

New Puppy Information Packet

Congratulations! You have decided to welcome a new puppy into the family! Whether you're a first-time owner or have been down this road many times before, this packet will supply you with the most current information and advice about how to raise your new puppy and get them started on the right track.

Vaccination Schedule

Vaccinations are crucial during the first 4 months of your puppy's life to safeguard against many serious and potentially fatal upper respiratory, intestinal, and neurologic diseases. Puppies will need to be vaccinated with boosters every 3 to 4 weeks until they reach 4 months of age, when their puppy series will be complete.

Adult dogs will need to be vaccinated annually.

The Following Vaccines Will Be Given To Your Puppy

- DHPP – (Canine Distemper Virus, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza)

This combination vaccine will protect against the most common and contagious viral disease in dogs. Canine Distemper and Parvovirus are both serious and often fatal diseases affecting multiple organ systems requiring lengthy hospitalization and usually a guarded prognosis.

- Lepto- (Leptospirosis)

Caused by bacteria transmitted through the urine of wildlife and can cause life threatening damage to the liver and kidneys. This disease is also transmissible to humans.

- Lymes-

This is a tick-borne disease that can cause arthritis and joint problems. This vaccine is especially important for dogs that will spend time outdoors (hunting, camping, swimming and/or visiting dog parks), but any dog can be at risk.

- Rabies-

This is one of the world's most publicized and feared diseases. Rabies virus attacks the brain and central nervous system. Most pets are exposed to rabies through bites from wild animals. This vaccine is given at 16 weeks of age and boosted annually or every 3 years after that.

- Bordetella-

This is a bacterial infection that causes respiratory problems. This vaccine is given on an "as needed" basis once they become adults and is primarily given to pets that will be boarding, groomed, or around a lot of dogs on a consistent basis.

- CIV- (Canine Influenza Virus)

Link Canine influenza viruses (CIV H3N8 and CIV H3N2) cause a respiratory infection in dogs that is often referred to as 'Canine Flu'. Canine influenza virus (CIV) is one of the causes of CIRDC (Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex) - also called 'Canine Cough' or 'Kennel Cough'

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Nutrition

Our veterinarians recommend feeding a complete and balanced diet which would include protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals necessary for proper growth. Below are some guidelines for getting your puppy started –

- Establish a feeding schedule
- Puppies up to 4 months of age should be fed small amounts of food 3 to 4 times a day. At 4 months of age, the feedings can be reduced to 2 times a day
- Feed the amount of food per what is on the puppy food bag in relation to your puppy's weight
- Ask your veterinarian about suitable treat options for your pet

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Dental Care

Preventative dental care is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure the overall health of your new puppy.

Periodontal (gum) disease caused by a build-up of plaque and calculus below the gum line. Gums recede as calculus builds up, forming bacteria filled pockets. Left untreated, this can lead to infection and eventually the loss of teeth. Bacteria can infect the gum tissue, roots of teeth, and erodes bone that secure the teeth. The bacteria can enter through the large network of blood vessels near gums and teeth, causing infection throughout the body.

There are several at home care routines you can begin your new puppy on. This includes brushing, oral hygiene solutions, a regular oral health



assessment with your veterinarian, and allowing your puppy to chew on appropriate chews (ask your veterinarian which ones are safe).

Just like brushing your own teeth helps decrease plaque/tarter build-up in your own mouth, daily brushing of your pet's teeth will meet those same needs. You will want to get toothpaste approved for your pet. **DO NOT USE HUMAN TOOTHPASTE AS IT CONTAINS FLOURIDE AND IS TOXIC TO YOUR PET.** Start by first getting your puppy used to having fingers in their mouth. Gradually work with your puppy until they will readily accept this. Then, gradually introduce adding a toothbrush or finger-brush to the routine. Short intervals are key to success and will allow your puppy to warm up to the idea of having their teeth brushed.

Allowing your puppy to chew is also a great way to help keep tarter from building up on their teeth. When selecting chew items for your pet, make sure they are appropriate for them and approved by your veterinarian.

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Grooming and Nail Trimming

It is important to start your puppy off early with the basics of grooming and nail trims. All pets at some point will need to be bathed, brushed and have their nails trimmed. Begin by getting your puppy used to having their feet handled and touched. Start with small sessions of playing with their paws while giving treats. After your puppy has readily accepted the handling of their feet, you may begin gradually getting them used to having their nails trimmed. Keep the nail trimming sessions short and make them fun with treat rewards.

