Morocco. It penetrates the hair shaft making it shiny and more elastic. Simply rub a small amount on your hands, and smooth over your Morkie's combed hair. You can use the special pet version of argon oil or just use the kind for people. Look for Certified Organic.

The clean-up trim

Even when you're keeping a long, full coat, sometimes your Morkie can use a clean-up trim. Here are some areas that can need attention:



Trimming around paw pads

The hair on the bottom of your Morkie's feet, **between the pads**, can grow quite long and it can trap dirt and debris which he'll bring into the house. Hair on the pads of your dog's feet will reduce his traction and grip as well.

Start off by getting your Morkie used to you handling his paws. Once he's comfortable, introduce the scissors. If he's fussy, you might want to do the front paws in one session and the back paws in another.

Using your round-tip scissors, cut the hair between the pads as close as you safely can. Generally that means the hair is no longer than the height of the pads.



Once that's done, cut the hair on the front of the foot in a semi-circle for a neat and tidy look. Leave the hair on the top of the paws. Just take your time and trim slowly around the edges until it looks neat.



Many people take this opportunity to apply a pad-protecting cream — use something that's made specially for dogs. Our own creams can make your Morkie's pads too soft and therefore too sensitive.

Three highly-rated products are *Eco Pup Paw Protector Wax*, *PET HEAD Oatmeal Paw Butter* or *Paw Nectar 100% Organic and Natural Paw Wax*



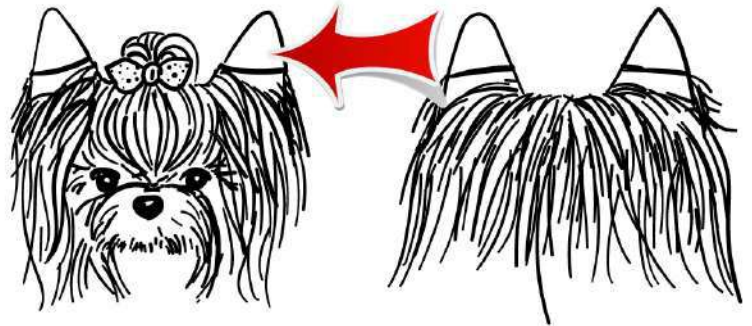
Trimming the outside ear hair

If your Morkie has stand-up, Yorkie type ears, you can trim the outsides of the ears to emphasize the point of the ear. Lay the ear flat against the palm of your hand to avoid cutting your dog. Here's where it's handy to have electric clippers. But if you don't have them, or don't know how to use them, just use your round-tip scissors.

Starting halfway up the ear, clip gently along the ear, going away from the head. Your goal is to trim the hair on the upper, outside half of the ear triangle. Finish with texturing or thinning shears, so there is no hard line to your cuts.



If your Morkie has stand up ears like the Yorkie, then consider trimming the top half of his ears short, to make them look clean and neat, and very pointed.



See page 194 for instructions on removing the hair inside your Morkie's ears.

Trimming hair around the eyes

Avoid this.

You can end up with jagged spikes of hair that poke your Morkie's eyes. Or, you might snip off some whiskers by mistake, a big no no.

Whiskers are a special kind of hair that sends messages to a highly sensitive base and then to the brain. Your dog needs them for sensory perception. If they get cut, he can become disoriented, especially at night.

To manage the hair around the eyes, the best solution is to comb each side of the muzzle well. Use short, gentle strokes, then smooth the hair flat along your Morkie's face.

Nail trimming

Your Morkie's amazing feet

In this illustration, you can see the comparison of a dog's feet with our hands.

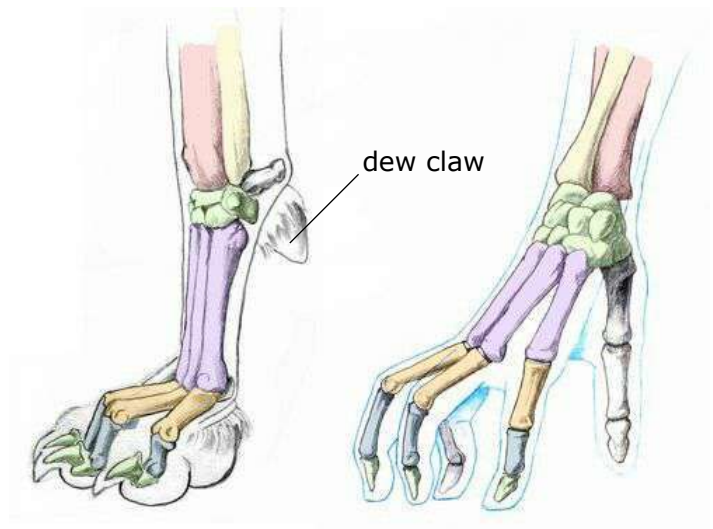
Dogs basically walk on their tip toes; their heels do not take their weight. It would be like us putting our whole body weight on our fingertips.

That's one reason why it's especially important to keep your Morkie's nails trimmed to the right length. If they are too long, you can see from the illustration how that would push their entire foot *up and realign the bones*.

Pads on your dog's feet act as shock absorbers. They have a thick layer of fatty tissue to protect the foot and to guard against extreme temperatures. Plus they provide traction.

In fact the back pad - known as the **carpal pad** - acts as a kind of brake if your dog is on a slippery or steep surface.

(It's important to keep your Morkie's feet free of hair between and over the paws. See page 181 for details on trimming this hair.)



Dew claws

A dew claw is basically a dog's 5th toe that is positioned up a little from the foot. You might see your Morkie use his to help grip a bone or other large treat. Some dogs have front dewclaws, some have rear dewclaws, and some have both.

If your Morkie does have his dewclaws, the nail **MUST** be trimmed like his other nails or it can grow right back and around into his flesh.

An untrimmed dewclaw can be incredibly sharp and much more likely to hook on something. If it does get hooked, it can be easily torn.

If a dewclaw gets torn, it's extremely painful. Clean the torn nail with gentle soap and water as best as possible. Applying pressure with a clean bandage can help stop any bleeding, but the dog should be seen by a Veterinarian as soon as possible.

Why is the length of your dog's nails so important?

Getting your Morkie's nails cut every 6 to 8 weeks will ensure they don't grow too long to manage. Some groomers feature nail *grinding* instead of cutting, and if your Morkie will go along with it, this is a better way to shorten nails.

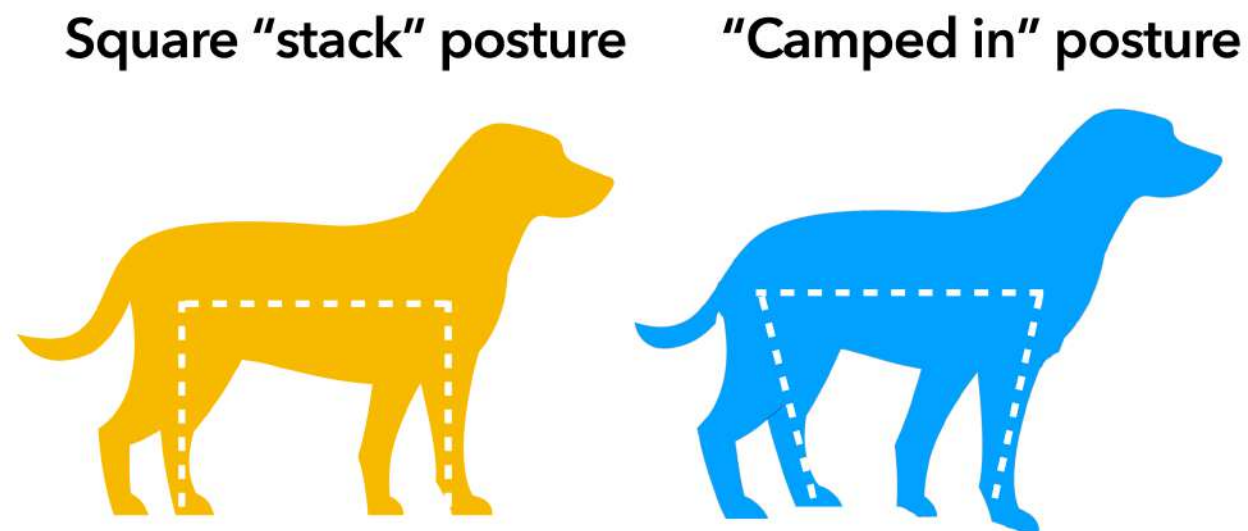
When your dog's nails are too long, he can suffer from two things.

The first is painful feet. When a dog's toenails contact hard ground like a sidewalk or your kitchen floor, that hard surface pushes the nail back up into the nail bed. This puts pressure on all the toe joints, or it forces the toe to twist to the side. Those toes become very sore, even arthritic over time.

Long toenails also affect your dog's overall posture and balance. All animals rely on information from nerves in their feet to move through the world and process gravity. For thousands of years, wild dogs have run long distances while hunting and worn their nails short. The only time their toenails would touch the ground was when climbing a hill.

So evolution has trained the dog's brain to associate toenail contact with being on a hill. And so the dog shifts his body posture, leaning forward over his front legs to go up the imaginary hill. Since the hill is not real, his hind legs have to work hard to avoid a face plant.

This posture is called "goat on a rock." That's because it brings his paws closer together under his body like a goat. A normal neutral posture is a nice show dog "stack." That means the legs are vertical like a table's and the body is well balanced above each leg.



Standing with limbs "camped-in" like this is hard work. These goat-on-a-rock dogs get over-used muscles and eventually over-used joints. It can be especially hard on the back legs. This makes it difficult to jump into cars, climb stairs and even get up from lying down. Sounds like a lot of older dogs we know. So keeping toenails short can critical step for a dog whose hind end has become painful.

Cutting your Morkie's nails

If you're ready to do it yourself, keep in mind two tips from the ASPCA:

1. teach your dog to associate nail trimming with things he loves.
2. take it slow and easy.

Start by handling your dog's paws outside of grooming. Gently squeeze toes one at a time. Do this for several weeks. Then introduce the clippers - to get your Morkie used to the feel and look of the clippers. When your dog seems calm and comfortable, try trimming a nail or two.

For Morkies, **small scissor-type nail clippers** are ideal. Keep them as sharp as possible. Read the directions on the package carefully. And if you're not clear on technique, check on YouTube for more help.

Keep a clotting powder, such as **Kwik Stop®** Styptic Powder, close at hand when you trim your dog's nails, so that you can stop the bleeding right away if you cut the nail quick.

The best time to cut nails is after your Morkie has had a bath, since the nails will be softer.



Small scissor-type nail clippers are perfect for Morkies. Don't forget Styptic Powder.

Not for small dogs like Morkies

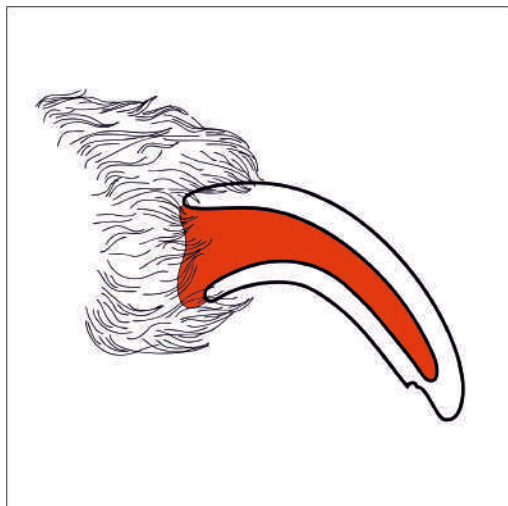


Large clippers, or the guillotine-style clipper where the nail goes into the opening, are not good for small dogs. Their nails will be painfully crushed, not cut.

How often should you cut your Morkie's nails?

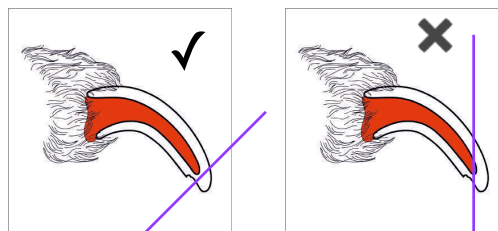
Depending on how quickly they grow, every 3 weeks is a good average. One way to know it's time: you can hear his nails clicking on the floor. If that's the case, his nails are FAR too long.

Another way is visually; a piece of paper should fit between the dog's nails and the floor.

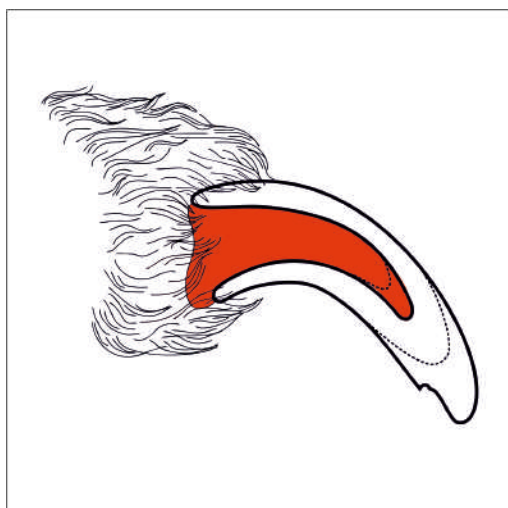


These nails are far too long. You can see how the quick has also grown out too long.

It can't be trimmed because it is composed of a blood vessel and nerves, and will bleed profusely if nicked.

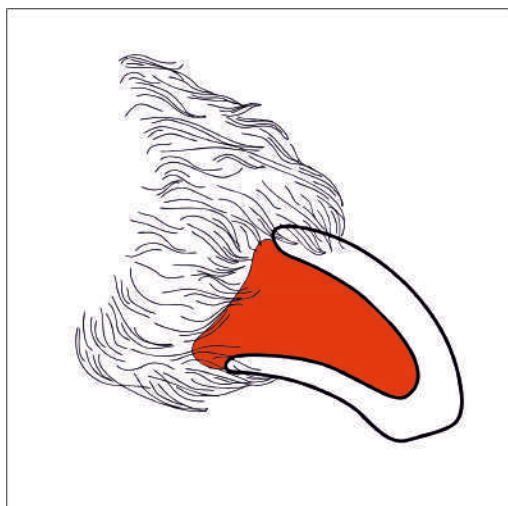


cut at an angle



To cut the nail, and start getting the quick to grow back, trim carefully once a week. Keep styptic powder handy; it will help the blood clot quickly if you have an accident.

Eventually the quick will grow back up, and you can keep the nails shorter.



Ideal length for nails; now they can be cut once every 4 to 6 weeks to keep them at the right length.

You should not be able to hear your dog's nails click on a hard floor.

Don't forget to cut the nail on the dew claw.

What about tools like Pedi-Paws?

There are several products on the market like Pedi-Paws, a consumer-grade nail grinder. Do these work? On sites like Yahoo Questions or Amazon reviews, most consumers report that they do work but are best for younger animals, or those already used to nail grinding.

The easiest way to keep your Morkie's nails the right length?

Just walk your dog regularly on concrete. Their nails will stay 'trimmed' and at the right length. Remember to use a dog moisturizer on your Morkie's paw pads from time to time, to counteract rough pavement.

The anal sacs

There's one more grooming and care issue to look at: infected or impacted anal sacs.

What ARE anal sacs?

- also called Anal Glands.
- filled with the oily, stinky substance of the glandular tissue.
- found between the internal and external muscular rings of the anus.

What purpose do they serve?

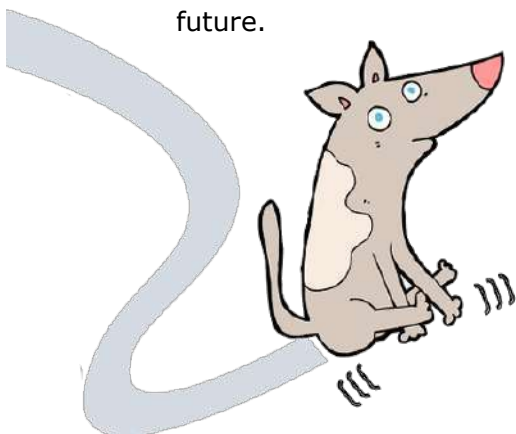
- experts don't agree but one purpose is to create the scent that animals use to 'mark' their territory.
- most extreme example of anal sacs in nature: the skunk!

Normally, anal sacs are drained in the regular course of pooping. However, they can become impacted, plugged, irritated or infected. That's when you'll notice excessive licking around the base of the tail (which is also a possible sign of fleas) or you'll see the famous --

Scooting

Treatment

Although you CAN 'express' the anal sacs yourself at home, the stench is quite shocking and it's not that easy to do the first time. You might want to ask your Vet or groomer to take care of this problem - you can also discuss strategies to avoid impacted anal glands in the future.



Part Six: All About Vaccinations

Vaccinations are medicines injected into your dog which stimulate the immune system to fight a certain disease.

Vaccines contain viruses or bacteria;
they've been modified so that they will not *cause* disease.

The big picture: a new approach

There's been a backlash against dog vaccinations - and for good reason!



Too many.

We giving our pets too many types of vaccinations.

Too soon.

We are starting vaccinations too young.

Too often.

Pets don't need vaccinations and boosters so often.

Pet immunization is far riskier than you might think

Many people believe we are giving our pets vaccinations TOO SOON - to puppies that are too young.

We are giving TOO MANY TYPES of vaccinations. More is not better!

We're giving them TOO OFTEN. Research shows most vaccinations protect for at least 7 years, if not the dog's lifetime. So why are we revaccinating and giving booster shots EVERY YEAR?

Adverse reactions to vaccines are harming and even killing our pets.

.....and SMALL DOGS are often hardest hit.

The issues around vaccination

1. **safety** - just how safe ARE the various vaccines?
2. **frequency** - how often are vaccinations *really* needed in order to be effective?
3. **variety of options** - are the vaccinations offered necessary?
4. **conflict of interest** - vaccines are VERY big business, so who can we believe?
5. **one size fits all** - no matter what size the dog, each is given the same size dose!
6. **there's always a risk** with any vaccination. Are we managing that risk as well as we could?

How did we get here?

We all want our pets to have the best protection possible. And vaccination has played a pivotal role in improving life for our animal companions and for ourselves. Vaccination has prevented untold numbers of dreadful deaths from rabies, distemper, canine hepatitis and other diseases.

However, there are *more types* of vaccines now than ever, and new products are added all the time. While some may be vital to dogs in certain circumstances or geographic areas, not all of them ARE necessary. (And remember the only vaccination you're compelled to get, by law, is Rabies.)

Some vaccines - for example **Leptospirosis** - are recommended for small size dogs even though the dog is closely minded by its owners. The chance of your little dog being exposed to this danger are slim (more details on this later).

A growing body of research proves that immunity from vaccinations **lasts much longer than first thought**. So there's no need to automatically revaccinate or "boost" vaccinations every year.

What's the downside in vaccinating more, and more often?

We're told that "we've always done it this way" and "most dogs are protected this way" - lots of vaccinations, bundled together and given frequently. It's a sense of 'let's err on the side of *more* protection.'

The problem is, there are so many negatives to this approach for small dogs. And there's very little evidence that more IS better in protecting your Morkie.



According to the market research firm *MarketsandMarkets*, the global Veterinary vaccines market is set to be worth **\$8.66 billion** by 2022. That's up from \$5.5 billion in 2015.

1. There are dangerous “filler” ingredients in vaccines

There is always an associated risk with every type of vaccination. And nearly all vaccinations contain dangerous ingredients, including:

Thimerosal - a **mercury-based additive** used as a preservative. As far back as 1935, the manufacturer of vaccines with Thimerosal was warned, this is “unsatisfactory for serum intended for use on dogs.”⁸

Gentamicin - an antibiotic, added to prevent bacterial infection during manufacturing. So when your dog gets a vaccine he’s getting antibiotics whether you like it or not.

Aluminium - is very common in vaccines. Unfortunately, it is linked to degenerative brain and nervous system diseases. The gradual accumulation of aluminum and mercury in the brain leads to cognitive dysfunction - Alzheimers, dementia and other diseases. Research at UC Davis in California suggests up to 39% of aging dogs have at least one sign of dementia.

Contaminants - this means anything that shouldn’t be there; anything impure, unclean or toxic. Vaccines contain contaminants like **formaldehyde** and **foreign animal protein** that can cause autoimmune disease, cancer and a myriad of other unwanted conditions.⁹

2. Small dogs are far more likely to have a bad reaction to vaccinations



⁸ (Director of Biological Services, Pittman-Moore Company, letter to Dr Jamieson of Eli Lilly Company dated 1935. U.S. Congressional Record, May 21, 2003, E1018, page 9).

⁹ The only official checks made for contaminants in vaccines are for a few known pathogens, potentially missing a vast host of unknown, unstudied, small particles and chemicals. It’s simply impossible to remove contaminants from vaccines. An important scientific paper was published in April 2010 in the *Journal of Virology* (Isolation of an Infectious Endogenous Retrovirus [RD-114] in a Proportion of Live Attenuated Vaccines for Pets, *Journal of Virology*, April 2010, p 3690-3694, Vol 84, No 7). Read this, and author Catherine O’Driscoll’s article on Vaccine Contaminants in the January 2013 issue of *Dogs Naturally Magazine* for more information.

Dogs weighing 11 pounds or less were four times more likely than dogs over 99 pounds, to suffer a bad reaction.

Small dogs are more at risk because —

- a) for most vaccines, they're given the same amount of as a huge dog. Vaccines contain a fairly small amount of the "active ingredient" and a large amount of "fillers." These fillers, as we saw above, can be highly toxic. These toxic ingredients in vaccines (such as mercury, aluminum, MSG and formaldehyde) can cause health issues in any size dog, let alone a tiny one.
- b) these toxic 'extras' can trigger a state of inflammation in your Morkie's tiny body; setting the stage for autoimmune disorders like allergies, hypothyroidism, diabetes, joint diseases and more.
- c) small dogs simply have less body mass to fight off bad reactions to the vaccines and their dangerous additives.

Despite their obvious size differences, these dogs all receive the same size shots. So the amount of toxic ingredients to body weight, is much higher in the smaller breeds.



Short term reactions to vaccinations

In the pet world, *short term* refers to side effects that appear within 3 days. These reactions can include anything from swelling at the vaccination site, to lethargy, diarrhea, hives, itchiness, vomiting, urination, drooling, elevated heart rate, pale gums, shallow rapid pulse and difficulty breathing, weakness and general depression.

At the extreme end of the spectrum, reactions can be as severe as seizures, anaphylactic shock and even death.

Long term impact of vaccinations

Much more concerning than short term reactions, are the long term effects, sometimes call "Vaccinosis Disease" by the holistic Veterinary community.

Although mainstream doctors don't believe there is such a thing, many do agree that adverse reactions to vaccinations shouldn't be accepted as normal. Nor should over-vaccinating our pets.

Long term symptoms or reactions to vaccinations, can include chronic complaints like irritable bowel syndrome, liver and kidney problems, glandular changes, ear infections, parasite infestation, skin problems, tumours at the vaccination site, allergies and cancer. Many Vets advise their clients to watch for lesions that might form at the spot of injection, and report them right away.

Autoimmune disease

These are disorders in which the immune system mistakes the body's own organs for foreign invaders and attacks them.

There is more and more research, independent of the Big Pharma companies who make vaccines, that shows a link between canine vaccination and autoimmune disease. **Again, not all experts agree.**

Cancer

Besides serious, life threatening autoimmune diseases, vaccinations can increase your dog's risk of cancer.

From that inflammation at the injection site, sarcomas can develop (cancerous mass arising from bone, cartilage, fat or muscle). These tumours are characterized as highly invasive, rapidly growing, and malignant. Often, the cancer spreads to the lungs, but it may spread to the lymph nodes and to the skin as well.

Pet vaccines may also include other toxins such as MSG (a known neurotoxin), sorbitol, and other residual impurities from processing like heavy metals, aluminium and/or mercury.

Sources:

"The Truth About Vaccines," a 7-part documentary directed by Ty Bollinger. NY Times Bestselling Author "Effects of Vaccination on the Endocrine and Immune Systems of Dogs, Phase II", Purdue University, November 1, 1999, at <http://www.homestead.com/vonhapsburg/haywardstudyonvaccines.html>.

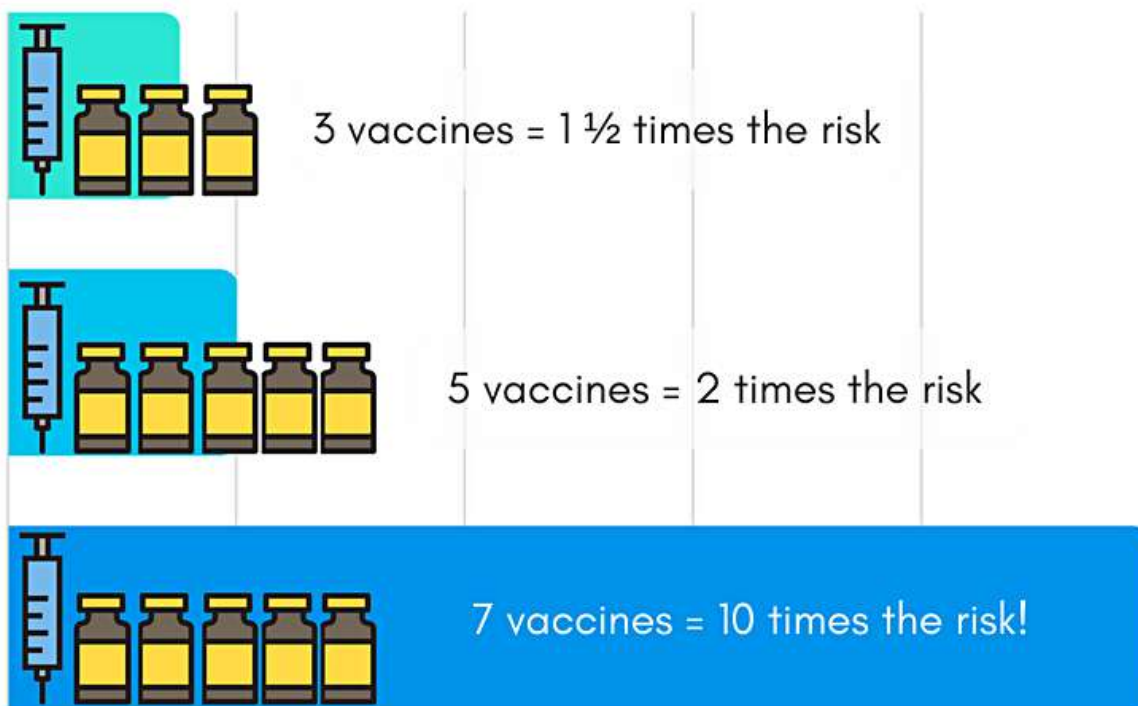
Vaccine-associated Sarcoma in Dogs, https://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/cancer/c_dg_vaccine_sarcoma/

<https://thetruthaboutcancer.com/pet-vaccinations/>

3. The combination of vaccinations given all at once - called bundling - can be deadly for small dogs

Look how much the risk grows when you combine more than one vaccine at a time. Those given separately — call monovalent vaccines — aren't always stocked at the Vet's and they cost more.

The more vaccines in a single shot, the greater the risk of an adverse reaction for small dogs.



It's like bombing your little dog with poisons.

Scheduling vaccinations - how often?

The large, conservative **American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)** took a look at vaccination guidelines in 2003 and in 2006. They were responding to a growing body of research that indicates:

1. immunity in dogs lasts longer than we realized.
2. many vaccines are very risky, so if they can be reduced or eliminated, so much the better.

As a result, the AAHA issued new guidelines that say,

"Vaccinate adult dogs every three years,
not annually,
with the 1 year Rabies being the exception."

Regulatory groups agreed: every 3 years

Many other regulatory bodies joined in, along with Universities that teach Veterinarian care. All agreed: **go 3 years** — except where the rabies vaccination is required annually by law.

The American Veterinary Medical Journal (#208) stepped up, writing:

"There is little scientific documentation that backs up label claims for annual administration of most vaccines. In the past, it was believed that annual vaccination would not hurt and would probably help most animals. However concerns about side effects have begun to change this attitude. The client is paying for something with no effect or with the potential for an adverse reaction."

Unfortunately, "**many Vets are very slow to update their practices**" (from *the Veterinarian Practice News*, March 2013).

Yet why would you want to vaccinate your Morkie more often, in light of these statements from the industry leaders?

Recommendations have changed - but has your Vet changed?

There are still some Veterinarians who choose to ignore the research, but many now recommend annual wellness examinations and vaccinations only every three years

Since then, the industry has determined that some vaccines — distemper and parvovirus - actually **deliver at least 5 years worth of immunity**.

Given the dangers...

Before you vaccinate, be sure of the following:

- your dog is healthy and has never had a reaction before - no allergies, no medical issues, and is not elderly.
- the disease you're fighting through vaccination, is life-threatening.
- there's a chance your dog will be exposed to this disease.
- the vaccine is considered both safe and effective.

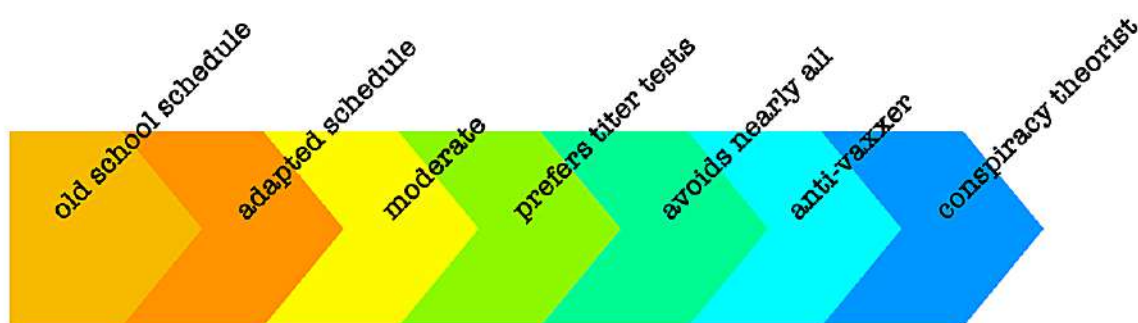
Remember, it's your right to decide

There is a lot of controversy about vaccinations and such a range of opinions on what to give, and when. Please remember that the AAHA¹⁰ and WSAVA¹¹ guidelines for vaccination are just that - **guidelines**.

Guilt is often used to get consumers to go along with the "common wisdom" that lots of vaccinations are an essential part of responsible, loving pet ownership. In fact, the opposite is true. The **old school schedule** recommends as many vaccinations as possible. You may not be a diehard traditionalist, willing to throw caution to the wind and pile on with the vaccinations. On the other hand, you're probably not an **Anti-Vaxxer** either, who denies the importance of ALL vaccinations or believes they're part of a bigger conspiracy.

It would be extreme to say that your dog should *never* be vaccinated. But over-vaccination and vaccinating unnecessarily are not your only options.

You don't have to simply accept your Vet's advice at face value without questioning it. Instead, look at the benefits and the risks and pick the route that makes most sense to you.



Vaccinations schedules: one extreme to the other

¹⁰ The American Animal Hospital Association, which accredits Veterinarians in the U.S.A. and Canada.

¹¹ The World Small Animal Veterinary Association, an association of Veterinary organizations from all over the world.

Traditional schedule

This is an example of a traditional schedule for vaccinations. **DHLPP** or **DHLPP+C** are *multivalent vaccines* -- or bundled vaccines. They are exactly what you want to avoid for small dogs. (The other type is **monovalent** vaccines, single doses, but often Vets don't stock them because of the higher cost.)

Here's what the letters stand for in bundled vaccines:

D - Distemper
H - Hepatitis
L - Leptospirosis

P - Parvovirus
P - Parainfluenza
+C - Corona

Traditional Vaccination Schedule - Puppies					
6 to 8 weeks old	11 to 12 weeks	4 months	15 - 16 weeks	7 - 9 months	16 months
DHLPP or DHLPP+C	2nd DHLLP vaccine	First rabies shot	3rd DHLLP vaccine	first heartworm test	2nd rabies shot (12 months after the first one)
Corona - intestinal viral disease	At your Vet's recommendation.				

Adult Dogs (after 1 year) often get these vaccinations in a traditional schedule	
DHLLP	Annual
Heartworm Test and medication	Annual
Rabies (after second shot)	Annual or every 3 years, depending on vaccine
Bordatella	Yearly

Annual vaccinations are not necessary; in fact, they're dangerous ...and expensive

Dogs do not need to be vaccinated every year. The organizations who oversee Veterinarians even say so:

- ➔ *there has never been any research to indicate that dogs should be vaccinated annually.*

PLUS, research has been conducted that shows the DOI or **duration of immunity** is much longer than we thought - vaccination immunity lasts at least 5 years, and sometimes 7.

Less aggressive schedule: puppies

Puppies have a natural immunity which they get from their mother's milk, and vaccinating them too young can actually cause more problems than the vaccines prevent. When a puppy with a reasonable amount of maternal antibodies is vaccinated, **the maternal antibodies will essentially inactivate the vaccine**, just as they would a real virus.

And, when puppies are vaccinated too early, too often and with too many vaccines at once, there are other repercussions. One is the possibility of autoimmune disease, including allergies, joint disease, digestive diseases, Cushing's disease and even cancer. Vaccines are only effective once a puppy has been weaned.

	puppy's first 16 weeks															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Absolute minimum Research supports that one vaccination of each of the core vaccines - provides lifetime immunity																• • •
AAHA "compromise" schedule 1 vaccination per core disease every 5 years, after initial puppy doses				• • •					• • •						• • •	
60% of Vets today over vaccinate Annual vaccinations after initial puppy doses				• • •					• • •						• • •	

New schedule for vaccinating adult dogs

The 3 recommended vaccinations are Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus, along with Rabies as #4.

	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year	year
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Absolute minimum Research supports that one vaccination of each of the core vaccines - provides lifetime immunity																
AAHA "compromise" schedule 1 vaccination per core disease every 5 years, after initial puppy doses					• • •					• • •						• • •
60% of Vets today over vaccinate Annual vaccinations after initial puppy doses	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •

Alternatives to vaccinations: the Titer test

A simple blood test can tell you if your Morkie is protected from a specific disease, or needs another vaccination or booster shot. Called a titer test (pronounced TIGHT er), it measures the level of antibodies in your dog's blood. Antibodies are the body's defence against specific diseases.

Your Morkie could have good immunity against specific diseases (lots of antibodies) when:

- he has been exposed to the disease and didn't fall sick, or
- his earlier vaccinations are still protecting him

Originally, Titer tests took time and were costly. Blood was drawn and had to be sent out. Results could take two weeks or more.

Now, there are at least two new tests that your Vet can do in the clinic, without sending blood out for testing. Within about 15 minutes, you'll know if your dog needs any vaccines. The two brands are:

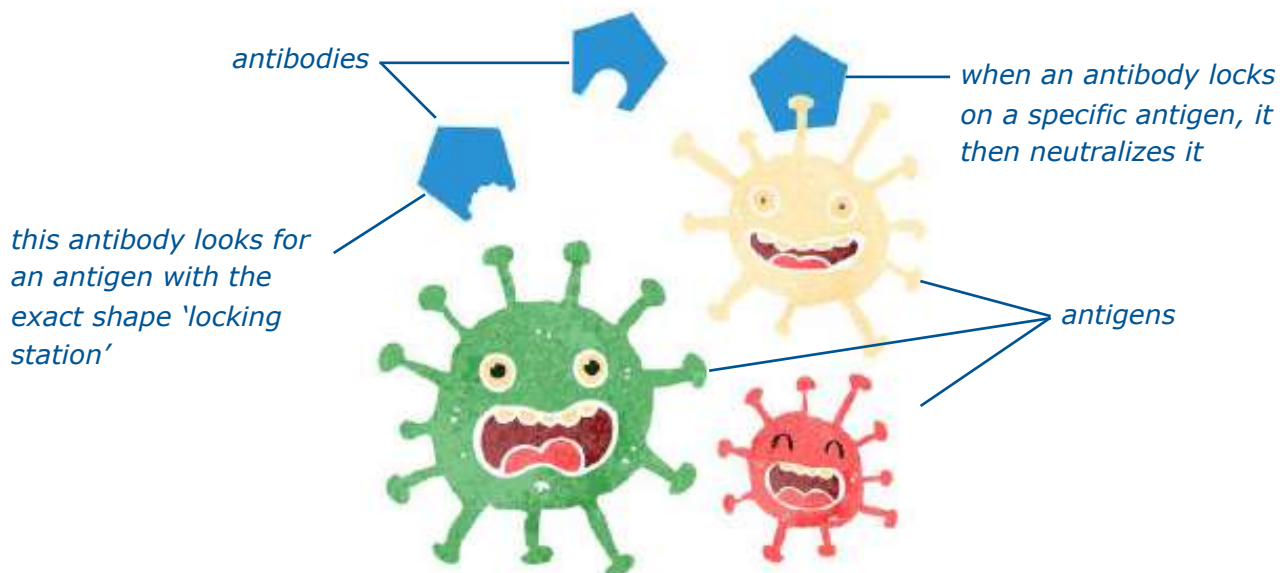
- TiterCHEK, manufactured by Synbiotics Corporation
- VacciCheck, manufactured by Biogal Galed Laboratories

Between them, they can test accurately for canine adenovirus, canine distemper and canine parvovirus.

The only titer test that can't be done in-clinic, is the one for rabies. But you are compelled to get that shot for your dog in any case.

Think of an immune system like a computer game. The immune system develops a supply of disease-fighting cells called **antibodies**. Some of these are designed to battle specific types of illnesses.

When invaders (called **antigens**) attack the body, this trips an alarm and antibodies head out to fight the antigens. Specific antibodies lock on specific antigens and neutralize them.

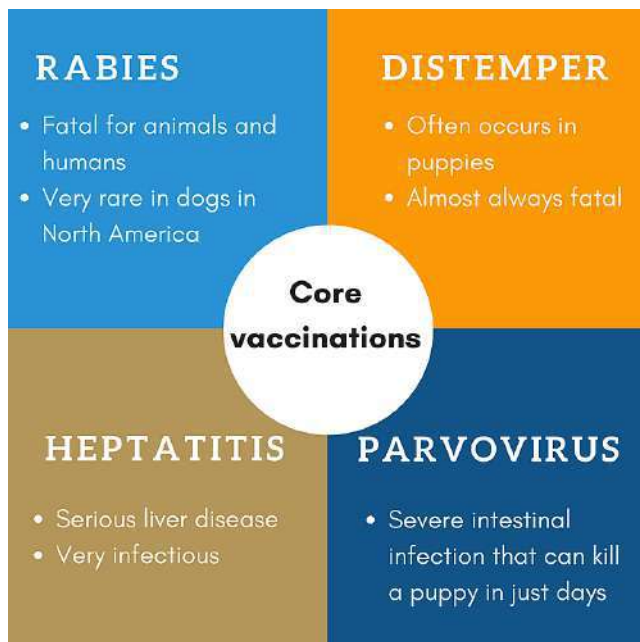


The details: core and non-core vaccinations

Core vaccinations

They protect against these 4 deadly diseases and infections:

- **Rabies** - fatal for animals and humans.
- **Distemper** - often occurs in puppies and is almost always fatal.
- **Infectious hepatitis** - serious liver disease.
- **Parvovirus - or Parvo**, is very severe intestinal infection that can kill a puppy in just a few days.



Non-core vaccinations

These can protect against:

- **Leptospirosis** - bacterial disease of the urinary tract, can cause chronic kidney and liver failure.
- **Giardia** - or "beaver fever."
- **Coronavirus** - like a milder form of Parvo, marked by diarrhea, dehydration.
- **Parainfluenza** - vaccine helps reduce impact of kennel cough, but does not prevent it.
- **Bordatella** - or kennel cough; severe hacking and coughing that may linger.
- **Bronchiseptica** - one of the leading bacterial causes of kennel cough.
- **Lyme disease** - passed along by blood-sucking deer ticks, can cause multiple health problems.

These non-core vaccines may be recommended for your Morkie depending on lifestyle, where you live and any risk factors. However you should consider their use carefully.

Non-core vaccinations	
LEPTOSPIROSIS	bacterial disease of the urinary tract
BORDATELLA	harsh, hacking cough
LYME DISEASE	lameness, joint disease
PARAINFLUENZA	highly contagious, flu-like
CORONA	viral; attacks the intestines

***The RABIES VACCINATION is the only one required by law.**

Core vaccines: Rabies

A rabies vaccination is probably the law where you live. In fact, the rabies vaccination is the only legally-required vaccine for companion animals in the United States and Canada.

The word 'rabies' conjures up scary images of dogs frothing at the mouth, biting humans, people enduring huge needles in the gut and more. Rabies is deadly and highly contagious but thankfully, rare in North America.

Vaccines to protect dogs from rabies were developed in the 1950s; today, most cases (90%) of rabies in the developed world occur only in wild animals (mostly raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes).

Rabies is transmitted only through saliva - in other words a bite. The rabies virus attacks the brain, destroying brain cells and causing death.

Treatment for rabies: there is no treatment for rabies for your dog or cat. If a human is bitten, there are extensive and painful treatments that start right away. The biting animal is quarantined and depending on local laws, may be humanely put down so that its brain can be examined for signs of rabies.

Does your Morkie need an annual rabies vaccination or booster shot?

The movement to extend vaccine intervals is gaining ground because of growing evidence that vaccines themselves can trigger cancer in cats and a deadly blood disorder in dogs. Many Veterinarians feel strongly that boosters have benefits that outweigh the risks - and ***it is the law.***

Unfortunately, small breeds have adverse reactions to the rabies vaccine, at rates **10 times higher** than large breeds, suggesting standard vaccine doses are too high for smaller animals. (This was reported in the esteemed *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, not a private advocacy group or fringe group of 'crackpots.')

Tip: keep your dog's rabies vaccination papers in a safe place. You may need them for travel or to prove you're complying with local laws. If the breeder has the papers, be sure and get the originals.

Adverse reactions to Rabies shots can include:

Immediately or up to 3 days after the shot:

- vomiting, facial swelling.
- fever or lethargy.
- circulatory shock.
- loss of consciousness, shock.
- death.

Days, weeks or months after the shot, you may see:

- inflammation and fibrosarcoma (cancer) at the injection site.
- seizures and epilepsy.
- autoimmune diseases, including organ disease, allergies and skin problems.
- chronic digestive problems.
- muscle weakness, especially lack of hind end coordination.
- chronic digestive disorders.
- serious skin diseases like Ischemic Dermatopathy / Cutaneous vasculitis.
- behavior problems: aggression, destructive behaviors, separation anxiety and odd, obsessive behaviors (like tail chasing and paw licking).

Lessening the risk of an adverse reaction:

- **no combo shots for small dogs like Morkies** - space the shots out by at least 2 months
- never give any other vaccination with a rabies shot
- for all vaccinations, stay in the Vet's office area for at least half an hour after the injection so that you can get help fast if your Morkie has a bad reaction
- report any reactions you believe might be linked to the shot to your Vet immediately. Get the lot number of the vaccine used, brand name, date given and location of the shot on the dog's body and report the reaction and diagnosis to the vaccine manufacturer as well.

When does a Rabies vaccination make sense?

Always. And it is mandated by law.

Puppies should - and must be - vaccinated against rabies. This should happen at 16 weeks, and no earlier, because younger pups will still have MDA (maternally derived antibodies) in their systems, which could interfere with the rabies vaccine.

After that initial vaccination for rabies, it's up to you to determine how often the rabies vaccination is required where you live, and whether or not you will be compliant.

While Vets may be able to give partial doses of other core vaccines, the law requires them to give a full dose of the rabies vaccine. This is bad news for small dogs. Make sure you give the vaccine **no more often than necessary**.

Remember that adverse reactions to vaccination are vastly under-reported and the incidence of vaccine-related disease is much higher than you would think.

One year or three year rabies vaccine?

Generally, the only difference between the 1-year rabies vaccine and the 3-year rabies vaccine is how it's labeled. So always ask for 3-year vaccine.¹²

¹² American veterinarian.com 2017 Convention address, Kim Campbell Thornton.

Core vaccines: Canine Distemper

Until the 1970s, canine distemper killed dogs in huge numbers; in fact it was the number one cause of death until effective vaccines were developed. Passed along through respiratory discharges or contact with an infected dog, the results are usually fatal.

Puppies between 3 and 6 months of age are most susceptible and most likely to die from this **viral disease**. Adult dogs who haven't been immunized, *can* contract distemper, but it's usually milder.

Today, most cases of distemper show up in rescue shelters or pet store puppies.

A dog with **distemper** can show many symptoms, depending on the severity of the illness and which systems the disease has attacked:

early signs	infected intestinal tract	infected respiratory tract	infected brain and spinal cord
fever, loss of appetite, discharge from eyes or nose.	vomiting, diarrhea, suddenly weak and lethargic.	cough, sneezing, vomiting, green discharge from nose, "pink eye," difficulty breathing.	seizures, uncontrolled movements and twitches, lack of control of body.
What treatment is available?			
Nothing is available to attack the distemper directly; however these treatments are often used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• antibiotics are given to try and slow the damage to intestinal lining and lungs;• treatment of diarrhea;• intravenous liquids for dehydration.			none

If a dog survives distemper, he may have seizures and other problems that don't show up for many years.

According to top researchers, and reported by the *American Veterinary Medical Association*, once a dog is immune to distemper, he is immune for years or even for life.

The vaccination

Shortform	Full name of the virus	What it causes
CDV	Canine Distemper Virus	canine distemper

The first **distemper vaccination** is traditionally given at about 10 weeks (any time between 4 and 20 weeks) although that's early for a small dog. Before that, puppies are protected naturally by the antibodies in the mother's milk.

The booster shot is given 12 weeks after that - and that's it for life, for distemper.

Adverse reactions to Canine Distemper Virus vaccination

Your dog may have some or all of these symptoms:

- lethargy
- slight fever
- swelling at the injection site
- loss of appetite

More serious responses include:

- swelling of the face
- diarrhea
- vomiting
- lack of response

Contact your Veterinarian immediately if you see any of these more serious responses, or if you have ANY concerns.

Lessening those adverse reactions

Again, it seems that bundling vaccinations can be one of the biggest problems. In particular, the parvo vaccine together with distemper, could be too much for your small dog.

The more you can separate out vaccines and unbundle them, the better. At the very least, if your dog has a bad response, you'll know which vaccine is the culprit.

When does a Distemper vaccination make sense?

Distemper vaccination is one of the simplest and most important ways you can protect your dog's health. But don't discount the dangers that come with any vaccination, and follow whatever advice you can to reduce the risk of a bad reaction.

There is no scientific research that supports annual and bi-annual booster shots are required.

Research proves that

"Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity."

- Dr. Ronald Schultz, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, No. 4, August 15, 1995 [This peer-reviewed, general scientific journal provides reports of clinical research, feature articles and regular columns of interest to Veterinarians in private and public practice.]

Core vaccines: Infectious Canine Hepatitis (ICH)

A viral disease of the liver, Hepatitis is transmitted through the bodily fluids of infected animals. The corneas of infected animals may appear cloudy or bluish, leading to the expression "hepatitis blue-eye" used to describe the unfortunate dog. Although there is no treatment for an infected dog, the disease can be prevented through routine DHLPP vaccinations.

There are two related virus strains of ICH that can attack a dog's system:

Shortform	Full name of the virus	What it causes
CAV-1	Canine Adenovirus type-1	infectious hepatitis
CAV-2	Canine Adenovirus type-2	respiratory infection

Infectious Canine Hepatitis — also called canine adenovirus type 2 — is an extremely contagious form of hepatitis that attacks the dog's liver and kidneys, and sometimes the eyes. It is caused by the Type 1 virus.

The vaccine used to protect dogs is a modified live strain of the CAV-2 virus, which protects against both forms.

Dogs can pick up Infectious Canine Hepatitis (ICH) from the urine and other fluids of infected wild animals — foxes, wolves, bears and others. Sniffing or licking is the typical way it's passed on.

At first this virus often shows up as an infection of the upper respiratory tract. The dog could have tonsillitis, Pink Eye, a bad cough or an ear infection. In about 1 in 4 cases, the disease eventually attacks the eyes, and can lead to glaucoma. Without proper treatment, the results of this pressure on the eyeball - glaucoma - will end in blindness.

Ultimately Infectious Canine Hepatitis attacks the liver and kidneys. The death rate for ICH is between 10% and 30% of those infected, and is highest in very young dogs.

Symptoms of the disease

Thankfully, ICH has become rare in Canada and the U.S. because of vaccinations. There are occasional outbreaks, which underline the importance of vaccinations against this disease.

The symptoms for **Infectious Canine Hepatitis** vary wildly, from a mild fever to fatal illness, and can look like canine distemper or parvo. They include fever, lethargy, depression, vomiting and in severe cases, bloody diarrhea.

Adverse reactions to Hepatitis vaccination

Vaccinating against ICH CAV-1 or infectious canine hepatitis caused by the canine adenovirus type 1 - phew - is almost always part of a combo shot. Reactions to that combo shot can include:

- depression.
- vomiting.
- diarrhea.
- loss of appetite.
- fever.
- muscle aches.

Lessening those adverse reactions

Single vaccines will greatly reduce the chances of a bad reaction as we saw earlier. However, single vaccines may or may not be available in your area, so if they're not — reach out to a **holistic Veterinarian** if necessary.

Like all vaccines, the ICH CAV-1 could be responsible for what's called "vaccinosis" - actual diseases and problems that some experts believe are directly *caused by vaccines*. These include allergies, seizures, anemia and cancer. And there is always the question about vaccinations causing autoimmune disease. More about these larger concerns later.

When does a Hepatitis vaccination make sense?

Always. ICH is a nasty disease and nearly all experts agree your dog should be protected against it with vaccination. However, there is no scientific research that supports annual and bi-annual booster shots are required.

Research proves that:

"Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity."

- Dr. Ronald Schultz, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, No. 4, August 15, 1995 [This peer-reviewed, general scientific journal provides reports of clinical research, feature articles and regular columns of interest to Veterinarians in private and public practice.]

Core vaccines: Parvovirus or Parvo

This is the most common serious infectious disease of dogs in the United States and Canada.

A disease of the gastrointestinal tract, is it **often (80% of the time) fatal** and can kill in just a few days. Parvo is a devastating and often fatal disease of young dogs that dog owners (rightly) fear.

Parvo usually strikes puppies between 14 and 20 weeks, when the protective effects of their mother's milk have worn off. It's spread from one dog to other by direct or indirect contact with excrement.

Symptoms of Parvo include severe, often bloody diarrhea; high fever; lethargy and vomiting ... all of which leads to severe dehydration which can kill your dog.

This serious illness causes swelling of the intestines and stomach which in turn causes lethargy and diarrhea. Symptoms include severe, often bloody diarrhea; high fever and vomiting ... all of which lead to extreme dehydration which itself can kill your dog quickly.

However the vaccination itself can leave your dog more susceptible to infections, neurological disorders and encephalitis - an inflammation of the brain.

Shortform	Full name of the virus	What it causes
CPV-2	Canine Parvovirus type-2	canine parvovirus or parvo

Treatment for Parvo

- see your Vet at once; your dog will need to be rehydrated immediately.
- your Vet may also give medications to reduce intestinal spasms, along with antibiotics.
- the prognosis for parvo is quite good with immediate Veterinarian care; most dogs will recover, but some do not.

Adverse reactions to the Parvo vaccination

The vaccination to protect against Canine Parvovirus type 2 or CPV-2, is a modified live virus. Side effects to a parvo shot can include fever, stiffness, sore joints and tenderness in the belly.

- as with many shots, the parvo vaccination can leave a sore spot at the injection site and abscesses can develop.
- these symptoms should disappear within two to three days but if any of the symptoms seem to be giving your dog a lot of pain, or you're concerned — ***don't hesitate to contact your Vet.***

Lessening those adverse reactions

Unbundling vaccines from one big shot, never vaccinating a sick or injured dog and having as few shots as possible are some of the best measures you can take to protect the health of your small dog.

When does a Parvo vaccination make sense?

Almost always. Rabies, parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis are the 4 shots that virtually all animal health care professionals agree are necessary. However, each one does have potential dangers and side effects. Each is needed only once in a dog's lifetime.

Research proves that:

"Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity."

- Dr. Ronald Schultz, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, No. 4, August 15, 1995 [This peer-reviewed, general scientific journal provides reports of clinical research, feature articles and regular columns of interest to veterinarians in private and public practice.]

By the way, if you suspect your small dog has parvovirus or has been exposed to it, act immediately to get medical care; this disease spreads rapidly and **MUST** be treated aggressively if you're going to save your dog.

Summary of core vaccinations

There are 4 core vaccinations, which work to protect your dog from:

- Rabies.
- Distemper.
- Hepatitis.
- Parvovirus.

Of the four, only Rabies is likely to be mandated by local laws where you live. The other three are your choice as the pet owner... not only *which* shots, but *how often*. Please note, however, that these vaccinations are recommended by almost every animal health care professional.

If you're visiting your Vet for a wellness exam and vaccinations, ask the Veterinarian to perform the health exam and other tests first; you might even wait to vaccinate until those results are in, and schedule a follow-up vaccine visit once you know your dog is in the clear, health-wise.

Non-core vaccinations

Most Vets advise you to have vaccinations against these diseases in order to protect your puppy.

Again, take the time to learn more about these vaccinations, their potential side effects (especially on small dogs) then balance the risks.

Non-core vaccinations	
LEPTOSPIROSIS	bacterial disease of the urinary tract
BORDATELLA	harsh, hacking cough
LYME DISEASE	lameness, joint disease
PARAINFLUENZA	highly contagious, flu-like
CORONA	viral; attacks the intestines

Non-core: Leptospirosis

The “Killer Vaccine”

A bacterial disease of the urinary tract, Leptospirosis is a spiral-shaped parasite that can cause chronic kidney and liver failure. The Lepto bacteria enters the dog through mucus membranes or open wounds, sparking high fever, vomiting and dehydration.

Leptospirosis has more than 100 strains, including a common one that can infect humans. The vaccine commonly administered, works on just 4 strains. Many others can still sicken your dog.

Unfortunately, some dogs can have a severe allergic reaction to this component of the DHLPP vaccine. In fact, the Lepto vaccine has a reputation for being the most likely portion to cause a vaccine reaction, also known as an *anaphylactic shock reaction* (“anaphylactic” = allergic).

Adverse reactions to Leptospirosis vaccination

Leptospirosis is a “killed” vaccine. It’s also been called the “**killer**” vaccine because it is the #1 cause of adverse reactions in small dogs, particularly younger dogs and small breed puppies.

In fact, this vaccine has a reputation for being the most likely to cause reactions, also known as **anaphylactic shock** reactions (“anaphylactic” = allergic). These include:

- vomiting.
- severe diarrhea.
- panting and wheezing.
- disorientation, dizziness.
- collapse.

Lessening those adverse reactions

Think long and hard if your small dog even needs this vaccination.

If the answer is yes, then be sure to talk to your Vet about **unbundling** it — especially important for this vaccine and the parvo vaccine. And be sure to stay at the Vet's office for at least half an hour after the injection, in case there is a reaction.

Instead of vaccinating, you can do several things to reduce the risk of Leptospirosis, including:

- keeping the rodent population down around your home.
- keeping your Morkie away from stagnant or slow moving water in the country.
- stopping him from drinking from puddles.

Also be aware of this disease's timing: infection hits its victims strongest in the summer and early Fall.

When does Leptospirosis vaccination make sense?

Never. Does your small dog go wilderness camping or backwoods hiking with you? Roam on rural property, or drink deeply from creeks and streams? Not likely!

If this isn't your dog's lifestyle, this is one you can safely skip. It's interesting that at least one Vet supply website (www.veterinaryteambrief.com) is warning Vets that they should continue to advise it for their clients' pets - and to remind clients that even small dogs can come into contact with infected wild animal urine outside. Sounds like a scare tactic to me.

Given the risks, I personally would *never* get this vaccination for my small dog and I live in the country. Instead, stay alert to symptoms of the actual infection, and you can reduce the vaccination count by one at least.

A final note about Lepto

Today, the tests for actual Leptospirosis infection are much more accurate than ever and incidents of the illness are reported more frequently and accurately — compared to other illness which are registered probably between 1 and 10% of the time.

That, plus the new interest in Lepto, can make you think it's an epidemic. It's not.

Non-core: Bordatella (Kennel Cough)

A bacterial infection of the upper respiratory system known as kennel cough or 'canine cough syndrome.' Kennel Cough (*Infectious tracheobronchitis*) is a complex of viruses that can lead to a harsh, hacking cough in your Morkie.

It is most commonly spread in kennels or other close group situations, and is only a serious condition if your dog is old, young, or has an immune system that is already compromised by other illnesses or parasites.

The disease spreads quickly through the air when infected dogs cough and sneeze. Kennel cough can also be spread by direct contact with an infected dog, and from contaminated surfaces such as sidewalks, the ground, food dishes and toys. Bordatella remains highly contagious weeks after symptoms have disappeared. Like our own colds, Bordatella usually clears up on its own, but it can be avoided entirely with regular vaccinations.

The dosage is usually intranasal (meaning to squirt some up each nostril) or your Veterinarian may prefer the injectable vaccine. The vaccine also usually includes protection against Parainfluenza.

Symptoms of Kennel Cough

The symptoms are an unmistakable honking-geese type of cough. Your dog may be lethargic and have less interest in food. In a small percent of dogs (generally those who are older or who have a compromised immune system) it can turn into pneumonia, which requires immediate Veterinary attention and antibiotics.

Although the vaccination can shorten the length of the disease, it can't really prevent it. In most cases, Kennel Cough has to run its course, which is 7 to 14 days.

A home cough remedy

Dr. Andrew Jones¹³ offers a recipe for a natural cough syrup that works well:

"Lemon and honey can soothe any sore throat. New research points toward 'natural dark honey' being more effective than any OTC cough suppressant. Mix 2 tbsp of honey, 1 tsp of lemon juice and 1/2 cup of water. Give it to your dog twice daily, 1 tbsp for an average sized (50 lb.) dog, 1 tsp for a cat or small dog. Homeopathic cough syrups may also be helpful. I have used Hyland's Cough Syrup, dosing it at 1/4 of regular adult dose per 10 pounds of body weight."

—Dr. Andrew Jones, www.theinternetpetvet.com/

¹³ Dr. Jones has a special interest in a variety of alternative, non-traditional remedies for pets and has written pet-health books, countless articles on at-home pet health care, created a [Home Study Course](#) for dog and cat owners, and formulated premium nutritional supplements for dogs and cats ([Ultimate Canine for dogs](#) and [Ultimate Feline for cats](#)).

Adverse reactions to Bordatella vaccination

Like any vaccine, the Bordatella vaccination alone or in combination with other vaccines, can cause reactions ranging from mild fever and diarrhea to disorientation, trouble breathing and even collapsing and losing consciousness.

Lessening those adverse reactions

Always decide for yourself if preventing the disease is worth the risk inherent in the vaccination, compared to treating what can be a relatively easy-to-cure illness.

When does Bordatella vaccination make sense?

Sometimes. Do you board your small dog or take him for professional grooming? Then this vaccination *may be required* by the kennel, boarding facility or groomer before they'll let your dog in the door.

Unfortunately, a titer test won't work for this illness. AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) vaccine guidelines say that titer testing is an appropriate way to check for immunity to parvovirus, distemper and adenovirus. However, it is not recommended for canine leptospirosis, bordatella or Lyme disease, because these vaccines only provide short-term protection.

If the facilities are well-vented and clean, there's little chance of passing along kennel cough. Extended contact with other dogs at dog parks for example, is not a good enough reason to get the vaccination, since these are open air encounters.

If you decide you do need it, to protect your Morkie and/or to get him into the boarding or day care facilities you want, always ask for Bordatella on its own; and select the intranasal version, not the injectable vaccine, if that's an option.



Always opt for the nasal spray version of Bordatella, and get it at different time than other vaccines.

Non-core: Lyme disease

Lyme disease is a bacteria carried by blood-sucking **deer ticks**. It can be dormant for years before full-blown problems appear. The most damaging results of Lyme disease in dogs (unlike people) can be **kidney failure**.

Most dogs with Lyme disease have no symptoms at all. The disease is usually detected in a routine check-up or much later when kidney problems develop in Lyme-positive dogs. Unlike people - who often get a bullseye rash around the bite spot right away - dogs can be symptomless for weeks, months or years.

It is difficult to detect Lyme disease in dogs because, even when there are symptoms, they point to so many other diseases, particularly *autoimmune disease* (that's why it's sometimes called "the Great Pretender"). These symptoms include any or all of these:

- a sudden yet recurring lameness, that may shift from leg to leg
- joint pain and fever (102-105 degrees Fahrenheit) - often 2 to 5 months after the bite
- swollen of a lymph node (lymphadenopathy)
- loss of appetite
- lethargy, fatigue and even depression
- disorders of the nervous system including aggression, confusion and overeating

The Lyme organism probably never leaves the body, but its impact can be lessened with antibiotics.

The Lyme Vaccination

Should my Morkie be vaccinated against Lyme disease?

As the person responsible for your Morkie's health, you have to consider all sides of the argument, but to me *Lyme Disease vaccines are too strong, especially for a small dog like a Morkie, and can set off a bad reaction, even replicating the illness itself.*

A Lyme Vaccine for people?

Ever wondered why there's no Lyme vaccine for humans? There was a product on the market in late 1990s and early 2000s, called LYMERix. Ultimately, it proved so dangerous that it was withdrawn by manufacturer SmithKline Beecham (now called GlaxoSmithKline).

Despite this, thousands of dogs are given the shot every year – for a disease that dogs aren't very likely to get!



Many Vets, especially in high Lyme regions, strongly recommend the Lyme vaccine. But it's a high risk vaccine that can actually cause Lyme disease symptoms.

Three reasons to avoid the Lyme vaccination for your Morkie

1. The vaccine can **cause** Lyme symptoms (not a single U.S. Veterinary School lists the Lyme vaccination as one it recommends)
2. It contains really dangerous ingredients:

- heavy metals:
 - formaldehyde
 - aluminum
 - mercury or thimerosal

Plus it has the potential to trigger kidney disease, autoimmune disease and chronic inflammation.

3. Most dogs don't get Lyme Disease symptoms, even if they have Lyme Disease!

A study at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, exposed dogs to the Lyme vector, and found:

- "95% of exposed dogs don't get sick, but they become Lyme antibody-positive on tests, which may scare people into thinking they need to be treated."¹⁴
- In fact, 70% – 90% of dogs in some areas of New England test positive for Lyme. About 40% of dogs in Pennsylvania test positive.

**Don't panic if
your dog is
diagnosed as
Lyme-positive.**

Another study, at Cornell University (College of Veterinary Medicine), concluded:

"We cannot recommend vaccination of dogs [for Lyme disease] ... until questions are resolved about clinical Lyme disease developing in dogs that have been properly vaccinated."

"The risk of not vaccinating is minimal since the disease in dogs is probably self-limiting in the majority of cases and is effectively treated with antibiotics, even in cases of recurrent disease."¹⁵

Instead of vaccination, it's more important to act quickly if you suspect Lyme Disease - see your Vet right away for a blood test, and in the meantime, be vigilant against ticks.

¹⁴ Meryl Littman, lead researcher, University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine

¹⁵ <http://bakerinstitute.vet.cornell.edu/>

Non-core: Canine Parainfluenza

Another highly contagious, respiratory tract infection. Although it's one of the least serious of the diseases dogs can get, it can open the door to other, more serious ones, and at the very least can cause infectious bronchitis diseases such as kennel cough. (Canine Parainfluenza is in fact, just one possible cause of kennel cough.) Canine Parainfluenza can progress to pneumonia in puppies, or chronic bronchitis in older dogs.

Symptoms include dry, unproductive coughing that usually lasts about 10 to 21 days. Your Morkie may become listless and lethargic and run a low-grade fever.

Treatment is usually a "broad-spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial" prescribed by your Vet -- more commonly called penicillin or its newer semi-synthetic version.

Adverse reactions to Parainfluenza vaccination

Reactions are similar to those caused by the Canine Hepatitis vaccine. Lethargy is the #1 symptom, along with:

- depression
- vomiting
- diarrhea (which can quickly result in dehydration)
- loss of appetite
- fever
- muscle aches

Lessening those adverse reactions

Personally I would either go for a single vaccination for Canine Parainfluenza or skip this one entirely. Just because it's not very effective doesn't mean that side effects would necessarily be lower.

When does a Parainfluenza vaccination make sense?

Given the fact that Canine Parainfluenza is easily treated, it doesn't make sense in my own opinion, to vaccinate against it. Plus, there is evidence that the immunity from this shot doesn't last even 12 months, another strike against it. Manufacturers admit that it's better at *reducing* the influenza, not protecting against it so I don't feel the risk is worth it for a small dog. This is a decision for you to make.

Some drug sites say it does make sense for an older dog or for one whose immunity isn't great — but wait, isn't that the very same profile of a dog who is more likely to have a bad reaction to the vaccination??

It's important to know that even infected dogs who have been vaccinated, can spread the disease.

Non-core: Canine Coronavirus

Also called simply "Corona," this disease attacks the intestines and its symptoms are similar although much milder, to Parvovirus — fever, vomiting and loss of appetite. It has been compared to a bad flu in people.

Corona is spread from dog to dog through contact with dog poop.

Many Veterinarians now include this one in their vaccination programs, giving it in tandem with the DHLPP vaccine (sometimes you'll see it referred to as "DHLPP+C").

But - because of multiple side effects of this vaccination, many experts are recommending **against** the Corona Vaccine, especially for small dogs.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The American Animal Hospital Association, the leading independent body, has put Canine Coronavirus in its **"not recommended"** category.

Adverse reactions to Corona vaccination

These can range from mild fever, to heavy diarrhea and vomiting and even worse. Even when this is a 'tag along' to a combo shot (which all small dog owners should avoid) it's not worth the risk.

Don't forget, combo shots are many times more likely to cause adverse reactions in small dogs!

3 vaccines in one shot = 1.5 times the chance of a bad reaction

5 vaccines in one shot = twice the risk

7 vaccines or more in one shot = 3X to 10X the risk!

When does Coronavirus vaccination make sense?

Never! At one of the most trusted pet care websites, mercola.com, this vaccination is called "a cure in search of a disease." Nearly all independent experts feel it is not necessary, and not worth the risk.

More reading about vaccinations

The subject of canine vaccinations is *such* a controversial one, that you may want to read more in order to make up your mind. Here are some resources:

Books

[Stop the Shots!: Are Vaccinations Killing Our Pets?](#) [Paperback], by John Clifton
Available at [Amazon.com](#)

[Shock to the System: The Facts about Animal Vaccination, Pet Food and How to Keep Your Pets Healthy](#) [Paperback], by Catherine O'Driscoll. Available at [Amazon.com](#)

[What Vets Don't Tell You about Vaccines](#) [Paperback], by Catherine O'Driscoll. Available at [Amazon.com](#)

Websites - against over-vaccination

- Truth4Dogs - www.truth4dogs.com
- 2ndChance - www.2ndChance.com
- HealthyHappyDogs - www.healthyhappydogs.com
- ShirleysWellnessCafe - www.shirleys-wellness-cafe.com
- [Blog](#) from Dr. Andrew Jones, well known advocate for natural dog health
- The Truth About Pet Vaccinations from Dr. Jones, can be downloaded here at www.all-natural-dog-treat.com/support-files/truth_vaccines.pdf
- The Truth About Dog Vaccinations, by [Brett Winn on Hubpages](#)
- www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com - just search 'vaccinations'

Websites - pro-vaccination

[ASPCA site on vaccination](#)

[WebMD for Pets](#)

A Guide to Your Puppy's First Round of Vaccines at [Dogster.com](#)

Dog vaccination schedule at [Dogster.com](#)

See the downloadable, one pager on core and non-core vaccines in the Appendix, from Dogs Naturally Magazine.

Part Seven: In Sickness & in Health

When to contact the Vet

In general, you should contact your Vet if you notice anything that's abnormal for your dog. Better to be safe than sorry!

Call your Veterinarian immediately if you see any of these symptoms:	Call your Vet if any of these symptoms persist for more than one to two days.
Blue, white or very pale gums Laboured breathing Collapse or loss of consciousness Dizziness, imbalance, or circling Inability to walk Extremely bloated abdomen Seizures Signs of acute severe pain (such as crying out very loudly and excessively) Body temperature over 104 or under 99 (normal is typically 100.5-102.5)	Poor Appetite Lethargy or Weakness Vomiting or Diarrhea Lameness Excessive salivation Excessive thirst (increased water intake) Frequent and/or inappropriate urination Constipation Excessive scratching, wheezing or frequent panting Nasal discharge or congestion Indication of mild to moderate pain (such as crying when a specific area is touched)

Symptoms your Morkie is sick

By nature, any dog will disguise illness - it's instinctual in the wild, where a sickly or injured animal is a clear target for predators.

So you have to watch your Morkie carefully to see signs of illness. These can include:

- the way she looks and acts
- eating patterns have changed
- drinking far more water than usual
- sudden weight gain or loss
- Another more subtle sign of illness can be what Vets call "lethargy." Your Morkie seems to have lost her energy, is tired all the time and not interested in playing.

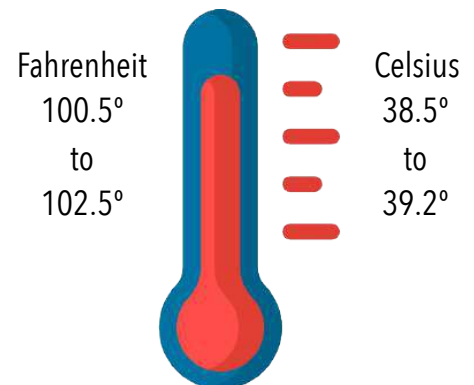
Common signs of illness

- Bad breath or drooling
- Excessive drinking or urination
- Appetite change associated with weight loss or gain
- Change in activity level (e.g., lack of interest in doing things they once did)
- Stiffness or difficulty in rising or climbing stairs
- Sleeping more than normal, or other behavior or attitude changes
- Coughing, sneezing, excessive panting, or laboured breathing
- Dry or itchy skin, sores, lumps, or shaking of the head
- Frequent digestive upsets or change in bowel movements
- Dry, red, or cloudy eyes

These symptoms indicate you should see your Vet as soon as possible:

- Loss of appetite for several days in a row
- Lameness
- Blood in the urine
- Mucus or blood in the stool
- Foul-smelling or loose poop
- Repeated vomiting over several days
- A potbelly or marked loss of weight
- A “bloated” or distended belly that’s firm to the touch
- Lack of interest in the doings around him
- Hiding in dark places
- Persistent coughing; discharge from the eyes or nose
- Scratching or chewing at feet, skin, or hair coat
- Shaking head, scratching ears
- Yellowing of the white around the eye; yellow gums
- Dehydration

A dog's normal temperature range



Online symptom checker

www.petmd.com/dog/dog-symptom-checker

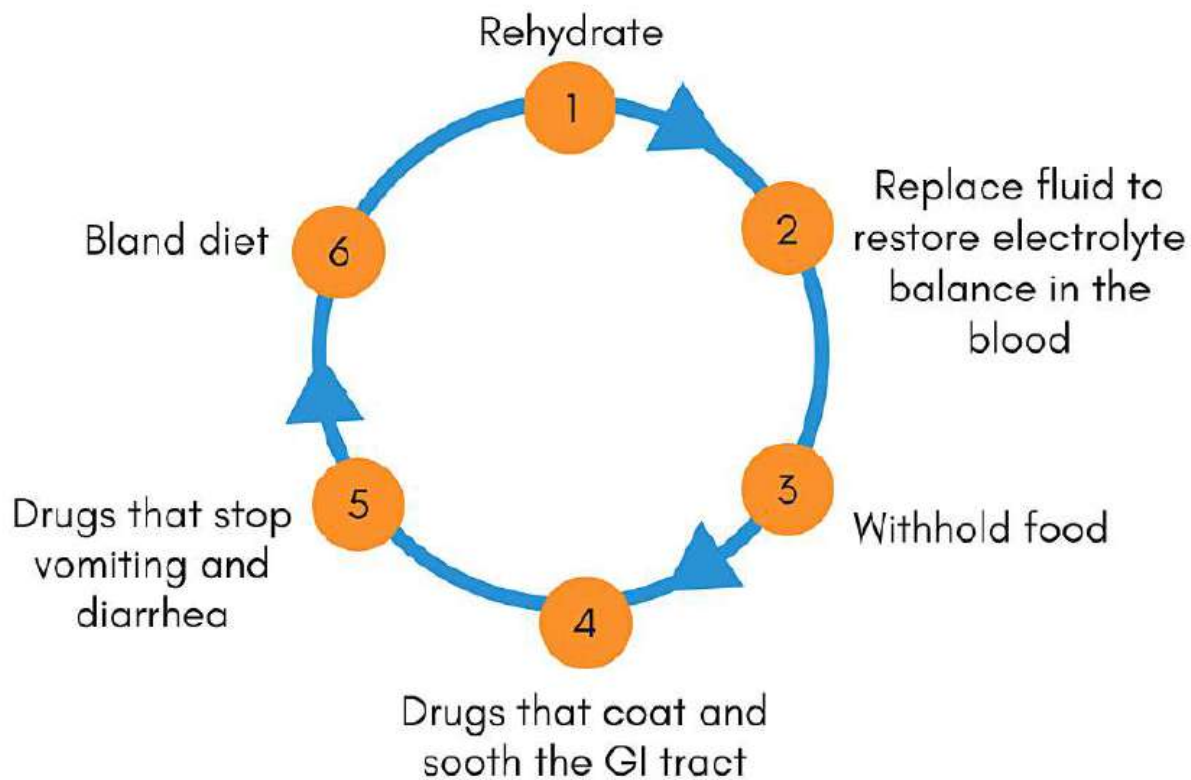
Two common problems: vomiting and diarrhea

Vomiting and diarrhea tend to happen together, and can be caused by a variety of problems including eating too fast, eating too much, eating something that is not digestible, changes in the dog's food, eating spoiled food or garbage, infectious agents (including bacteria, viruses or parasites).

Vomiting and diarrhea can also be caused by more serious illnesses, including cancer, diabetes, pancreatitis, kidney disease or liver disease.

In its more acute forms, vomiting and diarrhea can be symptoms of gastroenteritis. Dogs with gastroenteritis need Veterinary support because of the danger of dehydration.

Treating gastroenteritis



Gastroenteritis is a medical term and it refers to inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, usually the stomach and intestines. It can be caused by infection with bacteria, viruses, parasites, or reactions to medications or new foods. It often involves abdominal discomfort or pain, diarrhea and/or vomiting.

Vomiting

Dogs vomit more often than we do - often deliberately to get rid of something that doesn't agree with them (yesterday's garbage, for instance).

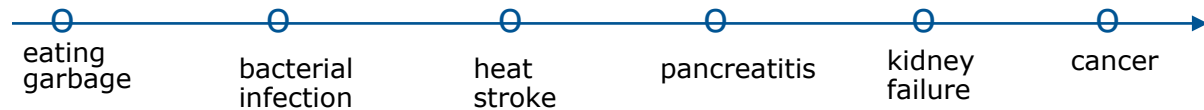
There are two types of dog sickness: **regurgitation** and **vomiting**.

Regurgitation happens when your Morkie has eaten too fast, or too much. Undigested food comes back into his mouth almost right away from the stomach. You'll see this undigested food covered in mucous. Your Morkie may want to eat it again, which is disgusting but fine.

True vomiting is your dog expelling the contents of the upper intestines. The vomit is usually yellow slime, foam and maybe a bit of digested food.

Causes of vomiting

Causes range all the way from simple to complex:



When to see the Vet:

- vomiting lasts more than 1 day.
- it's accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, severe diarrhea, blood in vomit or stool, dizziness, extreme lethargy.

Treatment - see next page.

Diarrhea

Diarrhea occurs when food is passed through a dog's intestine too rapidly. It can be caused by allergies, milk, parasites, spoiled food, or bacterial infection.

There are also more serious causes such as tumours; viral infections; and diseases of the liver, pancreas, and kidney.

If diarrhea, straining, or mucous- or blood-tinged stool lasts more than two days, you should call the Vet at once. If the elimination problem is accompanied by other signs -- fever, vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite, bloody diarrhea -- call the Vet immediately.

- dry, hard stools that cause your dog to strain may be a sign your dog isn't getting enough water, or it may be a sign of another problem with health or diet.
- squiggly, rice-shaped segments in the feces indicate worms.

Sudden onset diarrhea, accompanied by fever or bloody mucus in the stool, demands your Vet's immediate attention.

TO TREAT SIMPLE DIARRHEA AND VOMITING

If there are no other symptoms, such as a fever or signs of pain, follow these steps:

Step 1: Remove all food and water for 6 - 8 hours.

Step 2: If vomiting contains blood or is frequent, contact the Veterinarian immediately. If not, proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: After 6 to 8 hours of no vomiting, introduce water gradually at 1 to 2 ounces at a time. If no vomiting occurs, offer a bland diet of boiled skinless chicken and rice (50:50 mixture). If this is held down, transition to regular diet over the next 2 days by mixing an increasing quantity of your dog's regular food with the bland diet.

Step 4: A very small amount of Pepto-Bismol can be safely used for dogs, **with your Vet's OK**; call him or her for the recommended dose. Or try 1/2 teaspoon mixed with 2 teaspoons water; give half the batch and wait 6 to 8 hours to administer the second half.

According to the American Kennel Club (AKC) dogs can have 3 different over-the-counter medications to resolve **occasional** and **mild** diarrhea and upset stomach.

Pepto-Bismol, **Imodium AD** and **Kaopectate** are 3 of our medications that work well as dog diarrhea treatment. Administered responsibly, they can provide relief to your Morkie who is suffering from temporary diarrhea or upset stomach.

Always check with your Veterinarian before giving any of these medications.

1. Pepto-Bismol for dogs

- this popular drug is bismuth subsalicylate and most Vets consider it safe (although don't substitute no-name brands; they're not all the same).
- **Dosage: 1 teaspoon for every 10 pounds**, administered every 6-to-8 hours. Most Morkies would get about 1/2 teaspoon.
- use an empty (no needle) plastic syringe to give this liquid to your dog. Open his mouth, place the syringe toward the back of the tongue and push the plunger, then hold his muzzle for a second to make sure he swallows it.
- **Not for:** dogs with bleeding disorders; dogs who are pregnant or nursing; dogs taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as Rimadyl and Deramaxx.
- **Danger:** toxic for cats.

2. Imodium AD (liquid) usage for dogs

- Imodium AD works by reducing the intestinal muscular spasms and secretions that cause diarrhea in dogs.
- Remember it quiets the symptoms but does nothing to help the cause of the diarrhea.
- **Dosage:** you can use caplets for big dogs, but smaller breeds need the liquid form (I use an eyedropper to give the medicine, slipping it between my dog's gums and mouth). 0.1 ml per pound of your dog's weight, every 8 hours. Do not overdose.
- **Too much:** will cause constipation and bloating.
- **Not for:** pregnant or nursing dogs; dogs with head injuries; dogs who are also vomiting.

3. Kaopectate usage for dogs

- **Uses:** For diarrhea.
- **Dosage:** 1 ml per pound, every 2 hours.
- **Too much:** will cause constipation and bloating.
- **Not for:** pregnant or nursing dogs; dogs with head injuries; dogs who are also vomiting.

QUICK TIP: have the medicine on hand, labelled and ready to go



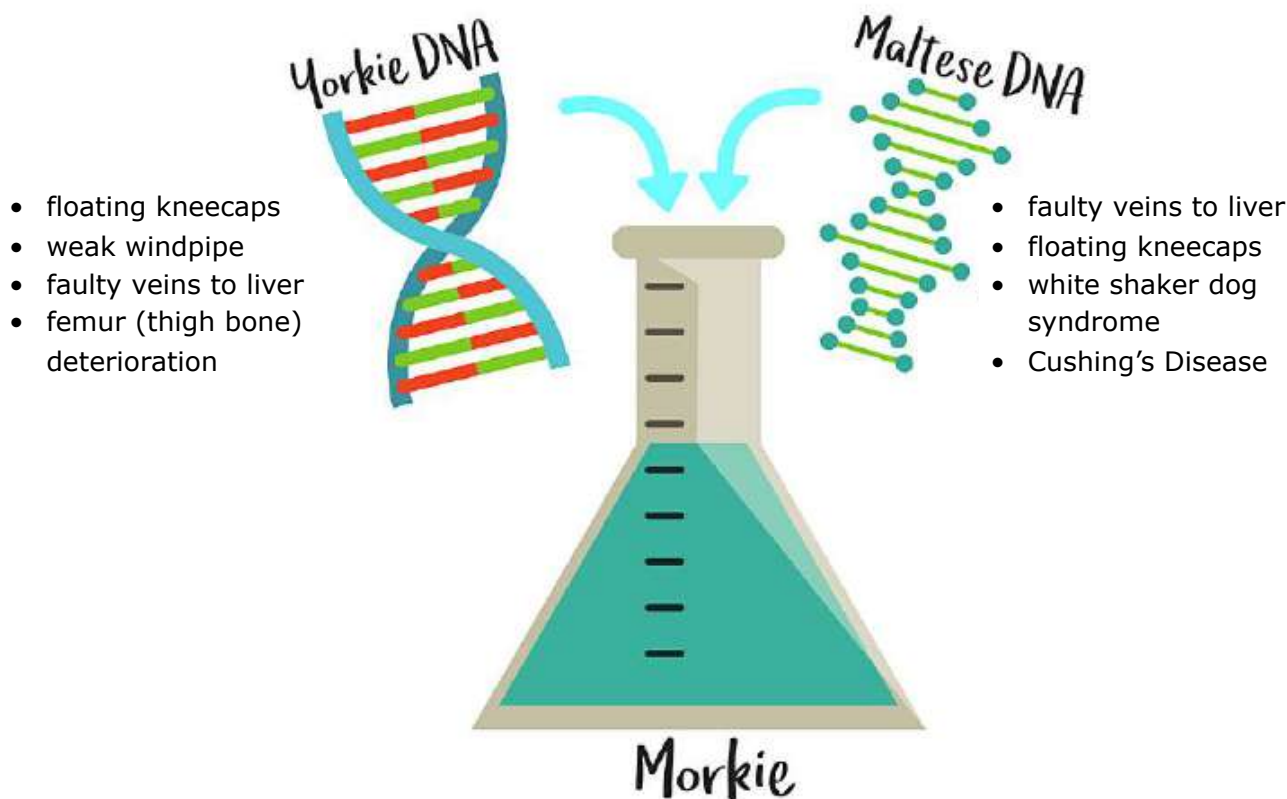
TIP: I keep a small bottle of Pepto-Bismol on hand in my dogs' first aid kit, with the dosage already printed on a label. (Check expiry dates for these and all meds from time to time.)



If your Morkie's diarrhea last more than a day or two, or if he seems in pain or also vomiting, contact your Veterinarian right away.

Hereditary health concerns for Morkies

*Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese dogs are healthy, hardy little pets, but like all dog breeds, each is susceptible to common hereditary illnesses or "genetic defects." Those illnesses and conditions which both breeds share, create an increased **chance** of your Morkie having them. That doesn't mean your Morkie **will** automatically get one of these diseases or conditions, but just that chances are higher, given that both parents have the same **potential** problem.*



Every dog breed has its own list of hereditary health concerns and conditions, and Yorkies and Maltese are no exception. However by choosing your Morkie breeder carefully, you can help minimize some of these problems.

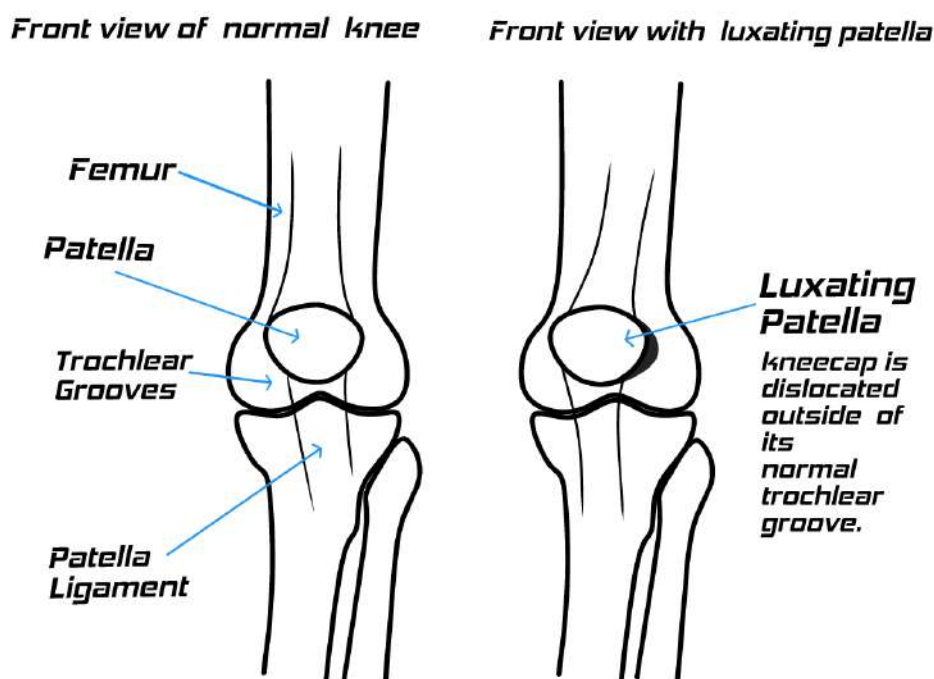
The "big five" hereditary health problems of BOTH Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese dogs (and many other toy breeds) are:

1. Floating kneecaps or **Patellar Luxation**
2. Weak windpipe or **Collapsed Trachea.**
3. **Liver shunt** - faulty veins to the liver.
4. Weakened leg bone or **Legg–Calvé–Perthes Syndrome.**
5. **Cushing's disease.**

Hereditary health issues with Yorkies and Maltese

1. Floating kneecaps or **Patellar Luxation**. Weak ligaments and tendons in the knee allow the kneecap or patella, to actually slip in and out of place. A dog with this problem may experience frequent pain and lameness or may be bothered by it only on occasion.

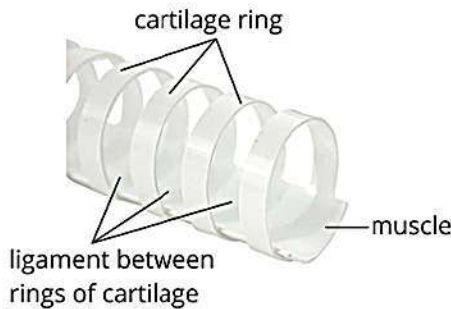
Treatment - dogs with this condition can get relief from pain with prescribed medications and/or surgery. Chances of recovery are very good.



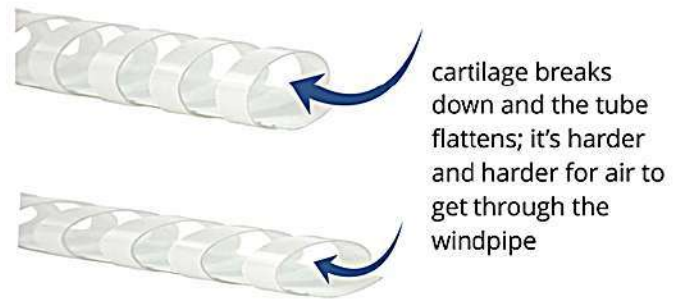
2. Weak windpipe or **Collapsed Trachea**. Ever heard a really wheezy old terrier? Or one with a honking cough? Likely his trachea or windpipe has started to weaken and collapse. The cartilage rings that normally hold the windpipe round, begin to deteriorate. This is quite common with Yorkies; chances of it happening can be reduced by using a harness not a collar and keeping the dog's weight in the healthy zone.

Treatment - according to to the ASPCA, most cases of tracheal collapse are treated with cough suppressants, bronchodilators, corticosteroids (to control inflammation), and/or antibiotics. In severe cases, surgery can resolve the problem. Chances of recovery are very good.

Healthy trachea (windpipe)



Collapsed trachea



3. **Liver shunt** - faulty veins to the liver or **Portosystemic Shunts (PSS)**. This condition occurs while the pup is still in its mother's womb. Development is abnormal and the result is, blood from the intestines goes only partly through the liver for cleaning, and the rest mixes into general blood circulation. So normal toxins aren't fully cleared by the liver, and your dog becomes ill.

Treatment - typically surgery can correct this condition by ensuring blood doesn't bypass the all-important liver, where it is cleansed. Fortunately this resolves the problems in about 70% of dogs, although it's important to recognize that this kind of surgery itself can be complex and can cause problems.

4. Weak leg bone or **Legg-Calvé-Perthes Syndrome**, which causes the top of the femur (thigh bone) to degenerate, because of poor circulation. Usually occurs when the dog is young (between five and eight months of age). This is similar to hip dysplasia in larger breeds. Dogs suffering from this will limp and even avoid walking.

Treatment - surgery to remove some of the affected bone. Although this leaves the dog with a slightly shorter leg, he will regain almost-normal use and be pain free.

5. **Cushing's disease** - Canine Cushing's is a serious threat and unfortunately Yorkies are high on the list of potentially susceptible breeds, along with Maltese.

Treatment - Cushing's disease is treatable, resulting in a longer, more comfortable life for the dog and its owner. There are three forms of this disease, and three different treatments.

More health considerations

Besides *inherited diseases* -- which your Morkie may get or may not get -- there are some common health issues to watch for:

Early tooth decay – learn to clean your Morkie’s teeth at home. This is your number one defence against plaque, stained teeth and tartar buildup.

When you start to notice these conditions, have his teeth professionally by your Veterinarian.

Kibble and other dry food, chew sticks and dental treats can’t fight plaque buildup, but raw, meaty bones CAN.

Even if your Morkie is not on a RAW diet, he’ll love having the occasional raw meaty bone to chew on. It will help keep his teeth cleaner naturally. (Remember, **raw** not cooked bones).



You can read more on the importance of dental care in [Part IV: The 4 Building Blocks for Good Health](#).

Sensitive stomach – Avoid fancy treats, people food and treats from your plate including “doggie bags” from your favourite restaurant. You don’t want to feed your Morkie the same food, day after day, year after year. When you’re switching, do it gradually, mixing the old with the new, until your dog is comfortable with the change.

Fragile Bones – Morkies are tiny (even though they don’t know it!) and can suffer fractures from bumps or falls. Be cautious when your dog is on high surfaces such as a bed and discourage him from jumping down, even from the couch, himself.

Eye problems are common in parents and in the Morkie, because of his long hair which can become ingrown and irritate the eyeball, even scratching the retina. This is very painful for your dog. Eye ulcers can also result from hair irritating the eye. Your Vet can prescribe soothing and healing ointments and drops for these conditions.

Coughing If your dog begins heavy coughing, take him to the Vet to be checked out. Although the causes of chronic or ongoing bronchitis aren't always known, dust, cigarette smoke and irritants in the air can make the coughing worse.

If your Morkie develops a mild cough, wait a few days to see if it clears up on its own. If it doesn't, or if it gets worse, it's worth a trip to the Vet because your Morkie could have an infection. Viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites can all cause coughing. Kennel Cough is one of the most common infections dogs can catch.

Canine influenza or "Dog Flu" is another cause of coughing. It is becoming more common and can lead to fever and nasal discharge, along with the cough.

	Kennel Cough	Dog Flu or Canine Influenza (H3N8 and H3N2)
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contagious upper respiratory illness. - common. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contagious upper respiratory illness. - uncommon in North America.
What causes it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - caused by bacteria Bordatella bronchiseptica, or a number of viruses including canine parainfluenza virus, or coronavirus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "canine influenza viruses" that originated in horses. - can lead to more serious illness such as pneumonia.
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dry, hacking cough. - CAN be accompanied by a fever and nasal discharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dry hacking cough or a wet cough that persists for 10 to 30 days. - lethargy; reduced appetite.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - highly contagious; spreads through the air from other dogs. - antibiotics* and cough suppressants - supportive care (that is, keeping your dog comfortable and hydrated). - will run its course in 7 to 14 days. - cannot infect people. - keep your dog away from other dogs for at least 14 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - highly contagious; spreads through the air from other dogs. - antibiotics* and cough suppressants - supportive care (that is, keeping your dog comfortable and hydrated). - most dogs recover in 2 to 3 weeks. - cannot infect people. - keep your dog away from other dogs for at least 14 days.

**antibiotics can't treat viruses, but are sometimes given to prevent a secondary, bacterial infection.*

Vaccines to prevent Kennel Cough and Canine Influenza

If you find out your Morkie has canine flu or kennel cough: don't panic.

New vaccines are introduced by pharmaceutical companies all the time, and they want to sell more, of course. Many of the press releases that run in the media, are generated by the marketing departments of these companies.

There is a vaccine or treatment to help prevent Kennel Cough. It's sometimes given as a nose spray. Even the makers admit, it doesn't protect dogs against the myriad TYPES of Kennel Cough viruses that exist.

The vaccine to protect against Canine Influenza appears to be even less reliable.

Meanwhile, almost any vaccine contains foreign animal protein, heavy metals like aluminum, mercury and formaldehyde, MSG and other toxic substances that we know cause long-term, autoimmune illness in our dogs (like allergies, joint disease, hypothyroidism, cancer and more). [Source Dana Scott, DogsNaturallyMagazine.com]

Think carefully before you assume your dog's natural immune system can't fight off the flu, so you opt for vaccination instead.

The best (safest) protection is a dog who:

- is fed quality dog food.
- is healthy and active.
- is not already over-vaccinated.
- receives natural immune boosters like turmeric.

*See pages 237 to 238 for more about the **Bordatella vaccination**, given to fight Kennel Cough, and its many downsides.*

Canine obesity

Is it animal cruelty?

More than 35 million dogs in America are being overfed into a state of obesity and early death, according to the statistics of the [Association for Pet Obesity Prevention \(APOP\)](#).

“55% of dogs in America are dangerously overweight.”

So says Dr. Ernie Ward, a 20-year Veterinarian, the founder of APOP, and the author of the dog obesity book, ***Chow Hounds***.

“We are killing our dogs by making them fat,” he says. “Owners who think their dogs are ‘fluffy,’ are stuck in the fat gap,” says Dr. Ward. But just because we think our dogs look normal, doesn't mean that they are.

But it is possible to help your dog reduce his weight with a simple 3-part program: cut out treats, reduce food and get moving.

What is *obese*?

Morkie weight problem? Here's how to tell:

1. Are the ribs easily felt with slight fat cover, or difficult to feel under moderate or thick fat cover?
2. From the side view, is there an *abdominal tuck* beginning from base of ribs?
3. Is there thickening at the tail base?
4. From the overhead view, does she have a marked hourglass shape? (underweight indicator)
5. Or, from the overhead view, is the back slightly or markedly broadened at the waist? (overweight indicator)
6. Is your dog slow to rise or move around?
7. Is she reluctant to exercise, or does she tire easily with activity?



Like standards for people, obesity is defined as 30% over ideal body weight. For purebred dogs, you can find their ideal body weight in breed standards at the *American Kennel Club* or *Canadian Kennel Club* websites.

👉 Check out this excellent interactive weight tool at VetMedicine.com

According to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, there are 81 million overweight dogs and cats in the U.S. right now – OVER 1/2 of the pet population is too fat.

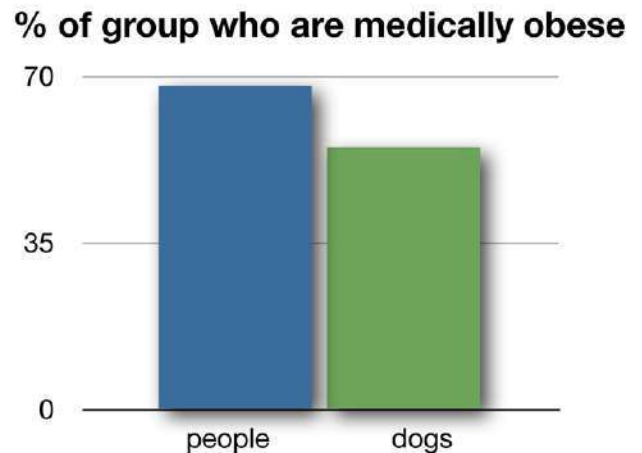
Owner's weight

The goal of a good weight loss management program should be gradual weight loss. That means dogs should lose 1 to 2% of their starting weight per week.

Another good way to begin a weight loss program is to transition to a weight control dog food.

Like their parents, Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese, the Morkie is meant to be a small dog, usually under 10 pounds and most often around 5 to 7 pounds. Both the founding breeds are small boned and not meant to carry extra weight.

It doesn't take much - if your Morkie is 7.5 pounds and is meant to be about 5 pounds, she's 50% overweight!



Causes of overweight in the Morkie

- Too little activity.
- Neutering - a spayed or neutered dog needs fewer calories.
- Age - like us, the Morkie tends to gain some weight as the years add up.
- Too much food, the wrong food and too many treats.

Calories from treats can really add up. Your 6 or 7 pound dogs needs only about 500 calories a day - one medium Milk Bone is 40 calories. Another popular treat, "Bonz" for small and medium dogs is 70 calories, and a couple of your buttered toast crusts, can be anywhere between 40 and 60 calories or more!

How many calories a day does my Morkie need?

It's a complex question, depending on the dog's health, environment, age, exercise level and other factors including RER or what scientists call "Resting Energy Requirements."

Always check with your Vet, but as a rule of thumb, for a healthy ADULT Morkie who gets moderate exercise you can use this formula:

Divide his ideal weight (in pounds) by 2.2 then multiply that number by 30. Add 70 for the number of calories your Morkie needs per day.

So for a 4 lb. Morkie = $(4 \times 2.2) \times 30 + 70 = 334$ calories a day

Morkie's weight	Approximate calories needed per day
4 pounds	334
5 pounds	400
6 pounds	466
7 pounds	532
8 pounds	598
9 pounds	664
10 pounds	730

Does it really matter if your Morkie is overweight?

Yes, because your Morkie will be much healthier at the right weight.

Yorkshire Terriers, and to a lesser degree, Maltese, have a potential hereditary defect called *Patellar Luxation* - or "floating" kneecaps, which you may have read about in the previous section. The kneecap or patella, actually slips in and out of place. **You can imagine that extra weight on that leg aggravates the joints even more.**

Maltese dogs are susceptible to *Cushing's Disease*, another hereditary condition that might impact your Morkie. With Cushing's, the normal hormonal feedback loop goes crazy and too much cortisone is produced by the adrenal glands.

Cushing's Disease is more common in older dogs, and can even seem like the aging process itself, because the dog will gain weight, lose hair and pee in the house. Controlling weight of a dog with Cushing's is more challenging, but it can be done. Your Vet will probably prescribe on-going medication to treat the disease, and can give you advice on managing your Morkie's weight at the same time.

Besides breed-specific hereditary diseases that are made worse by too much weight, there are common problems that any breed can suffer. These include:

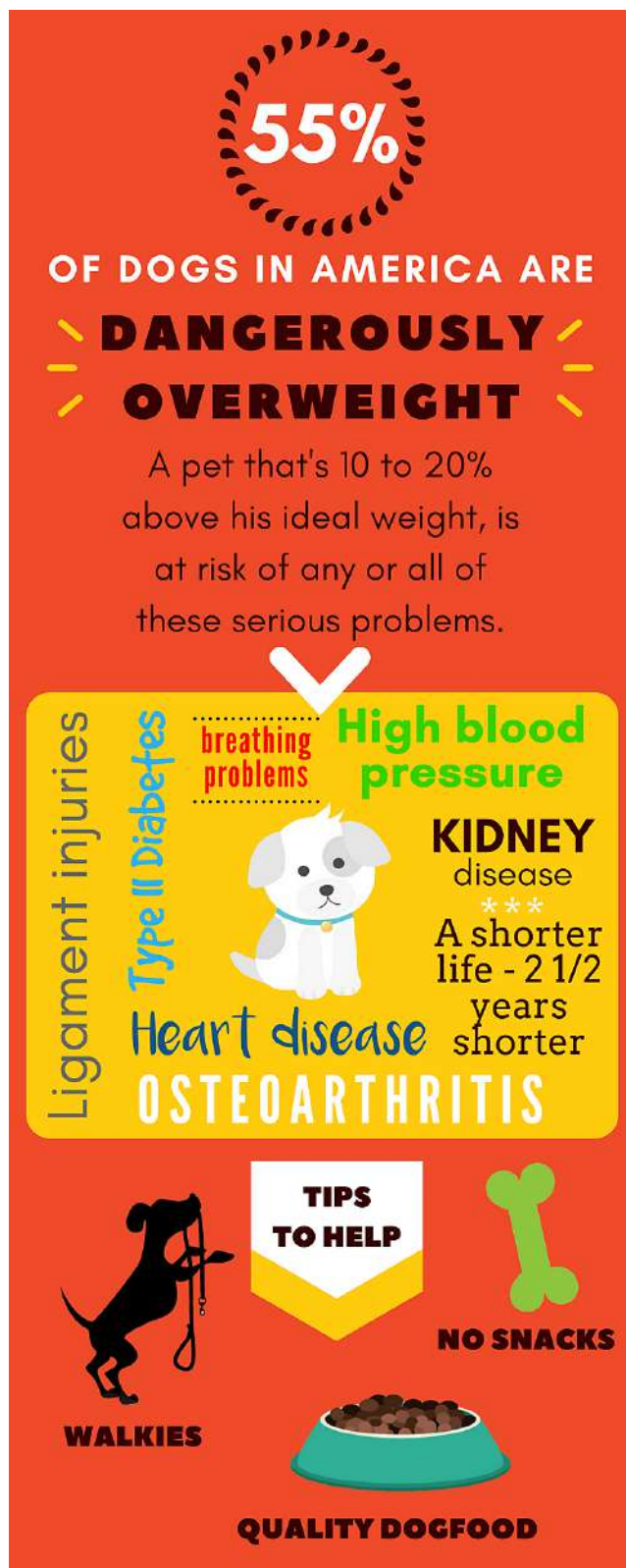
- Canine diabetes.
- Digestive problems including constipation, flatulence and diarrhea. Phew, who needs it!
- Serious damage to joints, bones, and ligaments are a direct result of too much weight.
- Heart disease and high blood pressure.
- Difficulty breathing - fat pushes on the abdomen wall and there is less room in the for the lungs to fill properly. Overweight dogs often wheeze, unable to take a full, deep breath.
- Increased chance of cancer could be another risk to your Morkie who's overweight. The exact link between obesity and cancer isn't known yet, but why take chances.
- A shorter life - just like people, dogs with all the burdens overweight causes, simply don't live as long.

In conclusion, **keep your Morkie fit and trim and she'll be a happy, lively companion for many years.**

Follow the treatment plan your Veterinarian recommends. Do not experiment with medications or food. Pay close attention to your pet and if he doesn't improve, return to your Veterinarian for a follow-up evaluation.

Your Morkie should have a wellness examination at least once a year; some experts recommend that routine wellness examinations be scheduled twice a year if you have a puppy or senior dog.

With routine visits, your Veterinarian can monitor your Morkie's health, and set baseline measures. As these change over time, your Vet can respond to take the best care of your Morkie.



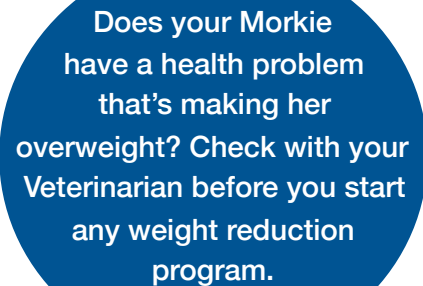
Three ways you can help your Morkie slim down

1. Cut out dog treats and people food

If your Morkie needs a reward, try a baby carrot or a good ear scratching. Otherwise, cut out all snacks.

Today's commercial dog treats are so high in salt, fat and sugar that they're addictive. Dr. Ernie Ward, who heads up a not-for-profit organization dedicated to healthier pets, calls them "*kibble crack*."

If you cut out treats and snacks, your Morkie will also miss also a number of dangerous products, including rawhide chew sticks, dental sticks, "greenies" and begging strips. *More about snacks and treats on pages 153 - 159.*



Does your Morkie have a health problem that's making her overweight? Check with your Veterinarian before you start any weight reduction program.

2. Gradually reduce your Morkie's dog food

Go for a gradual and steady loss of weight over a number of weeks or even months.

Reduce your pup's calorie intake over several weeks, by carefully measuring your Morkie's usual meal. Then reduce it by 5% to 10% every two or three weeks.

Tip: feed your dog at the same times every day, dividing the food into 3 or 4 portions to help him cope.

3. Walkies!

Now the hard part: daily exercise.

If you're not on a regular walking program with your dog, why not start one today.

Start out small and build up over time. For the first week, a 10-minute walk every day will be enough to get the ball rolling. Every week, increase this by 5 minutes until you're up to half an hour.

Then add a second, short walk per day - starting at 10 minutes. Soon you'll be up to two 30 minute walks per day and both you and your dog will see excellent results.

Weigh your dog regularly and chart your progress - check pet stores for scales sized to Morkies, or use a baby scale (often on sale online, or available in thrift stores).

Safety and first aid

Morkie-proofing your home

Morkies are inquisitive and curious, so be sure your home is safe, and keep your little Morkie pal healthy and happy!

One of the most comprehensive lists of **pet poisons** available online: [Pet Poison Helpline](#).

Step 1: See things from your Morkie's perspective

Get down on the ground and look around.

To really see what's getting your Morkie's attention, take a look from his perspective.

Anything small, shiny or interesting-looking poses an immediate threat.

Some of the top dangers are:

- ➡ **cupboards that can be opened** - your Morkie could get into medications, household cleaners and dangerous chemicals
- ➡ **toxic household plants**
- ➡ **everyday things** in our homes like tangled electrical cords



Step 2: Secure all cupboards

Don't let your Morkie find your meds or cleaning supplies.

Dogs are curious animals, and puppies more so.... if they can pry open a cupboard or paw open a door - well, they will! Buy easily-installed basic baby door latches to prevent the problem. Meds and cleaning chemicals are the two big nasty surprises your Morkie can find behind those closed doors.

The danger of people medications

As a dog lover, you know that you need to be extra careful with all medications around the home - and not just prescriptions. Keep them all in a closed cabinet, well out of reach of your dog. Some of the most common and harmful medications that poison dogs include Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, **such as ibuprofen; antidepressants and Isoniazid, a tuberculosis drug.** If you happen to drop a pill on the floor, be sure to find it immediately.

Chemicals and cleaners

And you also know that cleaners, chemicals and workshop stuff must be carefully stored too -- **child-proofing cupboard fasteners** are perfect. Antifreeze, paint thinner, rat killer and chemicals for pools are some of the common dangers to your Morkie.

Step 3: Remove all toxic plants

You'll be amazed at how many house plants can kill a pet.

You've probably heard that Christmas Poinsettias are very poisonous to pets... but they're not the only common houseplant that can seriously harm, or even kill your Morkie.

See the appendix for an comprehensive list of toxic plants.

You can find a complete list of dangerous-to-dogs houseplants on the [ASPCA poisonous plants list](#)

The Most Poisonous Plants

- **Azaleas and rhododendrons** - may cause vomiting, diarrhea, coma, and potentially even death.
- **Tulips and daffodils** - may cause serious stomach problems, convulsions, and damage to the heart.
- **Sago palms** - just a few seeds may cause vomiting, seizures, and liver failure.
- Other common plants that are potential killers include **holly, calla lilies, ivy and philodendron**.

Step 4: Secure electric cords & block stairs

Remove the risk from everyday things. Puppies can chew through **electric cords** -- causing serious injury or even death. Wrap cords up and hang them out of reach or lay down rubber or plastic runners (available at most home supply stores).

Consider baby gates to keep your Morkie from a **serious fall on the stairs**.

Step 5: Remove everyday "chewables" from your Morkie's reach

All puppies love **chewing on shoes and socks**. A swallowed shoelace or piece of leather could get wrapped around the intestines causing serious injury or death.

Chewing up newspapers, toilet paper, tissues and all that tasty stuff can clog up your Morkie's tiny intestines, resulting in great pain and potentially, a costly operation.

Prevent dog poisoning

Pet poisonings happen more than 100,000 times a year in the U.S.A. Depending on the substance and how much a dog has ingested, the results can be tragic, from gastrointestinal problems to cardiac distress, difficulty breathing, coma and even death.

The four main causes of dog poisoning are:

1. getting into your medications, or being given people meds by the owner.
2. ingesting chemicals, cleaning products and the like around your home.
3. eating plants that are poisonous.
4. people food that can poison your dog.

The #1 cause of pet poisoning, by far, is people medications.

Either the dog got into people medication, or the owner gave their pet drugs intended for human use, such as over-the-counter pain relievers like Tylenol or Advil.

Anti-inflammatory and pain medications are the #1 cause of poisonings. They cause stomach and intestinal ulcers and kidney failure in dogs.

Antidepressants are another common pet poisoner. They cause vomiting, heart and blood pressure elevation and seizures.

Blood pressure medications can lower your dog's blood pressure and heart rate to dangerous, or deadly, levels.

ADHD medication causes tremors, seizures, elevated body temperatures and heart problems in dogs.

Birth control pills can trigger serious blood marrow issues in dogs.

Common sense ways to minimize the risk

1. Ensure your medications are 100% out of reach for your Morkie. That means child proof fastenings for bathroom cupboards, putting pill bottles away and out of site, and if you ever drop one of your pills - pick it up right away!
2. Never give your Morkie people medication - unless your Vet has recommended a particular product.
3. Keep pet meds and your own medications in different places to avoid potential mixups.

Always check with your Veterinarian before giving your dog any medications, even those you can buy at the drugstore without prescription.

Dogs and pain pills

Just because something is sold at the drugstore without prescription, doesn't make it safe for our pets. That goes double for pain relievers.

There are two main types of pain relievers: NSAIDs and acetaminophen.

NSAIDs covers a wide variety of pain control drugs for people. NSAID stands for Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. NSAIDs are commonly recommended or prescribed to humans for controlling inflammation, pain, fever, headaches or sports injuries.

Acetaminophen has much of the same pain relieving properties, but is not an anti-inflammatory.

Neither should be given to your dog or cat without your Vet's specific directions.

NSAIDs	Commonly called	Brands	Active ingredient	Effect on dogs
	Aspirin	Bayer Aspirin	acetylsalicylic acid or ASA	buffered aspirin is sometimes used for short term pain treatment for dogs at a Vet's recommendation only.
	Ibuprofen	Advil, Motrin, Midol	ibuprofen	Advil, Motrin and Midol and their no-name equivalents, are very toxic and likely fatal for your Morkie!
	Naproxen	Aleve, Anaprox, Naprelan	naproxen sodium	Very toxic for dogs and cats. Can cause stomach bleeding, kidney failure and death.
	Voltaren	Voltaren, Cataflam, Zipsor	Diclofenac	Usually used as a joint relief cream. Toxic to pets; can cause kidney failure.
	Acetaminophen	Tylenol, Exedrin	acetaminophen	relieves pain, but is NOT an anti-inflammatory

Your Vet may recommend buffered or enteric-coated aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) as reasonably safe for a short time -- in the recommended dosage for dogs. Or, your Vet may prescribe painkillers specially designed for dogs, such as Rimadyl, Deramaxx®, or Previcox.

NEVER buy online and give these prescription medications yourself; they carry this warning:

All dogs should undergo a thorough history and physical examination before initiation of NSAID therapy. Appropriate laboratory tests to establish baseline blood values prior to, and periodically during, the use of any NSAID are strongly recommended.

Common side effects for dogs who've eaten people painkillers

- extreme vomiting and diarrhea.
- loss of appetite.
- depression and lethargy.

Even without symptoms, your Morkie can die from these drugs.

If your dog has eaten painkillers, call your Vet right away.

More poisons around the home

In addition to our people medications, other poisons around the home include home and garden plants:

Plants most toxic to dogs

- **Azaleas and rhododendrons** - may cause vomiting, diarrhea, coma, potentially death.
- **Tulips and daffodils** - may cause serious stomach problems, convulsions, and damage to the heart.
- **Sago palms** - just a few seeds may cause vomiting, seizures, and liver failure.
- **Cyclamen** - the roots are especially dangerous.
- **Lilies** - some are dangerous while others are benign. Avoid them all and if your Morkie eats any, take a sample to the Vet along with the dog.
- **Oleander** - leaves and flowers are extremely toxic.



Above, left to right: azalea; daffodil; sago palm; cyclamen; lilies; oleander

People food bad for dogs

Alcohol

Alcohol has the same effect on a dog's liver and brain that it has on humans. But it takes far, far less to do its damage. Just a little alcohol can set off vomiting, diarrhea, central nervous system depression, problems with coordination, difficulty breathing, coma, and even death. And the smaller the dog, the greater the effect.

Chocolate

Chocolate is still the number one poisonous *food* that pets eat. Chocolate can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and death.



Coffee, Caffeine

Caffeine and theobromine (found in chocolate) are methylxanthines which are toxic to dogs.

In addition to tea and coffee - including beans and grounds -- **caffeine** can be found in cocoa, chocolate, colas, and stimulant drinks such as Red Bull. It's also in some cold medicines and pain killers.

Caffeine in large enough quantities can be fatal for a dog. And, there is no antidote. Symptoms of caffeine poisoning include:

- restlessness.
- rapid breathing.
- heart palpitations.
- muscle tremors.
- fits.
- bleeding.



Macadamia nuts

Macadamia nuts are common in cookies and candies. But they are very high fat for Morkies, and can contain toxic mold. If your Morkie eats them, you may see symptoms including weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia in dogs. Signs usually appear within 12 hours of ingestion and last approximately 12 to 48 hours. **As few as six raw or roasted macadamia nuts can make a dog very ill.**

Onions, garlic, chives

These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. An occasional very low dose of garlic in a dog treat is not likely to cause a problem, but do not give your dog large quantities of any of these things.

NEVER, EVER give your dog onion. The toxic effect of onions is the same whether they're raw, cooked or dehydrated. Onions can destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia.

Raisins and grapes

Although the toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown, these fruits can cause kidney failure in dogs.

In pets who already have certain health problems -- or in very small dogs -- signs may be more dramatic. In fact, as few as 7 grapes or raisins can be fatal to smaller dogs and cats. Signs of having eaten grapes or raisins: severe vomiting, diarrhea and shaking.



Salt in excess

Large amounts of salt can result in excessive thirst and urination, or even sodium ion poisoning in pets. Signs that your Morkie may have eaten too many salty foods include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, seizures and even death.

Xylitol (artificial sweetener)

Xylitol was the second most common food to poison dogs last year, according to the ASPCA. Xylitol can cause seizures and liver failure in dogs.

Xylitol is used as **an artificial sweetener** in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release, which can lead to **liver failure**.

The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. Initial symptoms of Xylitol poisoning include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination, progressing to collapse or seizures. Liver failure can follow within a few days.



Not deadly, but still dangerous

Avocado

The leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of avocados contain Persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs.

Fatty foods like table scraps

Table scraps often contain meat's fat that humans don't eat, along with bones. Both are dangerous for dogs. Fat trimmed from meat, both cooked and uncooked, can cause **pancreatitis** in dogs.

And, although it seems natural to give a dog a bone, a dog can choke on it. Bones can also splinter and cause an obstruction or lacerations of your dog's digestive system.

If you want to give your Morkie a bone, make it RAW, not cooked.

Raw/undercooked meat, eggs and bones

Despite many fans of raw food diets for dogs, the fact is, raw meat and raw eggs can contain bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli. But does that matter? About 36% of healthy dogs are already carrying Salmonella,¹⁶ so it's obviously not that harmful for them. That's because dogs have a very short, acidic digestive tract.

¹⁶ from *True Carnivores* Saturday, August 29th, 2015

It's worth noting that to date, there has not been a single incidence reported of a human or a dog contracting salmonella from being in contact with raw pet food.

Certain fish like salmon, trout, shad, or sturgeon can contain a parasite that causes "fish disease" or "salmon poisoning disease." Be careful handling raw meat and fish; keep it refrigerated until use.

Milk and dairy products

Dogs don't have much lactase (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk), so milk and other milk-based products can trigger diarrhea and other digestive upsets.

Nuts, seeds and pits

A major pet insurance company, Nationwide, warns dog owners about nuts.

1. they're very salty, which is bad for dogs.
2. they're often mouldy, which is **toxic** to dogs especially small ones.
3. nuts can be a choking hazard and can even obstruct your little dog's G.I. tract.
4. nuts are high in fat, so could trigger a pancreatitis attack in your dog.

Experts say dogs CAN eat these three in very limited quantities, but it's wise to try just one to be sure your Morkie isn't allergic:

- peanuts
- cashews
- hazelnuts

NUTS OK FOR DOGS	NUTS NOT OK FOR DOGS
 <i>Peanut</i>	macadamia nuts
 <i>Hazelnut</i>	walnuts
 <i>Cashew</i>	hickory nuts
	pecans
	pistachios
	almonds

Nuts should not be seasoned or salted. NOTE: some major brands of peanut butter are now made with the artificial sweetener, Xylitol. **Xylitol is highly toxic to dogs.**

Avoid: Walnuts, hickory nuts and pecans. They are just 3 varieties that are prone to mould, which can be toxic to dogs. Although almonds are not toxic to dogs, they often cause gastric distress. Pistachios and Macadamia nuts are very high in fat, which should be avoided.

Seeds can be tolerated by dogs, but don't go out of your way to feed them. If your Morkie has a watermelon, honeydew or cantaloupe seed while eating the fruit, that's OK.

Avoid: all fruit pits, such as cherry, peach, nectarine, plum and apricot.

Dog first aid

How much first aid should you know when you have a small dog like a Morkie?

Over-enthusiastic first aid can do more harm than good. Limit yourself to determining the seriousness of the dog's condition, providing essential treatment, and then getting immediate professional help.

You need to know:

1. When to take your Morkie to an Emergency Clinic or your regular Veterinarian.
2. How to reduce further injury until you get professional help.
3. How to safely transport your Morkie.

When to rush your Morkie to the ER Vet

What are signs you need to see an emergency clinic or Veterinarian right away?

- Non-productive retching
- Difficulty breathing
- Constant coughing
- Restlessness
- Pale gums
- An elevated heart rate (anything over 180 beats per minute)
- Crying out in pain
- Not being able to move
- A distended abdomen
- Extreme lethargy
- Any significant amounts of bleeding
- Any trauma like a broken bone
- Not walking
- Dragging the back legs
- Squinting, bulging, or painful eyeballs
- Bloody urine
- Straining to urinate

CAUTION

Even the most gentle dog will bite when injured or afraid; be careful handling our dog in an emergency situation. Don't hesitate to apply a gentle muzzle, made from gauze or a cloth tie. See p. 275

As [PetMD online](#) says:

"Dogs don't typically "die" suddenly at home, nor should they. Unless it's one of several (extreme diseases), it's something your emergency Veterinarian could have treated.

No animal should have to die of an injury at home, as the signs are typically pretty severe for this to happen. And, it's really painful and miserable to die at home when it could have been medically treated to begin with."

3 quick ways to assess your dog's condition

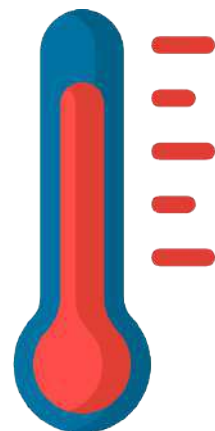
1. Temperature

Using a dog (rectal) thermometer, check your Morkie's temperature: Normal will be **between 100.5 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit / 38 to 39.2 degrees Celsius.**

Dog's normal temperature range

100.5° F -
102.5° F

38.5° C -
39.2° C

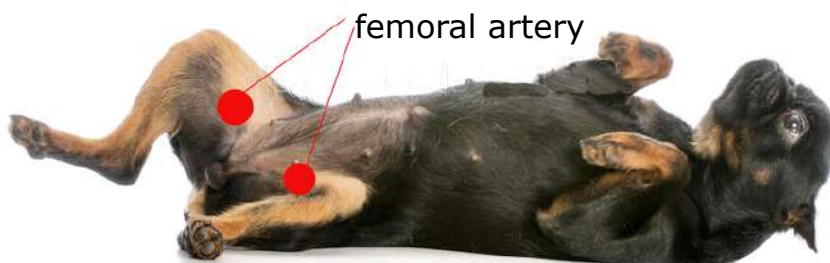


2. Gum color

Normal gums should be a shade of pink. White, grey, blue or yellow in color, can mean internal bleeding, anemia, or a blocked blood flow.

3. Pulse

Small toy breeds have normal heart rates of **140 to 180 beats per minute.** (A puppy's pulse rate is higher.) **To take your dog's pulse,** feel for the femoral artery. Count the beats for 15 seconds and multiply by 4.



Check these 3 signs **BEFORE** your Morkie is sick and make a note of the results. It will make it much easier to assess your Morkie.

Dog's normal pulse rate



140 - 180 beats per minute

35 - 45 beats per 15 seconds

Before you get to emergency help

The three most important things you need to know are:

1. how to **apply a splint** to a broken bone (broken bones can sever arteries and ligaments if they're not properly splinted).
2. how to **induce vomiting**, to avoid a deadly dose of toxins being absorbed before you get to the Clinic or Vet's.
3. how to **stop bleeding** before your Morkie goes into shock.

Applying a splint

Broken bones and **torn ligaments** are two of the most common injuries seen by Veterinarians. Help your Morkie make a faster recovery by learning how to apply a splint to an injured tail or leg.

How to Splint

1. Make a quick muzzle with a strip of fabric or gauze - just wrap it around your Morkie's muzzle and tie it off at the top, so he doesn't bite you out of pain or fear.
2. Find any household item to use as a splint - a ruler works well.
3. **Do not try to realign the injured leg or tail!** This can be deadly because you can sever an artery in the process.
4. Gently wrap the injured leg or tail in 2 to 3 layers of gauze. Put the splint with it, and continue wrapping both the splint and the injured part.
5. the splint should extend well beyond the injury -- for a leg, it should extend one joint below and one joint above the injury site



Stretchy sports bandage (sometimes called Vet Wrap) like this is self-adhering but doesn't stick to your dog's hair. It's ideal to keep on hand for first aid.

Getting your dog to vomit

Prepare your own anti-poisoning kit

It's estimated there were more than 130,000 cases of pet poisoning in the U.S. in 2017.

Don't wait until the panic of the moment is upon you; prepare a dog poisoning kit now and it just might save your dog's life down the road.



Be prepared by assembling the following:

- a fresh bottle of 3% Hydrogen Peroxide, available at any drugstore.
- measuring spoons.
- a small bowl for mixing.
- a turkey baster.
- eyedropper.
- these instructions printed out.
- your Veterinarian's name and phone number.
- the number for your local animal poison control centre, also printed out.

Print your copy from the Appendix

Also keep a small bottle of olive oil in the kit, to give in case your dog has swallowed something corrosive

Let everyone in the family know where this kit is, and if you take your dog away with you on vacation or to the cottage, make up a second kit or be sure to take the one from home. Prevention is many times more effective - and easier - than treatment.

Typical poison symptoms in dogs include staggering and sudden collapse, sudden and intense drooling, vomiting, shaking, convulsions and a spike in temperature in an otherwise healthy dog.

If your Morkie has been poisoned

1. Call your Vet at once.
2. Meanwhile, *induce vomiting* right away if you think your dog has ingested something dangerous
3. Do NOT induce vomiting if your dog is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, or is exhibiting signs of serious distress or shock.
4. Do NOT induce vomiting if you suspect your dog has ingested corrosives--instead, give some oil orally. (Corrosives include strong acids, drain cleaner, dishwashing machine powder).

Bottom Line: If there is any possibility that your Morkie came into contact with poison, call your Vet at once. Don't wait for symptoms; they could be delayed a day or two and by then, it may be too late.

If you cannot get to the Vet immediately, are waiting for a ride, or are stranded, you can call a 24-hour emergency hotline staffed with experienced Veterinarians.

Google your nearest service now, and keep the number handy.

Contact your Vet if possible before inducing vomiting because in some instances, this could cause more harm than good.

How to induce vomiting

Here's where your anti-poisoning kit comes in:

1. It's fairly simple: mix EQUAL PARTS hydrogen peroxide and water and give right away 1 or 2 tablespoons per 10 pounds body weight to induce vomiting.

Use a turkey baster or eyedropper if necessary to give mixture to dog by mouth.

2. Repeat up to three times.
3. A small toy dog would get only 1 or 2 tablespoons of the mixture (equal parts hydrogen peroxide and water) up to three times.

(A medium, or 30 pound dog, would get 3 to 5 tablespoons of the mixture each of 3 times; and a large, 90 pound dog could get 9 or 10 tablespoons, each of 3 times.)

4. Don't hesitate to use the turkey baster or **eyedropper** to get the mixture right back down in your dog's mouth so that it's fully swallowed.

Stop bleeding

Slowing or stopping bleeding before you reach the Vet's office is very important if your Morkie has been injured, so that he doesn't go into shock.

If any wound is **spurting blood**, it means an artery has been cut. Seek **immediate help** - and in the meantime --

- first, secure your Morkie's head, and if the injury is serious, make a quick muzzle with a strip of fabric or gauze - just wrap it around your Morkie's muzzle and tie it at the top, so he doesn't bite you out of pain or fear.
- cover the wound with a sterile gauze pad, clean folded towel, or sanitary napkin.
- keep pressure on the dressing to stop bleeding.
- if blood soaks through the dressing, DO NOT remove it.
- apply more dressing and continue to apply pressure until the bleeding stops.
- if there is a protruding object, such as an arrow, DO NOT attempt to remove the object.

- [More details on the next page](#)



Keep pressure on the wound to help staunch the bleeding.

Muzzling an injured dog

Prepare a loop with gauze, and slide it over the dog's nose. Then bring the ends of the gauze back around and tie behind his neck so it stays on.

[Read more on WikiHow here](https://www.wikihow.com/Apply-a-Gauze-Muzzle-to-a-Dog)

<https://www.wikihow.com/Apply-a-Gauze-Muzzle-to-a-Dog>



Bleeding and wounds - more details

SEVERE BLEEDING	Apply sterile dressing and pressure If it bleeds through, add more dressing on top - don't remove the soaked dressing.	Keep your pet as calm as possible. Get immediate Veterinary help.
CHEST WOUNDS - SUCKING SOUND	A sucking sound means that the wound has penetrated the chest cavity . Do not try to clean the wound. Apply pressure with a bandage in place, keeping a good seal on three sides of the wound. Apply plastic directly over the wound then place a bandage on top to create a seal. You may have to simply use hand pressure.	Don't remove blood soaked dressing. Get immediate Veterinary help.
PUNCTURE WOUNDS	Don't remove whatever is puncturing your pet. If the object has been removed, treat as severe bleeding, above. Clean the wound if possible. Put padding on the object that's punctured the pet; and gauze with pressure on the wound itself.	Continue to monitor airway, breathing and circulation. Get immediate Veterinary help.
FOOTPAD WOUNDS	Feed can bleed severely. Clean with cold water, blot with a dry towel and apply gauze, wrapped securely and secured with an elastic bandage.	Get immediate Veterinary help.
ABDOMINAL WOUNDS	If organs are protruding, do not 'put them back' - moisten with saline solution or sterile or clean water ,and tie a bandage in place.	Continue to monitor airway, breathing and circulation. Get immediate Veterinary help.
TOENAIL WOUNDS	Apply clotting powder right away - styptic powder, cornstarch or flour will all work. Pinch the toe at the base of the nail to slow bleeding.	If bleeding doesn't stop, or the nail is torn or hanging and the quick is exposed, get immediate Veterinary help.
OTHER WOUNDS	Apply pressure for 5 to 10 minutes to a bleeding wound. Expose the wound - cut away hair if necessary. Clean the wound with clean water and blot dry with a clean cloth.	Keep the wound covered with a light bandage to prevent your dog from licking at it. Get Veterinary help right away.

Tips for getting your Morkie to the Vet safely

[Animal Planet](#) has these excellent recommendations:

Try not to move the injured dog more than necessary, and **have someone call the Veterinarian to be certain they are prepared for your arrival.**

In the meantime, use the following tips to help you transport your pet with the utmost care.

If the Dog Can Be Lifted

Step 1: Grasp the dog's collar with one hand and place your other arm over its back and around its body.

Step 2: At the same time, pull forward on the collar and lift the dog's body, cradling it against your body.



If the Dog Needs a Stretcher

Step 1: Use a flat board as a stretcher. A large cutting board, removable shelf or anything similar will do. Even though your Morkie is small, do use a board for him to keep him secure.

Step 2: Place 2 or 3 long strips of cloth or rope equidistant under the board, avoiding the area where the dog's neck will rest.

Step 3: Place one hand under the dog's chest and the other under its rear; carefully lift or slide the dog onto the board.

Step 4: Tie the dog to the board and transport him to the Veterinarian.



If your dog goes into shock

What to do:

- get emergency help right away - from your Veterinarian or local emergency clinic.
- in the meantime, **keep your Morkie warm**. Cover him with a blanket and hold him close to your body. If possible, fill a hot water bottle and keep that close.

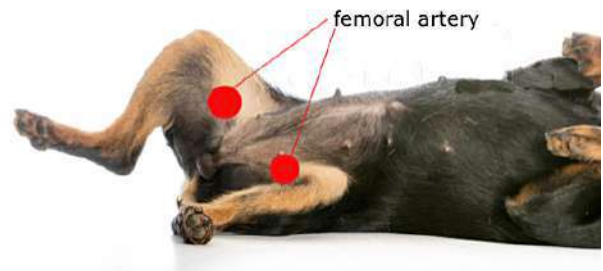
Causes of shock:

A body goes into shock after a severe drop in blood pressure. This could be from heavy bleeding or any kind of major injury that 'surprises' the system. The heart beats faster, and blood vessels to the extremities contract, so that blood is preserved for major organs. Here are just a few of the things that can trigger shock in your Morkie:

- a severe allergic reaction.
- blood loss.
- poisoning.
- intense pain.
- an injury, such as hit by a car.

Signs of shock:

- change in pulse rate - pulse can speed up but feel weak. Check pulse at the femoral artery. **Normal rate is between 140 and 180 beats per minute/ or 35 to 45 beats per 15 se**
- dropping body temperature. Normal temperature is **100.5 to 102.5° Fahrenheit (38.5° C to 39.2° C)**.
- pale gums - when you press against the gum and hold for a few seconds, then release, the gum does not go back to pink quickly.



First aid kit

Keep a first aid safety kit on hand at home and in your car. Take the one from your car with you when you travel with your pet.

Each kit should include the items listed. It might sound like a lot, but when an accident occurs, these items can help you save the health or life of your Morkie.

Waterproof kit container

Use indelible ink and write on the container: phone numbers for your Vet, the closest emergency animal hospital, and poison control hotlines. Also list your own name, address and phone numbers.

Basic first-aid supplies

- ✓ Adhesive tape
- ✓ Bacitracin ointment or antiseptic cream
- ✓ Sanitary pads, to use as large bandages for bleeding
- ✓ Plenty of cotton gauze and scissors
- ✓ Hydrogen peroxide
- ✓ Kwik stop powder or cornstarch for small bleeding, like nails
- ✓ Muzzle (optional)
- ✓ Rectal thermometer and petroleum jelly
- ✓ Rubbing alcohol
- ✓ Pepto Bismal
- ✓ Tweezers

see printable list in
the Appendix

Kits Available online

You can buy dog first aid kits at big box pet stores or online from sites like Amazon and PetSmart. Costs range from about \$20 to \$50 and up, depending on the complexity of the materials.



Most kits include a first aid
booklet with directions.

Holiday hazards

Christmas, Hallowe'en, the Fourth of July and more

The holidays can be a stressful and busy time for us, so imagine how your dog feels. Lots of extra cooking, decorations, chocolates, bright lights, scented seasonal plants and at Christmas, a tree right in the house are just some of the temptations that could prove disastrous to your dog. What are some of the things to watch for and how can you minimize the dangers?

Too much - and the wrong - food

The holidays are a time when dogs can end up with serious digestive problems according to experts. The reasons:

- 1. Rich, spicy human food that can make dogs very sick.** A dog that gets into leftover turkey for example, can be in real trouble - bones, greasy meat, string and fatty gravy are a certain prescription for diarrhea or worse.
- 2. Access to human food** that can literally poison your dog (alcohol, chocolate, macadamia nuts, raisins) and more. The ASPCA website (www.asPCA.org) has a complete list of common foods and household chemicals that are poisonous to your pets and you can find a printable list in the Appendix.
- 3. Too many treats.** We usually buy dogs toys and treats, and so do guests, so be careful to dole them out slowly. No need to have that entire box of doggie-dingalings finished off before New Year's Eve.
- 4. Stuff that dogs just plain shouldn't eat,** like tinsel, toothpicks, wrapping paper, ribbon, turkey bones, tin foil, broken glass ornaments and more.

Too little supervision

During the commotion of the holidays, dogs and children generally have less supervision than they need, so can get injured when they're underfoot in a busy kitchen.

Dogs may try chewing on sharp plastic packaging or trying out that new toy you got Junior. Wrapping paper and ribbon can be very attractive to dogs, who may be tempted to chow down on them.

Most holiday decorations can be bad for dogs: from the seasonal plants such as holly leaves, berries, poinsettias, mistletoe and amaryllis (all of which are highly toxic), to that live tree in the house.

Glitter, tinsel, angel hair, ribbon, plastic grass at Easter, glue and plastic have a mysterious attraction for dogs, and if eaten in large amounts, can result in serious intestinal blockage. The little wire hooks for tree ornaments - inexplicably attractive to our canine friends - can easily perforate innards.

The hazardous Christmas tree

The Christmas tree in particular can be a potential disaster, especially if it's live.

Pine needles are very irritating to the pet's mouth and stomach, and if you treat the tree water to slow down needle drop, be sure to cover that water. It contains poisonous preservatives and pine tar, a deadly brew for animals. One solution is to cover the base with a tree skirt and some packages or books. Or get one of the new tree bases that's more enclosed.

A male dog may be very interested in marking your beautiful Christmas tree and in the process, even a Morkie could knock the tree over. Lots of packages spread around the base of the tree could keep him away but better still, anchor the tree to the wall with two discrete cup hooks and wire.

If you have a dog, then you might want to skip decorations like popcorn strings or strung berries, candy canes and chocolates - they're just too tempting.

Sparkling, coloured lights - yummy!

Another common cause of injury over the holidays is light cords. Dogs can get entangled in them and again, pull the tree over. Sometimes dogs will chew them, shorting out the wire which results in a nasty burn or even *electrocution*.

Gather the chords up and attach them with wire to the trunk of the tree, higher up and out of reach. **Apple Bitter**, distasteful to dogs, can be lightly painted on the wires to keep him away; it's available at most larger pet stores and is completely harmless.

Dangers just outside the door

Outdoors, there are more holiday hazards lurking: from poisons like antifreeze and ice melters to more cords to chew through. In the confusion of a party, a dog can be forgotten and left outside a little too long, suffering from hypothermia.

And, as guests come and go, a dog can quickly dash out the door and run away before anyone notices. If you have Morkie, the stress and off-schedule mealtimes can lead to hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) shock, so keep his meals on time.

Anyone considering a puppy to surprise the family at Christmas can see from this short list, that this is not the right time to introduce a new animal into your home.

Stick to your dog's routine

So how do you protect your dog, short of cancelling Christmas altogether? First, try your best to stick to the dog's routine, especially regular walks. An exercised dog is a better behaved dog all round, so grab a walk whenever you can. The bonus - it will help reduce your own stress levels too.

Give your Morkie a break

You may want to remove your dog from the party central action if things get too hectic. A quiet room or his crate, is a far better solution than a stressed-out dog. Don't assume your partner or someone else is watching the dog; be explicit about who's in charge and plan ahead for the dog's needs.

Plan ahead

Make sure your dog has his tag on at all times, with your current phone number. Check out which emergency clinics will be open in your area over the holidays and stick that number up on the fridge.

Halloween safety

Some of the top dangers specific to Halloween are:

- Halloween candy - chocolate especially is deadly for small dogs like Morkies, and tinfoil and cellophane wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed. Seal your child's stash and keep out of the dog's reach.
- lit candles - your Morkie could accidentally knock over a lit candle - try a no-flame tea light, a great mess-free alternative to light up your jack-o-lantern.
- glow sticks should be kept away from pets. They're not poisonous but have a terrible taste.
- wires and cords could harm your dog - dogs love to chew and Morkies are no exception. Make sure all wire, cords from displays and decorations are secured and out of reach. That includes battery-powered decorations.
- Constant door bells and strangers can be very stressful for your Morkie. Your Morkie might make a run for it when you're opening the door. **Keep his I.D. on**, and keep him quiet and comfortable in another room during the peak of activity, away from the door.
- Don't leave your dog out in the yard.

Should dogs wear costumes?

Everyone loves to see dogs in costumes . Research shows most people have dressed up their pooches at some point in their lives. However, if your Morkie is really resistant to the idea, this added stress might be a bad idea.

Start small and before Halloween - a little hat or a bandana, to get your Morkie used to the idea. Then try a T-shirt. Don't rush -- make it fun. If your Morkie is anxious or upset in her costume, take it off right away and try later.

Fourth of July

As the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) warns, "While it may seem like a great idea to reward Rover with scraps from the grill and bring him along to watch fireworks, in reality some festive foods and products can be potentially hazardous to your pets."

Always keep I.D. on your Morkie, especially July 4th.

They offer the following tips:

- **Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended** where dogs can reach them. Alcohol is deadly for little dogs like Morkies.
- **Don't use human-grade sunscreen or bug spray.** It can be toxic for dogs.
- **Always keep matches and lighter fluid out of your pet's reach.** Certain types of matches contain chlorates, which could potentially damage blood cells and result in difficulty breathing—or even kidney disease in severe cases.
- **Keep all pets on their normal diet.** Any change, even for one meal, can give your pets severe indigestion and diarrhea.
- **Do not put glow jewelry on your pets, or let them to play with it.** While the luminescent substance contained in these products is not highly toxic, excessive drooling and gastrointestinal irritation could still result from eating it. Eating large pieces of the plastic container glow sticks come in, could cause an intestinal blockage.
- **Keep citronella candles, insect coils and oil products out of reach.** Ingestions can produce stomach irritation and possibly even central nervous system damage.
- **Never use fireworks around pets!** While exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets, even unused fireworks are dangerous. Many types contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals. This includes glow sticks.

The infographic features a dark blue background with red and white wavy stripes at the top. On the left, a white starburst contains the text "4th" in blue, with a red banner below it reading "OF JULY" in white. To the right of the starburst are two white fireworks. Further right is a white silhouette of two dogs running. Below these elements, the text "More pets run away on the Fourth of July than on any other day of the year." is written in white. At the bottom, a light beige banner contains two columns of text. The left column has "JULY 5TH" in large red letters, followed by "is the busiest day of the year for animal shelters nationwide." in smaller black text. The right column has "30%" in large red letters, followed by "The increase in the number of lost pets between July 4th and 6th." in smaller black text.

4th OF JULY

More pets run away on the Fourth of July than on any other day of the year.

JULY 5TH is the busiest day of the year for animal shelters nationwide.

30% The increase in the number of lost pets between July 4th and 6th.

From [tagg.com](#) pet trackers.

Car safety

The American Automobile Association estimates that **30,000 auto accidents** a year are a result of unrestrained pets in cars.

That is one huge number.

Besides causing accidents, dogs who ride free in cars:

- can get carsick.
- be uncomfortable and anxious.
- can become a flying missile if you stop suddenly.

All dogs should be secured in cars - especially little guys like Morkies.

Even in a minor collision, an unrestrained dog can be thrown into the dashboard or the windshield. Like any other projectile, the dog will fly forward with tremendous speed and force, and go through the windshield and/or seriously injure you and your passengers.

And a small dog held on your lap in the front seat will almost certainly be killed by the air bag going off. Sorry to be graphic but it's something to think about.

Second, it's illegal. In most jurisdictions across Canada and the U.S. you'll be charged with one of several violations if your dog is loose in the car, so why not get a reliable dog restraint for your car now.

The safest place for dogs is in the back seat - properly restrained. Here are some ways you can safely restrain your dog:

1. **keep the dog in a crate**, which is safely attached to a seat belt.
2. **a proper-fitting dog harness** that holds the dog in, via a strap attached to a seat belt.
3. **a small animal booster seat**, with built-in seat belt or harness restraint.
4. **a barrier for the back of SUVs** - not a solution for small dogs since the dog is still loose in the car.



In an auto accident a 60 pound dog in a car traveling 30 mph will hit an object ten inches in front of him at 1,200 pounds per square inch.

We read about it every summer: dogs in hot cars

Never leave your dog unattended in a parked vehicle. It only takes minutes for a dog to suffer heatstroke, hypothermia or death in the oven that your car can quickly become, even in temperatures that may not seem extreme to you.

See a dog in a hot car? Call 911 right away - it's not only inhumane, it's a crime to leave a dog in a hot car.



Fahrenheit		
Outside Temperature (F)	Inside the car (F)	
	after 10 minutes	after 30 minutes
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°

Celcius		
Outside Temperature (C)	Inside the car (C)	
	after 10 minutes	after 30 minutes
21°	32°	40°
24°	35°	43°
27°	37°	46°
30°	40°	48°
33°	43°	51°
36°	46°	54°

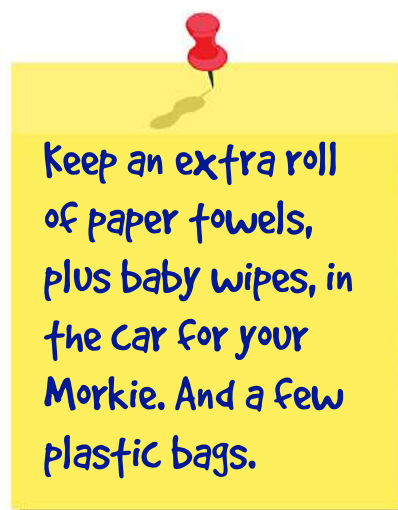
Stupid excuses: *I was just going in for a minute; I just wanted to drop off something; I just grabbed a coffee; I left the window open a couple of inches; I left the sunroof open.....*

What to pack for a road trip

You'll need food and plenty of water of course. **Don't forget the bowls.**

Also pack:

- any medical information.
- your Vet's name and number.
- your dog's license and microchip info.
- an extra leash.
- a few treats.
- a small dog first aid kit: gauze, bandaging material, antibiotic ointment, rubbing alcohol.
- an old towel - in case you need to wrap him up.
- a clean up kit - paper towels, disinfectant spray, plastic bags and twist ties... and wet wipes for you.
- poop and scoop bags.



Many dogs love riding in cars, but there are some canines that turn into quivering fur-balls at the very sound of jingling car keys.

It's important to familiarize your Morkie with your vehicle and his seating accommodations in the first few weeks after you get him. Taking plenty of short car trips early on will get him used to the sights and sounds of a moving vehicle, and you'll learn what to expect out of your dog.

Does your Morkie cry or howl non-stop in the car?

Like us, dogs can suffer from **motion sickness**. If your Morkie is drooling, yawning, lip smacking or whining, he's probably car sick. If so,

- limit food before travel.
- ask your Vet for an anti-nausea medication before you travel.
- whether in a carrier cage, or belted in, make sure the dog is facing forward.

If your dog is anxious in the car, try these steps:

- offer a treat and reassurance right away upon entering the car.
- practice with short trips around the block.
- try a dog anxiety vest, such as [Thunderjacket](#). It produces some pressure on your dog that might help.
- dogs can have floral remedies, such as Bach Rescue Remedy in the canine formulated version, a natural product that can calm nerves and is safe to use.

Many puppies get motion sick, but grow out of it as their ears (and balance) develop.

Parks & more

Are dog parks safe?

It seems they are not - a quick search on Google pulls up story after story of small dogs seriously injured or even killed at dog parks. Many have been mauled by large dogs, while some were simply stepped on by large dogs and seriously injured.

Many dog parks have a specially fenced, segregated area for small breeds. However the definition of 'small breed' can be misleading. Most suggest these areas are for dogs 30 pounds and under. If you have a particularly small Morkie, say 4 to 5 pounds, you can see just how outweighed your pooch can be.

Not an isolated incident

One courageous Yorkie owner in Buffalo, N.Y. shared her story so that others might be spared the pain she's endured.

Her little dog was simply 'run over' by larger dogs, all of whom were playful and friendly. It was a matter of size, and a paw that must have come down on the small animal the wrong way. His neck was crushed, and the pet died on the way to the Veterinarian's office.



Letting her dog play at the park was "a very bad decision that day," the owner said. "I'm worried that someone else will make the same bad decision if they don't hear this story."

At another park in Charlotte, North Carolina, a bull mastiff mauled and killed a 12 pound Yorkshire terrier-Chihuahua mix within seconds, before aghast bystanders could intervene. This incident was particularly ugly because the mastiff owner gave the victim his name and a false phone number.

Many dog parks ban intact (un-neutered) animals from the site; however, some pet owners ignore that rule and let their aggressive pets run roughshod over other dogs. Don't assume that every dog in the park is a well-mannered, well-trained pet. Just because it is playing with other dogs does not mean that it will play well with your dog.

Concerns with dog parks

While they are a good idea, there are some serious issues with dog parks across Canada and the United States:

- dog owners who don't clean up. Gives all dog owners a 'bad name' and can result in disease or worms spreading.
- overly aggressive, overly assertive, unruly, and under-socialized dogs to not belong in a dog park, but they are there anyway. When dogs fight, people sometimes get bitten, and almost always get into altercations among themselves.
- owners who don't keep an eye on their pets, letting them run wild, sometimes at the expense of smaller dogs, puppies or shy dogs.
- professional dog walkers who bring too many 'clients'. How many animals can one person supervise?

Tips to keep your dog safe even when dogs are all small

- mixing leashed and unleashed dogs heightens tensions - the unleashed dogs can perceive negative body language and be aggressive. Always unleash your dog right away.
- watch your dog very closely; it's amazing how many dog parents start chatting with other people or get on their cell phones, totally ignoring signals that their dog is afraid or stressed.
- keep your visits short at first - 15 minutes is plenty for dog park newbies.
- bring your own water and bowl and steer your dog away from the communal bowl; it could be filled with parasites and germs.
- this should be obvious: don't take your *own* food or snacks inside the dog park, beyond a beverage. No sense stirring up a feeding frenzy amongst the dogs. (Not to mention, not very appealing.)
- enjoy dog parks that are properly maintained; good signs are cut grass and plenty of wood chips covering bare patches. No broken toys lying around, or poop and poop bags not put away.

Dogs in a fight?

Be careful getting your hand between them especially if one dog is big. Stay calm and grab the park's water bowl and throw it onto the fighters, or get a stick to try and separate them.

Yell, shout, stomp your feet and clap your hands to get the dogs' attention.

Grab a lawn chair if available and put it between the dogs.

Don't grab the big dog's collar - it's very easy for him to wheel around and bite you.

- and of course, never take a female dog in heat, to the dog park or puppies younger than 12 weeks since their immunity isn't up to full speed yet.

Big dogs? Head home!

If your Morkie is outweighed by the other dogs at the park, even in the 'small dog' zone, it's a good idea to simply leave. The larger dogs can be well-meaning or vicious, you don't really know. However, the result can be the same: a fatally injured small dog that should have been protected better by its owner.

If you're looking for opportunities to socialize your small dog, look for local small dog fun clubs. Many have meets that are just for fun and you'll meet other small dog owners.

The bottom line: avoid dog parks unless you're highly confident they are safe.

Ten rules for dog park fun & safety

1. Watch your dog at all times.
2. Stay with your dog.
3. Keep moving. Standing in a cluster with other dog owners means all the dogs are bunched up too, which could lead to dog fights.
4. Follow the park's rules.
5. Pick up after your dog.
6. Leave as soon as your dog seems uncomfortable. Small dogs will sometimes lift one paw off the ground, or yawn, to indicate they are stressed and want to leave.
7. Leave if your Morkie seems to be bullying other small dogs.
8. Never take a dog under 6 months old to a dog park.
9. Bring your own water and plenty of bags, but leave toys at home. Too much potential for fighting over them.
10. Bringing kids too? Don't let them scream and run up and down. That will scare the dogs.

Doggy day care

from Canadian Living Magazine

Doggy daycare centres are modelled on child daycare: each morning you drop your pup off at daycare. Your dog spends the day with other dogs, playing, going for walks and napping all under the watchful eye of trained dog sitters.

"Physically, doggy daycare can provide opportunities for healthy and safe physical activity," says Dr. Doug Roberts, president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and a companion animal Vet based out of Kentville, N.S. "Many dogs, especially in urban settings, are under-exercised and thus prone to obesity and its many health risks."

But the benefits aren't just physical: *"Social interactions with other dogs and people in a safe and controlled environment can be mentally and psychologically beneficial,"* says Roberts. For dogs that suffer from separation anxiety, the interaction at daycare can be a relief.

What to look for in dog day care

Take a tour of the doggy day care you're thinking of using before you bring your Morkie, and ask questions:

- Do you require proof of vaccinations from all dog owners (you definitely want this)
- How do you separate out large dogs and small ones?
- Do you accepted unspayed or unneutered dogs? Unneutered males can be more aggressive.
- How many staff do you have? Ideally 2 or 3 staff with up to 15 dogs is fine. Any more dogs than that, is too much for the staff to watch closely.
- How many dogs do you sit per day? Some large centres can handle up to 50, other small centres may only take a dozen. What suits your dog's personality best?

Of course, you'll want to see that the center is clean, smells fine and has lots of room for the dogs to run around.

Flooring should be paw-friendly material, such as rubber or cork. Or if it's a harder surface such as hardwood or textured concrete, there should be area rugs or mats where pups can lie down.

Many doggy day care facilities also offer grooming and short-term boarding. Some have web cams so you can get a glimpse of your Morkie during the day.

Most dog day care centres

- don't accept unspayed or unneutered dogs
- want to see proof of Bordatella and Rabies vaccinations
- will arrange for a meet-and-greet before the day you drop off your dog
- advise you to bring your dog's own food and snacks

Safely boarding your Morkie

Similar questions apply if you're checking out boarding. Are all the other dogs up to date on vaccinations? How do you separate small and large dogs?

Questions to ask:

- Where will my dog be kept?
- Do you keep dogs in cages or kennel runs? What size is the cage or kennel run?
- Do you have indoor only runs or indoor/outdoor runs? Do you crate dogs?
- How many dogs can you keep at one time?
- What do you do if a dog gets sick?
- What does the kennel feed? Can I bring my dog's food? (Don't expect a discount if you do - it takes longer to serve your dog's own food than feeding all the dogs a common mix).
- Do you require all dogs to have proof of Rabies and Bordatella vaccination? (The right answer is 'yes'.)
- Do you check each pet for individual temperament to confirm that they are compatible with one another?
- What amount of general liability insurance do you have? What does it cover?

Ask your Vet: boarding at a Veterinary clinic guarantees that your dog is in good hands if anything were to happen.

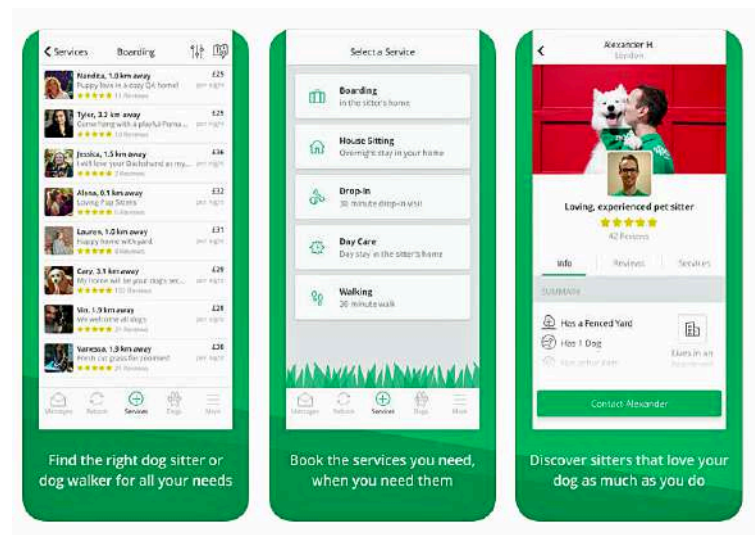
Professional boarding facilities: check with friends or go online for recommendations.

Doggy daycare: boarding where there's also a doggy daycare provides additional stimulation, exercise and socialization.

Hire a professional sitter: if you'd rather keep your Morkie in your home while you're away, a professional, bonded and licensed pet sitter can come in to your home two or three times a day, or more if you wish. Naturally, the more often they come, the more the service will cost. They can also mind your Morkie overnight in their homes.

PetSitFinder.com is just one of several sites that can help you find a pet sitter online. Or check your local listings. Google "pet sitter" and your location to find lots of resources.

Right, new Apps like rover.com help you find sitters and dog walkers, for short or long term needs.



Part Eight: Behaviour Problems

Four keys to raising a happy dog:

1. Train your Morkie well so that **he understands what a command word means**, what behaviors are rewarded, and what behavior is being corrected.
2. Gain the dog's respect by **being consistent** in your behavior and commands. A dog looks to us for leadership because he respects us, not because he fears us, or because we give him treats.
3. Accustom the dog to a **consistent way of living**. Avoid indulging in an excessive spoiling. Too many privileges will give your Morkie the impression that he is in charge.
4. **Use caution when using crates for time-outs**. A crate should **never** be used as punishment. Don't create a negative association with the crate; for example, don't put the dog in a crate while scolding him. Make being in the crate a positive experience.

- Eric Lundquist, trainer/behaviorist

Before we address Morkie behaviour, here are 5 things **you** might be doing as **an owner** that drive your Morkie (or any dog) crazy!

5 bad owner behaviours

1. You treat your dog like a baby.

We all love our Morkies a ton... but sometimes it gets a little weird. You know the type of owner: her Morkie's name is embroidered on her pillows and there are dog toys of every kind, scattered from kitchen to bedroom to bath.

And her owner never stops fawning over her as though she were a one-year-old or a contestant in that old TV show, *Toddlers & Tiaras*.

If you want to act silly like that, it's ok. But what about the effect you have on your Morkie? She is a dog, and she wants to be treated like a dog. It's in her DNA. Like all dogs, she wants to run, she loves to chase things, and she wants to use her nose to track.

Your Morkie is also a pack animal and needs structure and discipline to feel fulfilled, and not frustrated. There is nothing wrong with showing your dog love, but remember: she's an animal first, an animal who needs exercise, discipline and affection. Not *just* affection.

2. Your dog doesn't have a job and he's bored.

Chances are if your Morkie has developed a bad habit like chewing, barking too much or running around in manic circles, it's a cover for something else: he's really bored.

He wants something to do. **Dogs aren't born expecting to be waited on hand and foot**, with meals produced whenever they are hungry. No creature in the animal world is. In the wild, from the time they are babies, dogs must work for their food. They have to hunt it down or go hungry. Different breeds of dogs have been bred over the centuries for different jobs—from rounding up cattle to hunting or hauling. Even the little Yorkshire Terrier started out earning his way as a ratter in the mines and factories of Victorian England.

When their natural instincts are denied, dogs get frustrated, and that's when they start to show signs of aggressive or bad behavior.

So give your dog a job. Two good long walks a day, sniffing out the neighbourhood, is a good start; or tossing a toy to play fetch, or learning a trick. These are all ways to use up his excess energy and engage his brain. You'll almost always find the bad or annoying behaviour, disappears.

3. You're acting like your dog's playmate, not pack leader.

If you've watched the Dog Whisperer or read any of Cesar Millan's books, you know how adamant he is that:

- dogs are pack animals.
- someone will be the leader of the pack (the alpha dog).
- it better be you.

Picture this: you come home, it's a beautiful summer evening, and your Morkie is jumping up and down, telling you that she is ready to play. Your usual play time is after dinner, but the next thing you know, you and your dog are racing around the back yard with a ball.

You've just abdicated being the pack leader and now you're the follower. Your dog is calling the shots, not you. Instead of following your dog's lead, make it clear that play begins only when she is calm and responsive and you are ready.

Being a pack leader is not a part-time occupation; it's all the time. And being a pack leader does not mean using aggressive, dominant behaviour. It simply means, you're in (calm, controlled) charge. Mother dogs eat before feeding the puppies. They don't allow puppies to jump on them, and they make it clear when they need some alone time. Take some leadership lessons from the mother dog.

4. You're trying to communicate with your dogs through words.

You can't explain something to a dog. You can only teach them single, clear words that you use over and over as commands: sit, stay, come and so on.

Dogs communicate with you and other dogs through hundreds of non-verbal signs, including reading your body language, tone, facial expressions, scent and much more.

Cesar Millan says you can't lie to a dog. When you speak to a dog you must speak from your mind, your heart, and your body. Otherwise he will be scratching his head with his paw, trying to figure why he can see your lips moving with strange noises coming out.

5. You're tense and nervous around your dog.

Because they can sense so much about us, dogs know if we are tense, angry, tired, nervous...often better and before we know it ourselves.

When they're upset, dogs have two basic responses: fight or flight. If they're thrown off by your jangled nerves, then chances are the response will be "fight." Your Morkie may become aggressive, whiny, bark too much or even nip and bite.

Small dog syndrome

If your toy dog is a pain in the neck, he's probably suffering from small dog syndrome and the problem originates with -- **YOU!**

That's right, *small dog syndrome*, or the tendency for tiny dogs to be yappy, untrained, snappy and generally obnoxious, is not something that is natural or common to small breeds by nature.

It's *learned behavior* that is brought about by the way we owners treat our toy dogs.

As humans, we are programmed by Mother Nature to coddle and take special care of creatures we perceive as 'babies.' No surprise, it's a biological response, and it's how our race has survived. The problem is, toy dogs, with their big eyes and tiny size, bring out that same "babying" tendency in us, even when they are adult dogs.

So we keep over-compensating for their small size (carrying them everywhere!) and overlooking bad behavior that we would never tolerate in a medium or large size dog.

The good news is, with some understanding of the roots of the problem and active steps to counteract it, you'll have a happier, healthier and more centered small dog soon.

The #1 cause
of annoying
"small dog
syndrome?"

YOU!

Symptoms of small dog syndrome?

This syndrome defines the little dog who is spoiled and obnoxious. It is the caricature of some breeds, in fact, such as Chihuahuas or toy Poodles. Yet there's no biological reason for whiny, entitled dogs; they all started out as canines. But pets with small dog syndrome have been **trained** to act bad.

This includes:

- being territorial over areas of the house, toys, food or people.
- biting and yapping.
- growling.
- peeing or marking all over the house.
- ignoring house training or potty training.
- obsessions with certain toys, food bowl or people.

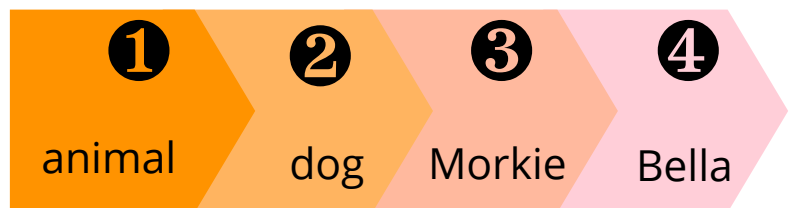
What small dog syndrome is NOT

- it's not a high-spirited, outgoing dog.
- it's not a happy, sociable dog.
- it's not a high-personality dog.

How to conquer small dog syndrome?

Remember, your Morkie is:

- first an animal.
- then a dog.
- then the breed - a Morkie.
- then, and only then, your pet named "X."



Once you understand your role in treating your Morkie like a little person, not a dog, then you can start taking steps to combat the problem including:

- stop carrying your little dog all over - do you see a 15-year-old *human* child in a stroller?
- don't let your little dog jump up on you - would it be OK if your dog were a Rottweiler?
- let your dog know with a sharp **verbal correction**, incessant barking and yapping is not acceptable. Or withdraw your attention to make your point.
- don't let your small dog sit on you to "claim you." As the owner, you set the time for snuggles.
- ensure your little dog has his own bed and designated quiet area; a corner or an open door crate works well.
- don't encourage hysterical behavior by comforting your dog; just ignore it.

Separation anxiety

Completely different from Small Dog Syndrome, this is a serious problem, not a mere annoyance.

There are steps you can take to reduce separation anxiety in your Morkie, but it's likely that the original causes are beyond your control:

- was your dog removed from the litter too early? Toy dogs should stay with their mothers until they're at least 8 weeks old.
- was your dog surrendered to a shelter, abandoned or given to a new family?
- has the dog lost someone significant in his life?
- has there been a traumatic event in his early life, such as an attack by a large dog?
- time spent in a pet shop or an animal shelter
- being a puppy mill dog

Some of the other triggers for separation anxiety are less dramatic, but include:

- moving to a new home.
- a change in work hours in the family, and how long the dog is left alone.
- leaving the dog alone for 6 hours or more a day.
- lack of socialization.
- poor training.
- inconsistent care and attention from his guardians

It's heart-wrenching. A dog with canine separation anxiety truly suffers. And it can be frustrating and guilt-inducing for the family too. Fortunately, this syndrome is treatable, with a combination of tactics, including changing your own behaviours when you come and go; ruling out any medical causes and replacing fear, anxiety and aggression with a pleasant relaxed response.

Signs of separation anxiety

Before you go out

You feel like your dog is velcro'd to you, even insisting on coming in the bathroom with you. Experts call this "hyper-attachment".

Your dog is super sensitive to signs you are getting ready to go out. Putting your shoes on, opening the hall closet, or grabbing your keys signal his anxiety and fear.

While you're out

Once you're out, even for a short time, your dog may:

- chew, dig, and scratch - signs he is trying to "escape."
- bark, defecate and urinate where he shouldn't - out of anxiety and fear.
- destroy items that smell like you - anxiety and anger.

When you're back

A common symptom of separation anxiety is your dog's response when he sees you again; it seems excessively overjoyed, frantic and hysterical.

Treatment of separation anxiety

No long, emotional goodbyes

When you put your dog in his 'room' or area when you go out, don't have a long, emotional good-bye. Simply walk away calmly.

It's even a good idea to ignore your dog starting about 5 minutes before you leave. Don't draw attention to your departure.

Change up the things your dog associates with your departure

Vary your own behavior; dogs are good at associating actions with certain outcomes. Putting my boots on has generated crazy anxiety on the part of my little dog, because to her it means I'm going out, and for a loooong time!

Try changing your dog's negative associations to positive ones. For example, on a weekend, go through the same motions you do during the week. Get dressed, pick up the car keys and go outside... BUT just for a few minutes, then come back inside and give your dog a treat.

Your dog will eventually begin to unlink negative associations to you getting ready to go out.

Treats and toys for alone time

Make sure you have plenty of treats and toys in your dog's 'room' or closed-off area to keep him busy while you are away. If your dog always knows that he'll have treats when you leave, it won't be as traumatic for him.

Before you leave, turn on a radio or television so your dog has some noise. A talk station is more effective than music, because the sound of human voices seems to be comforting.

Puzzle toys like Kongs or balls filled with treats, or games like this squirrels in the log, can keep your Morkie busy and happy while you're out. (Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))



Turn down the homecoming

When you return home, ignore your dog for a few minutes. Go quietly about your concerns, then calmly acknowledge his presence.

What if these measures don't work?

In some cases, you may need to consult with your Veterinarian about a calming medication and/or behavior modification. Professional trainers may be of help, teaching you desensitization techniques.

Things that will NOT help separation anxiety

Punishment will not only fail, but it will make your Morkie more anxious and nervous.

Remember, your dog is not bad or spiteful and is not destroying your house just to get revenge on you for leaving her, though it may seem that way. Instead, you are dealing with a very fearful and upset animal.

Crating your dog for long periods while you're out can be a real mistake if he suffers from separation anxiety. While it keeps your own possessions and surroundings safe, your Morkie may hurt himself or get much more excited by trying to escape the crate.

When you pay close attention to your dog's behavior, you are better able to identify his bad behaviors and correct them through training exercises. Your dog wants your attention and love, so use this to your advantage when you are training.

The importance of socialization

From PawRescue.org

Daniel Estep, Ph.D. and Suzanne Hetts, Ph.D. Animal Behavior Associates/ABA, Inc.

In a perfect world, we could protect our dogs from all negative, anxious and frightening situations. In the real world, we must help our dogs learn how to cope and respond, in a healthy and acceptable way, to the variety of people, animals, places and things they can encounter along the road of life.

By exposing our dogs to different kinds of people, animals and environments, which involves everything from dog obedience classes to Vet visits to walks to the park, we can help them develop confidence and ease. This goes a long way in helping them become resilient in the face of unsettling situations.

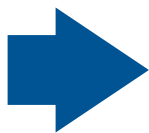
So often, the way a dog responds to environmental stimuli is a product of owner training and management, or lack thereof. No matter when you adopt your dog, you can apply canine socialization principles to help him or her be a more stable, happy, trustworthy companion.

Socialization does not end at puppyhood. While the foundation for good behavior is laid during the first few months, good owners encourage and reinforce social skills and responsiveness to commands throughout the dog's life.

Socialization: it isn't just for puppies

The ASPCA defines socialization as "learning to be part of society. When we talk about socializing pet puppies, it means helping them learn to be comfortable as a pet within human society—a society that includes many different types of people, environments, buildings, sights, noises, smells, animals and other dogs."

Well-socialized puppies usually develop into more relaxed and enjoyable dogs. They're more comfortable in a wider variety of situations than poorly socialized dogs, and are less likely to be fearful or aggressive when faced with something new.



Keep a close eye on your Morkie's reaction to whatever you expose him to, so that you can tone things down if he seems frightened or over-stimulated. Always follow up good responses with plenty of praise.

One good way to help socialize a puppy is to attend puppy *kindergarten* classes. These are classes designed especially for early socialization. In a typical puppy class, off-leash play and play-fighting are used to help the socializing process, teach the dogs to be gentle with their mouthing and biting, and familiarize the puppy with being handled by a variety of people.

NEVER AT ANY TIME
SHOULD YOU PUSH OR
PULL YOUR DOG TOWARD
A PERSON HE'S AFRAID
OF. Your dog may be so fearful that he may feel that he has no choice but to bite the person.

5 Tips for socializing your puppy or adult Morkie

1. **Do not drag your dog toward the object or person he is afraid of.** Let him approach.
2. **Do not pick up your puppy or dog if he is afraid.** You will be rewarding him for acting shy or nervous. Obviously this doesn't apply in the case of real danger.
3. **Act and talk happy.** Talk to your dog like you do when you play together.
4. **Take your dog to as many places as possible, to meet as many different people as possible.** Your dog needs to have plenty of positive experiences, so that the occasional "not so great" experience (like getting a shot at the Vet's) isn't quite so traumatic.
5. **Hesitation is normal in socializing your dog, but panic is not!** If your dog panics, you need to actively work on socializing him to that situation, person or object. Ignoring it will not help. Dogs do not grow out of fears, they only become worse unless you work on the problem.



Dogs who are very well-socialized as pups are less likely to develop aggressive behaviors in their lifetimes. Pups who aren't well-socialized tend to be suspicious and fearful of new things, and are at a greater risk of biting someone.

The Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has designed a program called The Canine Good Citizen, which recognizes and rewards dogs who have good manners.

Started in 1989, this is a two-part program that stresses:

- responsible pet ownership for the person.
- basic good manners for the dog.

There are three ways your dog can be trained to pass the test:

- train him yourself.
- join a class in a local branch of the AKC.
- join a class in general obedience.

Once trained, there's a 10-step CGC test that dogs must pass to receive a certificate from the AKC. To learn more, visit the [AKC Canine Good Citizen website](#).



There's another program called *AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy* which offers socialization for your puppy, along with training tips and help in basic training.

In Canada, there's a version of the program called [Canadian Kennel Club Canine Good Neighbour Program \(CGN\)](#) which offers the same great training, socialization and fun environment for you and your Morkie.

There's also a Canadian Canine Good Citizen Test (CCGCTT) which is run by Responsible Dog Owners of Canada. For information, [see their website here](#).



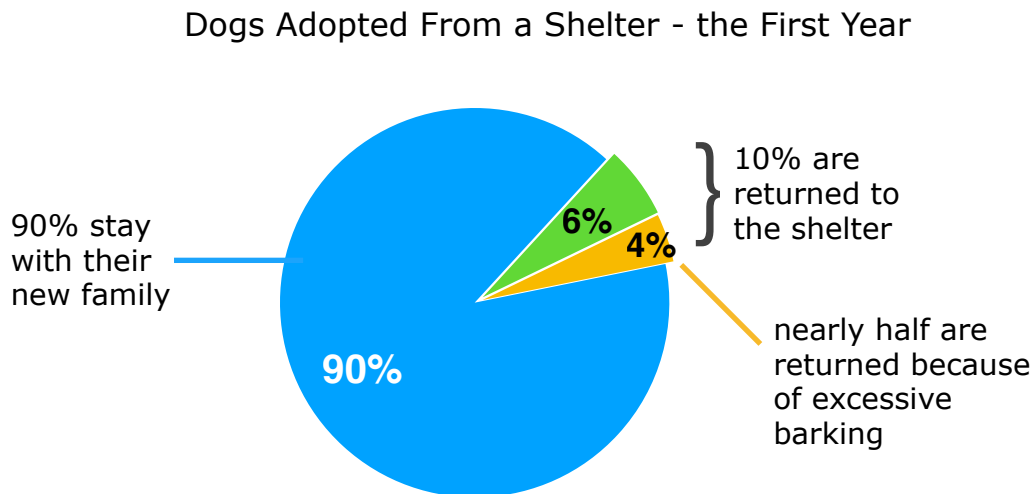
SIT
STAY
COME

A dog who knows his commands and responds, is much safer than the dog who doesn't. And he's a more enjoyable companion.

Excessive barking

Too much barking can be a real problem! In fact, recent research shows that:

- about 10% of ALL dogs adopted from U.S. shelters are returned
- about 40% of those dogs, were returned because of excessive, aggressive or hostile barking



Why is your Morkie barking too much?

Dogs bark for many different reasons, depending on the circumstances and their state of mind.

Yorkies originated in the terrier family. They tend to be more aggressive than many other dogs. They also tend to be smarter, more loyal and yes, louder! Terriers were bred to bark. It's part of their heritage.

Maltese, on the other hand, are not terriers, and so don't have that same strong, built-in desire to bark. However, they were bred as lapdogs and one of their functions was to warn their owner when someone was coming or going. Maltese will bark in those circumstances. Just ring the doorbell and watch a Maltese dog go crazy.

Good news: you can reduce excessive barking

You can address excessive barking patience and over time.

The principle is pretty simple:

- 1. reward good behaviour (no barking!)**
- 2. completely ignore the barking dog.**

Don't punish barking or start to shout at your Morkie. YOU shouting simply escalates the barking. Plus to a dog, scolding is better than no attention at all.

Top 10 Barkers

Breeds that bark the most

1. Shelties
2. Chihuahua
3. Miniature Pinscher
4. Beagle
5. Pomeranian
6. Jack Russell Terrier
7. Dachshund
8. American Foxhound
9. Miniature Schnauzer
10. Basset Hound

Top 10 Quietest Dogs

Breeds that *don't* bark much

1. Pug
2. Great Dane
3. Basenji
4. Whippet
5. Bernese Mountain Dog
6. Borzoi
7. Chinese Shar-Pei
8. Collie
9. Italian Greyhound
10. Newfoundland

Yorkies & Maltese aren't the worst and not the best when it comes to barking a lot.

What is your Morkie telling you?

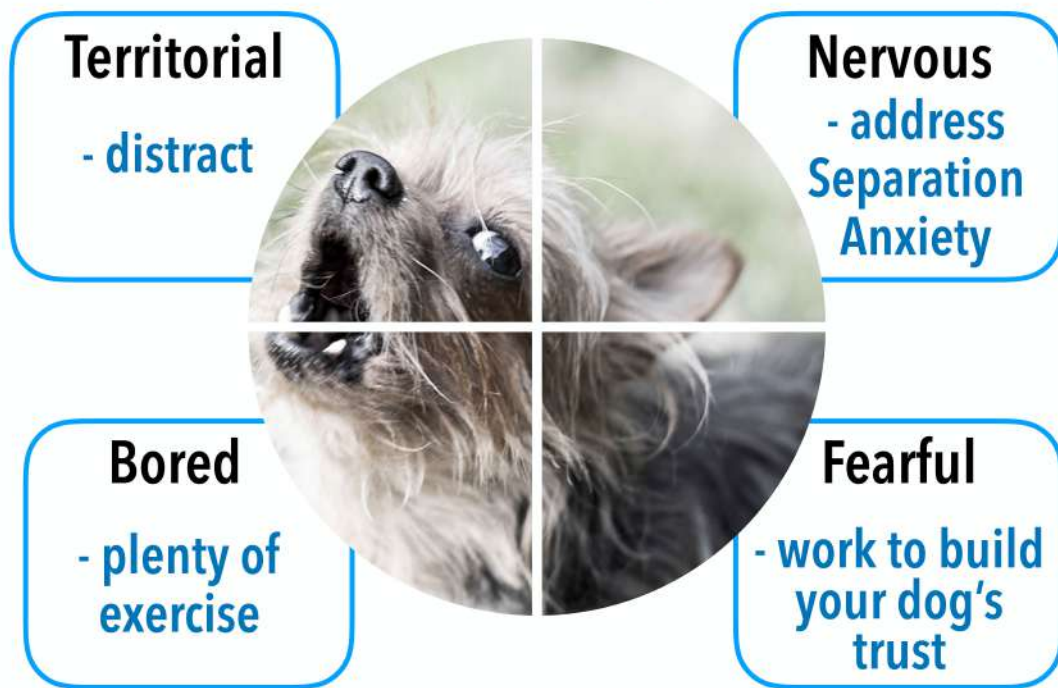
To manage barking, first figure out what your Morkie is trying to tell you and then apply the appropriate response. **In every case, ignore the barking so that you don't inadvertently reward it. To a dog, scolding can be better than no attention at all.**

Here are some of the messages your Morkie might be sending, and how to deal with them:

1. **The territorial bark:** distract your Morkie as soon as he starts barking. Catch his attention with a treat or by playing. Every time the bark cycle is broken, it sends the message that "quiet" will get the most reward. Never shout at him to stop barking.
2. **Nervous barking** usually comes about when your Morkie is nervous, lonely or suffering from *separation anxiety*. Make sure your Morkie gets as much of your undivided attention as possible when you are together, and if you're out all day, is it possible for someone to come by mid-day and take the dog out for a walk? Or, try leaving the radio on. Don't respond to him when he's barking because of nervousness.
3. **Fear barking** - if your dog has been traumatized or hasn't had enough socialization, you may experience 'fear barking' or acting out. This is a more difficult problem to address, but it can be managed.
4. **Bored or lonely barking** can be controlled with lots of good exercise; being walked on a leash reinforces the natural order of us as the pack leader and helps settle and calm the dog. It's a great way to burn off your dog's excessive energy, while you burn a few calories at the same time.

Types of Barking

and how to respond



Desensitization to the trigger, along with more socialization with people and other dogs, is an effective way to reduce excessive barking.

Work with your Morkie to get him to focus on *you*, so that you establish communication he can rely on. Be sure to praise your Morkie for those quiet, non-barking times.

If he's barking because he sees another dog and is fearful (tail down, ears flattened, crouching position), then the best and easiest solution is to remove the source of fear - the other dog, by taking your Morkie out of the scene. Walk him on his leash out of the situation (don't pick him up).

desensitize + distract

Ignore the barking, or time out!

Professional dog trainers advise you to "actively ignore" barking by avoiding eye contact and not speaking to the dog.

This conveys the message that you're not impressed with the barking and that you'll respond when it stops.

A time out, another room, away from your attention. Again, no eye contact and don't say a word.

Believe it or not, within a few short moments the barking will stop. If he starts right back up again - back to solitary! After just a few repetitions of this cycle, your Morkie - a highly intelligent dog after all - will get the picture: over-the-top barking isn't worth the price of losing your company.

Actively recognize no barking, repeating the phrase "*good no bark*" in a positive, sing song voice. Do this whenever you catch your Morkie being quiet in a situation where he might be expected to bark.

Whether it's excessive barking, chewing or peeing indoors, remember that all dogs want to please their owners and so with the right guidance, your dog can and will do the right thing to be your perfect pet.



ignore barking



reward 'no bark'



NEVER punish

Teach your Morkie the "quiet" command

It may sound crazy, but to stop your dog from barking, first teach him to bark on command.

Essentially, you teach your dog that barking is okay until he is told to "Be quiet."

Here's how to teach this 2-part command:

1. Give your dog the command to "speak." Have someone immediately make a noise—such as knocking on the door—that is sure to make him bark. Or just catch him in the act of barking. As soon as he barks, say the word "speak."
2. Let him bark two or three times, then stick a tasty treat in front of his nose.
3. When he stops barking to sniff the treat, praise him and give him the treat. Repeat until he starts barking as soon as you say "speak."



Speak!



Quiet!

4. Once your dog can reliably bark on command, teach the "quiet" or "no bark" command.
5. Start in a calm environment with no distractions.
6. Tell him to "speak." No reward yet.... When he starts barking, say "quiet" and stick a treat in front of his nose.
7. Praise him for being quiet, and give him the treat.



Good quiet!

Another way to distract him from barking is to train him to fetch a little toy or rubber ball; if you tell him to "get it" every time he starts barking, he'll soon stop barking since he can't carry the toy AND bark.



More tactics to stop excessive barking

Nighttime barker? Let your dog sleep within sight of the family - perhaps behind a baby gate on the landing.

Continue to train your Morkie - this will not only occupy his interests and tire him out, but some of the commands from obedience training can be useful in reducing excessive barking. For example, use the *down* command to get your Morkie to lie down, which makes barking more difficult.

Keep him tired, with walks and exercise.

Attack the root of the problem with these solutions:

Try introducing more mental stimulation in your dog's life:

- clicker training.
- puzzles (for example, find the treat under the cup).
- indoor fetch - "get the toy."
- **more and longer walks outdoors.** *A tired dog is happier and better adjusted.*

Out all day at work? Consider a **dog walker** to reduce your dog's stress and burn off energy.

If your situation is suitable, **a companion dog** can keep your dog busy, and more "dog like" instead of neurotic. Chances are, your Morkie will be too busy playing to be bored!

Give your dog **the gift of attention** - and lots of it. When you're with your dog, be *with* your dog.

Bark collars

There are a number of devices and gadgets on the market that claim to stop excessive barking. But do they work?

Customer reviews are generally average-to-poor, with owners reporting they are disappointed with these devices.

No-bark collars

There are several types:

1. one that gives a spritz of citronella, which apparently dogs dislike.
2. sonic collar, which emits a sound only dogs can hear (and don't like).
3. mild shock collars.
4. vibration + shock + whistle.
5. shock, 3-level whistle, LED flashing lights.

You might consider the first two, but the others are too harsh for a small dog like a Morkie.

"Bark-Off" sound emitting device

This star of late night infomercials is a kind of clicker that emits an ultrasonic signal with a decibel level so high, we humans can't hear it. The manufacturer claims that the sound interrupts your dog's barking pattern, so he quiets down.

Does it really work? I have a couple of friends who swear by it. They claim Bark-Off has really helped them better manage a barking dog.



On the other hand, I've tried it myself, and haven't seen results. In fact, there are a number of small dog forums online where owners say, "it worked... for a while. Once my dog got used to it, it didn't work any more."

Bark-Off costs about \$10 and uses a small, 9V battery. At that price, it's worth trying.

Special note: as with all promotional products like this, there are a number of websites which claim to be Bark-Off "Review sites" -- just be aware that they're not really review sites. They are sales promotion sites. The people running them post glowing reviews; when you click to buy one, they get a commission..

Stronger versions of Bark-Off

Dog Silencer Pro and Ultimate Dog Silencer™ are just two brands of 'heavy duty' far-range devices to help interrupt your dog's barking patterns with high decibel sounds.

These cost a lot more, from \$75 to \$100 plus. And there's no guarantee they will work either.

Thundershirt - a different approach

Thundershirt, which looks a little like a bullet-proof vest for dogs, uses gentle, constant pressure to calm your dog, effectively aiding anxiety, fearfulness, barking and more.

Based on surveys completed by over two thousand customers, **over 80% of dogs show significant improvement** in symptoms when using Thundershirt. Customer reviews on sites like Amazon, are very positive for the Thundershirt.

Using pressure to relieve anxiety has been a common practice for years:

- Veterinarians use pressure to relax cattle when they are administering vaccinations.
- parents use swaddling to calm a crying infant.

Shocks, sprays, and other negative reinforcements not only seem cruel, but may even worsen your dog's barking or his anxieties. The Thundershirt uses supportive techniques instead, to change behaviour.



DAP (Dog Appeasing Pheromone) calming collar for dogs

The DAP collar can be used for dogs with a variety of anxiety issues, as well as excessive barking. Like any behavior modification, results don't come overnight, but users do report noticeable improvement in their dog's behaviour.

DAP stands for **dog appeasing pheromones**. Here's how it works:

- when puppies are born, their mothers release pheromones while nursing. This gives puppies a sense of well-being and reassurance.
- DAP is a synthetic version of that same calming pheromone.
- With a DAP collar, the pheromones are embedded in the plastic collar. The dog's body heat helps emit the odourless pheromone from the collar.
- Once opened, you should leave the collar on for a month, until its effectiveness has expired.

Besides the collar, you can also try DAP spray, and similar products like the *ADAPTIL Calm On-the-go Collar*.

Is debarking a solution?

Debarking, or ventriculocordectomy is a very cruel medical procedure in which the dog's vocal chords are surgically removed. Most Vets will not do the operation.

From Dr. Andrew Jones, DVM "the Internet Vet"

"The procedure is outlawed as a form of mutilation in the United Kingdom and all countries that have signed the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals.

The surgery carries risks, such as anesthesia, excessive bleeding, secondary infections and proliferation of scar tissue obstructing the airway.

Barking is how dogs communicate, and this procedure deprives them of this basic means of expression. I fully agree with the European ban on debarking surgery, and advise that you never consider this unethical procedure as an option for your dog."

You can read more about dog care from Dr. Andrews at his website here:

www.theinternetpetvet.com/ Plus, Dr. Andrews offers an online book called *Veterinary Secrets Revealed* which can help you treat your Morkie at home with more than 1,000 at-home Pet Health Remedies.

A final word on barking

Don't expect overnight miracles from a dog that's been barking for months. It may take weeks or even a few months to replace old habits with new.

Keep up with training and you will see a new pattern develop. Instead of barking relentlessly at the insignificant, your dog will bark appropriately and for a reasonable length of time.

Remember – don't shout at him to stop barking since he may think that you are excited too and are joining in! This will make him bark even louder.

When all else fails, ask your Vet to recommend a behaviour specialist who deals with barkers.

More unacceptable behaviours

Nipping and biting

Most puppies will bite and nip when they're very young. This is a behaviour you'll want to gently train your pup out of as soon as possible. Teach your Morkie from the beginning that he is not allowed to bite.

Don't be tempted to play 'tug of war' with your fingers when your pup is young; he'll grow up thinking this is acceptable. Discourage biting and nipping by making your feet and hands out of bounds for your Morkie.

To reinforce the lesson that biting and nipping, however playful, is not allowed: **the minute he places his mouth on you, stop all play immediately.**

As soon as your dog begins to nip or bite, you should 'yelp' and say 'ouch!'

This should be followed up with the dog training command, 'no bite.' Immediately move away from the dog and do not make eye contact. After a moment or so you can return to playing.

If he starts biting or nipping again, repeat the 'ouch' and move away.

After a minute or two, return to play. Keep this up until he gets the idea. If your Morkie isn't catching on quickly, actually stand up and turn away from your dog when he starts nipping and biting - no eye contact.

Remember to always be **calm and gentle** when approaching behavior problems.

Dog chewing

Puppies chew to help their teeth break through the gums, but for older dogs, chewing is often a sign of boredom or anxiety.

If a dog is bored, it's because he has built up lots of energy, but has run out of ways to expend it. So, he finds something interesting to chew.

That suggests two options:

1. more exercise.
2. giving your Morkie specially designated 'chew toys' and teaching him that it's not o.k. to chew anything else.

If you come home or come into a room and find your Morkie chewing on something other than a chew toy, give a firm, **"no chew"** command - but don't yell.

Take the object away and ignore him for 5 to 10 minutes. Then you can start playing again. If you don't leave that gap of a few minutes and start back playing right away, he'll be confused.

Protect your things:

- while your Morkie is learning what's o.k. to chew and what's not, you could try a product like **Bitter Apple Spray** on your things.
- it's completely harmless and is available at most stores, including Walmart and PetSmart and online at sites like www.drsfostersmith.com/

A bitter apple spray like Garrick's, is safe AND effective, since dogs hate its taste. A little bit can protect your furniture from being chewed.



Rule out dental problems if your adult dog is chewing excessively.

Digging

Digging is a natural activity for dogs and a hard behavior to change. But unchecked, it can ruin a yard. The trick is to catch your dog in the act to discourage digging. A firm "no" and redirecting his attention should be sufficient. Scolding him after a hole's been dug won't do any good.

Jumping Up

You might think, what's the big deal about my Morkie jumping up (or "dancing") when people come in and out? Well at best, it's embarrassing. Plus, your Morkie could startle or trip an elderly person or child.

Experts say there are three reasons dogs insist on jumping up on you and your guests: they're happy and excited to see you; they want attention; or they want to dominate.

You don't want to punish a dog for being happy to see you, so the harsh approach isn't the right one. However, you do want to indicate that jumping up on people is not acceptable. A firm, "no jump" command should be given, then turn away and ignore your Morkie.

When you see your Morkie is ready to jump up, turn your body away immediately and don't make any eye contact. Give your "no jump" command just once. The ignore.

Jumping up is one of the easier bad habits to fix.

Begging at the table

Many owners make the mistake of giving their Morkies a little treat from the table, and a habit begins. Your dog starts begging and being a nuisance when you're eating.

This can lead to a couple of problems: your dog will beg for scraps and either you'll give in or unsuspecting friends will feed your dog something that will make him sick. Plus, your Morkie will then ignore his own food in favour of yours.

Sometimes your dog is begging at the table for attention, not food. Again, this isn't the kind of behaviour you want to reinforce.

If you want to share some dinner scraps with your Morkie, and the food is healthy enough, wait until you've finished dinner then put the scraps in his bowl.

Otherwise, ignore those big brown eyes and sooner than later your Morkie will give up bothering you at the table. If all else fails, put him in another room until you've finished. He'll soon get the idea.

Submissive urination or excitement urination

(See page 92 as well). This is so frustrating for owners; if you've ruled out any medical causes like bladder infections or stones, then it's time to look at your dog's behaviour. Most dogs who suffer from submissive or excitement peeing, are young, female and shy.

It's important to remember that they're not doing this on purpose and they are not trying to make you mad or disrespect you. Quite the opposite; when a dog loses control like that, she's saying, *'See, I'm the follower. And you're the leader.'*

Counterintuitive as it may seem, the best way to deal with these behaviours is to ignore it.

- stay patient.
- keep your Morkie's environment as stress-free as possible.
- does she urinate when strangers come in? Put her in her 'house' or carrier or in another room for about 10 minutes, before the visitors arrive.
- don't make homecoming too exciting when you come in; low key greetings are better.
- use an enzymatic cleaner to remove any odour.
- give your Morkie tons of praise for going in the *right* place.

If the behaviour doesn't decrease dramatically over a few months, speak to your Vet about products that could reduce your Morkie's anxiety.

Humping or mounting

This is part of normal dog behaviour and there are several reasons for it: getting ready for sexual behaviour (even if your dog is neutered or spayed); play; response to stress; a display of social status; or compulsive behaviour.

Rule out any medical reasons, such as a urinary tract infection or skin allergies.

To change your Morkie's behaviour, the first tactic is **distraction**. Give the *Sit* command, or *Down* and then praise him lavishly. If you think he's responding to stress, avoid the situations where possible and when you can't, again distract him with a training move and/or treats and rewards. Don't punish your dog for humping. It will backfire and could make him more anxious and therefore, more dedicated to relieving that stress.

Think your Morkie's humping and mounting is obsessive-compulsive? Ask your Vet about professional help from a certified animal behaviourist.

Poop eating or Coprophagia

Rolling in it, or eating it... playing with poop is natural for dogs.

It is not the least bit cute to us, but dogs seem to revel in playing with poop and even eating it. **Coprophagia**, as poop eating is known by its proper name, is either a behavior issue or it *could* indicate an underlying medical problem.

Be assured, poop eating is natural and normal among dogs. Before dogs were domesticated, they were scavengers, living off of whatever they could find.

A mother will instinctively clean up the waste of her puppies, to keep her den clean so as not to attract predators.

Immaturity: many puppies have the habit of occasionally eating their own poop until they're about a year old. Then the problem seems to fade away.



Poop eating can be a nutrition problem

Some dogs will start eating poop when they aren't absorbing enough nutrients, they have parasites, or they have issues with their pancreas. Time to see the Vet.

Another theory is that overfeeding a dog can lead to coprophagia. A dog that is overfed can't absorb all of the nutrients in his food, and thus may try to "recycle" his nutrient-rich waste.

Or is your Morkie just looking for attention?

In many cases, a dog's behavior can be linked directly to getting attention. Lots of dogs are simply looking for a reaction. Dogs who are bored and lonely may play with and eat poop as a pastime. No matter how disgusted you are by this behavior, **do NOT yell at your Morkie or punish him** for what's natural. Instead, look to the causes and stop it that way.

Changing this unpleasant behaviour

It usually takes a specific combination of diet and behavior changes to stop the poop eater. Here are some things you can try:

- Change his diet. Buy or prepare only nutritious, quality food.
- For the dog who may be hungry, try feeding him a little more.
- Rule out any medical causes like parasites.
- Clean up after your pet right away. Stopping access is one key to ending this habit.
- Walk your dog on leash so that you are in a better position to tell the him 'leave it' and praise him for obeying.

Some alternatives for treating poop eating

1. Add a teaspoon of **pure canned pumpkin** to the food bowl each day. Pumpkin apparently tastes good in food, but repugnant when mixed with poop.
2. Add a teaspoon of **canned pineapple**, pineapple juice or **spinach** to the dog's food, for the same reason.
3. Add some **meat tenderizer** or MSG to the dog's food.
4. Coat stools, following elimination, with **hot sauce** or lemon juice.

To summarize, stop poop-eating with these steps:

- feed a complete, nutrient-packed and balanced diet.
- provide lots of exercise, playtime and interaction.
- keep living spaces, crates, kennels and yard clean.
- avoid confining your dog for long periods of time.
- try one of the alternative treatments like adding pumpkin to your dog's food.
- take him to your Veterinarian for a health checkup.

Part Nine: Fun and Games

Now that you've got most of the heavy lifting out of the way, it's time to have some fun with your Morkie.

You'll find that Morkies - smart little guys that they are - like to learn things and of course, they love to please you and to spend time with you. Dog training is just one way to interact and forge a lifelong bond. And it's fun!

Teaching and performing dog tricks helps to build happy, confident dogs and is a great outlet for their energy.



Taking training to the next level

6 great tricks to teach your Morkie

A great place to find training videos



MORKIE TRICK #1 - CIRCLE

Start with your dog facing you. Take some dog treats and lead his nose to the right and around your body, slowly.

He will follow the dog treats behind your back and to the front.

Once he has completed the full circle, praise him and give him a small treat. (If you're using a clicker, click just before you give the treat).

After he does several successful circles, add the word "CIRCLE" right when you begin to move the treat around your body. (Click and when he performs, reward him immediately.)

MORKIE TRICK #2 - CRAWL

Begin by giving your Morkie the "down" command so he is lying all the way down on the floor. (See page 102 for how to teach the down command.)

Get down on our knees; hold some dog treats in front of his nose and pull it back towards you. You will probably need to move back. As he is inching towards you, praise him and give him some dog treats.

After he has done this several times without standing up, add the word "CRAWL" as you begin to move the treat away from his nose.

Again, if you're using a clicker, click just before a treat while you're showing him the moves, then once you add the command and he does it - give the treat and click at the same time.

MORKIE TRICK #3 - FETCH

Begin by holding your dog on the ground and show him a small toy. Toss the toy a few feet in front of you. (A ball is probably too big - DO NOT USE A VERY SMALL, CAT SIZE TOY BALL - IT COULD CHOKE YOUR MORKIE.)

If he doesn't run to get the toy himself, toss it again but this time run with him.

Once he starts to return it to you every time, start adding the word "FETCH." Of course, praise him and reward him every time he brings you the toy.

MORKIE TRICK #4 - PLAY DEAD

Start by giving the "down" command. (See basic obedience training in [Part Three: Training your Morkie](#))

Once he is on his tummy, gently roll his body so he is lying on his side. Hold his head and body in place for a few seconds.

Then, say "ok" and let him stand up to get his reward. After he does this successfully several times, start adding the words "PLAY DEAD" as you roll him on his side.

Some people change the play dead command to BANG as they pretend to shoot a gun... funny too.

MORKIE TRICK #5 - ROLL OVER

Begin by giving the "down" command. (See basic obedience training in [Part Three: Training your Morkie](#))

Once your dog is on his tummy, kneel down beside him, holding some dog treats above his nose. Once he is staring at the dog treats, move it around and behind his head. He will follow you by lying on his side and then he will roll over completely.

Praise him and reward him with the dog treats.

Once he has this trick mastered, start adding the words "ROLL OVER" as you move the treat behind his head.

MORKIE TRICK #6 - SHAKE

First, give your Morkie the "sit" command. (See basic obedience training in [Part Three: Training your Morkie](#))

Then, gently grab his paw with your hand and hold it for a few seconds. Then praise him and give him dog treats. Once he starts to do this regularly, add the word "SHAKE."

Eventually he will respond to your command and you don't need to grab his paw.

More fun training online

10 Tricks to Teach a Small Dog - from Animal Planet. [AnimalDiscovery - 10 small dog tricks](#)

Ten Fun and Easy Dog Tricks from About.com. [AboutDogs - fun dog tricks](#)

101 Best Dog Tricks from The Fun Times. [Dogs - the FunTimes Guide](#)

Ten ways to spoil your Morkie



1. Is there anything a dog loves more than **a walk**? They don't seem to care if it's cold, raining or snowing. They just wanna walk, so grab that leash and off you go.
2. **Grooming** can be a fun and bonding time if you're patient and gentle. Use grooming as a way to really get to know your Morkie, and throw in a bit of massage as well. Use a good-quality metal comb with teeth that are 'medium' spaced. Comb a very small part of the hair at a time if it's matted. To get your Morkie used to you combing him, run the comb all over his body on the "other" (non-teeth) side. For more on grooming, see page 198.
3. **Play Fetch!** Call out the terrier in your Morkie, and get her involved in an active game of indoor fetch. Since Yorkies were originally bred to catch rats and mice, they're keen to chase down any little toy you throw... try it, your Morkie will love it.
4. **Be sociable.** Visit friends and family who also own small dogs and get your Morkie socialized. Being with other dogs is a great way to ensure your pup stays centered and happy, and helps reduce that *Diva Dog* attitude that many toys get.
5. **Bake!** There are lots of recipes for healthy dog biscuits online and you can make them Morkie-size. Use quality ingredients and you can cut calories too: the average commercial dog biscuit has more than 80 calories.
6. **Cuddle.** Grab a great book and get snuggled down in your bed with your Morkie. That "dog den" feeling is one dogs really love, and if your Morkie doesn't sleep with you, it'll be an even bigger treat.
7. **Go for a car ride...** and not to the Vet's. Sometimes the only time we take our dogs out is to go to the Vet or groomer's and then we wonder why they're not so keen on cars. Take a little drive and see if your Morkie doesn't come to love the car. (Don't forget to secure your dog in a small kennel carrier or with a seat belt.)
8. **Add some more stuffing to your Morkie's bed,** preferably one or two of your old t-shirts. The bed will be softer, and your Morkie can dig around and make a nest to his delight. And if it's your old stuff, he will like it even better.
9. **Sing to your Morkie!** What's cuter than seeing her head turn in puzzlement as she listens. Silly songs with lots of high and low notes, will keep your Morkie amused and engaged.
10. **Praise, praise, praise!** Look your Morkie straight in the eye and tell him how's he the smartest, most handsome, best dog ever. Use your Morkie's name a lot. Keep talking in a low, warm voice and watch your Morkie lap it up.

99 more things to do with your Morkie

Socialize

Have fun together

1. go to a dog park that has a special small dog area
2. visit a seniors' home
3. go shopping at a pet-friendly store
4. visit pet friends
5. feature him on your Facebook
6. take a bunch of your old sheets and towels to your local dog shelter
7. sign up for therapy dog training, as described in Wikipedia
8. make a home video of you and your Morkie and post it on YouTube
9. go to a 'fun meet' for local dogs
10. arrange a play date with dog friends
11. join a local dog walk event to raise money for a good cause
12. be part of **animal assisted activities** (like therapy dogs, but less training needed)
13. rent a couple of "Air Bud" movies, or something else very dog-centric, and chill
14. teach him to balance treats on his nose
15. order food at the local drive-in restaurant

Commune with Nature

Get back to basics

16. go backpacking
17. take a scenic hike together
18. swim in the ocean or a nearby lake
19. go to the beach and look for shells
20. go camping overnight

Explore

Have an adventure

21. take day trips around your city like a tourist
22. send your dog to doggy summer camp
23. go to an outdoor beer garden or sidewalk cafe
24. walk the shoreline looking for small sticks
25. attend a summer festival
26. go for a mystery-destination car ride
27. explore holistic dog care by visiting a local practitioner
28. go to a special owner-and-dog camp or hotel like Dog Paddling Adventures
29. head to a fishing lodge together
30. Road Trip! Explore a nearby town or city
31. have him *Temperament Tested* by a professional to see what else he'd like to do
32. check out dog-friendly cruise ships! (Cunard is one line that has them)
33. take him geocaching
34. take him through the carwash with you

Go Crazy

Wacky, wild things to do

35. host a dog wedding
36. have your dog in *your* wedding party
37. play dress up
38. get and wear matching clothes with your dog
39. put your dog in a TV commercial or a movie
40. try out as movie extras
41. go to an outdoor concert
42. organize a dog Halloween party or parade in your neighbourhood
43. visit a pumpkin patch
44. design greeting cards featuring your dog and sell them on Zazzle
45. print a t-shirt with your favourite pic of your dog at Cafe Press
46. throw your dog a birthday party
47. run through neighbourhood sprinklers
48. after grooming, paint her toenails
49. get a companion puppy for your dog (!)
50. get his picture taken with a Pet Santa
51. have professional photos taken of the two of you
52. blow bubbles and see if your Morkie will chase them
53. check out your local pro baseball league - many have Bark in the Park events
54. take part in your town's Fourth of July parade

Get some exercise

Get a move on

55. go for a walk

play a dog game together like:

56. flyball
57. frisbee
58. running
59. play ball
60. Hide and Seek
61. fetch
62. tug of war
63. teach him to walk on a treadmill
64. play on a friend's backyard trampoline
65. rollerblade with your dog like Cesar Millan
66. stroll your city's boardwalk if you live by water
67. make a 'digging pit' for your dog if you have enough space
68. play in the leaves
69. play in the snow

Teach him

5 instructive ideas

- 70. teach him 100 words
- 71. play Sniffer Dog and Nose Games
- 72. performance art (awesome tricks for an audience)
- 73. canine freestyle (musical dance with your dog)
- 74. be part of a local 'fun meet'

Train him

4 serious training activities

- 75. take obedience training
- 76. try fun agility training
- 77. clicker training
- 78. install invisible fencing so he can ditch the rope

Treat him

Spoil your Morkie

- 79. groom him
- 80. brush his teeth
- 81. send him to a doggy spa while you go to *your* spa
- 82. rent a canoe together (don't forget the lifejackets)
- 83. have a dog picnic in the park
- 84. throw sticks in the lake
- 85. have a bark-beque
- 86. bath him outside on a hot day
- 87. go to a do-it-yourself dog wash
- 88. buy him a treat ball like a KONG
- 89. massage your dog
- 90. get him a new toy or two; let him pick at a store like PetSmart
- 91. check out a dog bakery and let him pick a treat
- 92. give him THE best ear rub
- 93. get a solid plastic kiddie pool and fill it up on hot days
- 94. check out recipes for doggy "ice cream" and make him some
- 95. head to Starbucks and order him his very own "Puppuccino" - no coffee, just a Starbucks cup with a little bit of whipped cream inside

... or Just Chill

4 relaxing ideas

- 96. take a nap
- 97. talk to him
- 98. sing him a song
- 99. read a book out loud to your dog

Traveling with your Morkie

People who take their dogs on a vacation report that it was not only great fun but also gave them the chance to spend some quality time with their pet, something that can be hard to come by in our busy, busy world.

When you're planning a getaway this year, why not factor in your Morkie? There are dozens of choices in vacations that accommodate the family pet.

Where to go?

A quick search online will bring up lots of **dog-friendly hotels and motels**. Many are the large national chains.

You can expect that most hotels and motels will charge a small fee-per-stay (not per night) if you bring a dog. This has been explained to me as the fee to steam clean the carpet after you go, and that seems fair. It usually ranges from \$20 to \$50.

You can also find campgrounds, motels, cottages and B&Bs that will be glad to see your dog, along with beaches, outdoor restaurants, parks, hiking trails, museums, landmarks and much more.

Some websites guides that rate hundreds of places that cater to the dog-loving traveller. DogFriendly.com is just one example. You can visit their website and/or order their book online. (It covers both Canada and the United States.)

Here are three great websites that can help you find the right accommodation:

- BringFido.com lists literally thousands of locations across Canada and the United States where your dog is welcome. Besides hotels and motels, there are also B&Bs, cottages, campgrounds, restaurants, parks, historical sites and much, much more.
- Petfriendlytravel.com is another great resource.
- OfficialPetHotels.com lists accommodations and has good tips too.

Once you've picked a spot, *be sure to call to confirm their pet policy and get it in writing by asking for an email back.*



Dog-focused vacations for everyone

You can go a step further and plan a vacation that's built around both you and your dog. There are many outdoor adventures geared to all levels of participants.

One example is [Dog Paddling Adventures](#), a spectacular resort in northern Ontario. All Dog Paddling Adventure guides are ORCA (Ontario Recreational Canoe Association) certified and have their Wilderness First Aid Certificate, along with the ability to share and create a comfortable and relaxed group environment.

You'll not only have an unforgettable time, but it's also a great way to meet new people with the same interests.

Hiking, seashore and parkland vacations are also offered by travel experts for you and your Morkie if he's the sturdy, outdoorsy type.

Camps for you and your dog

Many old hunting and fishing camps are changing their focus to families and dogs.

At [DogPlay.com](#) you'll find a list of dozens of dog/people camps available in the U.S.A. and Canada. They include real wilderness adventures, compete with log cabin accommodation and fire-only cooking, to much more luxurious digs, where you and your Morkie can even enjoy some spa treatments.

Plan ahead and be prepared

Wherever you decide to go, if you take your dog you'll need to add some extra preparation:

- ensure your dog's **vaccinations** are up to date and have the paperwork with you.
- have him **microchipped** if he's not already; at the very least, put an up-to-date license on his collar.
- decide on the best **car restraint system** for your trip, and use it. You can use special dog harnesses to hook him right into your seatbelt or attach a small dog carrier or kennel cage. Or, try a barrier gate if you have a sport-utility type vehicle.
- take some shorter car trips with this new gear and make sure your Morkie is comfortable traveling; otherwise see your veterinarian for some motion sickness or anti-anxiety medication.



Pack a recent photo in case your Morkie gets lost while you're away.

Prepare for an emergency You hate to think about it, but what if there's an emergency with your dog while you're away? These steps could help:

- write out your Veterinarian's name, address and phone number (don't count on yourself to remember if something really stressful happens).
- take a photo with you of your dog, just in case he gets lost and you have to make a poster.
- Pack a small medical kit, complete with gauze, antibiotic ointment, rubbing alcohol, tweezers and dog-friendly insect repellent.

Crossing the border with your dog

If you're taking a driving vacation and plan to cross the U.S. / Canada border, here are the requirements. Both Canada and the United States have the same rules for bringing pets to visit in their countries, so that makes it easier.



Dogs, cats and pet birds (not poultry!) can be taken across the border under certain conditions. Here's what you need to know:

**The first requirement to cross the border with your pet dog:
the animal must be in good health.**

Dogs do not have to be quarantined entering either Canada or the United States, provided they meet the other requirements. (**With the exception of Hawaii**, where all dogs are quarantined for **130 days**.)

- all cats and dogs are subject to inspection at ports of entry for evidence of infectious diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

- all dogs and cats must have certificates issued by a licensed Vet identifying each animal and certifying that each pet has been vaccinated against rabies during the preceding 36 months.
- puppies and kittens under three months do not need certification, but there is a limit of up to two pets in this category which may be brought across the border.

Under the National Animal Health Program, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) establishes import requirements for all animals and animal products entering Canada, including domestic pets.

The Agency can refuse entry to any animal presented for importation. You can read more at the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) website.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has regulations on importing of dogs and cats into the United States. You can read more on the site's section "traveling with pets."

In general, the CDC requires that dogs be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry, except for puppies younger than 3 months. You can read their full regulations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture website.

In a nutshell: bring Veterinarian's papers which identify your dog (age, breed, name) and proof of rabies shots given in the past 36 months.

If you're flying with your dog, there will be more requirements depending on the airline, so be sure and check well in advance with your carrier for details.



Part Ten: Your Senior Morkie

Just like us, your Morkie will grow old and you will have to deal with problems that inevitably come with aging. Some of these include diabetes, arthritis, loss of hearing and eyesight and reduced mobility. The healthier and more active your Morkie is as she approaches the senior years, the better equipped she'll be to deal with these challenges.

How long will my Morkie live?

**14 - 16+
years**

HOW LONG DO DOGS LIVE?

AVERAGE LIFESPAN (DYING OF NATURAL CAUSES)

12 yrs
8 months

ALL DOGS

ALL BREEDS
ALL SIZES

ALL MIXED BREEDS

ALL SIZES

13 yrs
6 months

11 yrs
3 months

ALL PUREBREDS

ALL SIZES

SMALL DOGS

ALL BREEDS
PUREBRED & MIXED

15 - 16
years

10 - 13
years

MEDIUM & LARGE

ALL BREEDS
PUREBRED & MIXED

GIANT BREEDS

7 - 8
years

MORKIES

14 - 16+
years

The length of a dog's life depends on many things. It has been proven that smaller dogs tend to live longer than the large breeds.

Plus, mixed breeds tend to live longer than purebreds.

- the median life expectancy of all dogs is 12.8 years.
- the longest living dog: the rare Mexican Xoloitzcuintle, has a life span of up to 20 years.
- the shortest lifespan: the Irish Wolfhound, 6- to 8-years
- life expectancy for other breeds falls somewhere in between.

By Breed

years

Golden Retrievers	12
Bulldogs	12
Labrador Retriever	14
German Shepherd	14
Boxers	14
Dachshunds	14
Poodles	15
Shih Tzu	15
Beagles	15
Yorkshire Terrier	15
Maltese	16
Chihuahua	17

How to tell your Morkie's age relative to a person's

This chart¹⁷ is a newer way to look at a dog's age compared to a humans, instead of simply multiplying by 7.

Since small dogs live longer than large ones, this chart is off a little, but it gives us a better guide than the old way of figuring.

Dog	1 year	2 years	4 years	7 years	10 years	15 years	20 years
Human	15 years	24 years	32 years	45 years	56 years	76 years	98 years

So as you can see, dogs actually "age" faster than we think in the "times 7" rule. The 2-year-old dog is like a 24-year-old person. By age 7, the dog has pretty well caught up to the old myth - acting like a 45 year old person.

Your Morkie's life stages - puppy, adult, senior

	puppyhood				adult dog			
Your Morkie	3 mos.	6 mos.	9 mos.	12 mos.	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Human Years	3.75 years	7.5 years	11.75 years	15 years	24 years	28 years	32 years	36 years

	senior dog							
Your Morkie	6 years	8 years	10 years	12 years	14 years	16 years	18 years	20 years
Human Years	40 years	48 years	3.75 years	7.5 years	11.75 years	15 years	24 years	96 years

As you can see, adulthood is a fairly short period - from 2 to 5 years, and then your Morkie is considered 'senior' as far as food, activity and medical monitoring is concerned. However, your Morkie is likely to keep her lively, active "puppy outlook" on life far into her adult and senior years.

¹⁷ developed by Pharmaceutical company *Antech Diagnostics*

What to expect in a senior dog

Your Morkie will **act** older before he **looks** older. Knowing when your Morkie is a “senior” will help you make appropriate changes in diet, exercise and health examinations.

You’ll find:

- he **slows down** - there are subtle changes in how quickly he jumps up, uses stairs and lays down.
- the signs of **arthritis** - stiffness or hesitation particularly if it is a damp, humid day.
- **greying** around the face or muzzle.
- a slight **change in eye colour** - your Morkie’s eyes may become a little cloudy or bluish - don’t worry, this is not the same as cataracts. Cataracts are quite opaque, and white. Refer to **5 Common Eye Problems**, in Part V: Keeping Him Healthy, to see pictures.
- **reduced hearing** - you can expect that your Morkie’s hearing won’t be quite as sharp as she ages.
- **mild loss of muscle mass**, especially the hind legs, is often part of old age.

Visits to the Veterinarian

For a senior dog, the annual visit is a must; and in fact, you may need to see the Vet a little more often. It goes without saying if your dog seems to be experiencing pain, is lethargic or has been vomiting or has diarrhea for more than two days -- call the Vet at once.

Otherwise, following are some conditions of aging that need medical attention.

Common health concerns with senior dogs

Arthritis pain

Arthritis is a degenerative condition that can attack any joint, causing pain and discomfort. The most common form, called Osteoarthritis, is a disease that affects one out of five dogs during their lifetime. The problem isn’t confined to older dogs.

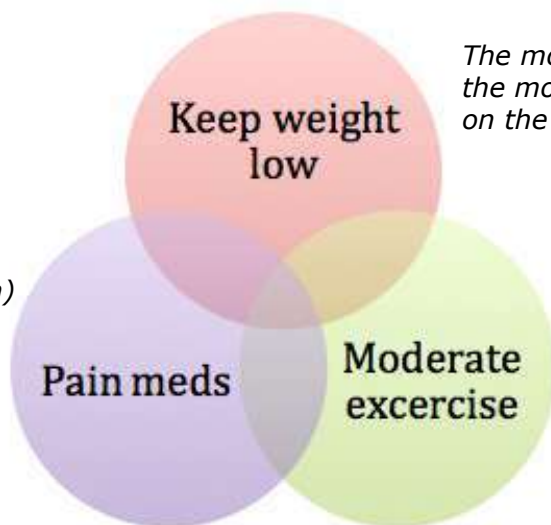
The diagnosis is made by joint X-rays that show bone spurs at points where the ligaments and the joint capsule attach to the bone. There may be varying degrees of joint space narrowing and increased density of bone around the joint.

Dogs suffering from arthritis experience pain resulting from that damage within the joint.

Degenerative joint disease is incurable, but treatment can substantially improve the dog’s life. Treatment is usually a three part program:

Treating canine arthritis is a three-part program

Your Vet may prescribe a combination of **Analgesics** (such as buffered baby aspirin) along with **corticosteroids** to relieve pain and improve function



The more overweight your Morkie is, the more strain and stress is placed on the damaged joints.

Don't let your Morkie jump up and down from the furniture, putting more stress on joints.

Bad breath, bleeding gums

Good dental health is important not only for the teeth and mouth, but overall general health. The impact of dental disease is not simply suffering from "bad breath" -- infections of the gums, teeth, and oral cavity can spread via the bloodstream to the heart and liver, possibly causing additional health problems.

As a dog ages, tartar, gum disease, and tooth loss are all potential problems. Oral cancers, infections, metabolic diseases ([kidney disease](#), [Diabetes Mellitus](#)) are also potential causes for bad breath and oral health problems.

As you read in the Dental Care Section starting on page 118, your Morkie needs:

- regular tooth brushing with a **canine** toothpaste - daily is ideal. Don't use people toothpaste - it can kill a small dog!
- you can use sprays and wipes to make the brushing even more effective

Diabetes Mellitus

(or insulin-dependent diabetes, known as Type 1)

This is a common disease in both dogs and cats and occurs when insulin-secreting cells of the pancreas are destroyed and the body is no longer able to regulate glucose (sugar). The end result is high levels of glucose in the blood and urine.

Diabetes Mellitus is often misdiagnosed as just another sign of aging because symptoms are similar, and include:

- excess thirst.
- urinating more than normal.
- eating more than usual.
- losing weight despite a good appetite.

Treatment usually calls for **insulin injections**, often given twice daily. Canine diabetes cannot, in most cases, be cured but with treatment and monitoring, most diabetic dogs do just fine.

Controlling the diet of a Morkie with diabetes and giving him consistent, moderate exercise are the keys to treating the disease.

Note: some dogs can develop cataracts in just a few days, with sudden onset diabetes. See your Vet as soon as possible if you suspect this.

DID YOU KNOW??

In Great Britain, one organization trains dogs to help people manage chronic medical conditions such as diabetes.

These dogs sniff out low or high blood sugar and warn their owners in time for them to have a glass of orange juice or an insulin injection!

These dogs can even bring their "patient" essential medical supplies.

- from WebMD.com

Sudden blindness, hearing loss, head tilt / staggering

Symptoms like these can be caused by a number of things - infection, poisoning, old age and cancer among them. Consult your Vet right away to find the cause and begin treatment.

Change in weight or appetite

Track your senior Morkie's weight loss or gains as well as any changes in diet or eating habits. If these changes are considerable, (plus or minus 10% of your Morkie's weight), time to see the Vet.

Change in urine output and thirst

It's not normal for dogs to change their drinking patterns based on outside influences like heat or ageing. The most common causes of increased water intake are **diabetes** and **kidney problems**.

In a healthy animal, the kidneys filter waste products that are produced by the body. In kidney failure, these waste products are not filtered properly, and start to build up in the blood stream. This is when clinical signs of kidney failure are often noticed. This kidney failure can be either sudden (acute) or develop over time (chronic).

Symptoms of kidney problems include:

- failure to urinate.
- anorexia.
- vomiting.
- or more subtle gradual changes, often attributed to "just old age."

Urine leakage

"Accidents" are a common problem among older pets, and can be caused by infection, loss of sphincter control, or other underlying disease.

Other urination problems may be the result of stones or tumours in the bladder; causing abnormal urination habits, blood in the urine and infections. If your pet has changes in urinary habits, please see your Veterinarian as soon as possible.

Help! My Morkie is drinking a lot more and peeing everywhere!

Excessive thirst and/or urination can be a sign of several problems in your Morkie, including:

kidney failure, Cushing's disease, Diabetes, Hyperthyroidism, kidney disease or urinary tract infection, and Pyometra (infection of the uterus) to name a few.

It can also happen when your Morkie is taking some medications, such as Prednisone.

One thing is clear: it's time to see your Veterinarian.

Senility or Cognitive Dysfunction

Yes, just like people, dogs can experience age-related dementia or 'old dog syndrome.'

A dog with this condition will seem slow, uncoordinated and unresponsive to outside stimuli. Both sleep and activity patterns are disturbed. Some other symptoms include:

- Getting "lost" in corners or on the wrong side of a door - some dogs may stand head-first in a corner of a room, or at the hinge side of a door, waiting for it to open; unable to figure out the next step. This is a common symptom.
- Pacing or anxious wandering around the house .
- Loss of Housetraining - your Morkie may forget about potty training. A medical problem - urinary tract infection, gastrointestinal problems - must always be ruled out first before assuming it is a behavioural (dementia) problem.
- Doesn't greet family members as before. The afflicted dog doesn't always seek out human companionship, and sometimes wanders away while being petted.
- Barking for no reason. This could be because your Morkie no longer recognizes family members or because he is "lost" in the yard or behind a door. There is an element of general confusion too, which could cause barking, especially at night.
- Getting day and night mixed up - sleeping all day, awake all night?

Treating Dog Dementia

Keep a log of what behaviors you have noticed, how often you notice these behaviors, and make an appointment with your Veterinarian to discuss. As always, the first step for any behavior problem is to rule out any medical causes first.

Your Veterinarian may prescribe medications that may be helpful with common signs of dementia, such as:

Anipryl - also known as L-deprenyl. Used in humans for treatment of Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's and Cushing's Disease.

DAP or (Dog Appeasing Pheromone) Calming Collar for Dogs - can be used to reduce senior dementia-anxiety, besides being a common treatment for excessive barking (read more about DAP on page 309).

Obesity (More on pages 254-258.)

Unfortunately this is a problem that creeps up on people AND pets.

As we age, metabolism slows and calories from food burn off at a much slower rate. Plus we tend to exercise and move less, making the problem worse. If your Morkie is starting to gain weight, be sure to adjust her food so that obesity is not one of the problems she'll have to face when old. Obesity in dogs can lead to:

- diabetes mellitus - described above.
- **orthopaedic problems** including hip dysplasia, osteoarthritis, cruciate ligament and meniscal injury.
- cardiovascular disease.
- **metabolic disorders** such as hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease, Addison's disease, and other endocrine abnormalities.
- more severe **arthritis** than in a normal-weight dog.

In old age, most dogs will burn off food at a much slower rate. At this age, it is important to monitor and choose healthy dog food types including organic dog food and holistic dog food varieties.

The #1 reason to keep your Morkie's weight in line:
an obese pet has a much shorter lifespan.

Dental diseases in older dogs

Gingivitis is one of the most common pet health issues in older dogs and can quickly spread to the rest of the dog's gums causing rotting teeth and abscesses.

Regular teeth-brushing and care at home, along with dental care from your Vet, will certainly help. (See Part IV: The 4 Building Blocks for Good Health for lots more on this.)

Cancers

Unfortunately Veterinarians are seeing more and more cases of cancer in dogs and cats.

It's estimated that over 6 million dogs die from cancer each year. More than 1 in 2 dogs will get cancer at some point.

Some breeds are much more prone to cancer: Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs and boxers are just a few. Fortunately, Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese dogs are not among those higher-cancer populations.

But just like any other dogs, they CAN fall victim to environmental cancers or spontaneous cancer.

Fighting back against cancer - prevention

There is no sure fire prevention method to prevent cancer in dogs, but a healthy vitamin and mineral rich diet seems to help to some extent.

Annual examinations and blood tests by your family veterinarian will help to detect tumours while they are still easily treatable.

Good quality food is key to better health. Choose organic over non-organic. Read dog food labels very carefully - as you read in Part IV, most commercial food is dreadful. It's not only lacking in nutrition, it's **bad**, with additives, fillers and mystery ingredients that are proven to trigger cancer.

Spaying female dogs, and to a lesser degree, neutering males, is an important step in the fight against canine cancer. You'll reduce your female's chance of mammary cancer eightfold when you do so.

Fighting back against cancer - detection

Watch for lumps and bumps, wounds that don't heal, swelling and abnormal bleeding. Lameness, lethargy or any other signs that your Morkie just isn't himself, are all worth mentioning to your Veterinarian.

The majority of cancers can be dealt with surgically and cured when caught early enough. In fact the cure rate can be as high as 60% in these cases, according to Sandy Eckstein at Pets.WebMD.com.

The Big Five Health Problems for Today's Dogs

.. and not just senior dogs

According to WebMD.com's pet pages, the top issues facing our pets today are:

1. Pets are becoming medically underserved, thanks to the Great Recession of 2008. It can be very difficult to afford optimum pet care, even today.
2. Obesity in pets, like in humans, is skyrocketing.
3. Diabetes is increasing in both cats and dogs.
4. Cancer: a major illness in both cats and dogs.
5. Dental disease is on the rise partly because of over-processed food.

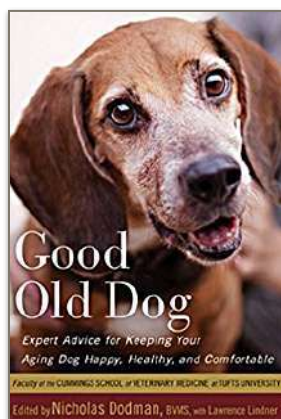
More resources about senior dogs

www.seniordogs.com library of senior dog articles and information on senior dog food, senior dog arthritis, senior dog supplements, senior dog allergies, senior dog medications, senior dog care, senior dog rescue groups, pet & dog insurance, older dogs, and older dog food just to name a few.

About.com Veterinary Medicine's [Caring for Senior Dogs](#)

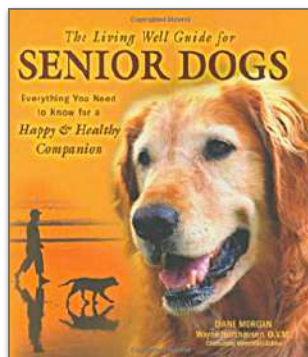
The famous Dummies series offers some insights into senior dog care at their online resource section here: [Defining Senior Dog Status](#)

More on [Senior Dog Food: Meeting Aging Canines' Nutritional Needs](#) at one of the most credible websites for both people and dogs, WebMD.com



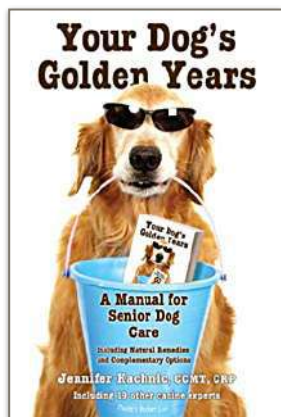
Good Old Dog: Expert Advice for Keeping Your Aging Dog Happy, Healthy, and Comfortable

by Faculty of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University



The Living Well Guide for Senior Dogs: Everything You Need to Know for a Happy & Healthy Companion

by Diane Morgan



Your Dog's Golden Years: A Manual for Senior Dog Care Including Natural and Complementary Options.

by Jennifer Kachnic Littleton

When it's time to cross the Rainbow Bridge

Sadly, everyone who loves an animal will, one day, face the illness, old age or passing of their beloved friend. It is as natural and necessary to grieve for the loss of a pet as it is for any other loved one who dies.

What does it mean to put a dog "to sleep?"

Euthanasia is a noun and means:

The act of humanely ending the life of a living being in order to end extreme suffering, typically as the result of a serious and irreversible medical condition; in animals, often called "putting to sleep."

Euthanasia in animals is intended to end life when there is little or no hope of recovery from illness or injury.

In dogs and cats, euthanasia involves the intravenous injection of a solution of pharmaceutical agents that will quickly stop the heart. In most cases, this solution is made up of **pentobarbital**, though some euthanasia solutions also contain **phenytoin**.

Your Veterinarian has special training to provide your pet with a humane and gentle death.

Most often, he or she uses a two-step process.

- First, the pet is injected with a sedative to make him calm and comfortable. (Your Vet may insert an intravenous catheter into the dog's vein first to make the sedative and medication injections easier.)
- Next, he injects a special medication. These drugs function in such a fashion that the animal experiences no awareness of the end of life.

The process is like undergoing general anesthesia for surgery. The process takes about 10 to 20 seconds. The Vet then checks to make sure that the animal's heart has stopped. There is no suffering.

What to expect

The euthanasia of a beloved pet is a solemn time for everyone involved, but it may be less of a strain if you are prepared for the process. Talk to your Vet; you may find it easier for this to be done in your home, or you might prefer to visit the Clinic.

Before the Euthanasia

- decide if you would like to be present during the procedure and if you want a friend or family member present as well.
- talk to your Vet and ask any questions that come to mind, especially what will happen during the euthanasia.
- you'll probably be asked to sign a consent form.

Next, make a decision about aftercare and let your Vet know in advance.

- do you want your Morkie's remains cremated? Or buried? Many Vets' offices can provide those services.
- or do you prefer to bring your dog's remains home so you can handle aftercare on your own?
- settle up charges at the front desk first. The last thing you want is a tearful wait in the lobby to pay your bill after your pet is gone.
- take time to say goodbye. Talk to your dog, hug him, express your love for him. Allow friends and family members to do the same.

How will I know it's time?

If your Morkie has episodes of obvious suffering during the day or night, it is appropriate to plan a euthanasia right away. Sometimes an animal will continue to eat or drink in spite of pain, panting or disorientation.

If you are not sure how much your pet is suffering, keep a daily record of the good times versus the bad times. Then you can decide when the quality of life is so poor that it is time for you to give him the gift of 'good death.' It is important to ask your Veterinarian for the exact signs of suffering likely to be associated with the condition or disease that your dog has.

Sometimes people are tempted to delay the moment of euthanasia, because we anticipate our own intense grief. Unfortunately, we may regret that we allowed the pet to linger too long.

Making the decision to humanely end the life of a suffering pet can be a struggle. In fact, it might be one of the most difficult choices you will ever have to make.

When it comes down to it, the decision is partly based on facts and the rest on gut feeling. The bond between you and your dog is very strong, so you know her better than anyone, you will know when your dog stops enjoying life. Ultimately, you will probably know in your heart when it is time. Here are some things that can guide you through the decision-making process.

Reasons to put your Morkie down

When a pet's quality of life begins to decline due to an illness or injury, something must be done to alleviate that pet's suffering.

A serious medical condition, such as a terminal illness or a severe injury, will negatively impact a pet's quality of life. Common signs of poor quality of life include loss of appetite, lack of interest in playmates, toys and/or other people, reclusive behavior, worsening pain and depression.

In general, euthanasia is considered when there are no other options. The following situations may prompt a frank discussion with your family and your Veterinarian about euthanasia:

- **Chronic or terminal illness:** A dog with a terminal disease may temporarily respond to treatment. However, the dog can eventually stop responding to all available treatments or become worse because of treatments. Consider keeping journal or log of your dog's daily behavior, energy level, appetite, etc. When you are noticing more bad days than good days, it might be time to start thinking about euthanasia.
- **Old age:** Health problems usually come with old age, so it is important that your senior pet visits the Vet often and on a routine. If your dog is slowing down, and your Vet cannot determine a specific, curable solution, you may just need to offer supportive care. An elderly pet can still enjoy life, but when you see a more dramatic decline, you will know the time is near.
- **Major injury:** If a dog has a serious injury that is considered untreatable, your Vet might recommend euthanasia. Usually, these are traumatic injuries that cause pain and/or impede basic functions like mobility and control of bodily functions. Sometimes, good nursing care at home can help maintain good quality of life for the injured dog. In other cases, the suffering cannot be relieved and euthanasia is the most humane choice.

What about euthanasia as a solution to behaviour problems?

Some owners consider euthanasia because of uncontrollable behavior problems in their dogs.

While the majority of these problems can eventually be managed, there are some cases where euthanasia is the necessary choice. However, euthanasia should be a last resort.

Seek the help of a professional dog trainer and/or Veterinary Behaviourist before making a permanent and irreversible decision that you might regret.

What if your dog dies at home?

From the [ASPCA Pet Loss pages](#)

If your dog dies at home, you will need to take certain steps and make a few decisions right away.

Call for help

Call a friend or family member who can help you deal with your Morkie's remains and offer emotional support.

Put the remains in a cool place right away

Get a blanket to wrap the body, and a heavy duty plastic bag. Many people recommend that you wear latex gloves when handling your Morkie's remains. Once wrapped up, move to a cool place, such as the cellar, a cooler with ice (the ice should be in a leak-proof container) or to the refrigerator.

Contact your Veterinarian

- almost right away, you'll have to decide if:
 - you want your pet cremated; and if you want the ashes back.
 - if you want to bury him on our own property (check with your municipality that this is allowed).
 - or if you simply prefer to have the Vet dispose of the remains.
- your Vet's office can walk you through the steps of each option and may be able to put you in touch with a local company that can fulfill your wishes.

Why he died

If your dog's death was a surprise and you're not sure why he died, you may want your Vet to perform some tests and a "gross necropsy." This is where the Vet opens up the body and inspects the tissues and organs. Your Vet might decide to send some tissue off for testing.

If you think you will see your Morkie again before burial or cremation, ask for a cosmetic necropsy to minimize the visible cutting.

Your pet's remains after death

Pet cremation

Cremation involves the incineration of the body in a specially-designed furnace, in order to reduce the remains to ashes and tiny bone fragments (called "cremains").

Most Veterinary offices have a professional relationship with one or more pet crematories and can help you make these arrangements.

Private/Individual Cremation: With this option, your pet's ashes are returned to you if you wish. To ensure that you are receiving *your* pet's (and only your pet's) remains, choose a reputable company.

Some people wish to be present to view the cremation, while others do not.

The basic cost of private pet cremation averages from \$150 to \$300, depending on the size of the pet.

Typically, pet crematories will return the remains to you in a plastic bag inside a decorative tin or box. Many offer a selection of more permanent urns, ornamental boxes and figurines at an extra cost. Keep in mind, there's no rush to buy one right away.

Mass/Community Cremation: If you do not wish to receive your pet's ashes back, you might choose this option. Community cremation means your pet will be cremated along with other animals, so obtaining the ashes is not an option. The typical cost is based upon weight and usually ranges from \$50 to \$150.

Pet burial

If you don't like the idea of having your pet's body cremated or if you would prefer a gravesite you can visit, then pet burial might be the best option for you.

Home Burial: If you plan to bury your Morkie on your own property, first make sure local laws allow it. Use a biodegradable box, such as wicker, wood or cardboard. The grave should be at least 3 feet deep and in a location that is not likely to erode or be dug up again. You can mark the grave site with a special headstone or plant a special tree or bush in that spot.

Pet Cemetery Burial: Many communities have one or more a pet cemeteries; some are even affiliated with pet crematories. This can be a good solution if you think you might visit later.



Memorializing your beloved pet

There are many ways to memorialize your Morkie.

These include decorative stones, paperweights, ornaments and jewelry. Here are just a few of the options you can search out online:

- *Art From Ashes*: Beautifully artistic hand-crafted glass remembrances made with a small amount of a loved one's ashes.
- *Life Gem*: A certified, high-quality diamond created from a lock of hair or the cremated ashes of a loved one as a memorial.
- *Peternity*: A wide variety of jewelry, custom art, keepsakes, urns and many other pet memorials.
- *Everlife Memorials*: Engraved plaques, personalized keepsakes, cremation jewelry, headstones, urns and much more .
- *Remember Rocks*: Decorative engraved rocks and stones to memorialize pets.

Dealing with grief

Grief is different for everyone, and there is no right or wrong way to do it.

Remember the good times you had with your dog, and know that he would thank you for relieving his suffering.

Consider doing something special to mark the passing of your unique and much-loved companion, such as planting a tree or special shrub.

Another therapeutic exercise during grief is to write about it. A poem, story or written tribute can help you say goodbye in your own words.

Many pet owners will make a donation to their local humane society in their dog's name.

More support

[Pet Loss website](#) offers you a number of resources as you move through the stages of mourning your companion.

You can also find sources in Canada and the U.S. for:

- support groups.
- counsellors.
- pet cemeteries.
- memorial products.
- headstones and markers.

Telephone support in the United States and Canada

Pet parents can receive help from the **ASPCA Pet Loss Support program** with the following issues:

- Assistance with the decision to euthanize.
- Comfort and support at the time of euthanasia.
- Help with grieving the loss.
- Advice on dealing with children, the elderly or disabled who face the death of a companion animal.
- Helping the surviving animals in the household to cope.
- Assistance in establishing a relationship with a new pet.

For support dealing with the loss of a pet, including information on meeting the emotional needs of children at the time of a pet's death, call the ASPCA's

Pet Loss Hotline at (877) GRIEF-10 (877-474-3310)

How long should we wait to get another dog?

Even though your house feels very empty, and your young children may be asking for a replacement right away, experts recommend waiting at least one month before bringing home a new pet.

When you're ready, you can check out the dogs and cats in your local shelter. If you feel attracted to a new pet, it is not a betrayal of the one you just lost. Your ability to give a good home to a new pet is really the ultimate compliment to your previous relationship.



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown

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How big will my Morkie be?

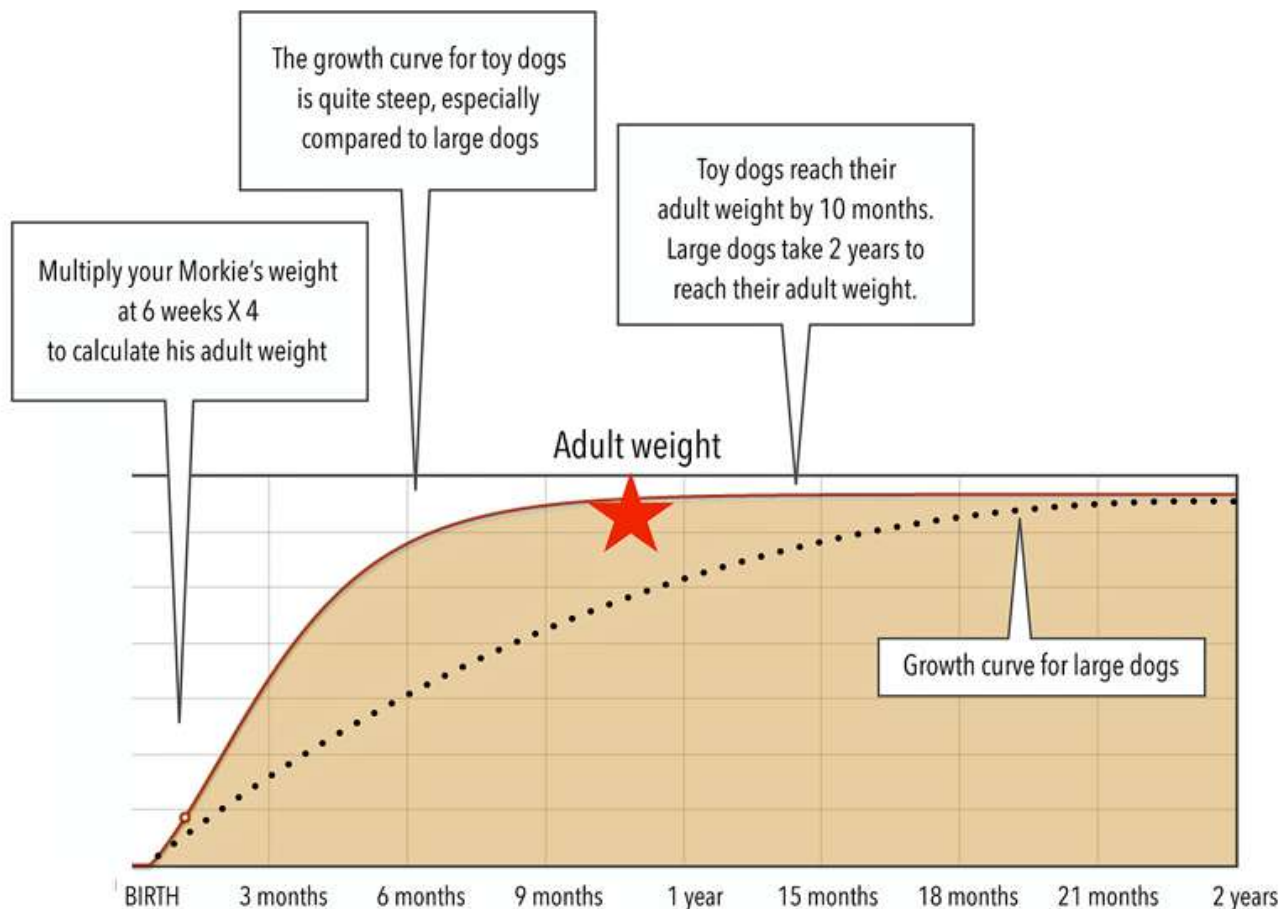
Since the Morkie's parents are relatively the same size, it's easy to guess what size your Morkie will be, based on the parents.

As you can see on this graph, medium and large dogs take much longer to grow to their full size, but toys reach their adult weight by around 10 months.

One rule of thumb:

multiply your Morkie's weight at 6 weeks, times 4, to find his likely adult weight.

Toy dogs reach their adult size much faster than large dogs.





How much will my Morkie Weigh?

Remember, smaller isn't always better

Sure, we love tiny things, but the rush to have a teeny dog isn't always wise.

Super small dogs, or runts, are less healthy, can have behaviour problems, are fragile and will not live as long as the their 'full size' cousins.

A Morkie who weighs between 5 and 9 pounds is a great size; and even larger is fine too.

birth weight - in ounces	end of week 1 - in ounces	6 week weight - in ounces	adult size in ounces	pounds	ounces
1.5	3	9	36	2	4
2	4	12	48	3	0
2.5	5	15	60	3	12
3	5.5	16	63	3	15
3.5	6	17	68	4	4
4	7	19	77	4	13
4.5	7.5	21	83	5	3
5	9.5	26	105	6	9
5.5	10	28	110	6	14
6	11	30	121	7	9
6.5	12	33	132	8	4
7	13	35	140	8	12
7.5	14	38	151	9	7
8	15	41	162	10	2
8.5	16	43	173	11	2
9	18	49	194	12	2
9.5	19	51	205	13	2
10	20	54	216	14	0

Worksheet to calculate your puppy's adult size



about Morkies

HOW BIG WILL YOUR MORKIE PUPPY BE?

There are no hard and fast rules about figuring out your puppy's final adult weight, but these 3 tools will help.

1

Puppy's
date of birth:

Date puppy turns
6 weeks old:

Birth weight
in ounces:

Weight at the
end of week 6:

↓
X 4 = adult weight

2

Birth weight in
ounces

Weight at 12
weeks in ounces

Projected adult
weight

2.5	15	2 lbs
3.0	22	3 lbs
3.5	26	3.5 lbs
4.0	30	4 lbs
4.5	33	4.5 lbs
5.0	41	5.5 lbs
5.5	45	6 lbs
6.0	49	6.5 lbs
6.5	53	7.0 lbs
7.0	57	7.5 lbs
7.5	61	8 lbs

3

Father's
adult weight

+

Mother's
adult weight

divide by 2 =

Weight range for your Morkie

For the most accurate results, take
the average of 1, 2 and 3

Spot a bad dog breeder

What you need to know before you buy

Any of these signs should give you serious concern... two or more should make you run!

Is the breeder open and honest, or evasive?

- The "breeder" is local, but no, you can't visit. Instead, he or she wants to meet at a halfway point, a mall or car-park. Sure sign of a puppy mill.
- Hand painted signs on the road, advertising puppies for sale.
- Breeder is selling puppies at a public place like a flea market, yard sale, swap meet or pet store, or out of the back of a pickup truck, car, or van.
- The breeder wants cash only.
- There is no written health guarantee, and the breeder doesn't seem to have proper copies of initial vaccinations the pup has received - including Vet's name and address.

Does it look like 'home-raised puppies' or a production line?

- You *can* visit, but you see 3 or more different dog breeds running around. This is a red flag that the breeder isn't committed to one breed or hybrid, and is just breeding whatever dogs she has, to make money.
- The puppies should be raised inside the breeder's home as part of the family, not stuck in a kennel, garage or basement with few visits to the "big house." These tiny pups are household pets, not yard dogs!

How much does the breeder know about Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese?

- The breeder knows very little about Morkies' breeding stock: the Yorkshire Terrier and the Maltese dog.
- Breeder doesn't seem to know the mother and father dogs well.
- When you ask about the puppy's parents, breeder is unsure and vague. Parents aren't available to see.

Can you see the facilities?

- Dirty or stinky facilities. Genuine breeders love their dogs and put their care first. The home and puppy area should be clean and tidy and a safe environment for the puppies and parents.

Does the breeder seem to care about the pups or where they are going?

- Breeder doesn't demand that you spay or neuter your puppy. A genuine breeder will ask you to sign an agreement that your dog will NOT be bred.
- Puppies are always available, and the breeder will let you take one at Christmas, Easter, etc. No good breeder will release a puppy during these very high-stress times and no responsible breeder always has a handy supply of puppies
- The breeder asks you very few questions about your home and lifestyle.

How does the puppy look?

- The puppy is dirty, matted or has a poor coat. Poop stains around the rectum.
- Runny eyes, puffy eyes or discharge from the nose.
- Puppy seems lethargic, lacking energy (puppies tire quickly and will fall asleep after excitement, but should be curious and lively when you first connect).
- Disreputable breeders will often claim the puppy is older than it is, to sell the puppy as a "teacup." So a 6 week old puppy will be passed off as 10 or 12 weeks old. Probe carefully - the dog's age in weeks, and a bit later in the conversation, ask the date the puppy was born to see if that lines up with the age. **Toy dogs like Morkies should NOT be taken from their mothers until 10 weeks old.**

Specific questions to ask the Morkie breeder / seller

Can I visit your facilities?

Can I see where the puppies are being housed?

Can I meet your puppy's (dog's) parents? Why not?

Do you own the mother?

Do you own the father?

What size are the puppy's parents?

What ages are the puppy's parents?

Are the parents both registered purebreds?

Do the parents have health certificates?

What's the temperament of the parents?

How long have you been breeding Morkies?

How often do you breed?

What got you interested in Morkies?

Did you breed other dogs before?

How many dog breeds do you own now?

What Vet visits has the puppy had? (Name and address of your Vet?)

Has the puppy had all the necessary shots? Do you have the paperwork for that? (Paperwork includes a statement, signed, from the Veterinarian, along with the stickers from the vaccine bottles on the statement)

What are the next vaccinations you recommend?

Has the puppy been wormed?

Is the mother up to date on all her vaccinations?

Have the puppies been weaned?

When can the puppies come home?

Have any of the puppies in the litter been sick?

What are you currently feeding the puppy?

What food do you recommend for an adult Morkie?

What kind of health guarantee are you able to provide?

Will there be a contract of sale?

Are you willing to take the puppy back in the unlikely event I can't keep him?

Could I have references from your other puppy parents?

Your goal is to have an open, honest conversation with the breeder, and to get a sense of his/her integrity.



Don't be surprised if the breeder has as many questions for you as you do for her/him. Good breeders want their pups placed in loving homes.

Puppy Proofing - What to Check

Front Hall

- closet door closes securely
- any electric cords are wrapped up and too high for the puppy to reach
- shoes and boots left at the doorway -- your Morkie may chew them

Stairs

- puppies aren't coordinated - baby gate stairs off (going up and going down) or block with a heavy board

Bathroom

- toilet lid down - puppies have drowned!
- any electric cords trailing from your hair dryer or shaver?
- secure cabinets with child-proof latches
- make sure garbage is put away in a cabinet with one of the child-proof latches
- shower curtain and liner *inside* tub
- best bathroom check: keep the door closed at all times

Kitchen

- garbage securely put away and out of reach
- electric cords hanging from counters?
- secure cabinets with child-proof latches - especially the ones where you keep cleaning stuff

Living Room / Family Room

- again, electric cords are the #1 hazard - your pup could be electrocuted and killed, or start a house fire
- secure cords and cables behind the TV and stereo - Morkies can sneak into tight areas
- favourite things to chew on are throw rugs, toys and newspapers, any papers including mail
- pick up all small toys, game pieces and parts
- put plants up out of reach

In any room, look for:

- open windows
- cords hanging down from blinds or drapes
- electric cords
- papers, newspapers, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper
- check all dog toys and make sure the puppy is not chewing off pieces and the seams are good

Outdoors

- you need a fence to let your dog out without her leash; before the puppy arrives, walk the fence line and look for any little gaps or broken boards on fencing, where your Morkie could escape
- have your home and yard sprayed for fleas and ticks (make sure all pets are flea-free)
- many plants in your yard may be poisonous to dogs
- take extra care if you have a swimming pool that the puppy can fall into - water's attractive to animals

NEVER leave your Morkie outside without supervision - even in well developed suburbs, coyotes can be on the prowl for your little puppy, not to mention thieves.

New Dog Shopping List

Essentials:

Water Bowl
Food Bowl
Dog Food
Leash
Collar
Name tag showing dog's name and your details
Dog Bed (or cozy place to sleep)
Dog Crate (if you are crate training)
Training pads (Puppy Pee Pads)
Stoop & Scoop Bags
Pet odour cleaner (there WILL be accidents)
Pet first aid kit
Pet toothbrush and toothpaste

Plus you'll want:

Dog Toys and chewys (recommended for puppies)
Grooming equipment - brush, comb,
Certified Organic shampoo
Nail clippers if you're going to do it yourself
Dog Shampoo

Dog Carrier
Safety gate if you have stairs or rooms to shut off

Consider:

Suitable, chew-proof toys
Sweater or coat depending on your climate

For your home and garden:

Puppy play pen
Dog training crate

For the car:

Dog crate or SUV guard
A dog travel harness where a crate is not practical
Travel feed bowls
Blankets, covers for the car

Also of interest...

ASPA's TOP TEN things to do before you bring your new dog home:

1. Stock Up On Supplies
2. Divvy Up Responsibilities
3. Establish House Rules
4. Be Consistent in Training
5. Dog-proof Your Pup's Environment
6. Learn Some Handy Housetraining Tips
7. Consider a Crate
8. Make it Legal - dog licensing
9. Make a Vet Appointment
10. Combat Sibling Rivalry - dealing with other pets in the home

read more here:

<http://www.aspca.org/adoption/adoption-tips/bringing-your-new-dog-home.aspx>

What Dogs Need

- ✓ Food
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Shelter
- ✓ Health Care
- ✓ Grooming
- ✓ Exercise
- ✓ Time with You
- ✓ Fun

from www.loveyourdog.com



Emergency Information

Owner Name: _____

Phone/cell number: _____

Address: _____

VETERINARIAN

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

PET SITTER

Name: _____

Phone/cell number: _____

VETERINARY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

PERSON WHO WILL CARE FOR PET IF I CANNOT

Name: _____

Phone/cell number: _____



Important Information:

Microchip number: _____

License tag number: _____

MEDICATIONS:

Rx Name: _____ X per day: _____ Instructions: _____

Rx Name: _____ X per day: _____ Instructions: _____

Rx Name: _____ X per day: _____ Instructions: _____

IMPORTANT DATES:

Next annual health exam: _____

Next dental exam: _____

Next rabies vaccination: _____

Next required vaccinations: _____

Next heartworm preventive: _____

Next flea/tick treatment: _____

HEALTH INSURANCE INFO:

Carrier's name: _____

Policy number: _____

Carrier's phone number: _____



NORMAL RANGES FOR TEMPERATURE, HEART RATE, AND RESPIRATORY RATE FOR HEALTHY CATS AND DOGS**

Temperature (rectal): Dogs 101-103° F;
Cats 100.5-102.5° F

Heart rate (at rest): Dogs 70-120 beats/minute;
Cats 120-140 beats/minute

Respiratory rate (at rest): Dogs 18-34 breaths/
minute; Cats 16-40 breaths/minute

**Source: The Merck Veterinary Manual,
9th ed., pp. 2582-2583; © 2008

Pet Health Record

Name:		Color:		Vet contact info:
License #:		Owner's Name:		Insurance carrier:
Breed:		Contact info:		Policy #:
Sex:		Breeder name:		Contract info:
Weight:		Vet name:		

Vet Visit History

[illegible]

Known Conditions or Allergies

[illegible]

Dog Food: 12 deal breakers in dog food

The word “Meat”

- look for a named meat, not something called simply *meat* or *poultry*.
- *meat* is scraps from a variety of sources including expired grocery store meat, complete with styrofoam packaging, the 4D animals¹, zoo animals, road kill and euthanized pets.

“Meat by-products” - named or not

- even worse; this is not meat.
- meat by-products, especially those not specified as a certain kind of meat, contain unsavory ingredients ground into the mix during processing such as beaks, feathers, feet, hooves, hair, entrails – even tumours.

“Animal digest”

- otherwise known as garbage stew.
- heavily processed, mixed meat mess that’s been boiled from unspecified parts of unspecified animals.
- treated with heat, enzymes and/or acids to form concentrated flavor.
- then sprayed on low quality kibble to give it back some flavour.

“Meat meal”

- way over-processed, dried and concentrated unspecified parts of unspecified animals.
- technically, it contains a lot of protein, but most of it is not highly usable protein because of over-processing.
- contains many preservatives.

“Meat and Bone meal” - named or not

- this ingredient can be sourced from the 4Ds¹
- technically this ingredient is a blatant violation of U.S. and Canadian Federal laws regarding food safety.
- although this ingredient *could* be made ethically, chances are, it is not.

“Animal fat”

- generic fat source like *animal fat* can come from anywhere or anything.
- liked food labelled simply “meat” this can come from any source, including used restaurant grease and fats processed from roadkill

¹ They arrive at the slaughterhouse dead, diseased, dying or disabled, and shouldn’t be used in food.

“Rendered fat”

- a very low quality ingredient in dog foods.
- while fats from animals are healthy for your dog, “animal fat” or “poultry fat” comes from unidentified animals, which in the pet food industry often means 4D² animals.
- this fat can come from roadkill, dead zoo animals, or even euthanized animals.
- often rancid, and if it’s in your pet’s food what other questionable ingredients are too?

Corn

- it’s a cheap filler (and not corn as we know it).
- not an essential nutrient for dogs; in fact, dogs have some difficulty digesting corn.
- often contains mould and toxins.
- it’s a known allergenic.

Corn gluten meal

- a by-product after making corn syrup and cornstarch, it’s the dried residue. What food value could there be in that?

Propylene Glycol

- a preservative that keeps moist dog foods fresh.
- very close to the chemical *ethylene glycol*, the product used to make anti-freeze.

Ethoxyquin, BHA and BHT

- ethoxyquin is a chemical preservative that’s banned from our food, but used to preserve fish meal in pet food.
- originally developed as a herbicide, it’s also used as a hardening agent for making synthetic rubber.
- BHA/BHT are also dangerous preservatives; the World Health Organization has linked both to cancer.
 - BHT is a preservative PROVEN to cause cancer in rats, mice and hamsters and has been linked to cancer in people and dogs.
 - BHA is another preservative and is often responsible for kidney damage.

Sucrose and other sweeteners

- sucrose is used to make horrible dog food more palatable.
- other names include sugar, cane molasses, corn syrup, fructose and glucose.
- sweeteners affect dogs like they do us; too much and diabetes and obesity are the results.
- meanwhile, sugar substitutes like xylitol, are highly toxic to dogs.

² They arrive at the slaughterhouse dead, diseased, dying or disabled, and shouldn’t be used in food.



Dog Food: 145 ingredients to avoid

1. Animal by-product meal
2. Animal digest
3. Animal fat
4. Animal liver
5. Barley**
6. Beef by-product meal
7. Beef by-products
8. Beef digest
9. Beef digest meal
10. Beef meal
11. Beef tallow
12. Beet pulp**
13. Beets**
14. BHA
15. BHT
16. Blood meal
17. Blue #1 and #2
18. Bone meal
19. Brewers rice
20. Brown rice**
21. By-product meal
22. Cane molasses
23. Canola oil
24. Caramel colour
25. Carrageenan
26. Cellulose
27. Chelated minerals
28. Chicken by-product meal
29. Chicken by-products
30. Chicken Digest
31. Chicken meal
32. Copper amino acid complex
33. Copper proteinate
34. Copper sulphate
35. Corn
36. Corn distillers dried grains
37. Corn gluten feed
38. Corn gluten meal
39. Corn meal
40. Cottonseed oil
41. Digest
42. DL-alpha tocopheryl acetate
43. Dried beet pulp
44. Dried chickpeas
45. Dried fermentation products
46. Dried garbanzo beans
47. Dried peas
48. Egg product
49. Ethoxyquin
50. Farmed salmon
51. Fermentation waste
52. Ferrous sulphate
53. Fish Digest
54. Fish meal
55. Flavour
56. Flaxseed
57. Food Dyes
58. Fructose
59. Garlic
60. Giblets
61. Glucose
62. Gluten
63. Guar gum
64. Herring meal
65. Lamb by-product meal
66. Lamb digest
67. Lamb meal
68. Maize gluten feed
69. Malt extract
70. Meal
71. Meat and bone meal
72. Meat by-product meal
73. Meat by-products
74. Meat digest
75. Meat meal
76. Menadione or Menadione sodium bisulfate
vitamin K3
77. Menhaden oil
78. Millet
79. Molasses
80. MSG
81. Nitrates
82. Nitrites
83. Oat hulls
84. Oatmeal
85. Pea fibre
86. Peanut hulls
87. Phosphoric acid
88. Potatoes
89. Poultry

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 90. Poultry by-product meal | 118.Sulfate |
| 91. Poultry by-products | 119.Sunflower oil |
| 92. Poultry digest | 120.Sweet potatoes |
| 93. Poultry fat | 121.Syrup |
| 94. Poultry meal | 122.Tallow |
| 95. Powdered cellulose | 123.Tapioca |
| 96. Propyl gallate | 124.TBHQ |
| 97. Propylene Glycol | 125.Tetrasodium pyrophosphate |
| 98. Red #3 and #40 | 126.Titanium Dioxide |
| 99. Red lentils | 127.Turkey by-product meal |
| 100.Rendered fat | 128.Turkey by-products |
| 101.Rice bran | 129.Turkey digest |
| 102.Rice, white rice, brown rice** | 130.Turkey meal |
| 103.Salmon by-products | 131.Vegetable oil |
| 104.Salmon meal | 132.Venison by-product meal |
| 105.Salt (added salt) | 133.Venison by-products |
| 106.Sodium chloride | 134.Venison meal |
| 107.Sodium nitrite | 135.Wheat ** |
| 108.Sodium selenite | 136.Wheat flour** |
| 109.Sodium Tripolyphosphate (STPP) | 137.Wheat gluten meal** |
| 110.Sorbitol | 138.Wheat gluten** |
| 111.Sorghum | 139.Wheat middlings |
| 112.Soy | 140.White Flour |
| 113.Soy Flour | 141.Whole grain corn |
| 114.Soybean meal | 142.Wild rice |
| 115.Soybeans | 143.Xanthan gum |
| 116.Sucrose | 144.Xylitol |
| 117.Sugar | 145.Yellow #5 and #6 |

** limited food value to dogs






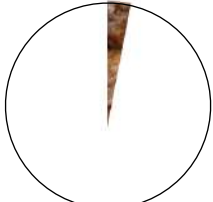

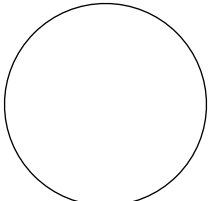
Dog food: pick this, not that

Pick this 	Not that 
Food that contains real meats - will be labelled simply, "chicken" "beef" "salmon, etc.	Any meat product that's just "meat," not the specific type of meat.
	By-products, whether it's a named meat or just a generic.
Potato or sweet potato as a filler in the top 5 ingredients is acceptable; one or the other.	Corn in the top 5 ingredients.
Carbs including oatmeal, rice, millet. Again just one in the top 5 ingredients.	Brewers rice.
Food which contains grain, but not in the top 5.	Food with leftovers like corn bran, oat hulls, rice hulls, peanut hulls, cellulose. Mill run.
	Beef tallow.
Chicken fat or beef fat - a named source of fat.	Animal fat.
	Animal digest.
	Food colouring, especially yellow 5 and yellow 6.
	Hydrochloric acid.
Named meat meal, like chicken meal, beef meal.	"Meat" meal, without naming what kind of meat. By-product meal, named or not.
	Sugar, including molasses, corn syrup, sorbitol, propylene glycol, xylitol.

Avoid this

- Corn and wheat gluten.
- Meat and grain meals and by-products.
- BHA (Butylated Hydroxyanisole).
- BHT (Butylated Hydroxytoluene).
- Ethoxyquin.
- Food Dyes (Blue 2, Red 40, Yellow 5 and 6, 4-MIE).
- PG (Propylene Glycol).
- Rendered fat.

Dog food naming rules

Rule or Guideline	What it really means	Worst case scenario	What to watch for	
The 95% rule	The food must be made up of at least 95% of what's named.	Food is 95% chicken for example, but what parts of the chicken?	Word "Food" Beef dog food = 95% beef.	  <p>Beef - with no other description = 95% beef</p>
The 25% or "dinner" rule	The meat that's named has to make up just 25% of the food.	Turkey dinner = 25% turkey meat and 75% other.	Any descriptors like dinner, entree, feast, platter, nuggets, formula.	  <p>Beef - plus a descriptor like Dinner or Meal = 25% beef</p>
	Meat + something else like rice, must be 25% of the food <i>together</i> .	Rice & Lamb Feast could be 1% lamb, 24% rice and 75% "other" ingredients.		
The 3% or "with" rule	Anything named after the word "with" is only 3% of the food	Dog dinner with liver = 3% liver, 97% "other ingredients"	"with" or "plus"	  <p>Dinner or Meal with Beef = 3% beef</p>
The "flavor" rule	A 'noticeable' amount to imbue flavor	Beef flavor dog food = just enough beef to give some flavor, according to trained tester dogs.	"flavor"	  <p>Beef Dinner or Meal with Beef flavour = less than 1% beef</p>

Limited ingredient dog foods

These foods are made with fewer ingredients and usually have a single protein. Instead of a lot of additives and preservatives, the food will often have more carbohydrates, although not necessarily grains. As you might expect, these foods can be costlier than 'regular' foods on the market.






Benefits of limited ingredient foods:

- can reduce the possibility of triggering allergies.
- can avoid some specific health issues.
- can help you track down what ingredients might have an adverse affect on your Morkie.

These limited ingredient dog foods:

- contain no fillers.
- are generally hypoallergenic.
- contain better and higher quality ingredients.

Five recommendations: based on a limited-ingredient diet.

				
Merrick Limited Ingredient Diet	Wellness Simple Limited Ingredient Diet	Instinct Limited Ingredient Dry Dog Food	Natural Balance Limited Ingredients	BLUE Basics
<p>Many flavors to choose from</p> <p>Single source of animal protein</p> <p>Contains Omega-6 and Omega-3</p> <p>Includes Glucosamine and Chondroitin</p>	<p>Single protein source</p> <p>Gluten and wheat free</p> <p>Only natural ingredients</p> <p>Made in USA</p> <p>Probiotics and prebiotics included</p>	<p>Protein from raw</p> <p>Easy to digest</p> <p>Made in USA</p>	<p>For puppies and adults</p> <p>Single protein source</p> <p>Canola oil delivers Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids</p> <p>Uses a superior brown rice</p>	<p>Single animal protein source</p> <p>Includes pumpkin and pea fiber</p> <p>Grain and gluten free</p>

CORE VACCINES

Vaccine	Minimum Duration of Immunity ¹		Legal Requirement	AAHA Guidelines	What Your Dog Really Needs
	Challenge ²	Serology ³			
Rabies	3 years	7 years	In most US states, 1 year after initial vaccination, then every 3 years. Check your state's requirement's here .	1 year vaccine at 12 weeks or older; 3 year vaccine after one year and again every 3 years after that or according to legal requirement's in each state.	Legal requirement unless your dog qualifies for exemption (see state by state exemption rules here). Dog would likely be protected for life by the schedule below for other core vaccines.
Parvovirus (CPV-2)	7 years	7 years	None. Vaccination is at your discretion.	Puppies: Every 3-4 weeks between 6 and 16 weeks; then 1 year booster, then every 3 years or more. Adults: 1 vaccination after 16 weeks, then every 3 years or more.	Puppies: 1 vaccination at 16 weeks Titer 3 weeks after With positive titer, dog is likely protected for life Adults: 1 vaccination as an adult likely provides lifetime protection. Titer if needed.
Distemper (CDV)	7 years	15 years			
Adenovirus (CAV-2)	7 years	9 years			
¹ Studies by Ronald D Schultz PhD ² Challenge means immunity is proven by exposure to the disease ³ Serology means immunity is proven by high levels of protective antibody					

NON-CORE VACCINES

	How Long It Lasts	AAHA Guidelines	Issues With The Vaccine
Bordetella (vaccinated)	Duration of immunity is 9 months (by challenge) to 1 year (by serology).	Puppies: 8 weeks and 12 weeks Adults: two doses 2-4 weeks apart. Then annually – or more, for “high risk animals”	Most of 40 bordetella agents are not covered by vaccine; dogs shed vaccine and spread disease. Dr Schultz says “Kennel cough is not a vaccinatable disease”
Bordetella (intranasal)	Single dose, then annually or more.		
Lyme Disease	Study shows 1 year by challenge.	Only for use in dogs with known risk of exposure. Puppies: minimum 12 weeks old then 2-4 weeks later Adults: two doses 2-4 weeks apart. Then annually, or at beginning of tick season.	Ineffective and high risk vaccine. Long term side effects may include Lyme-like symptoms, rheumatoid arthritis and kidney disease. Lyme vaccine for humans was withdrawn due to high adverse effect risk!
Leptospirosis 4-way	According to Dr Schultz, leptovaccine offers very short term immunity (as little as 3 months) so may be needed 4 times a year to provide protection.	Only use based on known geographic incidence of leptovaccine and exposure risk of the dog. Puppies: minimum 12 weeks old with another 2-4 weeks later. Adults: two doses, 2-4 weeks apart Then annually for dogs “with a reasonable risk of exposure”	Covers only 4 of over 200 types of leptovaccine. Highest rate of adverse reactions of any vaccine. Efficacy shown as less than 70%. Side effects are often severe and some are fatal. Vaccination does not protect against leptovaccine in the urine which means vaccinated dogs can spread leptovaccine to humans.

Canine Vaccinations: decoding the names

Abbreviation	Fights against	Comments
D	Distemper	Leading cause of death in dogs.
A, A2 or H	Adenovirus	Two strains of Adenovirus: Hepatitis (type 1), which is a disease of the liver, and Respiratory (type 2), which can contribute to Kennel Cough. Adenovirus type 2 is used to make vaccines, and it protects against both strains.
P	Canine Parvovirus	Death rate of 90% if not treated.
PV, Pv, CPV	Canine Parainfluenza	Mild respiratory virus.
CV, CvK	Coronavirus	Intestinal disease; puppies at the greatest risk.
L2, 4L, L4	Leptospirosis	Bacterial disease in the liver and kidneys.
M	Measles	Closely related to canine distemper.
B, Bb	Bordatella	Highly contagious respiratory disease.

Combination Shots

DHP or DAP	distemper, hepatitis (canine adenovirus type 2), parvovirus.
Intranasal 3-way	bordatella, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), canine parainfluenza.
DHPP	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), parvovirus, parainfluenza. <i>also called (DHLPP) (DA2PP) (DA2P/CPV)</i>
DHPP-L	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), parvovirus, parainfluenza. plus Leptospirosis
DHPP-C	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), parvovirus, parainfluenza plus coronavirus. <i>also called (DA2PPV-C)</i>
DA2PP-L	distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus, parainfluenza plus leptospirosis.
DA2PP-C	distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus, parainfluenza plus coronavirus.
DA2PPV-L	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), parvovirus, and parainfluenza plus leptospirosis.
DA2PPL	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), parvovirus, parainfluenza, plus leptospirosis.
DA2PPV-L-C	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), parvovirus, and parainfluenza plus leptospirosis and coronavirus.
DHLPPC	distemper, hepatitis (Adenovirus type 2), leptospirosis, parvovirus, parainfluenza, and corona.

Flea and tick fighting treatments

These products are designed with heavy duty insecticides, to kills ticks and fleas. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has already warned consumers that pet spot-on products can be **dangerous for dogs under 20 pounds.**³

“small breed dogs were affected more than larger breeds for some products”

Other findings of the FDA:

- better reporting is needed to track harmful ingredients
- labels on these products need to be better - for all size dogs
- more size ranges in the treatment medication is needed - to suit the varied sizes of dogs
- changes must be made in how spot-on products are regulated

The safest use of dog and cat spot-on products is to simply not use them at all.
There are safer effective alternatives to chemical pesticides to help control fleas and ticks on your pet.

- Dr. Karen Becker
www.healthypets.mercola.com











Three more reasons to avoid using these products on your Morkie:

- Most adverse reactions were seen in dogs weighing **between 10 and 20 pounds.**
- Reactions in mixed breed dogs were most commonly reported, however, the Chihuahua, Shih Tzu, Miniature Poodle, Pomeranian, Dachshund, **Maltese, Yorkshire terrier** and Bichon Frise seem particularly at risk.
- Products containing cyphenothrin and permethrin were especially problematic for **small breed dogs.**⁴

³ <https://www.epa.gov/pets/epa-evaluation-pet-spot-products-analysis-and-plans-reducing-harmful-effects>

⁴ <https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2012/02/29/spot-on-package-labeling-for-pet-products.aspx>

Suspect chemicals in tick & flea treatments, by brand

Imidacloprid	Fipronil	Pyrethrins and pyrethroids, Permethrin	Amitraz	Fluralaner	Afoxolaner
lethargy, difficulty breathing, trembling, spasms, anemia, loss of ability to move.	lethargy, skin irritation, dilated pupils, convulsions, thyroid toxicity, liver and kidney damage, potential cancer trigger	vomiting, seizures, heart failure, brain damage, hormone disruption	slow heart rate, low body temperature, high blood sugar levels; severe depression	vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea, seizures, death	vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea, seizures, death
K9 Adventix® II K9 Advantage® II Seresto® Flea and Tick collars	Frontline® Plus FiproGuard™ PetArmor®	BioSpot® Active Care Spot On for Dogs (etofenprox) K9 Adventix®	virbac petcare Preventic® tick collars	Bravecto	Nexgard®
 	  	 			

Stopping fleas and ticks in their tracks

Natural Lemon Flea Spray

- 1 organic lemon
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 1 sprig of garden sage
- 1 quart of filtered water
- Optional: a sprig of lavender



Cut the lemon into thin slices and add to a large bowl, together with the rosemary, and optional lavender. Add a quart of boiling water, and leave overnight to cool and settle. Then strain into a spray bottle. Safe to spray on your pets and bedding, furniture. Refrigerate after use. Lasts 1 - 2 weeks.

Magic Tick and Flea Fighting Dust

- 1 cup FOOD GRADE Diatomaceous Earth or DE
- 1/2 cup Neem Powder
- 1/2 cup Yarrow Powder
- 20 Drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil



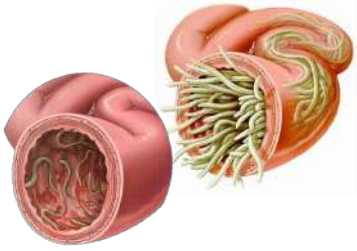
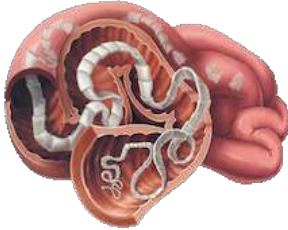

Mix everything together and put in a simple shaker jar. To use it dry with a powder applicator or a jar, you'll need about 1 pound per 500 square feet of lawn. You can also mix it up as a paste and apply it with a hose-end sprayer, using 2 tablespoons per gallon of water. Reapply at least once a month for best results.

Ingredients are available online from Amazon, or in health food stores and many drugstores.

- **Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth or DE.** This is made from sedimentary mineral rock and contains the important trace metal silica. It's very important that you pick FOOD GRADE, not the DE that's for pool filters.
- **Neem Powder** is ground from the bark, seeds, leaves and flowers of the Neem Tree. It's been used for centuries as a general cure-all in Indian medicine. Drugs.com notes that neem leaves have been used to treat worm infections, leprosy and ulcers, and for heart disease.
- **Yarrow Powder** is made from the the common weed yarrow, native to most of the Northern Hemisphere. It is used as a herbal treatment for many things, such as fever, cough, the common cold, diarrhea, skin allergies and more. It's often used in "natural" shampoos.
- You'll find **Eucalyptus Essential Oil** at almost any health food store. It's thought to be stimulating, healing and regenerating, and it repels pests. This is the same Eucalyptus Oil used in aromatherapy.

Apply the mixture directly on your dog; use in your yard and in your home to protect you, your family and your Morkie from ticks and fleas.

Worms and your Morkie

Hookworm and Roundworm	Tapeworm	Ringworm
		
<p>Hookworms suck the blood of their hosts; usually spread in feces or during pregnancy or nursing. Roundworm eggs are very resilient; puppies get roundworm from their mothers.</p>	<p>Segmented worms, carried by fleas and then passed along to animals and people.</p>	<p>Not actually a worm; a skin infection caused by fungus</p>
<p>In humans: hookworm infection can cause painful and itchy skin infections. Roundworm infections may cause nerve or eye damage. Roundworms consume the host's food; very heavy infections can lead to pneumonia as the worms migrate and, if there are enough worms, the intestine can actually become obstructed.</p>	<p>Tapeworms attach themselves to the intestine, absorbing important nutrients. Segments may show up in stool or around the anal area on a pet or human -- look a little like grains of rice.</p>	<p>In humans: round, red lesion with ring-like appearance. Other outbreaks of ringworm include athlete's foot or thick, discoloured and brittle nails (esp. feet)</p>
<p>In dogs: infection causes diarrhea, weakness, malnutrition. Either worm can be fatal to puppies.</p>	<p>Not many symptoms but can cause weakness, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hunger and weight loss.</p>	<p>In dogs: dry, scaly patch. Sometimes no symptoms.</p>
<p>These intestinal parasites are passed through feces and through the mother dog to puppies.</p>	<p>Most human tapeworm infections are a result of eating contaminated meats. However, children can pick up tapeworms from cats and dogs.</p>	<p>Dogs come into contact with fungus spores; people touch dogs and catch it.</p>
<p>See your Vet for medication for your Morkie; these worms are serious. People: see your doctor.</p>	<p>See your doctor for medication and get your Morkie treated by the Vet.</p>	<p>Treat animals with shampoos, ointments. People: over the counter anti-fungals.</p>
<p>Don't walk barefoot or garden in areas with bare hands. Teach children to always wash their hands after touching a dog or cat. Have your dog dewormed by the Vet.</p>	<p>Control fleas. Get your dog treated right away if you see signs of tapeworms. Clean up feces right way and keep kids away from areas that aren't cleaned up. Have your child wash well.</p>	<p>Wash bedding often; keep skin clean and dry. Get pets and people treated to stop the spread.</p>

Protect your family from parasites

Great hygiene is your biggest protection from cross-over parasites that your pets can pick up. Here are some specific tips.



1. Wash your hands well, especially after gardening, or touching raw meat.
2. Eat meat that is well-cooked. Get into the habit of using a meat thermometer to confirm the interior temperature.
3. Wash produce - all fruits and vegetables — well in a Certified Organic cleaner such as Veggie Wash Organic Fruit and Vegetable Wash or Fit Organic Produce Wash. Even lettuce and spinach can be contaminated, often with E. coli infections. Salmonella can lurk not he skin of melons.
4. Wear rubber gloves, and still wash your hands very well after changing the kitty litter box.
5. Watch your babies and toddlers who are on the ground; don't let them eat dirt or put dirty hands in their mouth.
6. Watch for signs of parasites in your pets
7. Clean up dog and cat poop just as soon as it's been left.
8. Cover sandboxes and play areas outside to keep wildlife from contaminating these areas. Wash well after any contact with a sandbox.
9. Have your pets tested at least once a year for parasites.
10. Follow your Vet's instructions carefully to deworm your dog or cat.
11. Wear shoes whenever you are outside; this includes wearing sandals at the beach.
12. Carefully clean kitchen tools like knives and cutting boards. Disinfect counters, sponges and dish cloths.

Common parasites that attack dogs

EXTERNAL

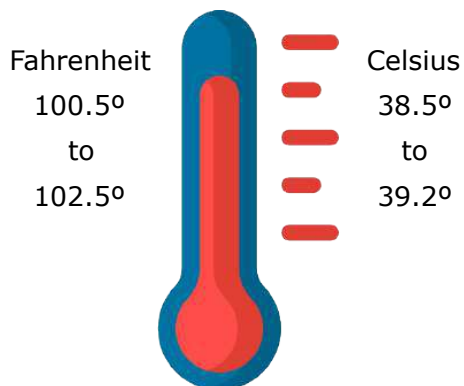
- **ticks** are increasingly dangerous as diseases like Lyme, spread by ticks, become more common. Both people and animals can be bitten by a tick. Ticks carry a number of other diseases as well as bacteria.
- **fleas** can bite both animals and people, leaving hot, itchy skin and potential infection.
- **ear mites** are barely visible without a microscope. They most often attack cats, but can be found in dogs. Symptoms include itchy inflamed ears, and brown ear wax. Not considered a risk to humans.
- **mange or canine demodicosis** - microscope mites that live on your dog's skin, causing irritation and hair loss. Common in younger animals. Not transferable to humans.
- **scabies** is another condition where microscopic mites have burrowed into your dog's skin, causing hair loss and scabs. Also called sarcoptic mange. This disease can be passed along to people.

INTERNAL

- **roundworms** - the most common type of worms found in dogs. Often seen in puppies (look for a distended belly). This parasites can cause significant harm to humans, including eye, lung, heart and neurologic damage.
- **hookworms** attach themselves to your dog's intestinal wall, syphoning off blood. They're a serious threat to dogs, and some varieties of hookworms can infect people.
- **tapeworms** - these long, flat, segmented worms steal the host's nutrition. Certain, very rare tapeworms found in dogs and cats can cause serious infections in people. These varieties are not found in North America. Control fleas to control tapeworm.
- **whipworms** - a mild case of whipworms might not generate any symptoms. However, a severe case can cause bloody diarrhea, and ultimately, death.
- **heartworms** - can be caught by both dogs and cats. Some dogs can live a healthy life with no symptoms, while others suffer from organ damage and heart failure.
- **giardia** - a single cell parasite that can live in your dogs intestines. Mostly comes from water that's been infected by wildlife. People can get this, but rarely from dogs.
- **coccidia** - another single-cell parasite, this one mostly attacks puppies. The symptoms include diarrhea and bloody diarrhea. Eventually, the host for this parasite can die.

Quick reference: dog emergency

A dog's normal temperature range



Your dog's regular temperature

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

Temperature when ill

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

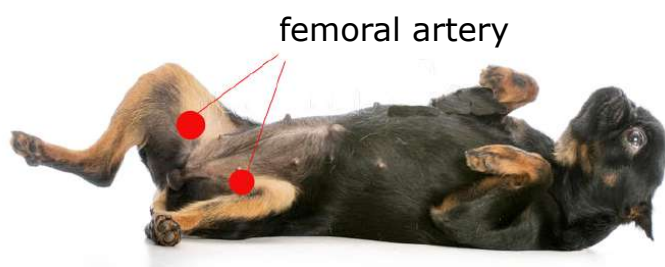
Dog's normal pulse rate



140 - 180 beats per minute

35 - 45 beats per 15 seconds

Where to take the pulse:



Your dog's regular pulse rate

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

OUR VET

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

Pulse when ill

date: _____ temperature: _____

date: _____ temperature: _____

Poisonous Foods and not-so-good foods for your Morkie

Alcohol

Apple seeds and the core

Apricot pits

Avocados - possibly caused by an allergic reaction in some dogs

Baby food - often loaded with onion powder

Bones from fish, poultry, or other meat sources

Broccoli - in large quantities

Chocolate, particularly dark chocolate. Can be deadly for Morkies

Coffee, sodas, teas and other caffeinated beverages

Corn on the cob

Fat trimmings - can cause pancreatic illness

Figs

Garlic - in large doses

Grapes and Raisins - just 7 grapes could kill a Morkie!

Green and/or sprouted potatoes

Green tomatoes, leaves and stems

Heavy spices, salts and peppers

Hops - found in beer

Human vitamins

Liver - in large quantities

Macadamia nuts

Marijuana/hemp

Milk and dairy products for lactose-intolerant dogs

Moldy food including blue cheeses

Mushrooms

Nutmeg

Onion Powder

Onions, particularly raw onions

Persimmons, peaches, and plums - Fruit Toxins

Raw or undercooked chicken*

Raw or undercooked eggs*

Raw or undercooked fish*

Raw or undercooked hamburger*

Rhubarb Leaves

Salt: In large quantities

Seeds and pits of fruits

Spoiled foods

Sugary foods

Tea

Tobacco

Uncooked yeast dough

Walnuts

Xylitol, an artificial sweetener often found in gum

* Raw foods are listed here as dangerous, but do your own homework on the RAW food diet and its pros and cons

more: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_health#Dangerous_foods

Plants Toxic to Dogs

Click on the orange name to bring up a picture online; in brackets, other common names for same plant.

[Adam-and-Eve](#) (Arum, Lord-and-Ladies, Wake Robin, Starch Root, Bobbins, Cuckoo Plant)
[African Wonder Tree](#)
[Alocasia](#) (Elephant's Ear)
[Aloe](#) Aloe vera
[Amaryllis](#) (Many, including: Belladonna lily, Saint Joseph lily, Cape Belladonna, Naked Lady)
[Ambrosia Mexicana](#) (Jerusalem Oak, Feather Geranium)
[American Bittersweet](#) (Bittersweet, Waxwork, Shrubby Bittersweet, False Bittersweet, Climbing Bittersweet)
[American Holly](#) (English Holly, European Holly, Oregon Holly, Inkberry, Winterberry)
[American Mandrake](#) (Mayapple, Indian Apple Root, Umbrella Leaf, Wild Lemon, Hog Apple, Raccoonberry)
[American Yew](#) (Canada Yew, Canadian Yew)
[Andromeda Japonica](#) (Pieris, Lily-of-the-Valley Bush)
[Angelica Tree](#) (Hercules' Club, Devil's Walking Stick, Prickly Ash, Prickly Elder)
[Apple](#) (Includes crabapples)
[Apricot](#) (Group also includes Plum, Peach, Cherry)
[Arrow-Head Vine](#) (Nephthytis, Green Gold Naphthysis, African Evergreen, Trileaf Wonder)
[Arum](#) (Cuckoo-pint, Lord-and-Ladies, Adam-and-Eve, Starch Root, Bobbins, Wake Robin)
[Arum Lily](#) (Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Florist's Calla, Garden Calla)
[Australian Ivy Palm](#) (Schefflera, Umbrella Tree, Octopus Tree, Starleaf)
[Australian Nut](#) (Macadamia Nut, Queensland Nut)
[Autumn Crocus](#) (Meadow Saffron)
[Azalea](#) (Rosebay, Rhododendron)

[Baby Doll Ti Plant](#) (Ti-Plant, Good-Luck Plant, Hawaiian Ti Plant)
[Barbados Aloe](#) (Medicine Plant, True Aloe)
[Barbados Lily](#) (Amaryllis, Fire Lily, Lily of the Palace, Ridderstjerne)
[Barbados Pride](#) (Peacock Flower, Dwarf Poinciana, Bird of Paradise, Poinciana, Brazilwood)
[Bay Laurel](#) (Sweet Bag, Bay Tree, Tree Laurel, Laurel Tree, Laurel)
[Bead Tree](#) (China Ball Tree, Paradise Tree, Persian Lilac, White Cedar, Texas Umbrella Tree, Chinaberry)
[Begonia](#) (Over 1,000 species and 10,000 hybrids)
[Bergamot Orange](#) (Bergamot, Citrus bergamia)
[Bird of Paradise](#) (Peacock Flower, Barbados Pride, Poinciana, Crane Flower, Bird's Tongue)
[Bishop's Weed](#) (Greater Ammi, False Queen Anne's Lace)
[Bitter Root](#) (Dogbane Hemp, Indian Hemp)
[Black Calla](#) (Solomon's Lily, Wild Calla, Wild Arum)
[Black Cherry](#)
[Black Laurel](#) (Dog Hobble, Dog Laurel, Fetter Bush, Sierra Laurel)
[Black Nightshade](#) (Nightshade, Deadly Nightshade)
[Black Walnut](#)
[Bobbins](#) (Arum, Lord-and-Ladies, Adam-and-Eve, Starch Root, Wake Robin, Cuckoo Plant)
[Bog Laurel](#) (Pale Laurel, Bog Kalmia)
[Borage](#) (Starflower)
[Boxwood](#)
[Branching Ivy](#) (English Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy)
[Brazilwood](#) (Bird of Paradise, Poinciana, Barbados Pride)
[Bread and Butter Plant](#) (Indian Borage, Spanish Thyme, Coleus, Maratha, Militini, East Indian Thyme)

Brunfelsia (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Kiss-Me-Quick, Lady-of-the-Night, Fransiscan Rain Tree)
Buckeye (Horse Chestnut)
Buckwheat
Buddhist Pine (Yew Pine, Japanese Yew, Southern Yew, Podocarpus)
Burning Bush (Wahoo, Spindle Tree)
Buttercup (Butter Cress, Figwort)
Butterfly Iris (Spuria Iris)

Caladium (Malanga, Elephant's Ears, Stoplight, Seagull, Mother-in-law Plant, Pink Cloud, Texas Wonder, Angel-Wings, Exposition, Candidum, Fancy-leaved Caladium)
Calamondin Orange
California Ivy (Branching Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, English Ivy)
Calla Lily (Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Florist's Calla, Garden Calla, Arum Lily)
Cape Jasmine (Gardenia)
Caraway (Meridian Fennel, Persian Cumin)
Cardboard Cycad
Cardboard Palm (cycads and zamias)
Cardinal Flower (Lobelia, Indian Pink)
Carnation (Pinks, Wild Carnation, Sweet William)
Castor Bean Plant (Castor Oil Plant, Mole Bean Plant, African Wonder Tree, Castor Bean)
Ceriman (Cutleaf Philodendron, Hurricane Plant, Swiss Cheese Plant, Mexican Breadfruit)
Chamomile (Manzanilla, Garden Chamomile, Roman Chamomile, True Chamomile, Corn Feverfew, Barnyard Daisy, Ground-apple, Turkey-weed)
Chandelier Plant (Mother-In-Law-Plant, Kalanchoe, Devils Backbone, Mother of Millions)
Charming Dieffenbachia
Cherry Chinaberry Tree (Bead Tree, China Ball Tree, Paradise Tree, Persian Lilac, White Cedar, Japanese Bead Tree, Texas Umbrella Tree, Pride-of-India)
Chinese Evergreen
Chinese Jade (Silver Jade Plant, Silver Dollar)
Chives
Choke Cherry
Christmas Rose (Hellebore, Lenten Rose, Easter Rose)
Chrysanthemum (Daisy, Mum; many varieties)
Clematis (Virgin's Bower, Leatherflower)
Climbing Bittersweet (Bittersweet, Waxwork, Shrubby Bittersweet, False Bittersweet, Climbing Bittersweet, American Bittersweet)
Climbing Lily (Gloriosa Lily, Glory Lily, Superb Lily)
Climbing Nightshade (European Bittersweet, Deadly Nightshade, Violet Bloom, Blue Nightshade, Soda Apple, Poisonous Nightshade, Felonwort, Devil's Apple, Scarlet Berry, Woody Nightshade, Blue Blindweed)
Clivia Lily (Kaffir Lily, Clivies, Caffre Lily, Cape Clivia, Klivia)
Coffee Tree (Wild Coffee, Geranium-Leaf Aralia)
Coleus (Indian Borage, Bread and Butter Plant, Spanish Thyme, East Indian Thyme, Stinging Thyme, many others)
Common Privet (Privet, Amur, Wax-leaf)
Coontie Palm (Sago Palm, Cardboard Palm, cycads and zamias)
Cordatum (Fiddle-Leaf, Horsehead Philodendron, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf)
Corn Plant (Corn Plant, Cornstalk Plant, Dracaena, Dragon Tree, Ribbon Plant)
Cornstalk Plant (Corn Plant, Dracaena, Dragon Tree, Ribbon Plant)
Cow parsnip (Giant Hogweed)
Cowbane (Water Hemlock, Poison Parsnip)
Cuckoo-pint (Arum, Lord-and-Ladies, Adam-and-Eve, Starch Root, Bobbins, Wake Robin)

Cutleaf Philodendron (Hurricane Plant, Swiss Cheese Plant, Ceriman, Mexican Breadfruit, Split-leaf Philodendron, Window Leaf Plant)
Cyclamen (Sowbread)
Daffodil (Narcissus, Jonquil, Paper White)
Dahlia (Many varieties)
Daisy (Chrysanthemum, Mum)
Deadly Nightshade (Nightshade, Black Nightshade, European Bittersweet, Climbing Nightshade)
Desert Azalea or **Desert Rose** (Desert Rose, Mock Azalea, Sabi Star, Impala Lily, Kudu Lily)
Devil's Backbone (Mother-In-Law-Plant, Kalanchoe, Chandelier Plant, Mother of Millions)
Devils Ivy (Pothos, Golden Pothos, Taro Vine, Ivy Arum)
Dieffenbachia (Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Tropic Snow, Dumb Cane, Exotica, Spotted Dumb Cane, Exotica Perfection)
Dock (Sorrel)
Dog Daisy (Dog Fennel)
Dog Hobble (Dog Laurel, Fetter Bush, Black Laurel)
Dogbane Hemp (Bitterroot, Indian Hemp)
Dracaena (Corn Plant, Cornstalk Plant, Dragon Tree, Ribbon Plant)
Dumb Cane (Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Tropic Snow, Exotica, Spotted Dumb Cane, Exotica Perfection, Dieffenbachia)
Dwarf Poinciana (Barbados Pride, Peacock Flower)

Easter Rose (Hellebore, Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose)
Eastern Star Elephant Ears (Caladium, Malanga)
Elephant Ears (Caladium, Taro, Pai, Ape, Cape, Via, Via sori, Malanga)
Elephant-Ear Begonia
Emerald Feather (Emerald Fern, Asparagus, Asparagus fern, Sprengeri fern, Plumosa fern, Lace fern, Racemose asparagus, Shatavari)
English Holly (European Holly, Oregon Holly, Inkberry, Winterberry, American Holly)
English Ivy (Branching Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy)
English Yew (Western Yew, Pacific Yew, Japanese Yew, Anglo-Japanese Yew)
Epazote (Wormseed, Jusuist's Tea, Mexican Tea, Paico)
Eucalyptus (Many cultivars)
European Bittersweet (Climbing Nightshade, Deadly Nightshade)
European Holly (European Holly, Oregon Holly, Inkberry, Winterberry, American Holly, English Holly)
Everlasting Pea (Sweet Pea, Perennial Pea)
Exotica (Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Tropic Snow, Dumb Cane, Spotted Dumb Cane, Exotica Perfection, Dieffenbachia)

False Bittersweet (American Bittersweet)
False Queen Anne's Lace (Bishop's Weed, Greater Ammi)
Feather Geranium (Jerusalem Oak, Ambrosia Mexicana)
Fern Palm (Sago Palm, Cycads)
Fetter Bush (Dog Laurel, Dog Hobble, Black Laurel)
Fetterbush (Staggerberry, Maleberry)
Fiddle-Leaf (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf)
Fig (Weeping Fig, Indian Rubber Plant)
Figwort (Buttercup, Butter Cress, Burwort, Crowfoot burwort)
Fire Lily (Amaryllis, Barbados Lily, Lily of the Palace, Ridderstjerne)
Flag (Iris, Snake Lily, Water Flag)
Flamingo Flower (Flamingo Lily, Tail Flower, Oilcloth Flower, Pigtail Plant, Painter's Palette)
Fleabane (Showy Daisy, Horseweed, Seaside Daisy)

Florida Beauty (Gold Dust Dracaena, Spotted Dracaena)
Florist's Calla (Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Arum Lily, Garden Calla, Arum Lily)
Foxglove
Franciscan Rain Tree (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Lady-of-the-Night, Morning-Noon-and-Night, Kiss-Me-Quick)

Garden Calla (Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Florist's Calla, Arum Lily)
Garden Chamomile (Chamomile, Ground Apple, Roman Chamomile)
Garden Hyacinth (Hyacinth)
Gardenia (Cape Jasmine)
Garlic (Stinking Rose, Rustic Treacle, Camphor of the Poor, Nectar of the Gods, Serpent Garlic, Rocambole)
Geranium (Many cultivars)
Geranium-Leaf Aralia (Wild Coffee, Coffee Tree)
Giant Dracaena (Palm Lily, Grass Palm)
Giant Dumb Cane (Charming Dieffenbachia, Tropic Snow, Exotica, Spotted Dumb Cane, Dieffenbachia)
Giant Hogweed (Cow Parsnip)
Glacier Ivy (English Ivy, Branching Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy)
Gladiola (Many cultivars)
Gloriosa Lily (Glory Lily, Climbing Lily, Superb Lily)
Gold Dieffenbachia
Gold Dust Dracaena (Florida Beauty)
Golden Birds Nest (Snake Plant, Mother-in-Law's Tongue, Good Luck Plant)
Golden Pothos (Pothos, Devil's Ivy, Taro Vine, Ivy Arum)
Golden Ragwort (Ragwort)
Good Luck Plant (Shamrock Plant, Sorrel)
Grapefruit
Grass Palm (Giant Dracaena, Palm Lily)
Greater Ammi (Bishop's Weed, False Queen Anne's Lace)
Green Gold Naphthysis (Nephthytis, Arrow-Head Vine)
Ground Apple (Chamomile, Garden Chamomile, Roman Chamomile)
Groundsel (Ragwort, Senecio)

Hahn's Self Branching English Ivy (Branching Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy, English Ivy)
Hashish (Marijuana, Indian Hemp)
Hawaiian Ti (Snake Plant, Giant Dracaena)
Heartleaf Philodendron (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Fiddle-Leaf, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf)
Heavenly Bamboo (Sacred Bamboo, Nandina)
Hellebore (Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose, Easter Rose)
Hercules' Club (Angelica Tree, Devil's Walking Stick, Prickly Ash, Prickly Elder)
Hills of Snow (Hydrangea, Hortensia, Seven Bark)
Holly (English Holly, European Holly, Oregon Holly, Inkberry, Winterberry, American Holly)
HopsHorse Chestnut (Buckeye)
Horsehead Philodendron (Fiddle-Leaf, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf)
Horseweed (Showy Daisy, Fleabane, Seaside Daisy)
Hortensia (Hydrangea, Hills of Snow, Seven Bark)
Hosta (Plantain Lily, Funkia)
Hurricane Plant (Cut leaf Philodendron, Swiss Cheese Plant, Ceriman, Mexican Breadfruit)
Hyacinth
Hydrangea (Hortensia, Hills of Snow, Seven Bark)

Impala Lily (Desert Rose, Mock Azalea, Sabi Star, Desert Azalea, Kudu Lily)
Indian Apple (Mayapple, Indian Apple Root, Umbrella Leaf, Wild Lemon, Hog Apple, Duck's Foot, Raccoonberry, American Mandrake)
Indian Borage (Bread and Butter Plant, Spanish Thyme, Coleus, Maratha, Militini, East Indian Thyme)
Indian Hemp (Dogbane Hemp, Bitter Root)
Indian Hemp (Marijuana, Hashish)
Indian Pink (Lobelia, Cardinal Flower)
Indian Rubber Plant (Fig, Weeping Fig)
Inkberry (English Holly, European Holly, Oregon Holly, American Holly, Winterberry)
Iris (Flag, Snake Lily, Water Flag)
Iron Cross Begonia
Ivy Arum (Pothos, Golden Pothos, Taro Vine, Devil's Ivy)

Jack-in-the-pulpit (Three-leaved indian turnip, Devil's dear, Wake robin, Starch wort, Wild turnip, Dragon root, Bog onion, Pepper turnip, Brown dragon, Memory root)
Jade Plant (Baby Jade, Dwarf rubber plant, Jade tree, Chinese rubber plant, Japanese rubber plant)
Japanese Yew (English Yew, Western Yew, Pacific Yew, Anglo-Japanese Yew)
Jerusalem Cherry (Natal cherry, Winter cherry)
Jerusalem Oak (Feather Geranium, Ambrosia Mexicana)
Jonquil (Daffodil, Narcissus, Paper White)

Kaffir Lily (Clivia Lily)
Kalanchoe (Mother-In-Law-Plant, Devils Backbone, Chandelier Plant, Mother of Millions)
Kiss-me-quick (Lady-of-the-Night, Morning-Noon-and-Night, Franciscan Rain Tree)
Klamath Weed (St. John's Wort)
Kudu Lily (Desert Azalea, Mock Azalea, Sabi Star, Impala Lily, Desert Rose)

Lacy Tree Philodendron
Lady-of-the-night (Kiss-Me-Quick, Morning-Noon-and-Night, Franciscan Rain Tree)
Lambkill (Sheep Laurel)
Lantana (Shrub Verbena, Yellow Sage, Red Sage)
Larkspur
Laurel (Mountain laurel, Spoonwood, Mountain Ivy, Calico Bush, Ivy Bush)
Lavender (Common Lavender, English Lavender)
Leatherflower (Clematis, Virgin's Bower)
Leek (Elephant Garlic)
Lemon
Lemon Grass (Oil Grass)
Lemon Verbena (Lemon Beebrush)
Lenten Rose (Hellebore, Christmas Rose, Easter Rose)
Lily of the Palace (Amaryllis, Fire Lily, Barbados Lily, Ridderstjerne)
Lily of the Valley
Lily-of-the-Valley Bush (Andromeda Japonica, Pieris)
Lime
Lobelia (Cardinal Flower, Indian Pink)
Locust
Lord-and-Ladies (Arum, Wake Robin, Adam-and-Eve, Starch Root, Bobbins, Cuckoo Plant)
Lovage (Maggi plant, Smellage)

Macadamia Nut (Australia Nut, Queensland Nut)
Madagascar Dragon Tree

Maidens Breath (Baby's Breath)
Malanga (Caladium, Elephant's Ears)
Maleberry (Staggerbush, Fetterbush)
Mapleleaf Begonia
Marble Queen (Golden Pothos)
Marijuana (Indian Hemp, Hashish)
Marjoram (Knotted Marjoram, Pot Marjoram)
Mauna Loa Peace Lily (Peace Lily)
Mayapple (Indian Apple Root, Umbrella Leaf, Wild Lemon, Hog Apple, Duck's Foot, Raccoonberry, American Mandrake)
Mayweed (Poison Daisy, Stinking Chamomile)
Meadow Saffron (Autumn Crocus)
Medicine Plant (Aloe, True Aloe, Barbados Aloe)
Metallic Leaf Begonia
Mexican Breadfruit (Cutleaf Philodendron, Hurricane Plant, Swiss Cheese Plant, Ceriman, Split-leaf Philodendron, Window Leaf Plant)
Milfoil (Yarrow)
Milkweed
Mint (Garden Mint)
Mistletoe "American" (American Mistletoe)
Mock Azalea (Desert Rose, Desert Azalea, Sabi Star, Impala Lily, Kudu Lily)
Mole Bean Plant
Morning Glory
Morning-Noon-and-Night (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Kiss-Me-Quick, Lady-of-the-Night, Fransiscan Rain Tree)
Moss Rose (Wild Portulaca, Rock Moss, Purslane, Pigwee, Pusley)
Mother of Millions (Mother-In-Law-Plant, Kalanchoe, Devils Backbone, Chandelier Plant)
Mother-in-Law
Mother-In-Law Plant (Mother of Millions, Kalanchoe, Devils Backbone, Chandelier Plant)
Mother-in-Law's Tongue (Snake Plant, Golden Bird's Nest, Good Luck Plant)
Mum (Chrysanthemum, Daisy)

Naked Lady
Nandina (Sacred Bamboo, Heavenly Bamboo)
Narcissus (Daffodil, Jonquil, Paper White)
Nasturtium (Watercress) (Watercress, Brunnenkress)
Needlepoint Ivy (Branching Ivy, Glacier Ivy, English Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy)
Nephthytis (Arrow-Head Vine, Green Gold Naphthysis, African Evergreen, Trileaf Wonder)
Nicotiana (Tree Tobacco, Tobacco, Mustard Tree)
Nightshade (Deadly Nightshade, Black Nightshade)

Octopus Tree (Schefflera, Umbrella Tree, Australian Ivy Palm, Starleaf)
Oilcloth Flower (Flamingo Plant, Flamingo Lily, Tail Flower, Pigtail Plant, Flamingo Flower, Painter's Pallet)
Oleander (Rose-Bay)
Onion
Orange
Oregano (Greek Oregano)
Oregon Holly (English Holly, European Holly, Inkberry, American Holly, Winterberry)
Ornamental Pepper (Natal Cherry, Winter Cherry, Jerusalem Cherry)

Pacific Yew (English Yew, Western Yew, Japanese Yew, Anglo-Japanese Yew)
Painter's Palette (Flamingo Plant, Flamingo Lily, Tail Flower, Oilcloth Flower, Pigtail Plant, Flamingo Flower)

Palm Lily (Giant Dracaena, Grass palm)
Panda Plant (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf, Fiddle-leaf)
Paper White (Daffodil, Jonquil, Narcissus)
Paraguayan Jasmine (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Lady-of-the-Night, Morning-Noon-and-Night, Kiss-Me-Quick, Franciscan Rain Tree)
Parsley (Italian Parsley, Hamburg Parsley, Turnip-rooted Parsley)
Peace Begonia
Peace Lily (Mauna Loa Peace Lily)
Peach (Similar plants: Plum, Apricot, Cherry)
Peacock Flower (Barbados Pride, Dwarf Poinciana)
Pencil Cactus (Sticks of Fire)
Peony
Perennial Pea (Sweet Pea, Everlasting Pea)
Periwinkle (Running Myrtle, Vinca)
Philodendron Pertusum
Pie Plant (Rhubarb)
Pieris (Lily-of-the-Valley Bush, Andromeda Japonica, Fetterbush)
Pig Lily (Calla Lily, Arum Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Florist's Calla, Garden Calla)
Pigtail Plant (Flamingo Plant, Flamingo Lily, Tail Flower, Oilcloth Flower, Painter's Pallet, Flamingo Flower)
Pink Pearl
Pinks (Carnation, Wild Carnation, Sweet William)
Plantain Lily (Hosta)
Plum (similar plants: apricot, peach, cherry)
Poinciana (Peacock Flower, Bird of Paradise, Barbados Pride, Pride of Barbados)
Poinsettia
Poison Daisy (Mayweed, Stinking Chamomile)
Poison Hemlock (Poison Parsley, Spotted Hemlock, Winter Fern, California Fern, Nebraska Fern, Deadly Hemlock)
Poison Parsnip (water hemlock, cowbane)
Portulaca (Wild Portulaca, Rock Moss, Purslane, Pigwee, Pusley, Moss Rose)
Prayer Bean (Rosary Pea, Buddhist Rosary Bead, Indian Bead, Indian Licorice, Love Bean, Lucky Bean, Seminole Bead, Weather Plant, Precatory Bean)
Pride-of-India (China Ball Tree, Paradise Tree, Persian Lilac, White Cedar, Japanese Bead Tree, Texas Umbrella Tree, Bead Tree, Chinaberry Tree)
Primrose
Privet (amur, wax-leaf, common privet)
Purslane (Wild Portulaca, Rock Moss, Portulaca, Pigwee, Pusley, Moss Rose)

Queensland Nut (Macadamia Nut, Australia Nut)

Ragwort (Golden Ragwort, Tansy)
Ranger's Button (White Heads)
Red Emerald (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Fiddle Leaf, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf)
Red Princess (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Fiddle Leaf, Red Emerald, Saddle Leaf)
Red-Marginated Dracaena (straight-marginated dracaena)
Rex Begonia
Rhododendron (Rosebay, Azalea)
Rhubarb (Pie Plant)
Ribbon Plant (Corn Plant, Cornstalk Plant, Dracaena, Dragon Tree)
Ridderstjerne (Amaryllis, Fire Lily, Lily of the Palace, Barbados Lily)
Rock Moss (Wild Portulaca, Moss Rose, Purslane, Pigwee, Pusley)

Roman Chamomile (Chamomile, Garden Chamomile, Ground Apple)
Rosebay (Rhododendron, Azalea)
Running Myrtle (Periwinkle, Vinca)

Sabi Star (Desert Azalea, Mock Azalea, Desert Rose, Impala Lily, Kudu Lily)
Sacred Bamboo (Heavenly Bamboo, Nandina)
Saddle Leaf (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Fiddle Leaf)
Sago Palm (Coontie Palm, Cardboard Palm, cycads and zamias)
Satin Pothos (Silk Pothos)
Scented Geranium (Geraniums)
Schefflera (Umbrella Tree, Australian Ivy Palm, Octopus Tree, Starleaf)
Seaside Daisy (Showy Daisy, Horseweed, Fleabane)
Seven Bark (Hydrangea, Hortensia, Hills of Snow)
Shamrock Plant (Good Luck Plant, Sorrel)
Shatavari (Asparagus, Emerald Feather, Emerald Fern, Sprenger Fern, Plumosa Fern, Lace Fern, Racemose Asparagus)
Showy Daisy (Seaside Daisy, Horseweed, Fleabane)
Silver Dollar (Silver Jade Plant, Chinese Jade)
Silver Jade Plant (Chinese Jade, Silver Dollar)
Skunk Cabbage (Skunk Weed, Polecat Weed, Meadow Cabbage, Swamp Cabbage)
Snake Lilly (Iris, Flag, Water Flag)
Snake Plant (Golden Bird's Nest, Mother-in-Law's Tongue, Good Luck Plant)
Solomon's Lily (Black Calla, Wild Calla, Wild Arum)
Sorrel (Common Sorrel, Spinach-Dock, Narrow-leaved Dock, Garden sorrel)
Sowbread (Cyclamen)
Spanish Thyme (Indian Borage, Bread and Butter Plant, Coleus, East Indian Thyme, Stinging Thyme, Country Boarage; many others)
Spindle Tree (Wahoo, Burning Bush)
Split Leaf Philodendron (Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heart leaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Fiddle-Leaf, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf)
Spotted Dumb Cane (Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Tropic Snow, Dumb cane, Exotica, Exotica Perfection, Dieffenbachia)

Spring Parsley
St. John's Wort (Klamath Weed)
Staggerbush (Fetterbush, Maleberry)
Starch Root (Arum, Lord-and-Ladies, Adam-and-Eve, Wake Robin, Bobbins, Cuckoo Plant)
Starleaf (Schefflera, Umbrella Tree, Octopus Tree, Australian Ivy Palm)
Stinking Chamomile (Mayweed, Poison Daisy)
Straight-Margined Dracaena (red-margined dracaena)
Striped Dracaena (warneckii, Janet Craig Plant)
Superb Lily (Glory Lily, Climbing Lily, Gloriosa Lily)
Sweet Cherry
Sweet Pea (Perennial Pea, Everlasting Pea)
Sweet William (Carnation, Wild Carnation, Pinks)
Sweetheart Ivy (English Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Branching Ivy, California Ivy)
Swiss Cheese Plant (Cutleaf Philodendron, Hurricane Plant, Ceriman, Mexican Breadfruit)

Tahitian Bridal Veil (Gibasis Geniculata)
Tail Flower (Flamingo Plant, Flamingo Lily, Oilcloth Flower, Pigtail Plant, Painter's Pallet)
Taro (Caladium, Elephant Ears, Pai, Ape, Cape, Via, Via sori, Malanga)
Taro (Caladium, Elephant's Ears, Malanga)
Taro Vine (Golden Pothos, Devil's Ivy, Devil's Vine, Ivy Arum)
Tarragon (French Tarragon, Estragon)

Texas Umbrella Tree (China Ball Tree, Paradise Tree, Persian Lilac, White Cedar, Japanese Bead Tree, Bead Tree, Pride-of-India, Chinaberry Tree)
Ti-Plant (Baby Doll Ti Plant, Hawaiian Ti Plant)
Tobacco (Tree Tobacco, Nicotiana, Mustard Tree)
Tomato Plant
Tree Philodendron
Tree Tobacco (Nicotiana, Tobacco, Mustard Tree)
Tropic Snow (Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Dumbcane, Exotica, Exotica Perfection, Dieffenbachia)
True Aloe (Medicine Plant, Aloe, Barbados Aloe)
Trumpet Lily (Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Arum Lily, Florist's Calla, Garden Calla, Arum Lily)
Tulip

Umbrella Leaf (Indian Apple Root, American Mandrake, Wild Lemon, Hog Apple, Duck's Foot, Raccoonberry, American Mandrake)
Umbrella Tree (Schefflera, Australian Ivy Palm, Octopus Tree, Starleaf)

Variable Dieffenbachia
Variegated Philodendron
Variegated Wandering Jew (Speedy Henry, Wandering Jew)
Vinca (Periwinkle, Running Myrtle)
Virgin's Bower (Clematis, Leatherflower)

Wahoo (Burning Bush, Spindle Tree)
Wake Robin (Arum, Lord-and-Ladies, Adam-and-Eve, Starch Root, Bobbins, Cuckoo Plant)
Wandering Jew (Speedy Henry, Variegated Wandering Jew)
Warneckei Dracaena (Striped Dracaena, Janet Craig Plant)
Water Flag (Iris, Snake Lily, Flag)
Water Hemlock (cowbane, poison parsnip)
Wax-Leaf (privet, amur, common privet)
Weeping Fig (fig, Indian rubber plant)
Western Yew (English Yew, Pacific Yew, Japanese Yew, Anglo-Japanese Yew)
White Heads (Ranger's Button)
Wild Arum (Black Calla, Wild Calla, Solomon's Lily)
Wild Calla (Black Calla, Wild Arum, Solomon's Lily)
Wild Carnation (Carnation, Sweet William, Pinks)
Wild Coffee (Geranium-Leaf Aralia, Coffee Tree)
Winter Cherry (Natal Cherry, Jerusalem Cherry)
Winterberry (English Holly, European Holly, Oregon Holly, Inkberry, American Holly)
Wisteria

Yarrow (Milfoil)
Yellow Oleander
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow (Morning-Noon-and-Night, Kiss-Me-Quick, Lady-of-the-Night, Franciscan Rain Tree, Brunfelsia)
Yew (Japanese yew)
Yew Pine (buddhist pine)
Yucca

Make an anti-poisoning kit

PURGE THE POISON. In most cases of poisoning, getting your pet to vomit is very important if your dog has eaten within the last 2 hours.

DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING if your dog has consumed something caustic, like drain cleaner or bleach, or if you don't know what he ate.

**#1 THING TO
DO:
CALL YOUR VET
or an
emergency
clinic or
poison
hotline.**



Keep an anti-poisoning kit on hand

- a fresh bottle of **3% Hydrogen Peroxide**, available at any drugstore
- measuring spoon for 1 Tablespoon
- a small bowl for mixing
- a turkey baster or eyedropper or needle-less syringe
- these instructions printed out
- your Veterinarian's name and phone number
- the number for animal poison control centers

Try to contact your Vet or a poison center, **before** getting your dog to vomit, because in some cases, this could cause more harm than good.

DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING IN YOUR DOG IF:

- your dog is unconscious; is having trouble breathing; is showing signs of shock
- you suspect he ingested corrosives or caustic materials — which include:
 - strong acids, drain cleaner, bleach, dishwashing machine powder, rat and rodent poison, antifreeze, perfume, mouthwash, or anything made from petroleum products — paint thinner, paint.

WHAT to do if your Morkie has eaten something toxic

GET TO YOUR VETERINARIAN.

If your dog is showing signs that he's eaten something poisonous, it is vital that your Veterinarian examines him for treatment right away. Some toxins can progress and lead to severe seizures. If you suspect antifreeze poisoning, it must be treated *immediately*, before irreversible kidney damage occurs.

PURGE THE POISON.

In most cases of poisoning, getting your pet to vomit is the most important thing that you can do. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING if he has eaten something caustic (such as drain cleaner or bleach). To induce vomiting, give half and half water and hydrogen peroxide; 1 teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight. If your pet doesn't vomit in 10 minutes, repeat again. NEVER do more than 2 treatments of water and peroxide. Alternatively, you can also try salt: dilute 1 teaspoon of salt in a tablespoon of water, for every 10 pounds of body weight.

NEUTRALIZE THE TOXIN.

If a caustic substance has been ingested, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING; instead, give something to neutralize it. An alkaline toxin such as drain cleaner is neutralized by something acidic such as vinegar: give 1 tsp per 10 pounds of body weight. An acidic toxin, such as battery acid, is best neutralized with something alkaline such as Milk of Magnesia: give 1 tsp per 10 pounds of body weight. And then get to the Vet right away!

DELAY ABSORPTION.

Activated charcoal is available at most pharmacies. It delays absorption of any toxin by binding to the toxic compound in the stomach. The easiest way is to give the capsule form. For those garbage-eating dogs it is a good idea to have hydrogen peroxide and activated charcoal always on hand.

TOPICAL TOXINS.

If your pet is having a reaction to something on the skin, such as flea medications, or oil on the skin, then you want to remove it as soon as possible. Dish soap works well – lather it up, then rinse your pet thoroughly. Thick tarry substances that you can't wash off can be first covered in flour, as the flour absorbs some of the oil, then washed off with dish soap.

PREVENTION.

Ensure medications are always out of your dog's reach, and if you drop a pill, FIND IT. Become familiar with toxic plants (visit www.asPCA.org/toxicplants for a complete list) and remove those from your house and yard, if your dog seems to be a plant-eater. Keep your compost covered. NEVER give your dog medications without the approval of your Veterinarian, including any over-the-counter drugs.

From Dr. Andrew Jones, the Internet Vet (<https://www.theinternetpetvet.com/>)

When to rush your Morkie to the ER Vet

Get immediate help if your Morkie has any of these symptoms:

Restless, agitated

High temperature - above 102.5F or 39.2C

Pale gums - see below on how to tell

Elevated heart rate (over 180 beats per minute)

Non-productive retching - nothing comes up

Difficulty breathing

Constant coughing, wheezing

Crying out in pain

Can't move; won't walk

Dragging the back legs

Distended abdomen

Extreme lethargy

Significant bleeding

Trauma like a broken bone

Squinting, bulging, or painful eyeballs

Bloody urine

Straining to urinate

Blood in stool

CHECK HIS GUMS

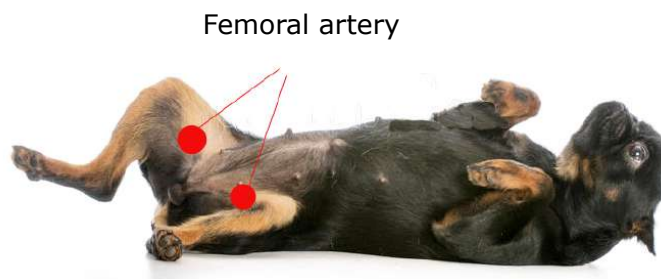
A dog with pale gums or discoloured gums should be examined by a Vet ASAP.

Pale gums can indicate serious illness. To check, firmly press your finger on the dog's gums for three full seconds.

- Remove your finger - it should take 1.5 seconds for the pale spot to disappear.
- Longer than 1.5 seconds could mean very low blood pressure - suggesting that the dog could be critically ill.
- Yellow gums - could mean jaundice.
- Blue gums - could mean the dog is not getting enough oxygen.
- Brick red gums - could indicate heat stroke.

CHECK HIS PULSE

35 - 45 beats per 15 seconds is normal



CHECK HIS TEMPERATURE

The normal range is:

100.5° to 102.5° F

38.5° to 39.2° C

Dogs and heatstroke

Never leave your dog in a parked car.

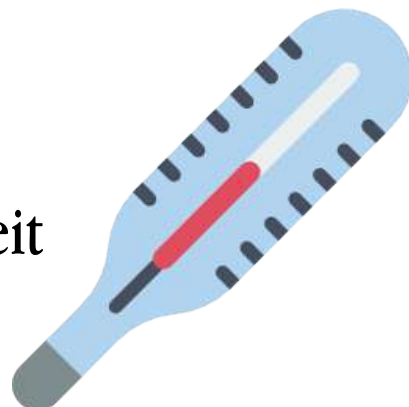
Cars and trucks can be like an oven, literally. Look how quickly they heat up:

Celsius	Temperature Outside			
	21.0 C	24.0 C	26.0 C	29.0 C
	Temperature inside the vehicle			
After 10 minutes	31.6 C	34.4 C	37.0 C	40.0 C
20 minutes	37.0 C	40.0 C	43.0 C	45.5 C
30 minutes	40.0 C	43.0 C	45.5 C	48.3 C

Fahrenheit	Temperature Outside			
	70 F	75 F	79 F	85 F
	Temperature inside the vehicle			
After 10 minutes	89 F	94 F	99 F	104 F
20 minutes	99 F	104 F	109 F	114 F
30 minutes	104 F	109 F	114 F	119 F

If your dog's temperature goes
above this temperature,
seek immediate help!

103° Fahrenheit
40° Celsius



AKC CGCsm Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge

I will be responsible for my dog's health needs. These include:

- routine Veterinary care including check-ups and vaccines.
- adequate nutrition through proper diet; clean water at all times.
- daily exercise and regular bathing and grooming.

Read more about Canine Good Citizens at <https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/training-testing/>

I will be responsible for my dog's safety.

- I will properly control my dog by providing fencing where appropriate, not letting my dog run loose, and using a leash in public.
- I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification when appropriate (which may include collar tags, tattoos, or microchip ID).
- I will provide adequate supervision when my dog and children are together.

I will not allow my dog to infringe on the rights of others.

- I will not allow my dog to run loose in the neighbourhood.
- I will not allow my dog to be a nuisance to others by barking while in the yard, in a hotel room, etc.
- I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in all public areas such as on the grounds of hotels, on sidewalks, parks, etc.
- I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in wilderness areas, on hiking trails, campgrounds and in off-leash parks.

I will be responsible for my dog's quality of life.

- I understand that basic training is beneficial to all dogs.
- I will give my dog attention and playtime.
- I understand that owning a dog is a commitment in time and caring.

20 STEPS To Success: The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppysm Test

Socialization

Training

Activity

Responsibility

OWNER BEHAVIORS:

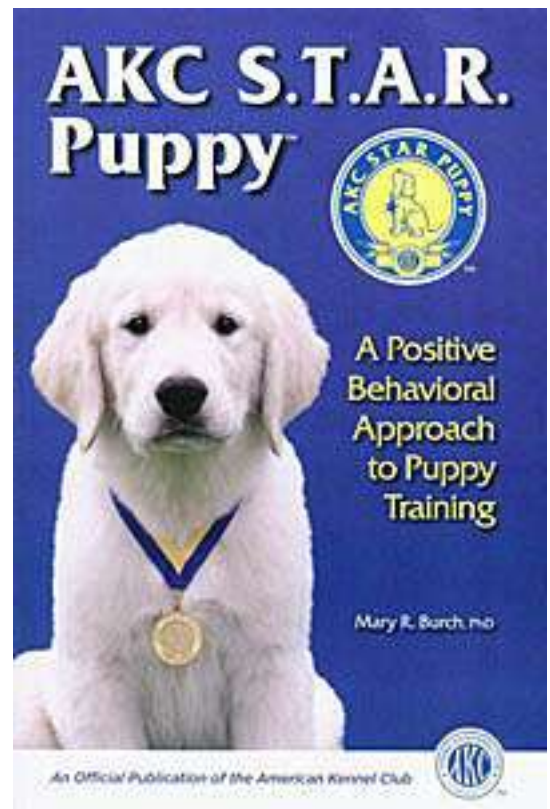
1. Maintains puppy's health (vaccines, exams, appears healthy).
2. Owner receives Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge.
3. Owner describes adequate daily play and exercise plan.
4. Owner and puppy attend at least 6 classes by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator.
5. Owner brings bags to classes for cleaning up after puppy.
6. Owner has obtained some form of ID for puppy-collar tag, etc.

PUPPY BEHAVIORS:

1. Free of aggression toward people during at least 6 weeks of class.
2. Free of aggression toward other puppies in class.
3. Tolerates collar or body harness of owner's choice.
4. Owner can hug or hold puppy (depending on size).
5. Puppy allows owner to take away a treat or toy.

PRE-CANINE GOOD CITIZEN® TEST BEHAVIORS:

1. Allows (in any position) petting by a person other than the owner.
2. Grooming-Allows owner handling and brief exam (ears, feet).
3. Walks on a Leash-Follows owner on lead in a straight line (15 steps).
4. Walks by other people-Walks on leash past other people 5 feet away.
5. Sits on command-Owner may use a food lure.
6. Down on command-Owner may use a food lure.
7. Comes to owner from 5-ft when name is called.
8. Reaction to Distractions-distractions are presented 15 feet away.
9. Stay on leash with another person (owner walks 10 steps and returns).



Eight Ways to Help Prevent Canine Cancer

From TheDogChannel.com Read more here: http://www.dogchannel.com/dog-health/article_cancer.aspx

More and more dogs are becoming cancer survivors because their owners are doing their holistic homework.

Here, Drs. Richard Pitcairn, Cheryl Schwartz, and Bob Goldstein provide eight at-home preventive strategies to help guard your pet against cancer:

1. Provide only pure water.

Tap water can contain chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nitrates.

Holistic vets strongly advise using a good-quality water purifier to filter your tap water. If you decide to buy a water purifier, keep in mind that although initially costlier than bottled water, it is much cheaper in the long run, costing only pennies a gallon, says Dr. Pitcairn.

You may also decide to use bottled or distilled water. Pure water flushes toxins from the body and contributes to the feeling of well-being, says Dr. Goldstein.

Avoid contaminated water. Keep your pet away from street puddles, which can contain cancer causing toxins such as hydrocarbons and asbestos dust from brakes.

You should change your pet's water daily. Keep the bowl clean and in a place protected from dust and debris. Most of all, says Dr. Pitcairn, make it available so that your pet will not be tempted to drink from a contaminated puddle, creek, or pond.

2. If your pet already has cancer, avoid all vaccinations.

Vaccinations can stress your pet's immune system.

For cancer patients, at the very least, avoid vaccinations during treatment because they may counteract any positive and immune-enhancing effects of your home-support program, says Dr. Goldstein.

Ask your Vet about the homeopathic remedy *Thuja occidentalis 30C*, which may remove the immune-suppressing effects of vaccinations.

3. Avoid indoor pollution.

Keep your pet away from cigarette smoke. Studies show that secondhand smoke contains hundreds of toxic chemicals that can cause lung cancer in humans. Research also shows a strong correlation between secondhand smoke and oral cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) in cats.

In dogs it's associated with nasal sinus cancer, and even lymphoma, although the connection is weaker. The more people who smoke around a pet, the more at risk the animal is.

Ventilate your house well to reduce indoor air pollution. Grow houseplants that filter the air, such as philodendrons, spider plants, aloe vera, chrysanthemums, and Gerber daisies, but keep the plants out of your pets' reach.

Don't use harsh chemicals such as pesticides and household cleaners around the house. Seek out natural products, such as vinegar and baking soda.

4. Keep your dog's weight under control.

Obese dogs are prone not only to cancer but heart ailments, joint problems, diabetes, breathing difficulties, and more.

Ask your vet what a healthy weight for your dog should be and strive to achieve it. Feed your dog a healthy diet free from artificial preservatives, artificial flavors, and dyes. A healthy, balanced diet supports your dog's natural defences against cancer.

5. Use natural flea products on your dog.

Did you know that flea collars, sprays, and shampoos are full of poisons? Instead of chemical insecticides, use natural and less-toxic methods of flea control such as natural flea shampoos, vacuuming frequently, and combing your pet with a flea comb.

Pyrethrins are a natural and safe means of flea control, but need to be applied frequently. Dlimonen and other citrus-based methods can be used in dogs, however, avoid D-limonen in cats, as it is toxic to them. Putting borates, salt, or diatomaceous earth into carpet or cracks between the wall and floor is effective for indoor flea control.

6. Keep your dog away from pesticides and herbicides on lawns and plants.

A report by the National Cancer Institute found that dogs whose owners used weed-killing products containing 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid) had twice the rate of lymphoma as dogs whose owners did not use it.

Cocoa mulch is also dangerous to dogs. Stay clear of house and garden pesticides. Get rid of pesky insects naturally or seek out the least toxic products. There are also nontoxic, organic products available.

7. Keep your pet stress-free.

Stress is emotional imbalance caused by anger, frustration, or anxiety. These emotions overwork the liver, where they can stagnate and create tumours, according to Dr. Schwartz.

High anxiety in pets happens for a variety of reasons: neglect, a multiple animal household, an owner going away on vacation, or an owner going through a divorce. Whatever triggers stress in your dog, tune in and help your pet chill out.

Try some de-stressing methods such as: maintaining a regular pet routine (including feeding times and playtimes); massaging your pet; being in tune to your pet's needs; looking for stress signals (from appetite changes to excessive barking); keeping peace in a multi-pet household; and providing tender loving care.

8. Exercise your dog on a regular basis.

Research shows that canine fitness not only strengthens immunity to chronic disease such as cancer, but is also essential for optimal health and well-being.

Sustained, vigorous use of the muscles stimulates all tissues and increases blood circulation. Blood vessels dilate and blood pressure rises. As a result, tissues become oxygenated, which helps to clean the cells of toxins. Digestive glands secrete their fluids better, and the bowels move more easily, says Dr. Pitcairn.

Some activities that you can enjoy with your pooch to get fit together are bicycling, hiking, jogging, in-line skating, and walking (at least 20 minutes a day). Your dog also will enjoy the bonding time he gets with you!

First aid kit - what you need



You can buy a well-stocked Pet First Aid Kit, or fill your own with the following:

- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tweezers (flat slant tip instead of the rounded variety)
- ☐ Sterile needle (to remove splinters and tick heads)
- ☐ Turkey baster or bulb syringe (for flushing wounds, force feeding)
- ☐ 10cc syringe with no needle (for administering medications)
- ☐ Eyedropper (also for administering medications)
- ☐ Tongue depressor to examine mouth
- ☐ Rubber gloves
- ☐ Nail clippers
- ☐ Comb
- ☐ Baby Rectal thermometer (normal body temperature of small dogs is **100.5 to 102.5 F**; take your pet's temperature under normal conditions to get a baseline for comparison)
- ☐ Petroleum jelly (helpful aid for taking temperature)
- ☐ Disposable safety razor (for shaving fur from around a wound)
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Blanket (the compact thermal blanket works well; uses include keeping an injured animal from going into shock)
- ☐ Bandanna and/or nylon stocking (many uses, including muzzling or securing a torn earflap)
- ☐ Strips of clean cloth
- ☐ Dog booties or little socks (to cover wounded paws or to protect so you won't need to treat)

- ☐ 3x3 sterile gauze pads
- ☐ Rolled gauze (for bandaging, stabilizing joints, making a muzzle)
- ☐ Adhesive first aid tape (in narrow and wide widths)
- ☐ Cotton balls
- ☐ Bandages (including self-clinging or vet wrap and waterproof types)

- ☐ Anti-bacterial wipes or pads
- ☐ Hot/cold pack
- ☐ **Hydrogen peroxide** 3% USP (to induce vomiting and to use on infected wounds; check the expiration date from time to time and keep only fresh solution in your kit)
Activated charcoal tablets (effective in absorbing many toxics)
- ☐ Betadine solution (a type of antiseptic iodine medicine for wounds to deter infection)
- ☐ Antibiotic ointment (such a Neosporin)
- ☐ Rubbing alcohol (apply on skin as body cooling agent to aid heat stroke or fever; helps break down oils; acts as a drying agent between toes and skin folds; but **do not use on wounds** as it can damage skin and is not an appropriate antiseptic)
- ☐ Bag Balm (especially useful for treating paw pads)
- ☐ Sterile saline eye solution (to flush out eye contaminants and wounds) Contact lens solution works well
- ☐ Artificial tear gel to lubricate eyes after flushing
- ☐ Eye ointment with no cortisone
- ☐ Epsom salt (mix 1 teaspoon in 2 cups of warm water for drawing out infection and bathing itchy paws and skin)
- ☐ Baking soda (good for soothing skin conditions)
- ☐ Styptic powder (to stop bleeding of torn toenails, etc.) Find it with men's razors in drugstores.
- ☐ Milk of magnesia (for stomach upset and certain types of poison ingestion)
- ☐ Pepto-Bismol (for stomach upset and some types of poison ingestion; do not give to cats)
- ☐ Benadryl (for bug bites and stings and other allergic reactions. Use plain Benadryl, not any other formulas).
- ☐ Gentle pet sedative such as **Rescue Remedy** (available at health food and some pet supply stores). Rescue Remedy is a Bach flower essence available in most health food stores. This gentle, natural stress reducing liquid can often help both people and animals recover from injury, fright, illness, travel fatigue and irritation. Put a drop in your water bottle and in their water. To help prevent travel sickness, a common dosage is four drops in the mouth about ten hours before the trip, repeating every four hours as needed. For stressed or injured animals, rub a drop on their ear or put a drop on the towel in their crate or carrier. Flower essences can be used along with conventional medicine.

- ☐ Buffered baby aspirin (for dogs only, 1/2 tablet; do not use acetaminophen or ibuprofen; do not give aspirin to cats; since aspirin and other pain relievers can be toxic to any pet. Consult your Vet and first aid books before using.)
- ☐ Can of soft pet food (can help reduce the effect of a poisoning)
- ☐ Mild grease-cutting dishwashing liquid such as Dawn (to clean contaminated skin or sticky substances) Also works for de-skunking.
- ☐ Nylon leash
- ☐ Pet crate or carrier (a safe, calming place for your pet and a safe way to transport)

Also have in your car:

- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Bowl for water
- ☐ Spare leash and collar

Other suggested items:

- ☐ Tick key (handy little device for removing ticks)
- ☐ Treats containing sugar or a small vial of corn syrup (in case your Morkie experiences hypoglycemic or low glucose episode)
- ☐ Betadine Swab Sticks
- ☐ Panalog (a healing cream)
- ☐ Nexaban (a type of skin glue to glue a wound closed if necessary)
- ☐ Penlight (to see how the pupils respond to light; in normal animals, pupils decrease in size when exposed to light)
- ☐ 5 inch **hemostat**, a clamp for blood vessels to stop bleeding
- ☐ **Liquid Ice** offers a good way to treat pet injuries such as sprains, strains, swelling and bruising using cold and compression. The non-dyed, non-adhesive stretch cotton bandage is pre-soaked in a special menthol and alcohol solution. It is lightweight, does not restrict movement, and can be applied easily. No refrigeration necessary, and cold effects last longer than other cold treatments.

Benadryl Dosage for Dogs

Alcohol and dye free.

Tablets don't work well for toy dogs because it's almost impossible to accurately divide them into the small amount needed. So many Vets recommend liquid Children's Benadryl (NOT sugar free)

Please note: Do not use Adult Benadryl Elixir because it contains alcohol, dangerous for dogs. Also avoid any Benadryl products that contain Xylitol sweetener (even though it's a natural product) and do not use anything that contains pain medication such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen without express approval of your Veterinarian.



The dosage for dogs is:

Weight in pounds divided by 2.5 = ml's of CHILDREN'S Benadryl

Potential side effects of Benadryl can include:

- Drooling
- Excitability
- Drowsiness
- Rapid breathing
- Rapid heart rate
- Depression

See your Vet immediately for severe reactions.

Children's liquid Benadryl can be used to treat small dogs for:

- Motion sickness
- Itching
- Allergies
- Insect Bites
- Mild reactions to vaccinations
- Rapid heart rate
- Depression

See your Vet immediately for severe reactions.

Dog's weight in pounds	% 2.5	# of ml of Benadryl	# of teaspoons
2 1/2	1	1	1/4
3	1.2	1.2	1/4
3 1/2	1.4	1.4	1/4
4	1.6	1.6	1/3
4 1/2	1.8	1.8	3/8
5	2	2	3/8
5 1/2	2.2	2.2	1/2
6	2.4	2.4	1/2
6 1/2	2.6	2.6	1/2
7.0	2.8	2.8	1/2
7 1/2	3	3	3/5
8	3.2	3.2	5/8
8 1/2	3.4	3.4	2/3
9	3.6	3.6	2/3
10	4	4	7/8
11	4.4	4.4	7/8
12	4.8	4.8	1
13	5.2	5.2	1
14	5.6	5.6	1 1/8
15	6	6	1 1/8

NOTE: Please check with your Veterinarian before you give your Morkie or any dog, Benadryl, or any other over-the-counter medication.

10 Things Your Dog Would Tell You

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful; remember that before you get me.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me - it is crucial to my well being.
4. Do not be angry at me for long, and do not lock me up as punishment.
5. You have your work, your entertainment, and your friends. I have only you.
6. Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it is speaking to me.
7. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget.
8. Remember before you hit me, that I have teeth that could easily hurt you, but I choose not to bite you because I love you.
9. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I might not be getting the right food, or I have been out too long, or my heart is getting too old and weak.
10. Take care of me when I get old; you too will grow old. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say "I cannot bear to watch" or "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there, even my death. Remember that I love you.

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together.

-author unknown