

For the Health of Your New Puppy

Physical Exams:

Your puppy will have a physical exam before their vaccinations are administered. Since puppies receive a series of vaccinations, they will have several physical exams during the first few months of their lives. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions about your new growing puppy- we can help with behavioral and training problems, too. As your puppy grows into an adult, annual wellness exams are important to help us identify age-related diseases early.

Vaccines:

We will work with you to find the best vaccination program for your pet based on their lifestyle, age, medical history, and risk of disease exposure. Please let us know if your puppy will be attending obedience classes, going to a groomer, camping with you, traveling with you, or playing at dog parks.

Spaying and Neutering:

Your pet can be spayed or neutered as early as 6 months of age, and the veterinarian will discuss with you the best age for your puppy to undergo the surgery. Surgery patients need to be current on their annual exam, their vaccinations, and testing for parasites. All pets will also have lab work done prior to anesthesia. Laser technology is used for your puppy's spay or neuter- this greatly reduces risk of infection, improves recovery time, and decreases post-operative pain.

Feeding Recommendations:

It's recommended to meal feed and measure out each meal so you know exactly how much your pet is eating. This will help keep your pet at an optimum weight, as well as aid in housetraining.

For puppies under four months of age, we recommend you feed three meals per day. Puppies older than four months, feed at least two meals per day.

For toy breed or very small puppies, meal feed 4 times daily until 6 months of age.

Dental Care:

Start a home dental program early. Not only will teeth brushing give you time to bond with and train your puppy, it is also an important part of home health care and a very cost-effective way to prevent certain diseases later in your pet's life. Use toothpaste formulated for pets and a soft-bristled toothbrush, and brush your pet's teeth every day. There are many other products available- such as chews, dental diets, water additive, sealants or rinses- that can be added to your brushing routine to help prevent periodontal disease. Ask one of our staff for information on these products.

First Aid:

Keeping some items on hand for common veterinary problems will be very helpful if the situation arises. Use a simple Tupperware or similar box which contains the following:

- gauze pads and medical tape
- gauze roll or shoelace
- Vaseline
- rectal thermometer
- tweezers

- hydrogen peroxide
- Kwik Stop (styptic powder, for trimming nails)
- Benadryl liquid, capsules or tablets
- children's aspirin (81mg) for **dogs** under 30#
regular strength (325mg) buffered aspirin for **dogs** 30# or more
(before medicating, call the hospital for an exact dose for your pet)