

Allergies in Dogs



Understanding Allergies in Dogs

Allergies are one of the most common reasons dogs visit the vet. Just like people, dogs can react to substances in their environment, food, or parasites. These reactions often appear as itchy skin, ear infections, or digestive issues.



Types of Allergies

1. Environmental (Atopy):

Triggered by pollen, mold, dust mites, or grasses. Symptoms often worsen seasonally.

- Signs: Itchy skin (especially paws, face, belly), ear infections, licking or chewing.
- Management: Regular baths, anti-itch medications, allergy testing, and immunotherapy.

2. Food Allergies:

Caused by an immune response to a specific protein (like beef, chicken, or dairy).

- Signs: Chronic ear infections, skin infections, and sometimes digestive upset.
- Diagnosis: A strict prescription elimination diet for 8–12 weeks.
- Treatment: Avoiding the identified ingredient.

3. Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD):

Even one flea bite can trigger an allergic reaction in sensitive dogs.

- Signs: Itchy back or tail base, hair loss, redness, scabs.
- Treatment: Year-round flea prevention and environmental control.

4. Contact Allergies:

Less common, caused by direct contact with certain materials (like shampoos, plants, or cleaners).

- Signs: Redness or rash in localized areas.
- Treatment: Avoidance and gentle medicated shampoos.



Common Symptoms

- Persistent itching, licking, or chewing
- Red, irritated skin
- Ear infections or shaking the head
- Hair loss or scabs
- Recurrent skin infections
- Sneezing or watery eyes (less common)



Diagnosis and Treatment

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, our team will:

- Perform a thorough exam and review your dog's history
- Rule out fleas and infections
- Recommend diagnostic tests such as skin scrapings, food trials, or allergy testing
- Develop a tailored treatment plan that may include:
 - Prescription allergy medications or injections
 - Specialized diets

- Topical treatments and medicated shampoos
- Long-term allergy management programs



When to See Your Veterinarian

If your dog is scratching, losing fur, or has red, inflamed skin, it's best to schedule an appointment. Allergies can worsen over time if untreated, but with proper care, most dogs live comfortably and itch-free.



Bottom line: Allergies are common in dogs and can cause real discomfort. With proper diagnosis and management, most dogs can live comfortable, happy lives.

We take a comprehensive approach to allergy care—focusing on identifying the cause, relieving symptoms, and keeping your pet comfortable year-round.

Why Do Dogs Need Anesthesia?

Anesthesia is an important part of veterinary care. It allows your dog to undergo medical and surgical procedures safely, pain-free, and without stress.



Reasons Dogs May Need Anesthesia

- Spay and neuter surgeries
- Dental procedures (cleanings, extractions, X-rays)
- Surgical repairs (injuries, lump removals, orthopedic procedures)
- Diagnostic imaging (X-rays, ultrasound, advanced scans)
- Wound care or treatments where stillness is critical

Without anesthesia, these procedures would be uncomfortable, stressful, or even impossible for your pet.



What Anesthesia Does

Anesthesia:

- Keeps your dog **calm and still** so procedures can be done safely
- Prevents **pain and discomfort** during surgery or treatment
- Allows our veterinary team to **focus on precision and care** without causing stress to your pet



Pre-Anesthesia Safety Measures at PVPC

Your dog's safety is always our top priority. Before any anesthetic procedure, our veterinary team takes steps to minimize risks and ensure the best outcome:

- *Comprehensive Physical Exam* – A full check-up to assess overall health.
- *Bloodwork & Diagnostics* – Evaluate organ function, detect hidden problems, and guide safe anesthetic choices.
- *Tailored Protocols* – Medications and dosages are customized for your dog's age, breed, size, and health condition.
- *IV Catheter Placement* – Provides access for fluids and emergency medications, supporting circulation and safety.
- *Pre-Anesthetic Medications* – Help reduce anxiety, provide pain control, and smooth the induction of anesthesia.



Safety During Anesthesia

- Continuous monitoring of heart rate, breathing, oxygen levels, blood pressure, and temperature
- A veterinary professional assigned specifically to your pet's monitoring
- Adjustments in medication and support as needed throughout the procedure



After Anesthesia

- Pets are closely monitored during recovery until they are awake and stable
- Detailed home-care instructions are provided for food, water, rest, and medications
- Our team remains available for questions or concerns once your pet is home



Peace of Mind for Pet Parents

While all anesthesia carries some risk, modern veterinary protocols make it very safe. At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we use every precaution to protect your pet – from the first exam through recovery – so you can feel confident they're in good hands.



Call us today to learn more about anesthesia and the steps we take to keep pets safe and comfortable.

Acupuncture for Dogs



What Is Acupuncture?

Acupuncture is an ancient therapy that involves inserting very fine, sterile needles into specific points on the body to stimulate healing and balance. In veterinary medicine, acupuncture is used alongside conventional treatments to improve comfort and support recovery.



How It Works

Acupuncture helps by:

- *Stimulating nerves and circulation* – promoting the release of natural pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory substances.
- *Reducing muscle tension* – improving mobility and flexibility.
- *Encouraging healing* – enhancing oxygen and nutrient flow to tissues.

Common Conditions Treated

Veterinary acupuncture can be helpful for many conditions, including:

- *Arthritis and joint pain*
- *Hip dysplasia*
- *Intervertebral disc disease (back pain)*
- *Nerve injuries*
- *Post-surgical recovery*
- *Gastrointestinal issues (such as nausea or constipation)*
- *Chronic pain or inflammation*

What to Expect

Most dogs relax during their acupuncture session—some even fall asleep!

- *Needles are very fine and typically cause little to no discomfort.*
- *Sessions usually last 15–30 minutes.*
- *A series of treatments may be recommended depending on your dog's needs.*

Is It Safe?

When performed by a licensed veterinarian trained in acupuncture, this therapy is safe and well-tolerated. Side effects are rare and mild, such as slight fatigue after treatment.

Integrative Care at Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic

At PVPC, acupuncture can be part of an integrative treatment plan to help manage pain, improve mobility, and enhance your dog's quality of life. It works beautifully alongside other medical and rehabilitation therapies.

Understanding Dog Behavior



Why Behavior Matters

A dog's behavior is more than personality – it's a reflection of health, training, environment, and emotional well-being. Understanding canine behavior helps pet owners build stronger bonds with their pets and recognize when professional support is needed.

Normal Dog Behaviors



Some behaviors are completely natural, even if they sometimes frustrate owners:

- *Barking* – Dogs bark to communicate, alert, or express excitement.
- *Chewing* – A normal activity, especially in puppies, but it should be directed to appropriate toys.
- *Digging* – Rooted in instinct; often for play, exploration, or comfort.
- *Jumping up* – A social greeting behavior, though it can be managed with training.
- *Play behaviors* – Chasing, wrestling, and mouthing are typical forms of canine play.

Signs of Stress or Anxiety



Behavior changes may indicate stress, fear, or even underlying health issues. Watch for:

- *Pacing or restlessness*
- *Excessive panting or drooling*
- *Trembling or hiding*
- *Destructive behavior (chewing, scratching, digging)*
- *Excessive barking or whining*
- *Aggression or withdrawal*

Common Behavior Concerns



- *Separation Anxiety* – Distress when left alone.
- *Excessive Barking* – May stem from boredom, anxiety, or territorial behavior.
- *Aggression* – Can be fear-based, territorial, or pain-related.
- *House-Soiling* – May be training-related or due to medical issues.
- *Resource Guarding* – Protecting food, toys, or spaces.

Medical vs. Behavioral Causes



Not all behavior problems are “training issues.” Medical conditions such as pain, thyroid disorders, or neurological disease can cause changes in behavior. Veterinary evaluation is an important first step.

Supporting Positive Behavior



- *Routine & Consistency* – Dogs thrive on predictable schedules.
- *Proper Training* – Positive reinforcement methods build trust and good habits.
- *Exercise & Enrichment* – Physical activity and mental stimulation reduce problem behaviors.
- *Safe Environment* – Provide a calm, secure space for rest and comfort.

When to Seek Help



If your dog shows sudden, severe, or worsening behavior changes, consult your veterinarian. Early intervention prevents escalation and protects both your pet and family.

Our Commitment



At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we help pet parents distinguish between normal, concerning, and medical behaviors. We can:

- *Rule out medical causes of behavior change*
- *Provide guidance for behavior modification*
- *Refer to trusted trainers or veterinary behavior specialists when needed*



Contact us to discuss your dog's behavior and get the right support for a happier, healthier life together.

Cancers in Dogs

Understanding Cancer in Dogs

Cancer is one of the leading health concerns in dogs, particularly as they grow older. Just like in people, cancer occurs when cells grow and divide uncontrollably, often forming tumors or spreading throughout the body. While the word “cancer” can be frightening, advances in veterinary medicine mean that many cancers can be treated or managed, improving quality of life and outcomes.

Common Types of Cancer in Dogs

- *Lymphoma – Cancer of the lymphatic system (lymph nodes, spleen).*
- *Mast Cell Tumors – A common skin cancer in dogs, which can vary from mild to aggressive.*
- *Melanoma – Tumors often found in the mouth, skin, or toes.*
- *Osteosarcoma – Bone cancer, more common in large and giant breeds.*
- *Hemangiosarcoma – A cancer of blood vessels, often affecting the spleen, liver, or heart.*
- *Mammary Gland Tumors – More common in unspayed female dogs.*
- *Soft Tissue Sarcomas – Tumors that arise from connective tissues under the skin.*

Warning Signs of Cancer

Not every lump or change means cancer, but it's important to have new symptoms evaluated by your veterinarian. Signs to watch for include:

- *Lumps or bumps that grow or change in shape/texture*
- *Sores that do not heal*
- *Loss of appetite or weight loss*
- *Difficulty eating, swallowing, or breathing*
- *Lameness or swelling in a limb*
- *Persistent coughing or vomiting*
- *Bleeding or discharge from the mouth, nose, or other openings*
- *Behavioral changes such as lethargy or withdrawal*

Diagnosis

If cancer is suspected, your veterinarian may recommend:

- *Physical examination*

- *Fine needle aspiration (FNA) to collect and examine cells*
- *Biopsy for a definitive diagnosis*
- *Bloodwork and imaging (X-rays, ultrasound, CT scans) to assess internal organs and staging*

Treatment Options

Treatment depends on the type, location, and stage of cancer. Options may include:

- *Surgery – To remove tumors when possible*
- *Chemotherapy – To slow or stop cancer cell growth*
- *Radiation therapy – For localized tumor control*
- *Targeted medications – For certain tumor types*
- *Palliative care – To maintain comfort and quality of life*



Early Detection Saves Lives

Many cancers respond best when detected early. Regular veterinary checkups and monitoring any new lumps, bumps, or changes in your dog's behavior or health are essential.

Our Commitment at PVPC

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we believe no lump or change should be ignored. Our veterinary team is here to:

- *Identify and evaluate suspicious changes early*
- *Provide clear diagnostic options*
- *Develop treatment and comfort plans tailored to your dog*
- *Support you and your pet through every stage of care*

 *Contact us today if you've noticed changes in your dog's health – together, we can take the next steps toward keeping them healthy and comfortable.*

Dog Cardiology: Understanding Your Dog's Heart Health

Your Dog's Heart: A Vital Engine

Just like in humans, a dog's heart pumps blood throughout the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to keep organs and tissues healthy. When something goes wrong, early detection and care are key to keeping your pet feeling their best.

Common Heart Conditions in Dogs

- *Heart Murmurs: An abnormal sound indicating turbulent blood flow. Some are harmless, while others signal heart disease.*
- *Congestive Heart Failure (CHF): The heart can't pump effectively, causing fluid buildup in the lungs or abdomen.*
- *Valve Disease (especially Mitral Valve Disease): Common in small breeds and older dogs; the heart valves don't close properly.*
- *Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM): The heart muscle weakens and enlarges, more common in large breeds like Dobermans or Boxers.*
- *Arrhythmias: Irregular heartbeats that can affect circulation and energy levels.*

Signs of Heart Disease

Keep an eye out for these early warning signs:

- *Coughing, especially at night or after exercise*
- *Labored or rapid breathing*
- *Fatigue or reluctance to exercise*
- *Fainting or collapse*
- *Weight loss or a swollen belly (from fluid buildup)*
- *Weakness or restlessness*

If you notice any of these, schedule a veterinary visit promptly—early intervention can make a big difference.

How We Diagnose Heart Problems

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we use advanced diagnostic tools to assess heart health:

- *Physical Exam & Stethoscope Evaluation*
- *Chest X-rays to visualize the heart and lungs*
- *Echocardiogram (ultrasound) to see heart structure and motion*
- *Electrocardiogram (ECG) to check heart rhythm*

- *Blood Pressure and Lab Work* to assess overall health and heart strain



Treatment and Management

Treatment depends on the diagnosis but may include:

- *Medications* to improve heart function, reduce fluid buildup, or control rhythm
- *Dietary Management* – low-sodium diets or supplements that support cardiac function
- *Exercise Guidance* – moderate activity as advised by your vet
- *Routine Monitoring* – regular checkups and follow-up imaging

With the right care, many dogs with heart conditions live long, happy lives.



Prevention & Ongoing Care

- *Keep your dog at a healthy weight*
- *Provide regular exercise suited to their condition*
- *Schedule annual or biannual checkups—especially for senior pets*
- *Use heartworm prevention year-round*
- *Report any coughing, fatigue, or changes in breathing early*

Your Partner in Cardiac Care

Our veterinary team is here to guide you through every stage of your dog's heart health—from prevention to diagnosis and treatment.

 *If you have concerns about your dog's heart, call **Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic** to schedule an exam.*



Dog Dentistry: Protecting Those Pearly Whites



Why Dental Care Matters

*Your dog's teeth do more than just chew – they play a vital role in overall health. Without proper dental care, plaque and tartar can build up, leading to **periodontal disease**, pain, and even infections that affect the heart, liver, and kidneys.*

Dental disease is one of the most common (and preventable!) health issues we see in dogs. The good news? With regular care, you can help your dog maintain a healthy, pain-free smile for life.



Signs of Dental Problems

It's not always easy to tell when your dog has a toothache, but watch for:

- *Bad breath (halitosis)*

- Red or swollen gums
- Yellow or brown tartar on teeth
- Drooling or pawing at the mouth
- Reluctance to eat or chew
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Loose or missing teeth

If you notice any of these signs, your dog should see a veterinarian for a dental exam.



What Happens During a Professional Dental Cleaning

*At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, your dog's dental cleaning is performed under **general anesthesia** to allow for a safe, thorough exam and cleaning – just like when you visit your dentist.*

Here's what to expect:

1. *Pre-anesthetic exam and lab work* – to ensure your pet is healthy for anesthesia.
2. *Full-mouth examination* – to check for damaged, loose, or infected teeth.
3. *Ultrasonic scaling and polishing* – to remove tartar above and below the gumline.
4. *Dental X-rays* – to evaluate tooth roots and bone health.
5. *Extractions (if needed)* – only when a tooth is painful or diseased beyond repair.

After the cleaning, your pet wakes up with a fresher mouth, cleaner teeth, and often a boost in energy and appetite!



Home Dental Care: Daily Prevention

Keeping your dog's teeth healthy starts at home:

- *Brush regularly:* Use a soft toothbrush and pet-safe toothpaste (never human toothpaste).
- *Offer dental chews or rinses:* Look for products approved by the **Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC)**.
- *Feed a dental-friendly diet:* Some foods are designed to reduce plaque buildup.
- *Schedule regular checkups:* Annual dental exams help catch problems early.

A few minutes a day can make a lifetime of difference in your dog's health and comfort.

The PVPC Difference

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we know dental health is key to your dog's overall well-being.

Our team uses gentle, modern dental techniques to keep your pet's mouth clean and comfortable. Whether it's a routine cleaning or advanced dental treatment, we treat every patient like family – with safety and compassion at every step.

Healthy mouth, happy dog.

Let's protect those pearly whites – schedule your dog's dental exam today!



Fleas and Ticks in Dogs



Why Flea and Tick Prevention Matters

Fleas and ticks are more than just a nuisance – they can cause serious discomfort and spread diseases that affect your dog's health. Protecting your pet year-round is essential for their comfort, safety, and well-being.



Fleas in Dogs

- *What they do:* Fleas bite and feed on blood, causing itching, irritation, and allergic reactions.
- *Health risks:*
 - *Flea allergy dermatitis (severe itching, hair loss, skin infections)*
 - *Tapeworm transmission*
 - *Anemia in severe infestations (especially in puppies or small dogs)*
- *Signs of fleas:*
 - *Scratching, biting, or licking*
 - *Red, irritated skin*
 - *Hair loss or hot spots*
 - *Flea "dirt" (tiny black specks) in the coat*



Ticks in Dogs

- *What they do:* Ticks attach to the skin and feed on blood.
- *Health risks:*
 - *Lyme disease (can cause fever, lameness, joint swelling, kidney issues)*
 - *Anaplasmosis & Ehrlichiosis (tick-borne diseases affecting blood cells)*
 - *Skin irritation or infections at the bite site*
- *Signs of ticks:*
 - *Visible tick attached to skin (often in ears, between toes, or under collar)*

- Local redness or swelling
- Unexplained fever, lethargy, or loss of appetite (may suggest tick-borne illness)



Flea and Tick Prevention



Prevention is far easier – and safer – than treating an infestation. Options include:

- *Monthly oral or topical preventives*
- *Long-lasting collars*
- *Environmental control (vacuuming, washing bedding, treating yards if needed)*

👉 *The best prevention plan depends on your dog's age, weight, lifestyle, and health.*

Flea and Tick Removal

- *Fleas: Bathing and veterinary-prescribed preventives are safest.*
- *Ticks: Use fine-tipped tweezers to remove the tick close to the skin, pulling straight out. Do not twist or crush the tick. Always check with your veterinarian after removal, especially if symptoms appear.*

Fleas & Ticks in Northern California

👉 *Bottom line: Fleas and ticks are active year-round in Northern California due to the mild climate. Even dogs who spend most of their time indoors are at risk, since fleas and ticks can hitch a ride on clothing, shoes, or other pets.*

❤️ *Our Commitment at PVPC*

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we:

- *Recommend safe, effective flea and tick preventives*
- *Tailor protection plans for your pet's needs and environment*
- *Help diagnose and treat flea- or tick-borne illnesses*
- *Provide year-round guidance to keep your pet healthy and parasite-free*

☎️ *Call us today to discuss the best flea and tick prevention for your dog.*



Heartworm Disease in Dogs: The Risk in Northern California





What is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms (*Dirofilaria immitis*). These worms live in the heart, lungs, and blood vessels of infected dogs, causing damage to vital organs and reducing quality of life.

The disease is spread through **mosquito bites** – when an infected mosquito bites a dog, it transmits microscopic larvae that mature into adult heartworms.



Why It Matters in Northern California

While heartworm disease has traditionally been more common in warmer, humid regions of the U.S., cases have been **steadily increasing in Northern California**.

- Mosquito activity in our region extends from **spring through late fall** (and sometimes year-round in milder microclimates).
- Increased travel and relocation of dogs from high-risk areas contribute to local exposure.
- Even **indoor dogs are at risk** if mosquitoes enter the home.



This means all dogs in Northern California are at risk unless protected year-round.



Signs of Heartworm Disease

Early stages often show no symptoms. As the disease progresses, dogs may develop:

- Persistent cough
- Fatigue after mild activity
- Decreased appetite and weight loss
- Labored breathing
- Swollen belly (due to fluid buildup in severe cases)



Unfortunately, by the time signs are noticeable, heartworm disease is often advanced and harder to treat.



Prevention is Key

The good news: Heartworm disease is preventable.

- *Monthly preventives (oral tablets, topical treatments, or injections) protect dogs by killing heartworm larvae before they mature.*
- *Prevention is safe, affordable, and highly effective.*
- *Treatment for heartworm disease, once contracted, is costly, lengthy, and can be risky for the dog.*



Testing and Protection at PVPC

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we recommend:

- *Annual heartworm testing for all dogs – even those on preventives.*
- *Year-round prevention for every dog, regardless of lifestyle.*
- *Customized recommendations based on your pet's health and risk level.*



Our Commitment

Heartworm disease is a real and growing risk in Northern California, but with consistent prevention, it's completely avoidable.



Contact us today to schedule your dog's annual heartworm test and get them started (or renewed) on safe, effective prevention.



Dog Nutrition Resource



Why Nutrition Matters

Proper nutrition is the foundation of your dog's health. A balanced diet supports:

- *Healthy skin and coat*
- *Strong bones and teeth*
- *A robust immune system*
- *Energy and vitality*
- *Healthy weight management*



Core Nutritional Needs for Dogs

Dogs require a diet that includes:

- *Proteins:* Build and repair muscles and tissues.
- *Fats:* Provide energy and support skin and coat health.
- *Carbohydrates:* Supply quick energy and fiber.
- *Vitamins & Minerals:* Essential for growth, metabolism, and body function.
- *Water:* The most important nutrient of all.



Choosing the Right Diet

Every dog is unique! The right food depends on factors like:

- *Age:* Puppy, adult, senior
- *Size & Breed:* Small breeds vs. large breeds
- *Lifestyle:* Active working dog vs. indoor companion
- *Health Conditions:* Allergies, kidney disease, diabetes, obesity



Feeding Guidelines

- *Follow a consistent schedule* – most adult dogs thrive on 2 meals/day.
- *Measure portions* to avoid overfeeding.
- *Limit treats* – no more than 10% of daily calories.
- *Avoid harmful foods* such as chocolate, grapes/raisins, onions, garlic, xylitol, and cooked bones.



Special Diets & Medical Nutrition

Veterinary prescription diets may be recommended for dogs with:

- *Allergies or food sensitivities*
- *Gastrointestinal issues*
- *Kidney or liver disease*
- *Weight management needs*
- *Dental health support*



Tips for Pet Owners

- *Always introduce new foods gradually.*
- *Fresh water should be available at all times.*
- *Consult your veterinarian before changing your dog's diet.*
- *Monitor weight and body condition regularly.*



We're Here to Help!

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, our veterinary team can help you choose the best nutrition plan for your dog. Whether it's selecting high-quality food, managing weight, or tailoring a diet for medical needs—we're here to guide you every step of the way.

 *Call us today to schedule a nutrition consultation!*

Dog Pain Management Resource

Understanding Pain in Dogs

Dogs experience pain from many causes, including injuries, surgery, arthritis, dental disease, and chronic conditions. Because dogs cannot tell us when they are hurting, recognizing and managing pain is an important part of veterinary care.



Signs of Pain in Dogs

Pain in dogs may be subtle. Common signs include:

- *Decreased activity or reluctance to move*
- *Limping or stiffness*
- *Difficulty standing, lying down, or climbing stairs*
- *Whimpering, whining, or unusual vocalization*
- *Changes in appetite or sleep patterns*
- *Excessive licking or chewing at a body part*
- *Aggression or withdrawal*
- *Restlessness or inability to get comfortable*

Types of Pain



- *Acute Pain: Sudden and often short-term, caused by injury, surgery, or trauma.*
- *Chronic Pain: Long-lasting pain, commonly due to arthritis, back problems, or ongoing disease.*
- *Neuropathic Pain: Pain from nerve injury or dysfunction.*

Pain Management Approaches

Effective pain management often requires a **multimodal approach**, combining several methods for best results:

- **Medications** 
 - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
 - Opioids (for moderate to severe pain, under strict supervision)
 - Adjunctive drugs (e.g., gabapentin, amantadine for nerve pain)
- **Nutritional Supplements** 
 - Omega-3 fatty acids
 - Glucosamine and chondroitin for joint health
- **Therapies** 
 - Physical therapy and rehabilitation
 - Laser therapy
 - Acupuncture
 - Hydrotherapy
- **Weight Management** 
 - Reducing excess weight decreases stress on joints and improves mobility.
- **Environmental Adjustments**
 - Soft bedding, ramps, non-slip flooring, and easier access to food, water, and outdoor areas.

The Importance of Veterinary Care



Never give dogs over-the-counter pain relievers meant for humans – many are toxic to pets (such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and naproxen). Safe and effective pain management requires veterinary supervision.

Monitoring Your Dog

- Keep track of changes in mobility, behavior, and comfort level.
Report concerns promptly to your veterinarian.
- Regular rechecks help ensure pain management strategies remain effective and safe.

Our Commitment



At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we believe no pet should suffer in silence. Our team is dedicated to providing compassionate, individualized pain management to improve your dog's comfort and quality of life.



Contact us to schedule a consultation and learn about safe, effective options for managing your dog's pain.

Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) Therapy in Dogs



What is PRP Therapy?

Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy is an advanced, regenerative medicine treatment that uses a dog's own blood to promote healing. The blood is processed to concentrate platelets – special cells rich in growth factors – which are then injected into the area needing treatment. These growth factors stimulate natural healing, reduce inflammation, and support tissue repair.



How PRP Works

- 1. A small amount of your dog's blood is drawn.*
- 2. The blood is processed in a centrifuge to separate platelets from other components.*
- 3. The concentrated platelet solution is injected into the injured or diseased area.*

4. Growth factors released from platelets promote healing of tissues, joints, and ligaments.

Because PRP comes from your dog's own blood, the risk of rejection or reaction is very low.



Conditions PRP May Help

PRP therapy is often used as part of a multimodal treatment plan for:

- *Osteoarthritis (reducing pain and improving mobility)*
- *Ligament injuries (such as partial cruciate tears)*
- *Tendon injuries*
- *Muscle strains*
- *Joint inflammation*
- *Post-surgical healing support*



Benefits of PRP Therapy

- *Uses the dog's own natural healing factors*
- *Minimally invasive procedure*
- *Can reduce pain and inflammation*
- *May improve mobility and quality of life*
- *Often reduces the need for long-term medications*
- *Can be combined with other therapies (laser therapy, physical rehab, medications)*



Safety and Side Effects

Because PRP is derived from your dog's own blood, side effects are minimal. Some dogs may experience mild soreness at the injection site for a day or two. Serious complications are rare.



What Is PRP Right for My Dog?

PRP therapy may be recommended for dogs who:

- *Have arthritis or chronic joint pain*
- *Are not good candidates for surgery*
- *Need additional healing support after orthopedic procedures*
- *Are active or working dogs recovering from injury*

Not every dog is a candidate — your veterinarian will perform an exam and may recommend X-rays or diagnostics before determining if PRP is appropriate.

Our Commitment at PVPC

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we're proud to offer advanced treatments like PRP to help pets live healthier, more comfortable lives. We tailor each therapy plan to your dog's specific condition and needs.

 Contact us today to schedule a consultation and see if PRP therapy could benefit your dog.

Common Zoonotic Diseases in Dogs

What Are Zoonotic Diseases?

"Zoonotic diseases" are illnesses that can be passed between animals and people. While not all diseases in dogs are zoonotic, it's important for pet owners to understand the risks and how to reduce them. Good hygiene, preventive care, and regular veterinary visits are the best ways to protect both pets and families.

Common Zoonotic Diseases in Dogs

Rabies



- A viral disease transmitted through bites or saliva.
- Almost always fatal once symptoms appear.
- **Prevention:** Rabies vaccination (required by law).

Roundworms & Hookworms



- Intestinal parasites that can be spread through contaminated soil or feces.
- Can cause serious illness in people, especially children.
- **Prevention:** Regular deworming and year-round parasite prevention.

Tapeworms

- Often transmitted when dogs swallow infected fleas.
- Can occasionally infect humans.
- **Prevention:** Flea control and routine parasite treatment.

Leptospirosis



- A bacterial infection spread through urine-contaminated water or soil.
- Can cause kidney or liver disease in both dogs and people.
- **Prevention:** Vaccination (recommended based on local risk).

Ringworm (a fungal infection, not a worm)

- *Causes circular, itchy skin lesions.*
- *Highly contagious between pets and people.*
- *Prevention: Prompt veterinary treatment if skin lesions appear.*



Salmonella & Campylobacter

- *Bacterial infections are sometimes linked to raw food diets or contaminated stool.*
- *Can cause gastrointestinal illness in humans.*
- *Prevention: Safe handling of pet food, avoiding raw diets, and good hygiene.*



Reducing Risk at Home

- *Wash hands after handling pets, food, or waste.*
- *Pick up dog waste promptly and dispose of it properly.*
- *Keep dogs on year-round parasite prevention.*
- *Stay current on vaccinations (rabies, leptospirosis, etc.).*
- *Avoid feeding raw diets that may contain harmful bacteria.*
- *Schedule regular veterinary checkups for early detection and prevention.*

Our Commitment at PVPC

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we are dedicated to keeping both pets and people safe. Our team:

- *Provides year-round parasite prevention and vaccinations*
- *Educates families on safe pet practices*
- *Works with you to create a prevention plan tailored to your dog and household*



Call us today to schedule your dog's wellness exam and protect the whole family.