



MIDDLE RIVER

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Your perfect dog is waiting!

Looking for a new dog to add to your family? Doing a little research into the breed can make the whole process much easier, so you know what to expect when you bring your new pooch home. That adorable doggie in the window might make your heart beat faster, but it is always a good idea to find out if the adult version would fit well into your lifestyle.

Here we have provided a general overview of the different groups of purebred dogs to help you decide. If you are looking at a mixed breed, study the traits of the predominant breed.

SPORTING dogs include the Setters, Spaniels, Pointers and Retrievers. They are naturally active and alert, and make a likable, well-rounded companion. Most require regular, invigorating exercise. Most of the sporting breeds are eager to please, readily trainable and good with children.

HOUNDS are used for hunting, and they have the scent power to follow a trail, and stamina to run down quarry. They like to follow their nose, and need proper training to listen to you! Some of them share the ability to bay so you'd best sample this sound to be sure you can tolerate it! Bassets, Beagles, Blueticks, Dachshunds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Greyhounds and Whippets are all part of this group.

WORKING dogs were bred to perform such jobs as guarding property, pulling sleds and performing water rescues. Quick to learn, these intelligent, capable animals make solid companions. Their considerable size and strength make many of these dogs unsuitable as pets for the average family. They require proper training! Alaskan Malamutes, Boxers, Dobermans, Great Danes, Siberian Huskies, St. Bernards and Rottweilers are all part of this group.

TERRIERS are feisty, energetic dogs whose size ranges from small, such as the West Highland White Terrier to the grand Airedale Terrier. They typically have little tolerance for other animals, including other dogs. They were bred to hunt vermin, and they are always eager for a spirited argument. They can make engaging pets, but require owners with the determination to match their lively characters. Jack Russells, Scotties, Schnauzers, Cairns and Staffordshire terriers belong to this group.

TOYS: Don't let their tiny stature fool you! Many toys are tough as nails. Toy dogs are always popular with city dwellers and people without much living space. They make ideal apartment dogs and lap warmers on a cold night. Chihuahuas, King Charles Spaniels, Havanese, Maltese, Min Pins, Pekingnese, Pomeranians, Miniature Poodles, Pugs, Shih Tzus and Yorkies are all members of this

popular group. Many of the toy breeds require frequent grooming and are not suitable for families with young children.

NON-SPORTING is a diverse group of dogs with different personalities. They are very intelligent but can be stubborn. Research in the specific type you are interested in is a must! Chows, Dalmations, Schipperkes, Poodles and Lhasa Apsos are included here.

HERDING dogs of all types share the fabulous ability to control the movement of other animals, but many are family pets and never cross the path of a farm animal. Their instincts prompt them to gently herd their owners, children, cats and other family dogs. These intelligent dogs make excellent companions and respond well to training and exercise. They need a job to keep them busy and happy! Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Border Collies, Corgis, Collies, and German Shepherds come under this group name.

In making your choice, get as much information as possible. There are many books on this subject. Talk to breeders and owners. Attend a dog show to see all the breeds up close. Give us a call and we would be happy to share our experience working with the different breeds to assist you in any way we can. Have a happy hunt for that wagging tail to share your life!

Danger! Danger!

SPRINGTIME DANGERS:

- Tree sprays, Garden Dusts and Foggers – chemical pesticides and herbicides
- Slug and Snail Killing Pellets
- Rodenticides – mouse and rat poison
- Cocoa Mulch – contains Theobromine the ingredient in chocolate that is toxic to dogs
- Chemicals in Pressure Treated Decks and Fence Posts
- Stinging Insects and Spiders
- Lily Bulbs and Daffodils
- Mushrooms
- Compost piles and Garbage

If you think that your dog or cat might have ingested a poison, you must act fast to stop the poison from being absorbed into the system. Immediately call us or the poison control center with the container at hand, if possible, to identify the toxin and the amount ingested. Keep syrup of ipecac and/or hydrogen peroxide on hand, but do not use it without specific instructions from Dr. Dobyns or the poison control center. Keep benadryl on hand to quickly treat allergic reactions - call us to get the correct dose for your pet.

ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center:

1-888-426-4435

24 hour emergency center

\$45.00 case fee

Be sure to tighten lids on bottles of herbicides and pesticides after each use. Place bags or boxes of chemicals inside cans or plastic storage containers to keep them safely away from your pets. Properly dispose of empty containers that contained any type of chemical. By taking simple precautions you can prevent your pet from coming in contact with these potentially deadly toxins.



When you buy a 6 month supply of Advantix Multi, Advantix or Frontline you will **GET ONE FREE DOSE.**

We also have mail-in rebates when you buy a 12 month supply of Interceptor heartworm preventative.



Parasites: Beware

Now that it is getting warmer outside we need to make sure that our pets are up to date with parasite control. Parasites are organisms that live in or on another organism. Parasites can cause a wide variety of health problems for your pet - possibly even death. Another serious concern for pet owners is that it is possible for parasites to affect humans also.

There are two main categories of parasites that affect pets. Ectoparasites are external parasites that we can see on the pet such as fleas, ticks, mites, and mosquitoes. Endoparasites, such as heartworms, roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms, are internal parasites which are harder to detect but often cause more severe disease.

Ectoparasites are always irritating, and they can cause serious skin problems. Fleas may cause mild to severe itching and hair loss. Flea allergic pets often develop severe infections with crusting, oozing and bleeding skin. Fleas feed on an animal's blood, so a bad infestation can cause anemia and possible death in very young, very small, and ill animals. Fleas also transmit tapeworms. Ticks cause local irritation, and they carry diseases, such as Lyme, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis. Ear mites and mange mites cause intense itching, hair loss and crusting, oozing skin.

Endoparasites are worms and single-celled organisms that inhabit the intestines and other

tissues of your pet. A change in appetite or hair coat, excessive coughing, vomiting or diarrhea could all be caused by internal parasites. We can examine a fecal sample to diagnose common intestinal parasites in your pet. The most common Endoparasites are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. Common single-celled parasites are Coccidia and Giardia. Pets pick up these parasites by eating infected soil and grass, licking their paws or by drinking contaminated water. Hookworms even penetrate through the animal's skin, and your pet can pick up tapeworms by either ingesting fleas or by eating infected rodents and birds.

At Middle River Veterinary Hospital, we recommend that your pet be treated with appropriate parasite preventives all year – there is no parasite-free season in Virginia! Advantix is a topical solution for dogs and it kills fleas, ticks, and lice and repels mosquitoes and biting flies. Frontline is also a topical solution that kills fleas and ticks, and we especially like this product for outdoor cats. Interceptor is a once a month pill that prevents heartworm infection and controls hookworms, roundworms and whipworms. Advantix-Multi is a topical heartworm preventative and flea control that also kills roundworms and hookworms and controls whipworms in dogs and ear mites in cats. Please call us for a specific parasite control program matched to your pets' lifestyle.

Cujo Kitties and Ferocious Felines

If sweet Fluffy’s personality changes from easy-going lap cat to biting beast, there may be a serious medical reason underlying this change in attitude. Irritability and aggression in adult cats may come on slowly or suddenly depending on the kind of medical problem involved. Any disease that causes pain can cause a mild to severe behavior change, and many of the following diseases can be cured or managed with medication or surgery. A thorough veterinary exam and laboratory screening may detect any of the following painful diseases:

Dental Disease, Gingivitis and Oral Cancers all cause mouth pain, decreased appetite, drooling, bad breath and sometimes vomiting. Simba may try to bite if you touch his mouth, or he may lash out with his claws because it hurts him too much to bite with his infected teeth.

Glaucoma, Corneal Injuries, Uveitis and other eye diseases can cause pain and disorientation due to poor vision or blindness. If Tabby can no longer see you coming, she may react violently if you touch her unexpectedly on her blind or painful side.

Ear Mites, Ear Infections, Ear Polyps and Ear Tumors can all cause discomfort, severe itching, inflammation and sometimes pain. Oscar is likely to scratch you if you touch him near his sore and itchy ear.

Brain diseases, including Tumors, Infections and Parasites can all cause dramatic

behavior changes in cats. Your usually social Kitty may become withdrawn and depressed, or she could become aggressive – lunging and biting with no warning.

Hyperthyroidism is a common disease in older cats that disrupts many body functions, by increasing thyroid hormone and overall metabolic rate. Hyperthyroidism will cause a cat to burn more calories than she can eat, so Fifi will be constantly hungry - she may even start stealing food and guarding it if you try to take it away from her. Hypertension (high blood pressure) often occurs with Hyperthyroidism, and while we cannot ask Fifi if her head hurts, it is very likely she has a horrible headache and that surely will cause her to be a bit irritable.

Abscesses, Flea Allergy, and other skin diseases cause pain and discomfort. Reacting painfully when touched in a specific spot may be the only obvious sign that Felix has a brewing infection, until the abscess swells and bursts. Flea Allergy causes intense itching that can cause Felix to injure himself with the obsessive scratching and chewing at his fur.

Pancreatitis, Gastroenteritis, Intestinal Foreign Bodies, Constipation, and other intestinal diseases can cause moderate to intense abdominal pain. If Blackie has an upset intestinal tract, she may cry out when you touch her belly or try to pick her up.

Kidney Infection, Bladder Infection, Urethral Blockage and Acute Kidney Failure all

Irritability and aggression in adult cats may come on slowly or suddenly depending on the kind of medical problem involved

cause severe pain. If Sylvester is crying when he is in the litter pan, or if he screams when you touch his belly, get him to a veterinarian immediately! Urethral blockage and Acute Kidney Failure can be deadly within hours.

Trauma, Joint Injuries, Fractures and Arthritis all produce varying degrees of pain. If Snowball goes outdoors and comes home limping, she has surely injured herself somehow. If she is just not jumping up like she used to and gets fussy when you brush or pet her, then she may have painful arthritis in her spine.

Finally, there is one unique disease that might make Garfield grumpy. Cats can be affected with a syndrome called Hyperesthesia – this is an excessive sensitivity to touch and just the lightest brush over Garfield’s back may elicit a violent reaction. This can develop at any age, and luckily the management is simple – don’t pet him where it hurts!

Spring WORDFIND

Aggression
Beagle
Behavior
Chihuahua
Chow
Dachshund
Fertilizer
Flea
Heartworm
Herding
Hound
Mastiff

Parasite
Pesticide
Pointer
Pug
Roundworm
Sporting
Spring
Tapeworm
Terrier
Tick
Veterinarian
Whippet

V H E R H O U N D T I R M E S R C I T G C H
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MIDDLE RIVER

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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HOURS

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Tue, Wed & Fri 7:30am–5:30pm

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Meet The Staff

DR. KATHRYN DOBYNS. Dr. Dobyms is our only full-time veterinarian. She serves on the Boards of Directors of Cats Cradle and The Mosby Foundation. In her free time, she plays violin with the Rockbridge Community Symphony Orchestra and volunteers at Augusta Health with her therapy dog, Ripton. She is taking agility lessons and competing in rally obedience with her younger dog, Hunter. She also has 1 black cat, Shiloh, and retired hospital kitty Weebles-Wobbles.

TISH HOLDEN. Tish is one of our Licensed Veterinary Technicians. Away from work, she spends time with her daughter Allee, son Blake, hubby Keith, her Jack Russell Terrier, Poppy, 2 handsome cats Cracker and Ken, and her chinchilla Wally Kringle.

DIAN THOMPSON. Dian is our office manager and head receptionist. At home, she and her husband Cecil keep busy caring for their numerous pets on their “mini-farm.” On sunny days, you’ll find them trail riding on their quarter horses, Jack, Peppy, and Buster. They recently welcomed a new addition to their family, an Australian Cattle Dog puppy, named Annie.

MARSHA GRAHAM.

Marsha is one of our Licensed Veterinary Technicians. She also volunteers at the Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad. Marsha cannot have pets in her apartment, but she enjoys pet-sitting for others.

HEIDI GREEN. Heidi is a full-time receptionist. She spends her free time with her boyfriend Chris and their adorable little dogs Homer, Charlie and Riley.

BETH STOVER. Beth is another of our Licensed Veterinary Technicians. She also runs her own pet-sitting business. Beth and her hubby JJ enjoy riding their horses and playing with the many other critters on their “mini-farm”.

CAITLYN PAINTER. Caitlyn is a part-time Veterinary Assistant. She is attending Blue Ridge Community College and is applying to the Veterinary Technician Program. She spends her spare time with her boyfriend Geoff. Her 4-legged family includes 3 cats – Coors, Jodi and Alaska – and a black Lab, Casey.



LEFT SPOCK. Spock lives at the hospital and works as the official greeter. In his spare time, he monitors the hospital and ensures that all the patients are well cared for. Spock also volunteers with the Animal Assisted Therapy program at Augusta Health.

ABOVE MCCORMICK. We would like to welcome a new kitty to our hospital. McCormick came to us as a homeless 4 month old kitten last fall. He had a very bad wound on a back leg that took several months to heal. The original plan was to adopt him into a home once he had healed, but over the course of his treatment the entire staff fell in love with his sweet and loving personality. He is now completely healed, and he is learning from Spock how to keep the hospital running smoothly.