



WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHIHUAHUAS



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Welcome to the Wonderful World of Chihuahuas.

We have endeavored to supply the new Chihuahua owner (and the not so new owners) with a little insight into these delightful companions.

Here you will find just some of the helpful books, websites, and articles to help you with some of the questions you may have concerning the habits, needs, and advantages of owning this small family member.

This little book cannot begin to answer all your questions, nor can it address all aspects of the Chihuahua. For more in depth information we suggest you contact reputable breeders, trainers, and veterinarians. The sections have been set up so you may add pages in the appropriate area for further information on particular subjects.

We would like to thank you for your interest in our organization and a special thank you for your interest and concern for our rescue dogs.

If you have any questions that we have not addressed in the following pages, please feel free to contact us at the following website:

Canadian Chihuahua Rescue & Transport
<http://www.ccrt.net>

Or email us at:
info@ccrt.net

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WHAT IS A CHIHUAHUA?

The Chihuahua is a small dog weighing two to six pounds, standing six to nine inches at the shoulder. These sizes may vary from one animal to the next, with some being considerably larger and some even smaller. There are two varieties - smooth coat and long coat.

The smooth coat is soft and glossy with short hair. It can be any color or a mixture of colors. The head is called "apple-domed" because of its shape. The nose which is short but a little pointed, is usually black but can be a pink color in blond dogs. While the eyes are full and large, they should not protrude and can be dark or, in blondes, light colored. The large ears are held erect when alert but usually are held to the side at about a 45' angle when resting. The tail is somewhat long and carried like a sickle or in a loop over the back.

The long coat has the same body appearance as the smooth coat. Only the coat itself is different. Its coat is soft, long, can be straight or slightly curly, and should have an undercoat. The ears are fringed. The legs and feet are feathered with "pants" on the hind legs. There is a ruff around the neck. The tail is full and long, resembling a plume.

While the origin of the Chihuahua is unclear, it takes its name from the Mexican state of Chihuahua, which is, appropriately, the smallest state. It is thought to have originated in Mexico from the Toltec dog, the Techichi. It was probably crossed with an Oriental hairless breed to result in the smooth coat variety. The long coat is said to have been developed in the U.S. by crossing the smooth coat with other breeds such as the Papillon and Pomeranian. The Chihuahua has been growing in popularity since its discovery in the 1850s in Mexico.

The overall appearance of this little dog is one of alertness and interest in everything around it. It is graceful, quick-moving, tough and intelligent. A very compact little animal with a short back, short neck, short legs and small dainty feet. It has a tendency to trot with a bouncy gait, have a saucy expression, and an abundance of confidence.

Some Chihuahuas may be prone to barking but most are actually fairly quiet, barking only when they see something they think is out of place (which may be anything from an approaching stranger to a leaf fluttering past the window). With their alertness and keen hearing they make very good watch dogs but, obviously, not very good guard dogs. The Chihuahua does its best work as your companion. While the Chihuahua has the distinction of being the world's smallest dog, it is hard to believe that such a small creature can contain such a large personality. Although the Chi can be quite standoffish when the mood strikes, it can be very people oriented.

The Chihuahua is an intelligent animal and can be trained with patience. Housebreaking and obedience training are both valuable tools for the Chi owner. Some Chis are very good as therapy dogs, visiting a number of strangers and allowing themselves to be petted, held, or just admired. The little animals are smart, quick and eager to please. While the Chihuahua is often very attached to its owner, it can be quite willing to be friendly with nearly everyone they meet.

The Chi is well-known for adapting to human habits. It will make itself comfortable in any chair, bed, car, etc. where its human happens to be. Its favorite sleeping place is usually curled up against its human under the covers. It will be very loyal to its owner and only asks to be with them at all times and loved. The Chihuahua will become extremely attached to its owner/s. They will attach particularly to one person. This is one dog that requires a great deal of human contact and does not do well being relegated to the life of a "pet of convenience."

Most Chihuahua do not care for dogs of a different breed, although they seem to recognize, and indeed welcome, other Chihuahuas. Some Chis adapt well to other dogs regardless of breed and even like cats and other pets in its household.

These little wonders usually have a life span of ten to fifteen years although some have lived several years beyond this age. So they have quite a few years to get their owner well trained in their needs and wants.

The food of choice of the Chihuahua is usually the same food it could find on its human's plate, even though this may not be the best diet for it. Chis go through their lives with the belief that all humans were put on the earth to cater to their every whim and, as most owners will admit, they are not far wrong! Without a little caution, a human will soon find the pampered Chi is manipulating them with great finesse, which can lead to receiving too many treats and acquiring a hefty waistline which is not good for the dogs health.

As a Chihuahua can object to having to share its living space with men, small children or big dogs, it is advisable to check the dogs temperament before attempting to make the arrangement permanent. It would be unfortunate for the child and the dog if there was an incident because the dog could not tolerate small children.

The Chihuahua has a habit of shivering or trembling which concerns most new owners. This is simply a habit of a small dog, particularly the Chihuahua. It appears to shiver when it is cold, excited, upset, scared, or whenever it wants to shiver. If the dog is not cold or sick there is no cause for alarm. Most often as the dog matures and becomes more accustomed to its surroundings and gains more confidence, the shivering will abate somewhat.

This little dog is ideal for seniors, those who are handicapped, those who live in an apartments, or someone with a limited income. A Chihuahua travels well and easily, so usually is welcome nearly everywhere its owner cares to take it.

HEALTH

You never know when your little one will come down with a problem relating to his/her health. Of course you will want to make him/her feel his/her usual perky little self. The following items and/or suggestions do not replace good veterinarian advise and/or treatment. When in doubt - consult your veterinarian.

FIRST AID KIT

Keep one on hand for everyday needs:

- Buffered baby aspirin: recommended dose is 5 mg per pound of Chihuahua.
- Kaopectate: for diarrhea, recommended dose is 1 ml per pound of Chihuahua every 2 hours
- Mineral oil: for constipation and hard stools. Add 1/2 teaspoon to food, but to avoid dependency (do not use for more than one week)
- Hydrogen Peroxide (3%): to make your Chi throw up after eating something they shouldn't. Give 10 ml and if needed give a second dose 10 minutes later.
- Rescue Remedy: 2 to 4 drops can reduce anxiety, stress, and motion sickness.
- Children's Benadryl: For allergic reactions give 1/2 mg per pound every 8 hours, but no more than 3 doses in total.
- Nutrical: A high-energy supplement to keep blood sugar levels up when your Chi is not eating.
- Jar of baby food: to entice a finicky Chi to eat.
- Other handy items include: tweezers, rectal thermometer, medicine dropper, syringe, scissors, adhesive tape, flexible bandages and gauze pads.

MOLERA

The Chihuahua often is born with a "hole in the head" called a molera. It compares to a fontanelle in a human baby. At one time it was considered a mark of purity in the breed, but is no longer given such importance. When the pup is born the bones in the head are not firmly knitted together. As the pup ages this opening usually decreases. Some Chis may take up to three years before the molera closes while others may never close. Moleras vary in size and shape. The presence of a molera does not mean the Chihuahua is predisposed to hydrocephalus.

There should be some concern regarding a possible blow to the head, which could cause serious brain injury or death. Although these are hardy little dogs, reasonable care must be taken in such circumstances as a large molera or one that does not close completely.

HYDROCEPHALUS

A Chihuahua with an open molera does not mean the dog has, or will have, hydrocephalus, which is a disease of the brain. However, an injury to the molera could result in hydrocephalus.

Diagnosis of hydrocephalus can only be ascertained by the use of ultrasound. The presence of this disease may be suspected by physical signs such as: lack of coordination, eyes focusing to the sides, seizures, or apnea (a lapse in breathing), as well as: developmental abnormalities, neck twisted and head turned to one side, or physical immaturity. There may be vision defects including total lack of vision, circling, pacing, etc.

The prognosis for a Chi with hydrocephalus is not very favorable. The dog is usually born with it but it is not noticeable until later. Hydrocephalus can be caused by trauma. Sometimes a shunt inserted into the brain will give the dog a somewhat normal life for several more years. Unfortunately this is not always the case.

LUXATING PATELLA

Luxating simply means dislocating. The Patella is the dog's knee - the joint on her hind leg. Therefore, a luxating patella is a knee that keeps slipping out of its socket. This can happen in Chihuahuas with weak ligaments, tendons, muscles or when the upper and lower leg bones are out of alignment. Sometimes the kneecap groove is too narrow or too shallow which can also lead to this condition.

The knee usually will slip inwardly (toward the body), and locks which prevents the dog from bending its leg. There are several "grades" of Patella Luxation ranging from Grade I - the knee only slips out when it is manipulated by the vet, to Grade IV - when the knee luxates and you cannot get it back into the socket. Fortunately the latter is not common.

The two main causes of Luxating Patella are excess weight and little or no exercise. The overweight Chi is putting more strain on this joint than it was intended to carry. Lack of exercise leads to poor muscle tone and weakness in the ligaments which allow the knee to slip out of place easily. To help prevent this problem - keep your Chihuahua at the proper weight and in shape with muscle strengthening exercise (climbing moderate hills for instance).

If you see your Chi holding its leg out and off the ground, you may suspicion Luxation. Other signs may include lifting one hind leg while running; skipping; or moving both rear legs at the same time (bunny hopping). This is caused by one rear leg being locked into place so it can't bend or take any weight. It often occurs only for a moment and will occur in all sizes of Chihuahuas regardless of coat type, and male and female alike.

HEATSTROKE

During the hot summer the Chihuahua can get heatstroke quite easily. It is a sun lover and will seek out a sunny place, often remaining there much too long for its own health. If the Chihuahua has gotten too much sun, remove it to a cool shady area and lay wet cool towels over it to bring its temperature down. If the dog is comatose or having seizures it is best to wrap it in a cool wet towel and take it immediately to the nearest veterinarian.

It is important to ensure that your dog has enough fresh water available all year round but particularly during the hot days of summer.

EXERCISE

Exercise is important to all dogs including the Chihuahua. The only difference is in the required amount of exercise. One reason the Chi is so ideal for anyone with a mobility problem is that the Chihuahua does not require a great deal of exercise or a great deal of room in which to exercise. Just following its human around the house can give it most of the exercise it needs. With a walk twice a day it is well taken care of in that department. When the weather does not lend itself to outings a few minutes two or three times a day spent playing with the dog will do nicely. Plus it has the added bonus of allowing you both to spend some time with each other. When playing with the Chihuahua remember to be gentle so as not to injure the dog. A playful push to a labrador retriever is like a beating to a Chihuahua.

HYGIENE AND GROOMING

When it comes to hygiene it is very important to keep the long coat Chihuahua brushed or combed to prevent matting. Matting not only provides hiding places for little vermin but can hold rotting food bits as well as irritating the skin of the dog. They should be trimmed if necessary to prevent soiling themselves when attending to their bathroom duties. If the ruff around their neck constantly gets soiled with food it, too, could be trimmed. Of course show dogs would be excluded from trimming.

The long coat Chi should be bathed about once a month or oftener if needed. In between try wiping the coat with a Baby Wipe to keep it fresh looking and remove surface dirt. Usually a good brushing is all that is required between baths. The smooth coat Chi will not need to be bathed as often but still needs to be freshened up periodically. When bathing a Chi be careful not to get water into its ears as this can lead to infections in the ear.

When grooming the animal be sure to check its ears for mites or sores and check its eyes for cloudiness, sores or foreign bodies in or near the eye. While the Chihuahua has a great deal of tears (which is normal), if it seems to be overly "tearful" contact your veterinarian as this could be a sign of eye trouble.

The feet should also be checked for sores on or between the pads. Long coats may need the hair on their feet trimmed in the winter to prevent snow build-up between the pads. Boots are a good idea if the dog will be going out into the cold or onto icy paths. Keep the dogs nails trimmed every month. Some Chis do not like their feet handled and you may have to take them to a groomer or a veterinarian to have this done. If the nails get too long it can inhibit the Chihuahua's walking ability. Long nails can also be dangerous when the dog is scratching itself.

Teeth are sometimes a problem with Chihuahuas. They can be misaligned or begin to decay early in the dog's life. Brushing the dog's teeth is a good idea. If the animal won't let you do this it may mean getting the vet to clean its teeth during the annual check-up. Bad teeth can lead to a snappy, grumpy little dog. Just think of having a perpetual toothache and you will understand what the dog is going through.

One of the most important aspects of the health of a Chihuahua is its weight. Not only does being overweight put a strain on its heart and other organs, it puts a strain on the joints as well. It takes a little calculating to find the right amount to feed each dog. Depending on its size and the amount of exercise it gets the amount of food varies. During the winter it may pay to cut back a little on the treats to account for the less active time. Be careful not to cut back on protein needed to help your pet cope with the cold weather stress.

HOME REMEDIES

Wild dogs are some of nature's best herbalists. Even the domestic dog will search out and eat the type of grass it requires for its ailment. This usually induces vomiting to clear out the overly acidic stomach or food that has disagreed with its digestion. Following is a list of herbs which can be used to treat some of the common ailments that your dog may suffer. They can be used fresh or purchased from a health food store. Be sure to read all labels. Buy only unmixed herbs.

ALMONDS crushed and added to the meals morning and night will help a male dog that is unable to “do” stud work. It is helpful in raising the sperm count and motility. This is also used as a treatment for anemia.

BLACK CURRANT JAM helps clear the cloudiness of cataracts.

BLACK CURRANT SYRUP is useful to treat hysteria. It is particularly useful for dogs rescued from shelters where there is a history of abuse.

BLACK GRAPES for anemia.

CAMPHOR OIL may be added to the rinse or applied directly to the coat at the base of the neck and the hips to eradicate fleas.

COOKED CARROT added to a dogs diet may help with their rheumatism.

CARROT CORE raw and grated may be added to the main meal for your dog to help in weight reduction. It is also useful in the treatment of diabetes.

CELERY is good for thin underweight dogs. Also good for anorexia.

CELERY LEAVES for treating rheumatism - cooked or raw and added to the dog's normal meal.

CAYENNE PEPPER burnt on a metal lid will fumigate kennels or homes to eradicate fleas and other bugs.

COMFREY for arthritis, ligament damage, patella injuries, and to assist the quick knitting of fractures. Use it dried and added to the meal or make it into a hot compress and apply to the injured or painful site. This same treatment is used for sprains.

COUCH GRASS is good for stomach acid and dropsy. The roots can be made into a tea at the rate of 2 ounces to 1 1/3 cups water with honey. It can be used to treat all bladder problems.

CUCUMBER can be dabbed onto a heat rash to reduce the itching and inflammation.

EUCALYPTUS OIL can be applied directly to the coat or added to the rinse water for a flea treatment.

GARLIC is used in the treatment of intestinal worms, liver complaints, tonsillitis, and general infections.

HONEY is not technically a herb but it is produced from flowers and herbs so is included for its medicinal properties. It is a natural nerve calmer and can be used to treat or prevent stress and shock syndrome. It is beneficial in the treatment of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). It will assist the weak puppy from birth trauma to acquire enough energy for feeding.

LEMON sliced and dabbed onto ringworm will clear the condition without spreading it. (Painting them with clear nail polish also will work.)

MAIDENHAIR is a blood purifier and is useful in dissolving kidney stones.

MOLASSES for anemia, poor or faulty pigment.

OLIVES are used for exhaustion from an especially long ordeal, as in the case of long term pain, abuse caused by the elements, illness, man's cruelty or predators. Also useful if plagued with allergies that cause the adrenal system to become exhausted.

PARSLEY is used for arthritis and cramps.

POPPY SEEDS are a relaxant and nerve calmer in small doses which can be added to a maiden dam's meals to help relax her and encourage the milk to be let down.

PUMPKIN SEEDS raw and minced can be added to the main meal to assist the bitch with a late cycle or delayed season.

RASPBERRY LEAF either fresh or in tablet form given every day of the pregnancy will reduce the delivery time and make the labor less painful. It will also enrich her milk, as well as helping the uterus return to normal. It can be given to the bitch if her season is delayed.

ROCK ROSE - for any form of terror and panic

a. After an accident, injury, fire or any terrifying event.

b. For the overly fearful animal that possibly was terrified sometime in their life.

ROSE HIP (rose fruits) can be made into a tea or a cordial to aid in the treatment of metritis.

ROSEMARY can be used to treat hair loss due to nerves, allergies or scratching. Taken internally it is good for liver function and blood purifying.

SEAWEED is good for treating thyroid conditions and for weight gains after desexing. It can also improve pigment if used daily in the food.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS ground and added to the food may aid in recovery from anorexia to increase weight. Can also help overcome dull dry coats.

VIOLET LEAVES crushed over the food can help in cancer treatment.

WATERCRESS is very high in iron and therefore is good for anemia.

SAFETY

The Chihuahua faces dangers which do not concern larger dogs. Sometimes owners forget just how small their wee companion really is.

OUTDOORS

Outdoors the Chi could easily become a meal for a large bird of prey such as a hawk, an owl, or a raven. They can just as easily be carried off by hungry wild animals like coyotes or bobcats. They must be protected from this type of mishap.

They also face great danger from large dogs. Some big dogs view the little Chihuahua only as another prey animal the same as they would a rabbit. It is safer and wiser to carry the Chi when around larger animals that might attack. Using a harness when walking your Chihuahua enables you to quickly “yank” your pet up out of harm’s way if necessary. More Chihuahuas are killed by larger dogs than by all other methods of “accidental” death combined. Even well behaved dogs can suddenly react with a predator’s instinct. It has been known to happen in such regulated places as dog shows. By the time the owners realize what is happening and react, it is too late for the small dog. One bite and shake and the large dog has turned a great day into one of horror for all concerned. No amount of training can suppress completely that instinctive action of the predator. An attack by a large dog can also be triggered by it being drawn to the scent of a bitch in heat. The larger dog could also attack a Chihuahua male which is following a bitch in heat. This is one more good reason to have your pets spayed or neutered.

Unfortunately this smallest of dogs has the biggest ego when it comes to challenging large dogs, so the Chi has to be restrained from chasing after big dogs. When it comes to size the Chihuahua does not seem to understand the concept. Check your yard for a fence that is too low to keep larger dogs out or has damaged areas that your Chi could escape through. Sometimes there is a gap between the gate and the gate post which is large enough for a tiny Chihuahua to squeeze through right into danger.

A lot of Chihuahuas are very ignorant about cars, too. They do not seem to understand what could happen to them if they get in front of a moving car. Perhaps they do not see a moving car as a danger because it is so much bigger than they are. Whatever the reason, watch them carefully around streets, driveways, etc. They also have been injured jumping out of cars both moving and parked. Once again they don’t seem to “get it” when it comes to size or distance.

The winter weather experienced in some areas can also pose a threat to the safety of a Chihuahua. When the ground is cold and wet or frozen, the Chi could have frostbitten feet. The smooth coat Chihuahua is very susceptible to the cold because of its scanty covering. A good coat or sweater should be used when taking the animal outside. Even then they should not be out of doors for long periods of time. Most Chihuahuas dislike rain or standing water, including baths. Perhaps this is nature’s way of protecting them from getting too cold. In such tiny bodies it does not take much heat loss to become dangerous to the Chi’s health.

Summer time also comes with its own set of problems. The Chihuahua is a sun-worshipping little dog. It loves to lie basking in a sunny spot. Unfortunately, for all its intelligence, this small dog has little sense when it comes to overheating. It will lay in the sun even after it has started to pant with too much heat. If you have a sun-loving Chi, watch it carefully during the hot weather so it does not get heat stroke.

INDOORS

While indoors may seem like a safe place, it is not always safe to such a small, curious dog. Most Chihuahuas like to be up on the furniture. Occasionally this could lead to falling or slipping from some height leading to fractures, internal injuries, or just bruises and scratches. One Chi slipped from a window ledge and while trying to catch its balance split a toenail. This proved very painful for the dog requiring a veterinarian visit to have the nail pulled. Then it still needed to convalesce for some time.

Keeping windows and second story balcony doors that are accessible to the Chihuahua closed may prevent an accidental fall. Being cautious with high sundecks, steps, and other such areas around the home is very wise and could prevent a painful, perhaps fatal accident.

The curious Chihuahua could also pull things down on top of itself. By trying to investigate what is on a table, for instance, it may pull the tablecloth (with all that was on the cloth) down on its head. Or perhaps just tipping an item over (a lamp, small table, etc.) could result in injury. Stairs can also prove a hazard to small dogs. They should be supervised until they have learned to safely cope with them. Playing on the stairs should be discouraged the same as you would discourage a small child.

Ingesting certain items can also harm your Chihuahua. Many houseplants are poisonous to dogs as well as humans. These should be kept well out of reach or eliminated from the house if your dog is likely to try nibbling on them. Plants such as aloe vera seem harmless and can even be beneficial to humans, but they can prove dangerous or fatal to a small Chihuahua. Foods such as chocolate, raw onion and spices can also lead to serious gastronomic troubles and even to death. Of course anything that is considered poisonous such as fertilizers or anti-freeze could be fatal even in small amounts. Animals relish the sweet taste of anti-freeze but even a few licks could prove fatal for your pet. Make sure all container spills or radiator drips are cleaned up immediately to prevent such tragic results.

Chis have small throats and can find themselves with something only part way down. If they manage to swallow the offending bit of bone, for instance, it could easily lodge itself in the dog's intestines. This would result in an operation - hopefully not too late. As one vet put it "It is hard to go poking around in such small innards looking for an even smaller piece of bone". Chihuahuas have also been known to choke on the rawhide treats they love to chew. These should be watched for bits ready to come off and kept trimmed, if given to the dog at all.

Then there are the small things which intrigue an ever curious and playful pup. These could be simply small parts of toys (eyes, noses, decorations, etc.) that could be pulled off and swallowed. Even things like buttons, marbles, beads, candies, bits of foil, etc. can all cause problems much bigger than their actual physical size.

GENERAL

Another danger the Chihuahua faces that does not often involve bigger breeds is bone fractures. These are most often inflicted in innocent ways by their own humans or visitors. As their bones are so small, it does not take a great deal of pressure to break a rib or a leg. Small children can hurt them unintentionally by hugging them too tightly, dropping the squirming pup, or stepping on tiny legs while trying to get close to them. Chihuahuas should not be allowed to jump from high furniture, a person's arms, or any other high place. Their legs can be broken or joints split upon landing from a height. Once again the Chi must be protected from injury even in its own home.

Keeping an up-to-date license and identification tag on your dog is also very wise. If your pet does go astray this information allows someone to contact you so you can be reunited with your dog. In the case of stolen animals a microchip and/or a tattoo is often the best defense and gives the best chance for recovery of your purloined pooch.

The best safety tip is very simple: Be vigilant with your cherished Chihuahua!

NUTRITION

Many books, pamphlets, posters, advertisements, and videos have been produced declaring certain dog foods are the best for your dog. Always keep in mind they are each trying to sell their own particular product. Very often the claims made are general and barely touch upon the truth.

The best dog food for your dog is one you choose yourself. While some dogs do fine on the generic bulk kibble, the next one needs one of the home-made variety. Each dog in your household can be different in its likes, dislikes, needs, and wants. (Not much different from the kids in your household!) With a little experimenting and some careful observing you will soon learn what each of the little ones need. Making sure they have the correct balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, etc. can take a little work but is well worth the effort.

While one of your pets may need more protein, the next one may show signs of diarrhea if it has too much protein in its diet. If your pet seems sluggish it may need more vitamins or minerals. Taking a good look

at what you are feeding and adjusting a little at a time will usually cure these little problems. When in doubt or if symptoms persist - see your veterinarian.

Sometimes just adding some vegetables, rice, or chopped liver to a dogs diet (all cooked of course) will do wonders for the couch potato. Most dogs will eat dry kibble with a little gravy or chicken broth on it. Adding a little canned food with a bit of vegetables, rice, pasta, etc. will often give the dog the variety of important ingredients. You will also discover that one dog will do handstands for chicken but detests fish. Tailoring the diet to each dog will help keep them eating well. You do not have to go to extremes but, why buy fish flavored canned food when some of your pets don't like it and the others don't care? Trying to find some middle ground is best. Just eliminate the highly disliked item from one dogs dish and give them something they do like.

There really is not much difference between the dry dog food and the canned dog food as far as nutrition goes. They both make the same claims and deliver approximately the same kind of nutrition. The biggest difference is in the price for the owner and the taste for the dog. Some owners feel their Chihuahua is prone to diarrhea when fed canned food. Other dogs eat better and have more energy when fed canned food instead of, or in conjunction with, dry food. There are even a few dogs who do not like canned food at all. Look for ingredients your dog will eat and ones it needs. Sometimes the combination of dry and canned will be best. The best advice here is - Listen to Your Dog and Read the Labels.

FOOD DANGERS

While dogs have become known as notorious garbage hounds that will eat anything they can swallow, it is not the best way for them to stay healthy. Your dog should be discouraged from eating anything they find "just lying around" the yard or street.

Certain foods can be very dangerous for dogs. Chocolate is one of the highly dangerous food items to be kept out of reach of your pet. Some pets can become seriously ill or even fatally ill from just a small amount of chocolate. Raw onions can also be very hard on your pet. Keeping your pet from ingesting these items and such things as spicy foods can give it a better chance for a long life. A good rule of thumb is to keep the dog's diet bland (little, if any, salt, spices, embellishments, etc.) when it comes to adding "people food" to their dish.

Making sure there are no bones, bits of wrapping paper, meat string, etc. is a good safe guard. Do not give your Chihuahua bones or even stringy type food that could prove to be a choking hazard. As dogs like to gulp their food bits of bone could be part way down and the dog not aware of it until it is too late. Once again the best prevention for dietary problems is Vigilance.

RECIPES

Homemade Peanut Butter Dog Biscuits

1 ½ cups water ½ cup canola oil 2 medium eggs
2 tbs vanilla ¼ cup natural crunchy peanut butter
2 ½ cups wheat flour ¾ cup unbleached flour 1 cup cornmeal
¾ cup rolled oats

Mix liquid ingredients. Mix dry ingredients.

Pour liquids into dry ingredients. Mix until smooth.

Roll into ball. Turn ball out onto floured surface. Roll or pat to ¼" - ½" thick.

Cut with cookie cutter. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 20 minutes at 400°. Turn off oven and leave biscuits in oven for another hour.

Chicken Liver Cookies

2 cups flour 3 tbs vegetable oil 1 cup wheat germ
1 lightly beaten egg ½ cup chicken broth 2 tsp chopped parsley
1 cup chopped cooked chicken livers

Mix flour and wheat germ. Beat egg and oil. Add broth and parsley. Mix well.

Add dry ingredients a little at a time, stirring well.

Fold in liver. Mix well. Dough will be firm. Turn out onto floured surface.

Roll to ½" thick. Cut as desired. Put onto greased cookie sheet 1" apart.

Bake 15 minutes at 400° until firm. Store in refrigerator or freezer.

NOTE: - Use cornmeal in place of wheat germ or a combination of both.

- Use water from cooking livers in place of chicken broth.

No-Flea Dog Biscuits (If your dog has a yeast allergy, do not feed him this.)

2 cups flour ½ cup wheat germ ½ cup brewers yeast
1 tsp salt 2 minced garlic cloves 3 tbs vegetable oil
1 cup chicken stock

Mix flour, wheat germ, yeast and salt. Mix garlic and oil.

Slowly stir flour mix and stock alternately into oil mix. Beat well to dough stage.

Shape into a ball. Turn out onto floured surface. Roll ½" thick. Cut as desired.

Put biscuits onto greased cookie sheets.

Bake 20-25 minutes at 400° until well browned.

Turn off oven and let biscuits dry in oven for several hours or overnight.

Store in refrigerator or freezer. Makes about 26 biscuits.

NOTE: - Any flavor of stock will do.

Senior Doggie Cookies (soft)

3 jars (2 ½ oz. each) chicken or beef baby food ½ cup nonfat dry milk powder
½ cup wheat germ or cream of wheat Cooking spray

Mix all ingredients except spray. Drop by teaspoon onto sprayed cookie sheet.

Bake 15 minutes at 350° until brown. Cool on wire rack. Store in refrigerator or freezer.

Makes about 2 dozen.

Liver Brownies

1 cup water 1 cup yellow cornmeal 1 cup beef liver
A pinch of garlic powder

Mix the ingredients in a blender until smooth, then spread into a well-greased brownie-sized pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. When cool, cut into bite-sized pieces.

NOTE: - These freeze well and dogs seem to like them frozen, too.

Peanut Butter Dog Biscuits

by Nancy Silk

2 cups whole wheat flour	1 cup cornmeal	½ cup rye flour
¼ cup wheat germ	1 egg	¼ cup natural peanut butter (no sugar)
½ - 1 cup of water		

Blend all the dry ingredients together. Add egg and peanut butter. Add water while mixing until you have a stiff, but workable dough.

Dust surface and dough, roll to about 1/8 inch and use cookie cutter of choice, or use knife to cut into rectangular shapes. Spray cookie sheets with baking spray oil, and place close together (they do not raise or spread).

Bake 45 to 60 minutes at 300'. Make sure they are pretty hard. Put in an open bowl overnight to finish hardening.

NOTE: - Freeze well.

- Substitute jar of baby food meat or finely ground liver for peanut butter.
- Appreciated by all breeds.

Kay's Birthday Cake

by Kay Nelson

13 oz. can premium dog food	1 cup flour	1 ½ tsp baking powder
½ pound beef liver	2 eggs, separated	
12 oz. low or non fat cream cheese softened.		

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and butter a 9 inch round cake pan.

Simmer the beef liver in a little water until cooked. Cool and grind in a blender to a smooth, soft paste. Mix thoroughly with canned dog food.

Beat the egg whites to soft peaks and fold into the liver mixture. Blend in flour and baking powder being careful not to over mix. You want to retain the lightness of the egg whites.

Bake 35 to 45 minutes until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Cool and frost with the soft cream cheese. Decorate with dog biscuits and serve.

Pamey's Doggie Treats

by Pam Finn

1C all purpose flour	1 cup cornmeal	¼ cup parmesan cheese
¼ - ½ cup vegetable oil, tuna oil or salmon oil		½ cup water or broth
1 clove garlic, crushed		

Mix all ingredients well & roll out onto a lightly floured board to about 1/2 inch thick. Cut shapes with cookie cutter.

Bake at 300F for 40 min or until lightly browned.

Charlies' Liver and Rice Delights

by Pam Finn

1 lb raw beef liver	1 cup raw rice	1 cup flour
1 cup corn meal	½ cup wheat germ	1 or 2 Tbsp garlic powder.

Cook rice as you would normally cook rice.

With blender or food processor, whiz the raw beef liver. Whiz cooked rice. If your blender is big enough, you can whiz them together. If you whiz it too long, it becomes very sticky.

In a large bowl, mix with the rest of the ingredients. It is very hard mix, so you may need to use your hand or very strong spoon.

Roll out onto a lightly floured cookie sheet to about 1/4 inch thick.

Bake in a 350F oven for about 20 min. Then cut them in pieces.

Nacht Haus Cookies

by Jere Mitternacht

about 2 cups of flour
 potato flakes, about ½ cup
 about 1TBL of olive oil
 1 or 2 eggs
 some Yucca powder and sea kelp
 a dollup of yogart
 one small can of dog food
 water to make like cookie dough

left over roast, chopped (**Note:** If you are not going to use the cookies up in a few days, don't use the roast because it will spoil.)
 Spoon the mixture out onto a cookie sheet so that each cookie dollop is the size of a 1/2 dollar. Bake at 300 F for a few hours, until they get like hockey pucks!
 The kids loved them, and they were crunchy enough to help out the teeth! (If you bake it like brownies, you'll have to use a chainsaw to cut them!)

Garlic Dog Biscuits

by Jane Manturi

Yield: 25 servings

½ c Whole wheat flour
 6 tb Margarine - softened
 ½ c Cool water
 1 ts White sugar
 1 Egg
 1 tsp Garlic powder- NOT GARLIC SALT
 ¼ ts Salt
 ½ c Non-fat dry powdered milk

Mix all dry ingredients - flour, sugar, salt, powdered milk and garlic powder - together.
 Add margarine, egg and water and mix. Knead for 3 to 5 minutes until dough forms a nice ball. Roll to about 1/2 inch thick and cut into desired shapes.
 Bake on lightly greased cookie sheet for 30 minutes at 350 degrees F.

NOTE: - For variation use chicken or beef broth in place of water.

Doggy Cheese Bone Cookies

by Jane Manturi

Yield: 1 serving

2 cups all-purpose flour
 2 cloves Garlic, finely chopped
 Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
 ¼ cup Shredded cheddar cheese
 ½ cup Vegetable oil
 4 tb Water

Combine flour, cheese, garlic and oil in container of food processor. Cover; whirl until mixture is consistency of coarse meal. With machine on, slowly add water until mixture forms a ball.
 Divide dough into 12 equal pieces. Roll out each to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into desired shapes. Transfer to ungreased cookie sheet.
 Bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes or until bottom of cookies are lightly browned. Carefully transfer to wire rack and cool completely.

NOTE: - Refrigerate in airtight container.

Chicken Liver Cookies

submitted by Jane Manturi

Yield: 24 servings

2 cups Flour
 ½ cup Chicken broth
 3 tb Vegetable oil
 1 cup Wheat germ (or cornmeal)
 1 cup Cooked, chopped chicken liver
 1 egg, lightly beaten
 2 ts chopped parsley

Preheat oven to 400 F.
 Combine flour and wheat germ (or cornmeal).
 Beat egg with oil, then add broth & parsley, mix well.
 Add dry ingredients a little at a time, stirring well. Fold in chicken livers and mix well. Dough will be firm.
 Turn dough out on lightly floured surface and knead briefly. Roll out 1/2 inch thick and cut into shapes.
 Place on greased cookie sheet 1 inch apart.
 Bake 15 minutes or until firm.

Note: - Store in refrigerator.

Gus's Favourite Milk Bones submitted by Jane Manturi Yield: 1 batch
 1 ½ cup barley flour (found in health food stores)
 2 tb bonemeal flour (also found in health food stores)
 ½ ts salt 2 ts baking soda 1 ½ tb Vegetable oil
 1 egg yolk ½ c Milk 2tb Honey

Cream the dry ingredients together with the oil.

Beat together the egg yolk, and honey. Gradually mix into the dry ingredients. Knead into a dough. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to about 1/2 inch thick. Cut into any shape you like. You may also find bone shaped cutters at a good gourmet shop. Prick the bones with a fork and place on a greased cookie sheet.

Bake in a preheated 375 degree oven for about 20 minutes. Turn once to brown evenly.

Ziggy & Emily's Favorite Dog Treats by Becky DeLonay
 1 Cup Rolled Oats 1/3 Cup butter 1 Cup boiling water
 ¾ Cup cornmeal 1 TBSP. Sugar ½ cup milk
 2 Tsp. chicken or Beef flavored instant bouillon 1 egg (beaten)
 8oz. (1 cup) shredded cheddar cheese
 2-3 cups flour

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease cookie sheets. In large bowl combine rolled oats, butter and boiling water; let stand for 10 minutes.

Stir in cornmeal, sugar bouillon, milk, cheese & egg. Mix well, lightly spoon flour into measuring cup; level off. Add flour 1 cup at a time, mixing well after each addition to form a stiff dough. On floured surface, knead in remaining flour until dough is smooth & no longer sticky, 3-4 minutes. Roll or pat out dough to 1/2 inch thickness; cut with bone-shaped cookie cutters.

Place 1" apart on greased cookie sheets.

Bake at 325 degrees for 35-45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely, store loosely covered. 3-1/2 dozen Large or 8 dozen small dog biscuits.

Canine Carrot Cake by Becky DeLonay
 1 Cup whole-wheat flour 1 tsp. soy flour 1 tsp. baking soda
 ¼ cup chopped peanuts 1 egg ¼ cup oil
 1 tsp. vanilla extract 1/3 cup honey 1 cup ground or grated carrots

In large bowl, combine flours, baking soda, peanuts.

Mix in egg, oil, vanilla, honey and carrots until well-combined.

Pour batter into an 9-inch-square cake pan.

Bake 15-20 minutes at 325', or until done. Makes 1 cake.

NOTE: - make into cupcakes OR purchased the little Mini-loaf pans.

Dog Bones by Pamela Keddy
 2 cups flour (OR 1c whole wheat & 1 c white) 1 cup Cornmeal
 ¼ cup Wheat germ 2 tsp Chicken Bouillon powder (or beef)
 1/2 tsp Garlic (or more - to dog's taste) 1 Egg
 1 Tbsp Cooking Oil 1 cup Hot Tap Water

Turn oven to 275F.

Combine the first 5 ingredients and stir.

Add the egg, oil, and hot water and stir.

Roll out on a well-floured surface to a 1/8 -1/4 inch thickness (the recipe calls for 1/2 inch thickness but this is a little too thick for the little guys). Cut into bone shapes or other shapes. Arrange on the ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake on center rack in the oven for about an hour or so.

Cool. Let stand over night to dry thoroughly and store in a container with a lid.

NOTE: - Roll dough out onto very large tefal cookie sheet that doesn't have raised sides until the whole sheet is covered and then take a knife and cut columns about 1/2 to 3/4 inch wide and then do the same thing the other way. You will get about 200 or more little square cookies from one batch.

NOTE: Make sure they don't burn, but you want them to be hard so they will clean their teeth.

Doggie Biscuits

Yield - 36- 2 ½" biscuits

1 ½ cups whole wheat flour

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup powdered milk

1/3 cup bacon grease -OR- beef fat -OR- chicken fat

1 slightly beaten egg

1 cup cold water

Mix flour and milk. Drizzle with fat. Add egg and water. Mix well.

Gather dough into a ball. Turn out on floured surface and pat out to ½" thick. Cut as desired.

Bake on ungreased sheet 50-60 minutes at 350' until crispy.

NOTE: - Store in refrigerator.

GENERAL ARTICLES

FEEDING

Most Chihuahuas do best on several small meals each day. Some of them cannot take in enough food at one time to last for 24 hours. It has been noted by some veterinarians that the drop in the blood sugar experienced by small dogs such as toy Poodles and Chihuahuas can lead to Epileptic seizures in some of them. By feeding your pet its supper each night but keeping dry food available all day you may avoid this problem.

Making sure the bowl is right for your dog can make his mealtime much more pleasant. A deep bowl would not be suitable for a very small dog. Most Chihuahuas prefer low bowls that aren't too big. Keeping the dish clean is very important.

HOUSEBREAKING HINTS

Dogs urinate and defecate not only because they have to but also to mark their territory. I'm sure you have seen dogs kick and scratch with their hind feet after they have defecated outside. This is to spread their scent over as large an area as possible. So if something has changed in his life, he may feel the need to tell "His World" that "Hey, this belongs to me!" This change can be anything from adding a new dog, cat, or person into the family to moving. Anything that upsets their routine sometimes can cause a lapse in house breaking. If you don't get upset and back up a step or two in your house breaking discipline and refresh his memory about what he's supposed to do, he will quickly go back to being the clean dog that he was before.

Wetting as soon as you come in the door is a different thing. That is a submissive attitude that pups do when a superior adult is around. He is telling you in dog language "OK, I know you are boss and I'm the low man on the totem pole." If this has just started, you may need to rethink how you greet him when you get home. If you have been upset about his accidents and immediately correct him either verbally or physically, then that may be the reason he is doing this. People often tell me that they know that their dogs "know" that they did something wrong because they "act guilty" as soon as they get home. But look at it from the dog's point of view. His "accident" is a distant memory. He greets you at the door one day and you immediately start yelling. He doesn't have a clue why. The next day the same thing happens. Now he may start having accidents because of the anxiety of waiting for you to come home. By the third day, he starts acting submissive as soon as you come in the door. Submissive to him says "I know you are mad, I don't know why, but I am as submissive as I can get." Submissive to you means a sign of guilt. The submissive posture looks like guilt to humans. The dog will slink, walk sideways, hang its head, and urinate as soon as you get close. Now you are doubly mad and he still doesn't have a clue why. He has done his canine best to show you what he feels but you have missed the clues.

So here are the rules. You must never correct a dog for making a mess in the house unless you catch him in the act. Even 3 minutes later is too late. When you do catch him in the act, the correction is whatever your correction word is. Mine is "no" or actually it's a sound that I couldn't even spell. Then you take the dog to the correct spot for his actions. If he does his business there, then lots of praise. If he doesn't, then he has to be with you (on a leash works best) until he does want to go again. When he starts signaling that he needs to go (sniffing the floor, walking in circles, etc.) then you take him to the bathroom place and when he goes --- a lot of praise!! So modifying some of your house breaking methods usually works. Just remember that when a dog is submissive and urinates, he really can't help that. That is built into his canine brain just like lifting a leg to urinate on a tree is. Along with easing up a little on your house breaking discipline, change how you greet him when you get home. Make it very low key. Don't make eye contact. Take him immediately to his potty zone and see if he will empty his bladder there. Greet him on his level - bend down or sit in a chair or on the floor and let him come and greet you. If the home comings become a little more matter of fact, and the house breaking gets back into adjustment, then he will go back to the clean dog you want.

CRATE TRAINING MADE EASY

You must buy a crate large enough so the dog can stand up and turn around. These can be purchased from most department stores like Wal Mart.

Cover the bottom of the crate with several layers of newspaper. Keep in mind that the ink may transfer to the dog if it should get wet. Put a couple of her favorite toys in the crate with the her.

Crate the dog while you are away during the day and crate her again at bedtime. Do NOT leave the dog in the crate 24 hours a day. That is not only cruel but does not housebreak the dog nor does it socialize her. If you feel you should leave the dog in the crate all the time get a goldfish instead of a dog. A dog needs to be exercised and she needs to be with her human for her emotional well being.

She may not like the crate at first but will get used to it in time. Do not use it as a punishment but rather try to make it a pleasant experience for your pet.

Do not feed or water the dog in the crate. This will make it more difficult to train her to do her bathroom duties in the appropriate place. Because dogs dislike soiling their sleeping area they will try to wait until they are out of the crate. If you leave them in it too long you cannot blame them if they can not wait.

Start putting the dog into the crate at night. First take her outside and make sure she goes before returning to the house. Placing the crate near your bed so you can reassure her with words or touching her through the wire. Do not open the door to let her out as it will only lengthen the time it takes her to get used to the crate. Keep this regular and she will soon learn that it is time to be quiet and sleep. Do not give her food or water for several hours before the time to retire.

As soon as you get up take her out to the designated "potty" spot. Although the dog may wake earlier than you and whine to be let out, you can eventually get her used to getting up at the same time that you do. If you are going to stay in bed longer than normal take the dog out and then go back to bed.

First thing upon arising take the dog outside and again make sure she eliminates. As always give lots of praise for doing her bathroom duties in the designated area. As soon as she has completed her toilet take her inside and give her food and water. During the day she will probably need to go outside at least every two hours. As she gets older she will gain more bladder control. Be patient with them until they gain that control.

If you will be away during the day place the dog into the crate. At first two or three hours at a time is enough. Work up to six to eight hours if needed. If she makes a mistake in her crate don't punish her - just take her outside. She will soon learn to control her needs until she is outside. Take her out often enough that she will not have the need to soil her crate.

Don't forget that your dog can get lonely. She only wants your approval and your love. When ever possible crate her in the same room where you will working. Leave the room for a few minutes and if she is good while you are away give her lots of praise, take her out of the crate, outside for a potty break and then play with her. Make sure she does not feel abandoned or punished when she is crated.

Once she has become accustomed to being in her crate you could leave the door open when you are close by to watch her. She will soon be going in to nap on her own. Eventually she may not need the crate at all. Crating is a good way of housebreaking if you cannot be with the dog all the time to monitor them. Use is as a training tool not as a punishment and you will soon have a happy housebroken Chihuahua.

FLEAS

When it comes to having a dog-friend there always seems to be a fly in the ointment or at least a flea in the dog hair. Nearly all dogs have them at one time or another and the little vermin can be very hard to eliminate from your pet and your home. It is nearly impossible to eliminate them permanently but they can be controlled.

As for the tendency for long coats to have more of a flea problem than the smooth coats, that could well be the case. Mostly this is so because the hair being longer, it is harder to see and nab the little biters. And the flea can hang on better when it can bury itself in so much hair. It is also a little harder to get flea sprays, powders or shampoos down to the skin to stop the fleas. So it basically comes down to the long coats having more hair in which the flea can hide which makes it harder to rid a long coat of fleas than their smooth coat relatives.

Although fleas lay their eggs on your pet, these eggs fall off where ever the pet goes. Therefore, when treating for fleas you must treat the whole house. Flea eggs, larvae and pupae are virtually impossible to see. Once they have developed into adult fleas there may already be innumerable fleas all over the house as well as on your pet.

Outside, your pet may dislodge the eggs by running, jumping, etc. By treating the areas where the pet spends a lot of time and that are moist and warm, including door areas where the animal waits to be let in or out, you will help eliminate the problem.

Use one of the yard sprays specifically made for this purpose, or there is also a nematode (worm) that lives on flea larvae and can be spread in the yard. One brand which is available through veterinarians is called Interrupt.

Remember it is only necessary to treat the areas which remain warm and moist.

It is possible to use flea control medications for your pet which are administered once a month.

Lufenuron (Program™), helps control immature fleas. To date the only known side effect is the small percentage of pets who become nauseous after administration of the pill. Program™ does not affect the adult flea, but it does stop the reproductive ability of the adult flea. Therefore treatment should begin before the flea season.

Advantage™ is administered by a drop between the pets shoulders once a month. This will kill the adult flea.

FrontLine™ works up to three months in dogs and one month in cats to control the adult flea.

Sentinel™ is a combination of Program™ and Heart Worm Preventative medication. Heart worm is spread by mosquitoes biting your dog and is a very serious ailment.

To kill pre-adult fleas it is necessary to use methoprene (Precor). It may be used alone or in a combination spray with an adult killing ingredient. This is usually effective up to three months.

To kill adult fleas use any of the pyrethrins (tetramethrin, pyrethrin, permethrin, etc.), or an organophosphate which usually requires retreating every 2 or 3 weeks until the fleas are gone.

These products may be obtained in sprays and aerosols (foggers). Read and follow the directions very carefully for the area you are treating. Foggers are more effective if one is used in each room (smaller ones would work well).

FleaBusters is an alternative treatment of a sodium borate product for flea control. Diatomaceous earth (food grade) may also be used in the house to control fleas.

Whatever remedy you use make sure it is safe for such a small animal. Some flea shampoos may be fine on a large dog but irritate the skin of a Chihuahua. Some Chis may actually be allergic to the flea bite so do not need more irritation from the "cure." The Chis with sensitive skin may need a medicated shampoo for this irritation.

It was once thought that to obtain effective flea control it was necessary to treat the dog, the house and the yard. Now with the products such as FrontLine™, Advantage™ and Program™ we need only treat the pet to keep the fleas under control.

Everyday activities you can do which will help with the flea problem are:

Vacuum - often. Pay special attention to baseboards, rug edges, mattresses or bedding for the dog, even under couch cushions. Spray a safe insecticide inside the vacuum bag before you vacuum and discarding the bag immediately after vacuuming will help eliminate fleas.

Washing - keeping places where your dog likes to "hang out" clean can be an advantage in the flea patrol. The bedding, mats where the dog likes to sun itself, blankets where the Chi likes to curl up for its nap, even its car pillow or blanket should be kept clean and washed.

Combing - use a good flea comb during the daily grooming session to dislodge the flea that is feasting on your pet. Do not use combs, brushes, towels, etc. on a second dog if the first one has fleas, without giving them a thorough washing first. Wash your hands and all surfaces and towels after "de-fleaing" your Chihuahua.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

Because some dogs, puppies in particular, like to chew on anything they can find, this list may help you prevent poisoning in your pet. Although there are other plants that can poison your pet, it is a good basic list of dangerous plants. Not all plants will affect all dogs in the same way. The reaction usually shown by the pet is listed for diagnosis help on some plants.

Acocanthera - (fruit and flowers)

Airplane Plant

Almond - vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea.

Aloe Vera - diarrhea.

Amanita Mushroom

Amaryllis - (bulbs)

Amsinckia/Tarweed - (foilage, seeds)

Anemone

Angel Trumpet Tree - (flowers, leaves)

Apple - (leaves, bark, stem) rapid breathing, shock, dilated pupils, gum inflammation.

Apple Pits - varied toxic effects.

Apricot - (leaves and stems) vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea.

Apricot Seeds - varied toxic effects.

Asparagus Fern - vomiting, abdominal pain, cramps, tremors, heart, respiratory, kidney problems.

Atropa Belladonna

Avocado Leaves

Avocado Seeds - diarrhea, vomiting, labored breathing, Death.

Azalea - (entire plant) upset stomach, drooling, depression, paralysis of the muscles, including the heart, depression of the nervous system, coma. Sometimes fatal.

Balsam Pear - (seeds, outer fruit rind) vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea.

Baneberry

Beach Pea

Betel Nut Palm

Belladonna

Bird of Paradise - (seed pods) nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Bittersweet - (berries) Death

Black-Eyed Susan

Black Locust

Black Walnut

Bladder Pod

Bloodroot

Bluebonnet

Bottlebrush - (flowers)

Boxwood Bleeding Heart

Boxwood Tree

Buckthorn - (fruit, bark)

Buttercup - (sap, bulbs) upset stomach.

Caladium - upset stomach, oral irritation, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, loss of balance, Death.

Calla Lily - (entire plant) intense burning sensation and irritation of the mouth, nausea, asphyxiation.

Swallowing two or more seeds may cause serious illness or Death.

Cardinal Flower

Carolina Jessamine

Cassava - (roots, fruit)
 Castor Bean - (leaves, bean)
 Chalice Vine/Trumpet Vine
 Cherry - (everything except fruit) shock, gum inflammation, dilated pupils, rapid breathing.
 Cherry Laurel
 Chinaberry Tree - (berries)
 Chocolate - anxiety, tremors, coma, Death
 Christmas Berry - (berries)
 Christmas Cactus - (sap)
 Christmas Candle
 Christmas Rose
 Christmas Tree - (needles, tree water)
 Chrysanthemum - skin irritations, may appear as a rash but may also give rise to dermatitis.
 Columbine
 Common Privet
 Coral Plant
 Corn Cockle
 Crocus Bulbs
 Croton
 Cyclamen
 Daffodil - (bulb) severe vomiting and diarrhea, trembling, convulsions, and sometimes Death.
 Daphne - (entire plant, berries) burning and ulceration of stomach and intestines, bloody vomiting and diarrhea.
 Datura / Jimsonweed
 Deadly Amanita
 Deadly Nightshade
 Death Cap Mushroom
 Death Camas
 Dieffenbachia / Dumb Cane - upset stomach, oral irritation, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, loss of balance, Death.
 Destroying Angel / Death Cap
 Dieffenbachia
 Dogwood - (fruit)
 Dragon Tree
 Dumb Cane Dieffenbachia - upset stomach, oral irritation, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, loss of balance, Death.
 Dutchman's Breeches
 Easter Lily - (flower petals)
 Eggplant - (all parts except fruit) upset stomach, heart failure, drooling, lethargy.
 Elderberry - (foliage)
 Elephant's Ear / Taro (Colocasia) - (foliage) upset stomach, oral irritation, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, loss of balance, Death.
 English Holly Berries - vomiting, diarrhea, loss of balance, seizures, weakness, collapse.
 English Ivy - (leaves and berries) general excitement, difficulty in breathing, coma.
 Equisetum
 Euphorbia / Spurge
 False Hellebore
 False Henbane
 Fiddleneck / Senecio
 Fly Agaric / Amanita
 Four O'Clock
 Foxglove
 Gelsemium
 Ghostweed / Snow On The Mountain
 Golden Chain / Laburnum
 Hemlock
 Holly
 Holly Berries (English and American)
 Horse Chestnut
 Horsetail Reed / Equisetum Hyacinth - (bulbs)

Hydrangea - (flower buds) seizures, rapid breathing, loss of balance.
 Iris - (leaves, roots, bulbs, fleshy portions) severe but temporary digestive upset.
 Ivy
 Jack-In-The-Pulpit / Indian Turnip
 Jasmine - weakness, seizures, respiratory failure.
 Jasmine Star
 Jasmine Yellow - (entire plant) thirst, dilation of the pupils, reddened skin, headache, high blood pressure and rapid pulse, convulsions, delirium, coma.
 Jatropha - (seeds, sap)
 Java Bean - (uncooked bean)
 Jerusalem Cherry - (berries) vomiting, diarrhea and collapse.
 Jessamine - (berries)
 Jimsonweed
 Johnson Grass
 Jonquil (narcissus) - upset stomach, hyperactivity, depression, coma, seizures, tremors, weakness, irregular heartbeat, Death.
 Juniper - (needles, stems, berries)
 Laburnum
 Lantana - (berries) gastric intestinal irritation, muscular weakness and circulatory difficulties. Sometimes fatal.
 Larkspur
 Laurel
 Lobelia
 Locoweed
 Lords And Ladies / Cuckoopint
 Lilies - (all varieties)
 Lily Of The Valley - (all parts, vase water)
 Machineel
 Mayapple - (all parts except fruit)
 Mescal Bean
 Milk Vetch
 Milkweeds - (foilage)
 Mistletoe Berries
 Moccasin Flower
 Mock Orange - (fruit)
 Monkshood
 Morning Glory - upset stomach, hallucinations.
 Mother-In-Law's Tongue
 Mountain Laurel
 Mushrooms - (many wild forms) varied toxic effects.
 Narcissus - (bulbs)
 Narcissus Jonquilla
 Natal Cherry
 Nicotine Bush
 Nightshades
 Nuts - walnuts can be poisonous to dogs and should be avoided. There is a fungus common to walnuts (especially wet deadfall walnuts) that will cause severe episodes of seizures. Many nuts are not good for dogs in general, their high phosphorous content is said to possibly lead to bladder stones.
 Oak - (acorns, leaves) some are Lethal
 Oleander - (entire plant) nausea, depression, bloody diarrhea, tremors, seizures, weakened and irregular paralysis, heart failure, excitability or lethargy.
 Onion - Upset stomach, anemia. Onions, especially raw onions, have been shown to trigger haemolytic anemia in dogs.
 Peach - (leaves, stem, pit) vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea.
 Pear Seeds
 Pennyroyal - (foliage, flowers)
 Peony - upset stomach, tremors, seizures, staggering, loss of balance, depression, collapse, heart failure, Death.
 Periwinkle
 Philodendron - upset stomach, mouth irritation, tremors, seizures, loss of balance, asphyxiation, Death.

Philodendron (saddle leaf, split leaf) - swollen mouth, painful tongue, sore lips.
 Pikeweed
 Pine needles
 Poinsettia - (leaves and stems) diarrhea, abdominal cramps and delirium. Sap can cause irritation, and if rubbed into the eyes can cause blindness.
 Poison Hemlock
 Poison Ivy
 Poison Oak - (leaves) skin irritation.
 Poison Sumac
 Pokeweed
 Pokewood/Poke Cherry
 Poppy
 Potato Plant - (new shoots, eyes, vine)
 Privet - (entire plant) bloody vomiting, diarrhea, severe irritation of the digestive tract and general nervous system.
 Ranunculus or Buttercup - (entire plant) stomach irritation, diarrhea, and in large quantities, convulsions.
 Rattlebox
 Rhododendron
 Rhubarb - (leaves) vomiting, severe abdominal pain, muscle cramps. In large quantities, convulsions, coma and Death.
 Rosary Peas - (pods, seeds, flowers)
 Russian Thistle
 Sago Palm
 Salmonberry
 Scarlet Pimpernel
 Senecio / Fiddleneck
 Seven Year Bean - (raw, it is a red bean) cooked it is not harmful, raw it is highly toxic.
 Skunk Cabbage
 Snail Pellets - one pellet can kill.
 Snapdragon
 Snowdrop
 Spanish Bayonet
 Spider Plant
 Spinach
 Star Of Bethlehem
 Sudan Grass
 Sundew
 Tansy - (foilage, flowers)
 Tarweed
 Thornapple
 Tiger Lily
 Toad Flax - (foilage)
 Toadstools
 Tobacco Leaves / Plant
 Tomato Plant / Vine - (all parts except fruit) upset stomach, lethargy, drooling, heart failure, dilated pupils.
 Touch-Me-Not
 Toyon Berry - (berries)
 Trillium - (foilage)
 Trumpet Vine
 Tulip - (bulb) varied toxic effects.
 Umbrella Plant - vomiting, abdominal pain, cramps, tremors, heart, respiratory, kidney problems.
 Venus Flytrap
 Verbena
 Virginia Creeper - (sap)
 Water Hemlock
 Weeping Fig
 Wildflower
 Wild Parsnip - (roots, foilage)
 Wisteria - (entire plant) severe vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea.
 Yellow Jessamine

Yellow Star Thistle
Yew (American, English Japanese)

These are not plants but are products that may be accessible to your pet. They can also be lethal. Some you may not have even thought of as dangerous until now.

Acetaminophen	Antifreeze	Aspirin	Bleach
Boric Acid	Brake Fluid	Carbon Monoxide	Carburetor Cleaner
Christmas Tinsel	Cleaning Fluid	Deodorants	Deodorizers
Detergents	Disinfectants	Drain Cleaner	Dye
Fungicides	Furniture Polish	Gasoline	Hair Colorings
Herbicides	Insecticides	Kerosene	Laxatives
Lead	Lye	Matches	Metal Polish
Mineral Spirits	Mothballs	Nail Polish	Nail Polish Remover
Paint	Paint Remover	Perm Solutions	Phenol
Photo Developer	Rat Poison	Rubbing Alcohol	Shoe Polish
Sleeping Pills	Soaps	Suntan Lotions	Tar
Turpentine	Windshield Fluid	Woodstains	

COMMANDS FOR A WELL-BEHAVED PET

In able to turn your plain dog into a well-behaved pet, you only have to teach a few basic commands. These can be voice or hand signals. Although it is more common to teach voice commands, there are times when a few hand signals can be very useful. These are a few general commands that can be useful.

Come A command that can be a life-saver where your pet is concerned. On this command the dog should be taught to immediately come to you. This response may prevent the animal from running out into traffic. This should be taught as one of the first commands.

Down This command takes the “sit” command one step further by making your dog lie down. This is easier on the dog when he has to wait for an extended period of time.

Drop It This is an important command whenever you see your dog pick up something from the ground. The object may not be good for him and they will drop the item so you can remove it. This may also save your shoe from a chewing.

Heel For city animals particularly this is an important command. It a lot easier for the handler when on a busy street if he can keep the dog on his left and beside him. Another good method of preventing a large dog from towing you down the street at the end of his leash.

Okay The dog’s favorite command (particularly when preceding dinner!). It will give them the go ahead to be just a dog (no longer in a lesson) or they can have a treat.

Sit One of the easiest commands to teach and can be used in a variety of circumstances. This command will often keep a dog under control instead of pulling on the leash or making a nuisance of itself by jumping up on people.

Stay An important command to keep your pet in one place. Very often used immediately after the “sit” or “down” command.

Wait When your dog is anxious to be on its way when you aren’t this command is useful. It can be used at a stop light or to make him stand still while grooming, checking or bathing him.

READING YOUR DOG

Have you ever wondered what your dog is really trying to tell you? This may give you a little insight into the language of the dog.

Body

Bowing (front end down, back end up and tail wagging) if his way of asking you to play.

Freezing in place is a sign that your dog is afraid of something.

Leaning or rubbing against another dog or a human is a friendly gesture.

Pawing is a gesture of appeasement.

Mouth

Licking the lips means the dog is trying to appease you because it is worried.
Lips pulled back to show teeth are a warning sign.
Mouth will be relaxed when he is calm and tightly closed when he is anxious or worried.
Panting can mean the dog is hot but he will pant when he is excited or in a playful mood.

Eyes

Averted gaze shows his deference.
Dilated pupils show that the dog is fearful.
Direct eye contact indicates the dog is feeling confident.

Ears

Erect ears mean the dog is paying attention and is alert to its handler or surroundings.
Laid back ears show the dog is scared or worried.
Relaxed ears indicate a calm dog.

Tail

Between the legs is a sign of fear.
Down held tail shows the dog is worried or apprehensive.
Erect tail means the dog is alert.
Out straight and slowly wagging shows the dog is cautious.
Up and wagging fast is an indication of excitement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does my Chihuahua snore and seem to choke?

A: Because of their short noses this is a common trait of the Chihuahua and can occur when they are excited, playing or sometimes for no discernible reason. They will quit on their own so there is no reason for alarm. In rare cases the cause is a soft or dropped trachea which can be the result of chronic tonsillitis or that the dog may be overweight. Your veterinarian can tell you if there is a medical condition that needs treatment.

Q: What was the first recognized Chihuahua?

A: The first Chihuahua that was officially registered by AKC was Midget in 1904.

Q: Can I use a choke chain collar on my Chihuahua?

A: No. Do NOT use choke chain collars on such small dogs. They can cause throat damage very easily. Although a regular collar may be used, the best "collar" for your Chi is a Y-neck harness. This puts no strain on the throat, keeps the dog under control and allows quick "pick-up" if danger threatens.

Q: Are Chihuahuas nervous, snappy dogs?

A: Not necessarily. If they have good temperament breeding and have been socialized properly it will be a much more sociable dog. The average Chihuahua is very protective of their owners and suspicious of strangers. Occasionally hyperactivity and aggressiveness can be caused by food coloring, artificial additives and preservatives.

Q: What is the Life Expectancy of my Chihuahua?

A: Most Chis live from ten to fifteen years although some have lived several years more. Their age depends generally on the breeding and health.

Q: Are Chihuahuas good with children?

A: Although they can be good with children it is better to purchase a larger dog. Children can play rough and tumble games which could be dangerous for a dog with such tiny bones. To be on the safe side Chis are not recommended for children under 10 years of age.

Q: What is the difference between a Chihuahua with short hair and one with long hair?

A: Only the length of the hair itself.

Q: Why does my long coated Chihuahua have so little long coat?

A: There are five stages of coat, with the final full coat at about three years of age. A female may lose some of its coat with her heat seasons or when she has puppies. It is best not to put a coat or sweater on young Chihuahuas. Otherwise have your veterinarian check for deficiencies of the diet such as vitamins, minerals, etc. which can affect the skin condition and the coat growth. Allergies may also cause coat loss.

Q: Do Chihuahuas like other dogs?

A: In general Chis do not like other breeds but do like other Chis. Some Chis can adjust to living with other breeds of dogs with patience.

Q: Are Chihuahuas smart dogs?

A: Yes. They are very intelligent dogs.

Q: Can Chis be trained?

A: Yes. Chihuahuas can be "house-manners" trained, obedience trained and some have even been trained to be therapy dogs.

Q: Can Chihuahuas be housetrained?

A: Definitely. They can be paper trained, crate trained, outdoor trained, etc.

Q: Do Chihuahuas come in colors other than tan?

A: Yes. Chis come in all colors and may be parti-colored, tri-colored, or solid colors.

Q: How can I tell if my Chihuahua is good enough to show or breed?

A: The dog must be registered with the canine control council in your state first. You should also be a member of that control. Next, ask a breeder to assess the dog's potential for you. Show the breeder the dog's registration papers so he can advise you on the "line" to look for and if it is safe to breed from and if it's sound enough.

Q: How big will my Chihuahua get?

A: Most Chihuahuas weigh between two and six pounds (although they can be from one to ten or more pounds) and stand six to nine inches tall at the shoulder. There is no class separation such as standard, miniature, or toy. There is only the Chihuahua which can come in all sizes even from the same litter.

Q: Why does my Chihuahua bark all the time?

A: Usually the reason is because the dog has been "allowed" to bark all the time. Nearly any dog will bark if they are left alone a lot and become bored. They are trying to communicate with other dogs. With their extremely keen hearing they can hear noises even from next door or down the street. Some Chis may be "barky" but most are only quick to alert their human of anything strange in their line of vision. This habit of barking needs to be controlled from puppyhood. Check with your veterinarian or breeder for help.

Q: Are all Chihuahuas such fussy eaters?

A: They do not have to be. Fussy eaters are made by allowing the dog to be fussy or picky over its food.

Q: Why does my Chihuahua eat grass?

A: Grass has medicinal properties and couch grass is a particular favorite for upsets in the urinary tract and bladder. Other types of grass provide fibrous bulk to induce vomiting or reduce constipation. As dogs are extremely good herbalists they will seek the grass they need for a particular problem.

Q: What is the ideal diet for a full grown Chihuahua?

A: In general any commercially prepared dog food without artificial color or additives is best. This is even better than human food. One good suggestion is to feed moist canned meat at night and dry kibbles

free choice during the day. Check with your breeder or veterinarian for the right amount of food to feed your dog. Don't forget to include treats in the daily food count.

Q: What kind of illness does the Chihuahua have?

A: The most common problems are weak knees, tooth decay or misalignment, eye problems such as glaucoma, and molera. These are not common to all Chis.

Q: Why does my dog "scoot" its bottom across the floor?

A: This is usually a sign of anal gland irritation. These scent glands need to be emptied every so often depending on diet, age, sex and stage of the breeding season. Ask your veterinarian how to do this.

Q: What is the proper age to spay or neuter my Chihuahua?

A: In general the best age is about six months of age for male and female Chis. Ask your veterinarian if there seems to be a reason this should not be done at this age.

Q: What are the causes of bad breath and how can I cure it?

A: This is often an age related problem which can be caused by several things.

- Dental or Intestinal problems.

- Nasal or Lung infections.

Your veterinarian can help with any dental or medical conditions. A proper diet will usually clear up intestinal ones. Meanwhile - activated charcoal tablets will help reduce the smell.

Q: Why do Chihuahuas have such watery eyes?

A: The Chis eyes are large and round so are exposed to glare and wind more than some dogs. They are also close to the ground and rugs so get a lot of dust and dirt into their eyes. Even grass blades can cause tearing as the dog plays on the lawn. You can dry their tears often and check their eyes for foreign objects in or near them.

Q: How often should I bath my Chihuahua?

A: All dogs need a bath several times a year. Chihuahuas benefit from a bath about once a month for the long coats and perhaps less for the smooth coats. Naturally if the dog has been into something smelly or has been contaminated by oil, for instance, it should be bathed immediately. Daily brushing and wiping the coat with a lanolin baby wipe once or twice a week will help keep the dog's coat clean and fresh smelling. Bathing the dog too often can result in skin irritation because the natural oils have been removed.

Q: How do I trim the nails on my very reluctant Chihuahua?

A: Use scissors type clippers instead of the guillotine type. Apply the blades to the sides of the nail and cut just the curved hook off the end. Only cut one or two a day until you get more experienced and the Chi learns to trust you. If this fails you could put the dog into a sling (a square of light canvas with holes for its legs to come through) suspended from a hook or held by a willing helper with the dogs feet off the floor. If even this fails - take the dog to your groomer or your veterinarian.

Q: Why does my dog sometimes hop on its back legs?

A: It may have patella luxation (slipping kneecaps). Have it checked by your veterinarian to see if it needs surgical treatment to prevent damage to the bones of the joint. Joint damage could lead to arthritis causing quite a lot of discomfort and pain for your pet.

Q: Why do Chihuahuas shiver?

A: Shivering can be caused by excitement, anxiety, nervousness, cold, or because it is one of the traits of the Chihuahua.

Q: Why are my Chihuahua puppy's ears soft and folded down?

A: This is quite normal from approximately four months and up to eight months. Although it is rare to have a soft eared Chi it does happen occasionally. A good indicator is - if the ears have not stood erect in the first six months of its life it is very doubtful they ever will. Folded ears in older Chis can be signs of ear infections, ear mites or tooth decay.

Q: Where did the Chihuahua originate?

A: The Chi came from Mexico and is named after the smallest state in Mexico - Chihuahua.

Q: Where is the best place to purchase a Chihuahua?

A: If you are looking for a well-bred Chihuahua visit a reputable breeder. The Canadian Kennel Club can assist you to find one in your area. If you are more interested in a pet than the bloodline - try the local animal shelters or rescue groups. Sometimes a Chihuahua finds itself in one of these locations.

Q: Do Chihuahuas like toys?

A: Definitely. Chihuahuas love toys, particularly soft ones, rawhide chews and fuzzy toys.

Q: Is it okay to have the Chihuahua share your bed?

A: Your bed is most likely going to be your Chihuahua's first choice when it comes to choosing a place to sleep. They love to burrow under the covers on cool nights.

Q: Does it matter what kind of dishes I use to feed and water my Chihuahua?

A: Stainless steel dishes with flat bottoms and not too high or big around are ideal dishes for your pet. Glass is next best. Plastic is not advised as it can harbor bacteria in the minute scratches and cracks in its surface.

Q: Should I put a coat or sweater on my Chihuahua?

A: When taking the dog outside on cold days it is very important to safeguard the Chihuahua from getting chilled. Therefore a coat is advisable. Even boots may be used on cold icy paths or walkways.

Q: Are Chihuahuas good car companions?

A: Yes. Chis love to go in the car with you. Do not leave them in the car alone on hot days when they could get heat stroke in less than five minutes. On cold days they can get a severe chill in a very short time. When traveling with them be sure to carry water for them even on a short journey.

Q: My Chi rarely leaves the house - do I still need ID on her?

A: Absolutely. Not only is a dog tag and an ID tag with your phone number on it good help in the case of your dog being lost, but a tattoo and/or a microchip help with a stolen pet.

Q: What is the most common cause of death in Chihuahuas?

A: Attacks by bigger dogs.

INFORMATION

BOOKS

All About the Chihuahua

by Mona Huxham (1976)

Chihuahua (The)

by Anna Katherine (1988 - T.F.H. Publications)

Chihuahua (The)

by Ida H. Garret (1961)

Chihuahua (The)

by Thelma Gray (1961)

Chihuahua (The)

by Russell E. Jauffman (1953 - Judy Publishing Company, 10060 West Roosevelt Road, Westchester IL 60153)

Out of print - limited availability

Chihuahua (The)

by Anna K. Nichols (1988 - TFH Pub. Inc.)

Chihuahua: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet (The)

by E. Ruth Terry

Chihuahua Club of America Inc., Handbook (The)

by Tanya Delaney (1988 - 987 W. Center Ave. Rd. Essexville MI 48732)

Chihuahua Guide

by Hilary Harmer (1968 - Pet Library Ltd. Sterno Industries Inc. 50 Cooper Square NY NY)
In print

Chihuahuas

by Hilary Harmer (1966 - W & G Foyle Ltd. 119 Charing Cross Rd. London Eng)
In print

Chihuahuas

by Walter Johnson (ca 1922 - Alameda Kennels, Las Cruces, New Mexico)
Out of print - extremely rare

Chihuahuas

by Beverly Pisano (1988 - T.F.H. Publications)
1988 ISBN 0-7938-1091-4

Chihuahuas: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual

by D. Caroline Coile Ph.D. (Barron's Educational Series Inc.)

Chihuahuas As Pets

by Madeline Miller (1955)

Complete Chihuahua (The)

by Milo Denlinger (1947 - Denlinger's, Richmond VA)
updated edition in print

Complete Chihuahua (The)
by James Watson, Anna B. Vinyard, Rosina Casselli, Milo G. Denlinger, Russell E. Kaufman
(1978 - Howell Book House)

Complete Chihuahua Encyclopedia (The)
by Hilary Harmer (1972 - Arco Pub. Co. Inc. 219 Park Ave. S. NY NY)
In print

Complete Dog (The)
by Amy Marder DVM (1997 Broadway - for Iams)

Competitive Obedience for the Small Dog
by Cecil & Darnell

Dog Behavior and Training
by Lowell Ackerman DVM T.F.H.

Doggie Cookbook (The)
by A. Robinson (1978)

Dog Owner's Guide Profile: The Chihuahua
by Cannis Major Publications (<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/chihua.html>)

Dog Who Loved Too Much (The)
by Dr. Nicholas Dodman (Bantam Books)

Dr. Jim's Animal Clinic for Dogs
by Jim Humphries DVM (1994 - Howell Book House)

Enjoy Your Chihuahua
by Earl Schneider (ca 1960)

Essential Chihuahua (The)
by Ian Dunbar (Howell Book House)

First Aid for Dogs: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet
by Stephanie Schwartz, DVM (1998 - Howell Book House)

How To Be Your Dog's Best Friend
by The Monks of New Skete (Little, Brown, and Company)

How to Housebreak Your Dog in 7 Days
by Shirlee Kalstone (Bantam Books)

How to Raise and Train a Chihuahua
by Estelle Ferguson

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With
by Clarice Rutherford and David H. Neil (Alpine Publications Loveland Colorado)

How Willy Got His Wheels
by Deborah Turner and Diana Mohler (Doral Publishers Inc. ISBN: 0-944875-54-8)
Hardcover 32pp Children 6 -12 years

Know Your Chihuahua
by Earl Schneider (ca 1960 - The Pet Library Ltd. 50 Cooper Square NY, NY)
Out of print - rare

Mother Knows Best
by Carol Lea Benjamin

New Chihuahua (The)
by E. Ruth Terry (1990 - Howell Book House)

New Dog Handbook (The)
by Hans-J Ullmann (1985 ISBN 0-8120-2857-0)

New Knowledge of Dog Behavior (The)
by Clarence Pfaffenberger (Howell Book House)

People, Pooches, & Problems
by Job Michael Evans

Pet Chihuahua
by Tressa E. Thurmer (1954 - All-Pets Books, Inc. Fond du Lac WI) - Out of print - scarce

Popular Chihuahua (The)
by Thelma Gray (1961 - Popular Dogs Publishing Co.)

Smallest Dog on Earth (The)
by Rosemary Weir (1963)

Surviving Your Dog's Adolescence
by Carol Lea Benjamin

Pet Chihuahua
by Tressa E. Thurmer (1962 - All-Pet Books Inc.)

Playtraining Your Dog
by Patricia Gail Burnham (St. Martins Press)

Purely Positive Training
by Sheila Booth (Podium Publications)

This and That About Chihuahuas
by Charles Wall

This is the Chihuahua
by Maxwell Riddle (1958 - T.F.H. Publications Inc. P.O. Box 27, Neptune City NJ)
Updated edition in print

Training your Dog Step by Step
by Volhard & Fisher

Well Dog Book (The)
by Terri McGinnis (1991 - Random House)

What All Good Dogs Should Know: The Sensible Way to Train
by Jack Volhard & Melissa Bartlett (1991 - Howell Book House - ISBN 0-87605-832-2)

Who's Who in Chihuahua
by Dick Dickerson (1979)

Your Chihuahua
by Ruth L. Murray (1966 - Hawthorn Books Inc. 70 Fifth Ave NY NY)
In print

Your Chihuahua's Life
by Kim Campbell Thornton (Prima Publishing)

MAGAZINES

The New Chihuahua

Bi-monthly \$28.00 per year
c/o Doggone Publishing
2059 Camden Avenue, #188
San Jose, CA 95124
Attn: Jennifer Schmidt

Los Chihuahuas

12860 Thonotosassa Road
Dover, FL 33527

Dogs USA

P.O. Box 6040
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Dog World

29 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-3298

MAIL ORDER

Mail Order Pet Supplies (Canada)
<http://www.dogsincanada.com>

Pet Mail Order Catalogues:
RC Steel 800-872-3773 (US)
JB Wholesale 800-526-0388 (US)

WEBSITES

ASSESSORIES

Chihuahua Sweater Patterns

<http://www.tiac.net/users/stacey/chihsw.html>
<http://www.iseespots.com/lambcoat.html>
<http://www.cs.oswego.edu/~ebozak/knit/esb-patterns/dog-sweater.html>
<http://www.crochetnmore.com/dogsweater.htm>

Dog Clothes/Furniture

<http://www.fifisecret.com/>
<http://www.canineclothing.com/>
<http://members.tripod.com/~snappysrapes/index.html>
<http://members.aol.com/bugsyncloset/index.html>
<http://www.animalfair.com/index.shtml>
<http://www.Petelegance.com>

Material

<http://www.hotdiggitydog.com/dogs.htm#C>
<http://www.hotdiggitydog.com/chihuahuaLC.htm>

BEHAVIOR

Puppy attitude tests

<http://www.golden-retriever.com/pat1.html>
<http://dogproblems.com>
<http://www.webtrail.com/petbehavior/>
<http://FriskyPet.com>

FOOD, DIET

Dog food information

<http://www.doggiedoor.com/ingredie.htm>
<http://naturapet.com>

How much to feed, comparing labels, etc.

<http://petsmart.com/>

Ingredient Definitions:

http://www.petsmart.com/articles/article_6349.shtml

GIFTS

<http://www.k9gifts.com/windsocks/chihuahua.html>

HEALTH

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

<http://www.avma.org>

Animal CPR

<http://members.aol.com/henryhbk/acpr.html>

AVMA site dedicated to consideration of euthanizing and the grieving process

<http://www.avma.org/care4pets/avmaloss>

Ask the Experts - veterinarian questions answered on-line

<http://www.netfopets.com/AskTheExperts.html>

Blind Dogs

http://members.xoom.com/blinddogs/blind_dogs.htm

Canine Health Foundation

http://www.akcCHF.org/new_pages/home.htm

Chihuahua Weight Chart

<http://www.bartsgroup.net/bartschi/home.html>

Deafness

http://www.lsu.edu/guests/senate/public_html/

Encyclopedia of Canine Veterinary Medical Information

<http://www.vetinfo.com/dencyclopedia/deindex.html>

Epilepsy

<http://www.rt66.com/~dalcrazy/Epil-K9.html>

K9KIDNEYS-subscribe@onelist.com

Louisiana State University School of Veterinarian Medicine

<http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu>

Moleras:

<http://www.geocities.com/Petsburgh/Park/3905/molersa.htm>

<http://cheta.net/connect/canine>

http://users.erols.com/thevet/html/body_canine_pancreatitis.html

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/msubclinics.htm>

<http://vetmedicine.guide@about.com>

<http://www.aone.com/~skylok1/health.html#DOGCRUD>

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.com>

<http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/cen/> (epilepsy, etc.)

http://www.cvm.uuiu.edu/ceps/petcolumnns/Pancreatitis_in_Dogs.html

<http://www.healthcentral.com/Centers/OneCenter.cfm?Center=PetHealth>

<http://www.mednets.com/campylobacteriosis.htm> (Campylobacteriosis)

<http://www.ranimalhospital.com/chocolate.html>

<http://www.srdogs.com/Pages/rimadylfr.html>

<http://www.thepetcenter.com>

<http://www.vetinfo.com/dogindex.html>

http://www.vth.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/report/search.cfm

HOME PAGES (CCRT Members)

CCRT members Chihuahuas

<http://members.home.net/pegm/chihuahuas/~chihuahuas.html>

Dot's homepage

<http://members.home.com/3chis>

Sheila G's homepage

<http://www3.telus.net/tinydog/boys.html>

LOSS OF PET

Hotline for those suffering grief of Pet Loss

<http://www.colostate.edu> - or WSU at 509/335-5704

MEDICINE - Home and Prescription

Immunization Controversy and Other Health Aspects

wellpet@ListService.net

<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/vth/savp2.html>

Pets' Home Medicine Chest

<http://animalsunlimited.net/meds.htm>

Veterinary prescription drugs (including side effects)

http://www.ccweb.net/marvistavet/html/pharmacy_center.html

<http://animalsunlimited.net/meds.htm>

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

How to find a lost dog

<http://www.sherlockbones.com>

<http://altamontks.com/littlebuddy/default.htm>

<http://pets.com>

<http://PETSMART.com>

<http://www.chihuahuavillage.com>

<http://www.ddc.com/petplace/>

<http://www.geocities.com/Petsburg/>

<http://www.petopia.com>

<http://petserv.com>

<http://www.petstore.com>

http://www.studyweb.com/Animal_Pets

<http://www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=chiring&index>

NEWS, etc.

Chihuahua news

<http://www2.crosswinds.net/~chinews/>

Chihuahua Screensaver

cconlin@concourse.net

Chihuahua Stationery

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/cottage/8644/welcome.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/Petsburgh/7613/index.html>

Make a Home Page for Your Chihuahua

http://www.dogchow.com/frame_build.html

ORGANIZATIONS/CLUBS

Agility Chihuahuas

<http://frontpage.webzone.net/madelynem/Chihuahua.htm>

<http://www.agilityability.com>

Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)

<http://www.ckc.ca>

Canadian Chihuahua Rescue & Transport (CCRT)

<http://www.ccrt.net>

Canine Good Citizenship

<http://www.akc.org/love./cgc/index.cfm>

Chihuahua Club of America
<http://www.spsos.net/chihuahuaclubofamerica/>
Chihuahua Rescue & Transport (CRT)
<http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com>

OWNER'S GUIDE ONLINE

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/chihua.html>

PET SUPPLIES

<http://www.jarspetpalace.com>
<http://www.pet-expo.com/frame3.htm>
<http://www.petopia.com>

PHOTOS

<http://www.chi-land.com/index1.htm>

POISONOUS PLANTS

<http://www.thepoop.com/>

POTTY TRAINING

<http://www.ddc.com/petplace/dogtraining/potty.html>

RECIPES

<http://www.thepoop.com/>

RESCUE, etc.

http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/~laird/animal_rescue/breed_rescue_organizations
<http://www.hua.org>
<http://www.realttime.net/~wbrogden/rescue.html>
<http://www.petfinder.org>
<http://www.txucom.net/~window/pure.htm>

TOYS

<http://store.yahoo.com/willie/index.html>

TRAVEL

Airline requirements
<http://petswelcome.com/milkbone/airtravfram.html>
Canada, US, France
<http://petswelcome.com/welcome.html>
Canadian hotels, campgrounds, ski resorts, etc.
<http://petswelcome.com/milkbone/canmap.html>
Oregon coast pet friendly hotels
<http://home.earthlink.net/~adelsheim/petfriendly.htm>
Pet Friendly Motels, etc.
<http://www.dogfriendly.com>
US hotels, campgrounds, ski resorts, etc.
<http://petswelcome.com/milkbone/map.html>

VETERINARIANS

Traveling emergencies (US only)
<http://petswelcome.com/milkbone/vetmap.html>

In a life and death situation when every minute counts for an animal, you can call the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center for 24-hour emergency information at 888-4ANI-HELP. Their website is <http://www.napcc.asPCA.org/>

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me - it is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for too long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when it is speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, remember that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart may be getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You, too, will grow old.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch it" or, "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there.

Remember, I love you.

TEN COMMANDMENTS ACCORDING TO YOUR PET

1. Thou shalt feed me today more than thou didst yesterday.
2. Thou shalt teach me with food - not big sticks and loud voices.
3. Thou shalt walk with me every day - despite thy favorite TV program.
4. Thou shalt not buy furniture that I cannot sit on.
5. Thou shalt not pay attention to anyone else but me - lest I feel un-wanted.
6. Thou shalt love me to death - even when I bark all night.
7. Thou shalt not have a Cat with ATTITUDE and CLAWS.
8. Thou shalt not start the car until I am in it.
9. Thou shalt not hide the food.
10. Thou shalt obey the above without question lest I POOP on the neighbors lawn and promote community strife.

Remember, you love me.

“A DOG’S PLEA”

Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I would lick your hand between blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me learn.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world’s sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail, when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

Please take me inside when it is cold and wet, for I am a domesticated animal, no longer accustomed to the bitter elements. I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet, beside the hearth.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life, should your life be in danger.

And, my friend, when I am old, and no longer enjoy good health, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having any fun. Please see that my trusting life is taken gently. I shall leave this earth, knowing with the last breath I draw, that my fate was always safest in your hands.....