

My Puppy's First Month

From a first car trip to visits with the veterinarian, Mischief's owner records their progress.

Susan Bertram

Day 4

We've decided to name him Mischief. Here's how he earned his name: While I was working on my income-tax returns, he bit into the electric cord to my adding machine. Luckily, he didn't get electrocuted (thanks to modern technology and circuit-breakers), but he did suffer an electrical burn on his tongue. Dr. T. prescribed an antibiotic to prevent infection and assured me puppy's mouth would heal quickly. I'm to soak his dry kibbles, so it won't hurt him to eat. That was a close one! I really scared us both. I'll have to be a lot more careful in the future!

Day 5

More trials and tribulations. Mischief and I were jogging in the woods, and he must have snagged his paw on a rock or branch. He tore a toenail it was bleeding a little and he wouldn't walk on it, so I had to carry him home. I have good dog-nail trimmers and styptic powder, thank goodness. I trimmed off the torn part and stopped the bleeding with the powder. I trimmed all his nails short again (gosh, they grow fast!), so they won't snag on things.

Day 7

I'm gonna request my own reserved parking space at Dr. Thoroughgoods office, since we seem to visit so frequently. Mischief ran up to kitty while he was eating, and kitty swatted him in the face. Now his left eye is watering and red. He's squinting and keeps rubbing at it with his paw, too. I can't see a scratch, but I'm worried.

Later: I called Jenny for advice and she said to take Mischief to the vet right away! She said it's hard to see scratches on the clear part of the eye. And guess what? Jen was right. When the vet put a special dye in Mischief's eye, you could see the big scratch, highlighted by the dye. Poor puppy! We have ointment to put in his eye three times a day, and he has to wear one of those lampshade-look collars around his neck, so he can't rub his eye. Dr. T. said it's a good thing we brought him in right away; infection could have set in, or he could have rubbed his eye into a worse mess.

Dr. T. suggested we trim kitty's nails short and feed him on a high surface, where Mischief can't bother him. As we were leaving, the receptionist handed me a brochure on pet health insurance!