

# 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 every 2-3 weeks until they reach about 4 months in age to complete their vaccine series. As adults they will need to have their vaccines boosted bi-annually (depending on vaccine).



The Following are Our Recommended Vaccines:

- ❖ **DHPP- (Canine Distemper Virus, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza)** is a core vaccine for dogs and it protects them against many serious viral illnesses.
- ❖ **Lepto – (Leptospirosis)** This vaccine protects our fur babies from a bacteria transmitted through the urine of wildlife, which can cause life threatening damage to the liver and kidneys. Another important reason to vaccinate your pets for lepto is because it is transmissible to humans.
- ❖ **Lyme-** Is a tick-born bacterial infection that can cause arthritis and joint problems. Dogs most susceptible to lyme disease are dogs who are outdoors a lot in heavily wooded areas.
- ❖ **Rabies-** The Rabies vaccine protects dogs for a virus that 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. After the first year we can give a 3-year rabies vaccine. Required by state law.



- ❖ **Bordetella**- A bacterial infection that causes respiratory problems. If you do not board or groom your dog this vaccine may not be necessary, but it is still recommended. Dogs could encounter these bacteria even when out on a walk greeting other dogs.
- ❖ **CIV- (Canine Influenza Virus)** can 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 'Kennel Cough.'
- ❖ **Proheart**- is used to prevent heartworms. Heartworms are a parasitic roundworm that live in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels. It causes severe lung and heart disease, so it is very important to keep your dog's up to date on heartworm prevention.
- ❖ **Simparica**- is a prescription flea and tick prevention. Simparica is the only flea and tick medication that is proven to kill 5 types of ticks. It also provides much needed and fast relief for dogs.

## Nutrition



Our veterinarians recommend following a complete and balanced diet which would include protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, grains, and minerals necessary for proper growth.

Below are some guidelines for getting your puppy started!

- ❖ Recommended diets: Purina pro plan puppy, Royal Canin puppy, Iams puppy or Science diet puppy. These brands put a lot of research into their formulations.
- ❖ Look for the AAFCO seal.
- ❖ **IF** your puppy is going to be over 60lbs when full grown feed a large breed puppy food.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **WE DO NOT RECOMMEND GRAIN FREE,** it has been shown to lead to Dilated Cardiomyopathy.



## 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 is caused by a build-up of plaque and calculus below the gum lines. Gums will recede as calculus builds up, forming bacteria filled pockets. If this is left untreated, it can lead to infection and eventually the loss of

teeth. But it won't stop there, the bacteria can enter blood vessels near the gums and teeth causing infection throughout the body.

For  your puppy to have happy teeth, you will need to develop a routine at home. Just like brushing your own teeth, you can brush your puppy's teeth to help decrease plaque/tarter build up. You will want to get toothpaste approved for your pet by your veterinarian team. **DO NOT USE HUMAN TOOTHPASTE. IT CONTAINS FLOURIDE AND IS TOXIC TO YOUR PET.** Try starting while they are young with healthy gums and teeth. First get them used to having your finger in their mouth, then work up to putting cheese and/or peanut butter on a toothbrush! Once they are used to the toothbrush, try using pet approved toothpaste. Short intervals are key when warming your puppy to the idea of brushing their teeth.



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 to stick to chews that are bendable, breakable, dentable. Oravet chews are a great option that not only creates a cleaner mouth but also provides fresher breath. If you have any questions or concerns about a chew toy you can utilize our texting line (309)247-8307 and we will let you know if it is appropriate.