

Your Smooth Fox Terrier

Caring for Your Faithful Companion



PET MEDICAL CENTER

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Your Smooth Fox Terrier

Smooth Fox Terriers: What a Unique Breed!

Your dog is special! She's your best friend, companion, and a source of unconditional love. Chances are that you chose her because you like Foxies and you expected her to have certain traits that would fit your lifestyle:

- Easily motivated and trainable
- Brave and ready for adventure
- Alert, curious, and busy
- Lively, with a friendly personality
- Excellent watchdog
- Devoted, loyal, and protective

However, no dog is perfect! You may have also noticed these characteristics:

- Has a tendency to escape, wander, and roam
- Likes to dig
- Can be independent and strong-willed
- Prone to boredom and separation anxiety when left alone and will find trouble
- Can be possessive of toys and food; tends to show dominance
- Has a tendency to bark quite a bit if not trained out of this habit

Is it all worth it? Of course! She's full of personality, and you love her for it! She is enthusiastic, playful, and feisty. The Smooth Fox Terrier is a lovable companion and family dog.

The Smooth Fox Terrier originated in Britain during the 17th century. They were bred to control mice and rats on farms and to hunt foxes by driving them from their underground dens. The SFT is a fearless and courageous hunting dog. Cheerful and scrappy, the Foxie is highly trainable—she is a skilled performer who loves to learn a new trick. Smooth



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General Health Information for your Smooth Fox Terrier

Dental Disease

Dental disease is the most common chronic problem in pets, affecting 80% of all dogs by age two. Unfortunately, your Foxie is more likely than other dogs to have problems with her teeth. Dental disease starts with tartar build-up on the teeth and progresses to infection of the gums and roots of the teeth. If we don't prevent or treat dental disease, your buddy may lose her teeth and be in danger of damage to her kidneys, liver, heart, and joints. In fact, your Foxie's life span may even be cut short by one to three years! We'll clean your dog's teeth regularly and let you know what you can do at home to keep those pearly whites clean.

Infections

Smooth Fox Terriers are susceptible to bacterial and viral infections — the same ones that all dogs can get — such as parvo, rabies, and distemper. Many of these infections are preventable through vaccination, which we will recommend based on her age, the diseases we see in our area, and other factors.

Obesity

Obesity can be a significant health problem in Smooth Fox Terriers. It is a serious disease that may cause or worsen joint problems, metabolic and digestive disorders, back pain, and heart disease. Though it's tempting to give your pal food when she looks at you with those soulful eyes, you can "love her to death" with leftover people food and doggie treats. Instead, give her a hug, brush her fur or teeth, play a game with her, or perhaps take her for a walk. She'll feel better, and so will you!

Parasites

All kinds of worms and bugs can invade your Foxie's body, inside and out. Everything from fleas and ticks to ear mites can infest her skin and ears. Hookworms, roundworms, heartworms, and whipworms can get into her system in a number of ways: drinking unclean water, walking on contaminated soil, or being bitten by an infected mosquito. Some of these parasites can be transmitted to you or a family member and are a serious concern for everyone. For your canine friend, these parasites can cause pain, discomfort, and even death, so it's important that we test for them on a regular basis. We'll also recommend preventive medication as necessary to keep her healthy.

Spay or Neuter

One of the best things you can do for your SFT is to have her spayed (neutered for males). In females, this means we surgically remove the ovaries and usually the uterus, and in males, it means we surgically remove the testicles. Spaying or neutering decreases the likelihood of certain types of cancers and eliminates the possibility of your pet becoming pregnant or fathering unwanted puppies. Performing this surgery also gives us a chance, while your pet is under anesthesia, to identify and address some of the diseases your dog is likely to develop. For example, if your pet needs hip X-rays or a puppy tooth extracted, this would be a good time—it's more convenient for you and easier on your friend too. Routine blood testing prior to surgery also helps us to identify and take precautions against common problems that increase anesthetic or surgical risk.

Fox Terriers enjoy human attention but can be aggressive with other dogs. The Smooth Fox Terrier is a generally healthy breed with an average lifespan of 13-14 years.

Your Smooth Fox Terrier's Health

We know that because you care so much about your dog, you want to take good care of her. That is why we have summarized the health concerns we will be discussing with you over the life of your SFT. By knowing about health concerns specific to Smooth Fox Terriers, we can tailor a preventive health plan to watch for and hopefully prevent some predictable risks.

Many diseases and health conditions are genetic, meaning they are related to your pet's breed. There is a general consensus among canine genetic researchers and veterinary practitioners that the conditions we've described herein have a significant rate of incidence and/or impact in this breed. That does not mean your dog will have these problems; it just means that she is more at risk than other dogs. We will describe the most common issues seen in Smooth Fox Terriers to give you an idea of what may come up in her future. Of course, we can't cover every possibility here, so always check with us if you notice any unusual signs or symptoms.

This guide contains general health information important to all canines as well as the most important genetic predispositions for Smooth Fox Terriers. This information helps you and us together plan for your pet's unique medical needs. At the end of the booklet, we have also included a description of what you can do at home to keep your Foxie looking and feeling her best. You will know what to watch for, and we will all feel better knowing that we're taking the best possible care of your pal.



diagnosed early, we may be able to prescribe medications that could prolong your pet's life for many years. Veterinary dental care and fatty acid supplementation can also help prevent heart disease, and weight control can help diminish symptoms.

- Smooth Fox Terriers may inherit a heart condition known as pulmonic stenosis. This disease causes a partial obstruction in the blood flow between the heart and the lungs, which means the heart must work extra hard to pump enough blood through the obstruction to the lungs. If the condition is severe, your dog may faint or seem to run out of energy during exercise. He may also have difficulty breathing, cough frequently, or have stunted growth. We'll test for this disease if your pet has any of these symptoms and discuss treatment options with you if the condition is indicated. Surgery is an option when symptoms are severe.

while running, suddenly picks up a back leg or skips and pops

Neurologic Problems



Several neurologic diseases can afflict Smooth Fox Terriers. Symptoms of neurological problems can include seizures, imbalance, tremors, weakness, or excessive sleeping. If you notice any of these symptoms, please seek immediate veterinary care.

Megaesophagus

The esophagus carries food from the mouth to the stomach through downward contractions. If the esophagus isn't contracting properly, food may remain in the esophagus, stretching it to "mega" size. If your SFT is affected, he may throw up tube-shaped portions of undigested food. Special feeding postures, dietary modifications, and medications may be needed to manage this problem. Unfortunately, dogs with megaesophagus commonly inhale bits of food while eating and can develop severe pneumonia. If you notice any unusual eating behaviors or vomiting after eating, be sure to let us know. A quick, painless x-ray can help us determine if your pet has this condition.

Bleeding Disorders

There are several types of inherited bleeding disorders that occur in dogs. They range in severity from very mild to very severe. Many times a pet seems normal until a serious injury occurs or surgery is performed, and then severe bleeding can result. Von Willebrand's disease is a blood clotting disorder frequently found in Smooth Fox Terriers. We'll conduct diagnostic testing for blood clotting times or a specific DNA blood test for Von Willebrand's disease and other similar disorders to check for this problem before we perform surgery.

Cancer

Cancer is a leading cause of death in older dogs. Your Foxie will likely live longer than many other breeds and therefore is more prone to get cancer in his golden years. Many cancers are curable by surgical removal, and some types are treatable with chemotherapy. Early detection is critical! We'll perform periodic diagnostic tests and look for lumps and bumps when we examine your pet.

Allergies

In humans, allergies to pollen, mold, or dust make people sneeze. In dogs, rather than sneezing, allergies make their skin itchy. We call this skin allergy "atopy", and SFTs often have it. The feet, belly, folds of the skin, and ears are most commonly affected. Symptoms typically start between the ages of one and three and can get worse every year. Licking the paws, rubbing the face, and frequent ear infections are the most common signs of allergies. The good news is that there are many treatment options available for these conditions.

Skin Infections

Your Foxie is susceptible to various kinds of skin infections and diseases. One type, *Malassezia* dermatitis, is caused by a kind of yeast. When this yeast infects the ears, it causes itching, redness, and an accumulation of brown, waxy discharge. On the skin, this yeast leads to greasy, hairless areas, especially on the neck and throat, with a characteristic odor. Bathing with special shampoos and rinses may be helpful, and we'll treat any underlying problems such as allergies as well. The earlier you call to have your pet's skin problems checked, the less likely you will end up with an itchy, bald, smelly dog.

Bladder or Kidney Stones

There are a few different types of stones that can form in the kidney or in the bladder, and Smooth Fox Terriers are more likely to develop them than other breeds. We'll periodically test his urine for telltale signs indicating the presence of kidney and bladder stones, which in addition are very painful! If your buddy has blood in his urine, can't urinate, or is straining to urinate, it is a medical emergency. Call us immediately!

Epilepsy

There are three types of seizures in dogs: reactive, secondary, and primary. Reactive seizures are caused by the brain's reaction to a metabolic problem like low blood sugar, organ failure, or a toxin. Secondary seizures are the result of a brain tumor, stroke, or trauma. If no other cause can be found, the disease is called primary or idiopathic epilepsy. This problem is often an inherited condition, and Smooth Fox Terriers are commonly afflicted. If your friend is prone to seizures, episodes will usually begin between six months and three years of age. An initial diagnostic workup may help find the cause. Lifelong medication is usually necessary to help keep seizures under control with periodic blood testing required to monitor side effects and efficacy. If your dog has a seizure, carefully prevent him from injuring himself, but don't try to control his mouth or tongue. It won't help him, and he may bite you accidentally! Note the length of the seizure, and call us or an emergency hospital.

Dental Abnormalities

Teeth abnormalities are often genetically induced and are relatively common in dogs, especially in purebred dogs like your SFT. An overbite or underbite is called a malocclusion or a bad bite. Oligodontia is a condition in which only a few teeth are present. Misaligned teeth can also occur and cause lots of problems, but can usually be corrected with braces or extractions. (Yes, dogs can get braces!) We want to keep your buddy's teeth healthy, so we will be watching his developing teeth closely. The healthcare chart included in this care guide lists the specific dental problems your pet may encounter.

Deafness

Heritable deafness has been noted in some Foxie bloodlines, so if his ears are healthy and he's still ignoring you, a more thorough hearing workup may be needed, including brainwave analysis, if indicated. If you suspect he may not be hearing as well as he should, schedule an appointment with us right away as the problem could also be caused by a severe ear infection.

Taking Care of Your Smooth Fox Terrier at Home

Much of what you can do to keep your dog happy and healthy is common sense, just like it is for people. Watch her diet, make sure she gets plenty of exercise, regularly brush her teeth and coat, and call us or a pet emergency hospital when something seems unusual (see "What to Watch For" below). Be sure to adhere to the schedule of examinations and vaccinations that we recommend for her. This is when we'll give her the necessary "check-ups" and test for diseases and conditions that are common in SFTs. Another very important step in caring for your pet is signing up for pet health insurance. There will certainly be medical tests and procedures she will need throughout her life and pet health insurance will help you cover those costs.

Routine Care, Diet, and Exercise

Build her routine care into your schedule to help your Foxie live longer, stay healthier, and be happier during her lifetime. We cannot overemphasize the importance of a proper diet and exercise routine.

- ✓ Supervise your pet as you would a toddler. Keep doors closed, pick up after yourself, and block off rooms as necessary. This will keep her out of trouble and away from objects she shouldn't put in her mouth.
- ✓ She has low grooming needs. Brush her coat as needed, at least weekly.
- ✓ Smooth Fox Terriers often have serious problems with their teeth, so you'll need to brush them at least three times a week!
- ✓ Clean her ears weekly, even as a puppy. Don't worry—we'll show you how!
- ✓ She's a smart dog with lots of energy, so keep her mind and body active, or she'll get bored. That's when the naughty stuff starts.
- ✓ She excels at dog sports like agility and Earthdog.
- ✓ She has a high prey drive, so she needs to be leash walked and a tall sturdy fence is a must.
- ✓ Keep your dog's diet consistent and don't give her people food.
- ✓ Feed a high-quality diet appropriate for her age.
- ✓ Exercise your dog regularly, but don't overdo it at first.

What to Watch For

Any abnormal symptom could be a sign of serious disease or it could just be a minor or temporary problem. The important thing is to be able to tell when to seek veterinary help and how urgently. Many diseases cause dogs to have a characteristic

combination of symptoms, which together can be a clear signal that your Smooth Fox Terrier needs help.

Office calls

Give us a call for an appointment if you notice any of these types of signs:

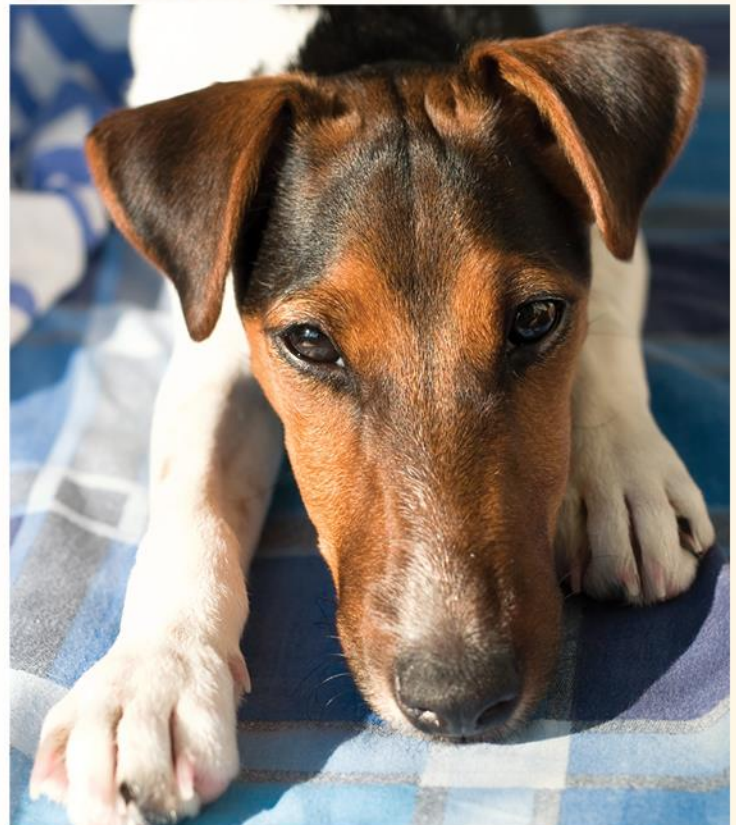
- ✓ Change in appetite or water consumption
- ✓ Tartar build-up, bad breath, red gums, or broken teeth
- ✓ Itchy skin (scratching, chewing, or licking); hair loss
- ✓ Lethargy, mental dullness, or excessive sleeping
- ✓ Fearfulness, aggression, or other behavioral changes
- ✓ Easily startled, no reaction to unseen sounds

Emergencies

Seek medical care immediately if you notice any of these types of signs:

- ✓ Scratching or shaking the head, tender ears, or ear discharge
- ✓ Inability or straining to urinate; discolored urine
- ✓ Cloudiness, redness, itching, or any other abnormality involving the eyes
- ✓ General reluctance to run or play
- ✓ Coughing, especially at night or upon rising after sleeping; rapid breathing at rest
- ✓ Tubular vomit, undigested food
- ✓ Any abnormal shaking, trembling, or excessive involuntary tremors

Genetic/DNA Testing



DNA analysis is a rapidly advancing field in healthcare for people and pets. Luckily, technologies exist to screen for hundreds of inherited diseases in pets, just like in people. By screening each pet for as many genetic diseases as possible, we will be better prepared to care for your pet throughout life. This is an important step in caring for your pet because it's always better to know your pal is at risk for a genetic disease before the problem is untreatable.

In an effort to screen for as many genetically linked diseases as possible, we may recommend the **K9Genetics™ Disease Screen** to screen for more than 150 genetic mutations that cause disease.

Each **K9Genetics™ Disease Screen** Screens for

- ✓ Over 30 Musculoskeletal Problems
- ✓ Over 30 Metabolic Conditions
- ✓ Over 30 Eye Conditions
- ✓ Over 25 Blood and Clotting Disorders
- ✓ Over 10 Immune System Diseases
- ✓ Over 10 Urinary Tract Problems
- ✓ 10 Skin and Hair Conditions
- ✓ Cancer
- ✓ Dental Disease
- ✓ Drug Metabolism
- ✓ Heart Problems
- ✓ Hormonal Conditions
- ✓ Liver/Gastrointestinal Diseases
- ✓ Midline Defect
- ✓ Neuromuscular Diseases
- ✓ Reproduction Problems
- ✓ Respiratory Conditions

This one-time test is one of the best decisions you can make for your Smooth Fox Terrier's medical care. With less than a few drops of blood, we'll have a lifetime of information to assist us in providing the very best care of your friend's unique and individual needs throughout her life!

For more information about genetic testing, visit <http://www.k9genetics.com>

Your SFT counts on you to take good care of her, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that she lives a long and healthy life. Our goal is to provide the best health care possible: health care that's based on her breed, lifestyle, and age. Please contact us when you have questions or concerns:

Pet Medical Center
254-690-6769

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- Breed Specific Health Concerns [Internet]. American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc. [cited 2013 Apr 11]. Available from: <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/breed-specific-concerns/?breed=smooth-fox-terrier>*

Puppy to Adolescent Health Care Recommendations

		Age		Services We'll Provide	Smooth Fox Terrier-Specific Problems We're Looking For
How We'll Keep Your Smooth Fox Terrier <i>Puppy to Adolescent: Infant to 17 in</i>			8-9 weeks	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Oral health assessment Heart health check Internal organ health evaluation Neurological assessment Blood disorder evaluation Parasite detection/prevention Vaccinations Discuss socialization and at-home puppy care	Dental alignment, heart murmur, hernia Cataracts Brachygnathism, Oligodontia, and Prognathism Pulmonic stenosis Megacosophagus Deafness von Willebrand's disease (vWD)
	○		10-13 weeks	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Oral health assessment Heart health check Neurological assessment Blood disorder evaluation Parasite detection/prevention Vaccinations Discuss caring for your dog's teeth and ears at home	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Brachygnathism, Oligodontia, and Prognathism Pulmonic stenosis Deafness von Willebrand's disease (vWD)
	○		14-16 weeks	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Oral health assessment Heart health check Blood disorder evaluation Parasite prevention Vaccinations Schedule spay/neuter surgery Discuss obedience and grooming	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Brachygnathism, Oligodontia, and Prognathism Pulmonic stenosis von Willebrand's disease (vWD)
	○		4-6 months	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Oral health assessment Heart health check Bone and joint exam Blood disorder evaluation Pre-surgical diagnostics Spay/neuter surgery Discuss microchipping	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Brachygnathism, Oligodontia, and Prognathism Pulmonic stenosis Legg-Calve-Perthes disease von Willebrand's disease (vWD)
	○		6 months through 1 year	Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Oral health assessment Heart health check Skin and coat exam Bone and joint exam Neurological assessment Blood disorder evaluation Parasite prevention Vaccinations Discuss lifetime genetic considerations	Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts Brachygnathism, Oligodontia, and Prognathism Pulmonic stenosis Allergies and Malassezia dermatitis Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, Hip dysplasia, Elbow dysplasia, and Patellar luxation Epilepsy von Willebrand's disease (vWD) All major diseases important in the breed with diagnostic plan

Adult to Golden Years Health Care Recommendations

How We'll Keep Your Smooth Fox Terrier Healthy	Adult: 18 to 39 in People Years		Services We'll Provide	Smooth Fox Terrier-Specific Problems We're Looking For
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2 years through 7 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Skin and coat exam Internal organ health evaluation Bone and joint exam Neurological assessment Blood disorder evaluation Parasite prevention Vaccinations Discuss behavior and nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Primary lens luxation Mitral valve disease Allergies and Malassezia dermatitis Urolithiasis Hip dysplasia, Elbow dysplasia, and Patellar luxation Epilepsy and Wobbler disease von Willebrand's disease (vWD)
	<input type="radio"/>	8 years through 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Skin and coat exam Internal organ health evaluation Bone and joint exam Neurological assessment Cancer screen Parasite prevention Vaccinations Discuss mental and physical well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Primary lens luxation Mitral valve disease Allergies and Malassezia dermatitis Urolithiasis Hip dysplasia, Elbow dysplasia, and Patellar luxation Epilepsy and Wobbler disease Mast cell tumor
	<input type="radio"/>	11 years and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head-to-tail physical examination Eye disease screen Heart health check Skin and coat exam Internal organ health evaluation Bone and joint exam Neurological assessment Cancer screen Parasite prevention Vaccinations Discuss mental and physical well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts, Glaucoma, and Primary lens luxation Mitral valve disease Allergies and Malassezia dermatitis Urolithiasis Hip dysplasia, Elbow dysplasia, and Patellar luxation Epilepsy and Wobbler disease Mast cell tumor

Note: We recommend twice-a-year examinations so that we may diagnose problems sooner. This approach also gives you the budget-friendly option of spreading preventive testing over two visits rather than one.