



Your New Puppy!

YOUR PET NEEDS PROTECTION

If you have a new puppy or kitten, you owe it to yourself and to your new pet to provide optimum protection against the serious diseases seen in this area. We have developed a Comprehensive Wellness Program that allows you to provide the necessary preventive health care for your pet at the most affordable cost possible. It is an investment in love, companionship, security, loyalty, and devotion for both you and your new family member. Just as with children, new young pets require several preventive care visits during the first year of life, as well as yearly thereafter.

Each visit will include:

- Weighing the pet.
- Obtaining the pet's medical history.
- Wellness physical exam.
- Client education materials appropriate for each visit.
- Nutritional and behavioral counseling as needed.
- Appropriate vaccinations at each visit.
- Intestinal parasite testing and deworming as needed.
- External parasite control recommendations.

Tips to help make vet visits less stressful for your animal:

- Play with paws daily to help make nail trims less stressful
- Play with ears so doctors can easily look down ears
- Play with the mouth so your animal will feel more comfortable with doctors checking their teeth
- Socialize your puppy with other animals and people to help them feel more comfortable with new people at vet visits
- Bring familiar treats to vet appointments to reward your puppy for good behavior at visits

There is a national hotline for antidotes for poisoning: **(888) 426-4435**.

For more information about puppy training and care please visit our website:

www.theveterinaryclinic.net



PUPPY VACCINATION SCHEDULE

A new puppy is an exciting addition to your family. The puppy's health is both your and our responsibility. Following is a schedule of vaccinations:

6 to 8 weeks:

Physical Examination

Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DHPP)

Intestinal Parasite Examination

Deworming Medication - used through 5 months of age

Cost Estimate:\$150

9 to 11 weeks:

Physical Examination

2nd Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DHPP)

Intestinal Parasite Examination

Complementary Flea and tick preventative

Start Heartworm Preventative

Cost Estimate: \$120

12 to 14 weeks:

Physical Examination

Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DHLPP)

Intestinal Parasite Examination

Heartworm Preventative

Flea and Tick Preventative

Cost Estimate: \$150

15 to 17 weeks:

Physical Examination

Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DHLPP)

1 year Rabies

Bordetella (Kennel Cough)

Intestinal Parasite Examination

Heartworm Preventative

Flea and Tick Preventative

Cost Estimate:\$190

SPAY-NEUTER FACTS

All pets should be surgically/neutered for many reasons:

FEMALES (Spaying - Ovariohysterectomy)

- Prevents signs of estrus (heat).
- Prevents blood stains on the carpet from the “heat” cycle.
- Decreases the surplus of puppies and kittens.
- Decreases the chance of developing breast tumors later in life.
- Decreases the chance of cystic ovaries and uterine infections later in life.
- Anesthesia is a much less risk at the younger age.
- Prevents breast development if done before breeding age.

MALES (Neutering - Castration)

- Decreases the desire to roam the neighborhood.
- Decreasing aggression becomes more loving pets (more affectionate).
- Decreases incidence of prostate cancer later in life.
- Prevents odor of male urine.
- Prevents marking furniture and walls.

Facts about Spaying/Neutering:

Spaying does not cause a pet to get fat or lazy. This comes from overfeeding and poor exercise. Personalities are not altered by spaying. Personalities do not fully develop until two years of age. Aggressiveness and viciousness are not the result of surgery. Personalities will **ONLY** get better! Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and techniques, but there is always some risk when an anesthetic is used. It is much easier on the pet to be spayed before going through a "heat" cycle, due to the smaller size of the reproductive tract. Best age to spay or neuter pets is 6-8 months of age. Surgery is performed painlessly while your pet is under general anesthesia. Post-surgical pain is minimal. Most pets go home the same day surgery is performed.

VACCINATIONS

Many of the serious diseases of dogs can be prevented by vaccination. With over 50 million pet dogs in the United States alone, your pet is bound to encounter an infectious disease at some time. Even if you always keep your pet indoors, your dog can be exposed to viruses carried in the air, in dust, or on clothing. Vaccination is inexpensive protection against costly treatment, or even premature death of your dog.

DISTEMPER:

Distemper is one of the two most important diseases of dogs to prevent. It is very widespread, and nearly every dog will be exposed to distemper within the first year of life in our area. Signs include coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, fever, and discharges from the eyes and/or nose. "Squinting" of the eyes is often the first sign observed. Once the virus enters the nervous system, convulsions, twitches, or partial paralysis become evident. It is spread through all body secretions and is highly contagious. It is usually fatal.

PARVOVIRUS:

Since its devastating worldwide appearance in 1978, most dog owners have heard of parvo. It is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog's feces. A dog that recovers from the disease remains a "carrier" spreading the virus in its bowel movements for 1-3 months. Signs include vomiting, fever, depression, and diarrhea, which often will contain large amounts of blood. There is another form where the virus attacks the heart muscle causing a heart attack and death. The younger the pet is the **GREATER** the chance of death. The death rate is very high in dogs under 4-6 months of age. Dogs remain susceptible to Parvovirus infection until two **WEEKS AFTER THE LAST INJECTION** in the vaccination series. This is the **MOST SERIOUS** and **FATAL** disease we see today.

INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS:

Canine hepatitis affects the dog's liver. Spread through an infected dog's urine, exposure can mean anything from a mild infection to death. Puppies are at the most risk with this disease. Vaccination has controlled this disease for several years, making it rarely seen by the veterinarian today.

LEPTOSPIROSIS:

"Lepto" is a bacterial infection that affects the dog's kidneys. It can reside as a low-level infection for months or years, infecting other dogs while weakening your pet. It is controlled by vaccination.

CANINE COUGH COMPLEX:

Technically known as "tracheobronchitis," it is an upper respiratory infection with the major sign being a persistent, dry, hacking cough. It often lasts several weeks and is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS**. It is caused by several viruses and bacteria, which are included in the vaccinations.

RABIES:

Rabies is a **FATAL INFECTION** of the nervous system that attacks all warm-blooded animals, including humans. Rabies has become synonymous with the image of a vicious dog. Rabies is a public health hazard and a personal risk to all pet owners. Many states require vaccination against rabies, and most veterinarians recommend vaccination for all dogs and cats, regardless of state law. Rabies can be transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Even dogs kept indoors can encounter a rabies carrier in a basement, garage, or attic. Because there is no cure for rabies, vaccination is your pet's only protection

INTESTINAL PARASITE INFORMATION

<http://www.capcvet.org/>

Dogs and cats can become hosts to many intestinal parasites, and a few general statements apply to all parasitic infections:

- All deworming medicines are poisonous to some extent and should only be used as needed and under proper conditions.
- At this time, there is no one dewormer that can eliminate all species of parasites. Consequently, an accurate diagnosis is necessary to treat your pet properly.
- Diagnosis is usually made from a fresh stool sample (passed less than 12 hours prior to testing) or, in the case of tapeworms, seeing the segments in the stool.
- Most puppies and kittens are infected before birth and, for this reason, will need deworming starting at 3 weeks of age.
- Occasionally, for a heavy parasitic infection, 3 or even 4 treatments may be necessary to eliminate the parasite.

Ascarids: (“Roundworms”)

- Round; white; 2-4 inches long: may curl up when seen; resemble “spaghetti”
- May be vomited up from stomach; or coughed up from the lungs.
- Are most commonly found in young puppies and kittens.
- May cause intestinal blockage when found in large numbers.
- Puppies & kittens are infected by the eggs that are ingested off the ground.
- Are transmittable to humans.
- This is a common worm of puppies and kittens but can be seen in any age dog or cat. Diagnosis is made from a microscopic examination of the feces or from a description of the worm if it is seen in the stool or vomit. Treatment is an oral medication given at 3-week intervals. Symptoms will vary from none to marked vomiting and diarrhea, and abdominal swelling. Transmission to adult dogs and cats occurs by infected feces contaminating the yard. As a result, prevention is accomplished by isolating your pet from infected feces of other animals. For dogs, the heartworm preventives also prevent roundworm infection. Transmission to humans is rare; young children can develop “visceral larval migrants” by eating dirt contaminated with feces.

Hookworms:

- Very thin, almost transparent; 1/4 -1/2 inch long.
- Normally not visible to the naked eye.
- Hook on to the intestine and suck blood, which causes anemia.
- The mother may infect puppies through the milk when nursing.
- May be ingested orally or may actually penetrate the skin (usually through feet).
- Are transmittable to humans
- Causes bloody diarrhea and death when severe.
- **Most harmful of all internal parasites!**
- This is also a common worm of puppies and kittens but is seen with equal frequency in adults. This parasite sucks your pet's blood and can cause severe anemia. Diagnosis is made from a microscopic examination of your pet's stool. Treatment is either an oral medication, an injection, or both. This is repeated 3 weeks later. Symptoms will vary from none to blood in the stool (dark tar-colored stool) with diarrhea. Severe cases may need a transfusion and hospitalization. Transmission to adults occurs by infected feces contaminating the grass or soil. Prevention, therefore, requires that the pet be kept away from contaminated areas. Two types of heartworm preventive can also prevent hookworm infections in dogs Transmission to humans is uncommon and usually shows up as skin lesions.

Whipworms:

- Inhabit the lower part of the intestine (colon).
- Causes chronic diarrhea, sometimes containing blood.
- Normally not visible to the naked eye.
- Eggs are ingested off the ground.
- This worm affects dogs only. Diagnosis is also made from a microscopic exam of the feces. Eggs from this parasite pass intermittently, however, so it may be necessary to check multiple fecals before a diagnosis is made. Treatment is an oral or injectable medication given at 3 to 12 week intervals depending on the severity of the infection. Symptoms vary from none to severe watery diarrhea, vomiting, and marked weight loss. Some dogs require hospitalization for treatment of dehydration, malnutrition, and infection. There is no human transmission.

Tapeworms:

- Short, flat segments (look similar to “rice” or “cucumber seeds”).
- Causes a poor appearance and dry skin.
- Often seen on the hair around the rectum.
- Cannot be diagnosed by microscopic exam like other parasites, unless a segment just happens to be present—segments are not passed every day.
- Spread by fleas, rabbits, birds, and other rodents— not by dogs and cats.
- This common worm affects both dogs and cats. Transmission occurs when your dog or cat bites and “eats” a flea. The intermediate form of the tapeworm is inside the flea’s body and it then attaches to the intestine and begins to grow “segments”. In about 3 weeks, these segments begin to pass in the stool. They are approximately ¼ to ½ inch long, flat, and white. After a short time in the air, they dry up to resemble a small yellow flat seed. Diagnosis is made from seeing these segments on the stool or on the pet’s back end rather than a microscopic fecal exam. Treatment is either by oral tablets or by an injection. The tapeworm medication kills existing tapeworms but it does not prevent future infection. The only prevention is strict flea control. There is no direct transmission from dog or cat to a human.

Giardia:

This parasite is not a worm. It is a very tiny single-celled parasite that can live in the intestines of dogs, cats, and man. It is seen most commonly in dogs coming out of kennel-type situations (pet stores, shelters, dog pounds, etc.) but its incidence is increasing. Symptoms include intermittent or continuous diarrhea, weight loss, depression, and loss of appetite. Diagnosis is made from a very fresh fecal specimen that must be collected at the clinic for optimum results. A surprising number of affected animals are “occult”; that is, they are infected but are negative on these tests even with multiple examinations. As a result, this parasite is often treated without a confirming diagnosis. Treatment is an oral medication administered at home. Prevention involves careful disposal of all fecal material and cleaning contaminated areas. Humans can become infected with Giardia so special care must be taken to wash hands and utensils.

Coccidia:

This is also a single-celled parasite. It is seen primarily in puppies and kittens, although debilitated adults can also be affected. Transmission occurs by eating the infective stage of the parasite. It then reproduces in the intestinal tract causing no symptoms in mild cases to bloody diarrhea in severely affected pets. Diagnosis is made from a fresh stool sample. Treatment varies greatly. Animals showing no signs of illness are often not treated because a mild case is often self-limiting. Pets with diarrhea are treated at home with an oral medication. Severely affected pets may need hospitalization. Prevention involves disposal of all stools and cleaning the pet’s living area. Human transmission is uncommon but can occur.

Intestinal Parasite Prevention:

- Fecal examination of your pet's stool should be done every 12 months.
- Use specific dewormers for the type parasite present, as determined by microscopic

fecal examination. Over-the-counter deworming medications are usually not effective against most internal parasites that cause the real problems!

- Remove feces from your lawn, street, or kennel daily.
- Exercise your pets in grassy areas not frequented by other animals.
- Prevent your pet from eating rodents, such as mice, rats, and rabbits.
- Prevent your pet from eating earthworms, which spread "roundworms."
- Control fleas!
- Deworm pregnant pets before breeding, and again before whelping to help prevent infection to newborn pets.

ZOONOSES (transmissible to humans)

RABIES:

Deadly to people as well as many species of animals. Law must vaccinate all dogs & cats. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats are common carriers. Rodents and rabbits are uncommon carriers. Wild animals cannot be vaccinated. There is no effective treatment for the disease. Prevention by vaccination is a must.

ROUNDWORMS:

An intestinal parasite that is prevalent in most all puppies and kittens. These intestinal parasites can cause problems in people but especially, young children, older people, and people that are immunosuppressed. Please inform your human medical physician of additions of pets to the home.

TOXOPLASMOSIS:

A protozoan disease carried by some cats. Eggs of the parasite (oocysts) are shed in the cat's feces, and then ingested by other animals (and people) causing disease. The primary concern in people is the potential for causing birth defects. Litter boxes should be changed daily and pregnant women should not be allowed to change the litter box, even though the stools are not infective until they have remained in the litter box for 48 hours or more. Ask for a specific handout on this disease.

RINGWORM:

60% of all kittens are thought to be carriers, even though they show no clinical signs of the skin disease. It can spread to the entire family. A fungal culture is recommended for all new cats brought into a household to screen for this disease. All cases of hair loss in your cat should be presented to a veterinarian promptly for a definite diagnosis

GIARDIA:

An intestinal parasite carried by dogs and cats that may possibly be transmitted to humans. The major clinical sign is diarrhea although carriers may not show any sign of the disease. Routine internal parasite tests should be performed on all pets at least once each year. This disease is commonly present in wild animals.

PNEUMONITIS:

This disease is caused by a “Chlamydia” organism and can cause human eyelid infections (conjunctivitis). Best prevention is vaccination of the cat for the disease and good sanitation, such as washing your hands after handling a cat.

HEARTWORMS:

Heartworms can cause disease in both dogs and cats and has been reported in people. It has been confused with cancer in the lungs of humans. The heartworm has also been found in the eye of humans. All pets should be on prevention.

CRATE TRAINING FOR PUPPY

An airline shipping crate or wire crate provides guaranteed confinement of your puppy for reasons of security, safety, travel, and housetraining. Dogs love crates! It is their “own private place” --a “security blanket.” The crate helps to satisfy the “den instinct” inherited from their ancestors. If the dog would have his choice, I suspect he would take having his life controlled and structured by his owner, rather than being punished later for causing trouble. Failure to housebreak a dog is a major reason many dogs eventually end up in the animal shelter!

The crate, when correctly and humanely used, has many advantages for both you and your pet:

You can:

- Enjoy complete peace of mind when leaving your dog at home alone, knowing that nothing can be soiled or destroyed and that he is comfortable, protected, and not developing any bad habits.
- Housebreak your dog more quickly by using the close confinement to encourage control, establish a regular routine for outdoor elimination, and to prevent “accidents” at night or when left alone.
- Effectively confine your dog at times when he may be underfoot (meals, family activities, unwelcome guests, workmen, etc.), over-excited or bothered by too much confusion, too many children, or illness.
- Travel with your dog without risk of the driver being dangerously distracted or the dog getting loose and hopelessly lost, and with the assurance that he can easily adapt to any strange surroundings as long as he has his familiar “security blanket” along.

Your dog can:

- Enjoy the privacy and security of a “den” of his own to which he can retreat when tired, stressed, or ill.
- Avoid much of the fear/confusion/punishment caused by your reaction to problem behavior.
- More easily learn to control his bowels and to associate elimination only with the outdoors or other designated location.
- Be spared the loneliness and frustration of having to be isolated (basement, garage, outside) from comfortable indoor surroundings when being restricted or left alone.
- Be conveniently included in family outings, visits, and trips instead of being left behind at home. You want to enjoy your pet and be pleased with his behavior. Your dog wants little more from life than to please you. A dog crate can help to make your relationship what each of you wants and needs it to be.

CRATE COST:

Even the most expensive dog crate is a bargain when compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a sofa, chair, woodwork, wallpaper, or carpeting! Always buy one that is “airline approved.”

CRATE SIZE:

A crate should always be large enough to permit the dog to stretch out flat on his side without being cramped and to sit up without hitting his head on top. It is always better to use a crate a little too large rather than one a little too small. Measure the dog from the tip of the nose to the base (not tip) of the tail. Allow for growth by adding about 12 inches. A crate too large can be made smaller by adding a partition of wire, wood, or Masonite. Remember that a crate too large for a young puppy defeats its purpose of providing security and promoting bowel control.

LOCATION:

Since one of the main reasons for using a crate is to confine a dog without making him feel isolated or banished, it should be placed in, or as close to, a “people” area--kitchen, family room, etc. To provide even a greater sense of security and privacy, it should be put back in a corner. Admittedly, a dog crate is not a “thing of beauty,” but it can be forgiven for not being a welcome addition to the household decor as it proves how much it can help the dog to remain a welcome addition to the household.

CRATING A PUPPY:

A young puppy (8-16 weeks) should normally have no problem accepting a crate as his “own place.” Any complaining he might do at first is not caused by the crate, but by his learning to accept the controls of his new environment. Actually, the crate will help him to adapt more easily and quickly to his new world.

Place the crate in a “people” area the kitchen, if possible, in a spot free from drafts and not too near a direct heat source. For bedding, use an old towel or piece of blanket that can be easily washed. Avoid putting newspaper in or under the crate, since its odor may encourage elimination.

Establish a “crate routine” immediately, closing the puppy in it at regular intervals during the day (his own chosen nap times can guide you) and whenever he must be left alone for up to 3-4 hours. Give him a Nylabone chew toy for distraction and be sure to remove collar and tags which could get caught in an opening.

The puppy should be shown no attention while in the crate. Dogs tend to be much better psychologists than their owners--often training the owner, rather than the owner training the puppy. Any attention shown to the puppy will simply cause the puppy to believe that whining, crying, etc., is all that is needed for him to get more attention.

The puppy should be taken outside last thing every night before being put into the crate. Once he goes into the crate, he should stay there until first thing in the morning. **IMMEDIATELY** when the puppy is removed from the crate, he should be taken to the chosen area for his bowel eliminations.

Always feed the puppy early enough to allow ample time for bowel elimination after eating before placing the puppy in the crate. This can be up to one hour, depending on the dog. Simply clock the time after eating until the bowel movement occurs to determine this time interval for your puppy.

After the puppy is fully housetrained (usually 8-12 weeks of cage use), you simply can leave the door open (or take it off) and allow the puppy to come and go as he chooses. If the puppy becomes destructive during his growing phases, it is a simple matter again of confining him in the crate when he is not under your supervision.

Even if things do not go too smoothly at first- **DON'T WEAKEN** and **DON'T WORRY!** Be consistent, firm, and be very aware that you are doing your pet a real favor by preventing him from getting into trouble.

CHEWING

Puppies are chewing machines!!!

The inherited tendency to investigate the surroundings is very strong in the young dog. Your success preventing chewing problems depends on how effectively you can channel your pup's tendency toward acceptable chews, rather than unacceptable items. Between the ages of three and six months, your puppy will begin to teethe. Just like babies, puppies chew to relieve some of the discomfort associated with the eruption of the permanent teeth. Puppies also chew to explore their environment as a form of play. It makes little difference to a puppy whether he chews on a toy or on a pair of your favorite shoes. He needs your help and direction in chewing on what is appropriate and what is not.

The two distinct periods when excessive chewing is likely to occur are during the teething period at three months of age, and during the time when the permanent teeth become set in the jaw between 6-12 months. Regardless of these times, the young puppy will continually attempt to investigate objects with his mouth. It is at this age that he or she must be taught what is acceptable to chew and what is not!

A common mistake people make frequently is to provide chewable objects that, in texture, resemble valued objects. The puppy cannot distinguish between rawhide chews, an old shoe, and a good shoe! If he or she learns that chewing any time leather product is acceptable, then all leather products become fair game.

Another concern often overlooked concerns the pup's ingestion of harmful objects. We periodically have to surgically remove needles, bones, and small toys from the stomach of puppies.

Follow These Tips to Help Train Your Pup Properly:

Never leave a puppy unattended unless he's RESTRICTED to a damage-proof area. We highly suggest airline-shipping crates for confinement during the first 4-8 weeks. This also helps greatly with housetraining.

Purchase NYLA-BONE. Never allow products that can be swallowed or chewed into splinters. We do not recommend rawhide chew toys, other than CHEW-EEZä, which help keep the teeth clean.

When the pup begins to chew something, he shouldn't, don't correct him with a raised voice, just remove the object. IMMEDIATELY offer him one of his chews, but do not force it into his mouth. Simply place it before him and praise.

After he's finished with the acceptable chew, spray the unacceptable item with rubbing alcohol, and put it into his mouth. Praise him when he spits it out. Repeat several times. Bitter Apple can also be used. If he doesn't spit it out, generously spray a cotton ball with the product and place it briefly in his mouth. Then follow with the unacceptable item. Give him a soda cracker to help clear the unpleasant taste.

Periodically take him never call him to those unacceptable items, which he previously chewed. Remind him to stay away by very lightly spraying them with the product, then try inserting it into his mouth. Praise lavishly when he avoids it or spits it out. Get into the habit of looking for trouble before it occurs.

If your pet chews or eats something, which you think could be potentially harmful, call the clinic for advice.

There is a national hot line for antidotes for poisoning: **(888) 426-4435**.

ENVIRONMENT and NUTRITION

ENVIRONMENT

1. Protect the puppy from temperature variations. Remember that it is 8°–10 °F cooler on the floor than at your eye level. Avoid drafty areas.
2. Completely **DRY** the puppy to prevent chilling after each bath. A bath is OK whenever it is needed, provided the puppy is thoroughly dried to prevent chilling. A blow dryer is preferred to insure complete drying. As a rule, puppies should not be bathed more than once each week, unless needed. The shampoos we dispense are pH balanced to avoid irritation of the pet's skin. Most over-the-counter shampoos are not. That is the major reason pets scratch after a bath using an over-the-counter product.
3. Portable Airline Shipping Crates make excellent beds for puppies, as well as aiding in housetraining. We suggest confinement of the puppy in a crate for the first 6 - 8 weeks at all times the puppy is not closely supervised to prevent housebreaking accidents. Puppies are "den" animals and like the security of the cage. Puppies are clean animals by nature. They do not want to mess up where they stay. Cage confinement encourages them to hold the eliminations as long as feasible which greatly enhances bladder and rectal tone.

NUTRITION:

1. Feed **HIGH** Quality Puppy Foods. No generic or cheap brands!! Cheap brands of dog food substitute low quality protein sources, which often cannot be utilized by the pup. We highly recommend the premium, high quality foods. These foods are much more concentrated than typical grocery store brands. Even though these foods cost a little more than commercial store brands--over a month's time, it really will not cost you more to feed the pup, since you will be feeding less food if you follow the chart on the package. These foods greatly decrease stool volume, making housetraining easier.
2. Feed puppies 2 - 3 times daily until 6 months of age. Then feed twice daily until one year of age. Adult dogs can be fed either once or twice daily.
3. Feed the puppy **ALL IT WILL EAT IN 15 MINUTES** each feeding. Do **NOT** leave the food out continuously if you are trying to housetrain the pup.

4. We prefer to feed no table scraps. These often make the dog a “finicky eater” as well as cause vomiting or diarrhea.

5. It is best to avoid milk. It is best to give no milk since high quality commercial puppy food is balanced to contain everything the puppy needs for optimum growth.

6. The only real difference in canned and dry food is the amount of water it contains. Canned food is composed of 80% water. Therefore we recommend dry food because it is much more economical--the nutritional content is the same. A tablespoon of canned food can be mixed with the dry food to enhance the flavor if you wish. Simply warming dry food in the microwave or by adding hot water enhances the flavor. Dry food also is better for teeth care. Make any changes in brands of food gradually by mixing the old food with the new food to prevent diarrhea and digestive upsets. We recommend feeding **DRY FOOD ONLY** after 3 months of age. Vitamin supplementation is recommended to increase the pet’s resistance and improve general body health.

PREVENTING PICKY EATERS

Poor eaters are made, not born. It is very important to develop good eating habits in your dog as this will affect his health for the remainder of his life. The following list of rules will help you establish good patterns of eating for your dog.

- 1) Set up a regular feeding schedule and keep it, even on weekends.
- 2) Do not feed free choice.
- 3) Do not feed table scraps.
- 4) Do not feed anything between meals.
- 5) At feeding time, put down a measured amount of food and leave the room for five minutes.
- 6) Return after five minutes and remove any left-over food. Do not feed the dog anything until the next scheduled mealtime. (The dog will not starve)
- 7) The dog may not eat for a few days but will be eating properly in a short time.

HAVE A GREAT TIME TOGETHER!!!!

HOUSEBREAKING PUPPY

Using these guidelines a puppy of six to eight weeks can be housebroken within a couple of weeks. Any mistakes the dog makes after that will be your mistakes, and you should consult our clinic for more information.

Housebreaking depends upon the instinct of dogs to keep their bed clean. You can make use of this instinct by creating a sort of home “den” for them. Dogs are “den animals.” Their own private place gives them a sense of security. Confinement is not cruel unless abused.

Do this by constructing or obtaining a box that will have a door or lid on it with adequate ventilation holes. The box should be big enough for the puppy to turn about in and even to lie at full length, but no larger. The lid, or door, is required to keep the puppy from climbing out. Airline crates work well.

A puppy does not want a mess in his bed and then sleep in it! He might get caught the first night, but he won't the second. However, if the box is so large that he can relieve himself in one end and sleep in the other, he will do so.

Remember that on the very first day it is important to start giving the puppy all his naps in the box. Puppies sleep 75% of the time. When the puppy awakens from his nap, you immediately lift him out of the box and carry him outside to a spot that you previously have selected.

You must take him to this spot **before** and **after** play; always when he awakens from a nap; and always the first thing in the morning and last thing at night. You must never “just put him out.” Instead, you must take him to this spot, urge him to go, and **PRAISE him** when he does. Within a week, you'll have him going on command.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- A dog can only understand scolding and praise if it occurs within a half second of the event you are trying to control. Catching a puppy “in the act” is the best time to scold or praise. After the event has occurred, it is too late to scold, or praise, because the puppy will associate your feedback with whatever he is doing at the time, not ten minutes before. Rubbing his nose in his mistakes is a worthless technique and only confuses the dog.
- Dogs need to relieve themselves after eating, sleeping and playing.
- Feed your puppy the same time every day. This will help keep the dog's digestive system regular and it will be easier to predict when he needs to go out.
- Start houstraining on a weekend when everyone will be home and able to help. If mistakes happen, clean it up well and spray an odor neutralizer on the wet spot and rub it in well.

Good luck and please consult our clinic if you are having any difficulties in housebreaking your puppy.

PET-PROOFING YOUR HOME

Kittens and puppies are lively and curious, which can get them into serious trouble. Remember that your young pet sees everything from a much lower vantage point than you—like a baby who has begun to crawl—and may be attracted to things you do not see while standing up.

It's impossible to totally pet-proof your home against accidents, but here are some recommendations:

- - Securely screen all windows to help prevent falls, and keep your pet off of balconies, upper porches, and high decks.
- - Securely store cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, bleach, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, fertilizer, disinfectants, mothballs, roach & rat poisons, medications, and antifreeze. Make sure you keep these in tightly closed areas to which your pet cannot gain access. Keep all cabinet doors closed securely.
- - Remove poisonous house- plants or place them in hanging baskets completely out of reach of all pets. Some plants that are poisonous include amaryllis, English ivy, narcissus, dieffenbachia, mistletoe, poinsettia, holly, philodendron, azalea, rhododendron, daffodil daphne, foxglove, bleeding heart, potato, iris, ivy, oleander, rubber plant, tobacco, tulip, clematis, morning glory, and weeping fig.
- - Keep toilet lids down. Young pets may decide to play in the water, and the lid could close and trap them; also, toilet bowl cleansers are harmful if swallowed.
- - Store plastic bags where the young pet cannot get inside them and suffocate or chew/tear them and swallow bits of plastic. Plastic six-pack holders used for packaging beverages should be cut apart.
- - Keep exposed electrical cords as short as possible or tack them against a baseboard so the pet cannot play with or chew on them.
- - Never give your pet any medication without first consulting with your veterinarian. Never use over-the-counter products on pets without first checking with your veterinarian. Veterinarians are the true pet experts. Guard against potential exposure to human medications. Even in small doses, aspirin, acetaminophen, diet pills, sleeping pills, and tranquilizers can all be fatal to your pet.
- - Keep all dresser drawers, trunks, and closets closed. Always check to see where the pet is before closing refrigerator doors, the oven, washer, or dryer.
- - Always be sure your pet is secure before leaving the pet alone. We strongly recommend the pet be confined in a plastic travel crate for at least the first few months.
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- If the pet is allowed outdoors, always be sure to blow your horn and hang on the hood before starting and moving your vehicle. Kittens especially like to crawl up under the hood to keep warm.
- Keep sewing supplies out of your pet's reach. Buttons, needles, pins, and thread can hurt his mouth or cause intestinal obstructions if swallowed. The same goes for nails, staples, screws, brads, earplugs, and aluminum can tabs.
- Do not use electric blankets for the pet's bedding.
- Never put anything other than the appropriate collar around a pet's neck. Ribbons can easily choke the pet if they should get caught on anything.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Avoid getting your pet into the habit of begging by always placing all treats as well.
- This helps to reinforce in their minds that any food they receive will be found in that place.

Get your pet accustomed to riding in the car:

Start off with short trips and gradually work up to longer ones. This will also relieve some of the anxiety pets feel on the way to Veterinarian's office by teaching them that car rides don't always mean a trip to the doctor! **Note:** It is a good idea, especially with very young animals, to plan the ride a few hours after their last meal to avoid upset stomachs! Young animals should not spend any long amounts of time outside until they are fully vaccinated:

New experiences can be created for puppies by erecting barriers, tunnels, etc. This is an excellent way to give quality play time and exercise to a virtually housebound animal, as well as helping to stimulate mental growth and development. Give your pet a treat when he successfully completes a barrier or tunnel.

When disciplining your pet, **NEVER** call him to you to be punished: Get up and go over to him. He will be much more willing to respond to the "come" command if he associates it with affection, treats, or a trip in the car.

Pets should not be given any type of cloth toys, articles of clothing or shoes to play with:

- It very difficult for them to distinguish between these “toys” and actual articles of the family’s.
- Never play aggressive or “equal basis” games with your pet, especially a dominant puppy:
- Even during play time, it should be made clear to your pet that you are the pack leader at all times. It is possible to have lots of fun with your pet without losing your image as the authority figure. Avoid playing fighting, tug-of-war, etc.
- To help your pet adjust to his or her den, use a rag or blanket to play with your pet on, and then use it in the den.
- This playing on the rug will help the pet to associate it with good feelings and pleasant activities.

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET

This checklist should help you have a more enjoyable vacation when traveling with your pet.

- Leash your dog, to prevent injury, avoid loss, and as a consideration for other people.
- Crate train your pet. The crate becomes security to your pet. Keep the pet crated when the vehicle is moving for security and safety. The crate will help protect the pet in case of an accident.
- Be sure the pet wears a collar, Rabies Tag, and ID Tag in case it should become lost.
- Take the usual food. Sudden diet changes are the most common causes of vomiting and diarrhea.
- Never assume you will be able to find special diets away from home, carry ample amounts. Stick to a routine feeding schedule.
- A supply of drinking water should also be considered to allow gradual change. Simply take a gallon jug, add new water to the jug as the home water is used out of the container.
- Don't forget any prescribed medications required by your pet.
- Take the pet's vaccinations records and rabies certificate. Many motels and campgrounds are now requiring proof of vaccinations.
- When driving, stop every two (2) hours to exercise the pet and give water.
- Tranquilizers and carsickness medications are available from our hospital. Over-the-counter products will not work. They work best if given on an empty stomach. Do not feed the pet for 4-6 hours prior to administering the medication. We usually recommend only feeding the pet once you reach each day's destination each day for best effect.
- Be responsible for your pet's eliminations. Take it to suitable places for urination. Carry a supply of plastic bags which can be placed on the hand-then turned inside out after the stool is grasped in your hand.
- Never leave your pet unattended in the car.
- Consider the feelings of others before taking your pet to visit friends or relatives. Be sure they have no allergy problems and really do not mind the pet accompanying you. Otherwise, everyone will have a better time (including your pet) if the pet is left in our care. Ask to see our boarding facilities.

WELL BEHAVED PET

Your dog instinctively seeks a master. If you show the patience and firmness needed for the correct training, your dog will let you be the boss. Start by shaping its behavior when it's a puppy. The time to start serious training is when your dog can concentrate more, at about 6 months of age.

Be consistent: If possible, the same person from the family should be the trainer. Be consistent in your commands, voice inflections, rewards or corrections, and signals.

It's all in the timing: Dogs equate rewards or corrections with those actions happening at the time. To discourage a behavior, correct the dog immediately after the action. If you wait too long, your dog won't understand why you are upset with him.

Reward your dog frequently: Food treats are the most effective training reinforcements. When you first start training reward good behavior often. As your dog becomes more proficient, you can taper off on the food treats.

Praise your dog: It is more important how you praise your dog than what you say. When praising your pet, use a happy, lighthearted tone of voice. For corrections, use a sharp verbal reprimand. Follow reprimands with a caress to give your dog a sense of security and assure it that you are still friends.

Never use force: A dog learns from the anticipation of reward, not from the fear of correction. Do not use a rolled-up newspaper or physical blows to correct your dog. You can pick it up by the loose skin at the scruff of the neck and shake it, like a mother dog corrects her puppies. This won't hurt your dog but establishes the fact that you are the master.

Keep training sessions short: Puppies have a short attention span. Ideally, the training sessions should last 15-20 minutes a day. Try to practice in an area that's free of distractions.

Be patient: Don't expect every training session to be successful. Remember, repetition is the only way a dog will learn. But if you keep your instructions clear, simple and consistent, your dog will do its best to please you.

Have fun with your dog: Schedule a play time after every training session to show your dog your approval and that you appreciate its hard work. This will help to develop a trusting relationship, which is the foundation for successful training.

HEARTWORM FACTS

- Adult Heartworms live in the right side of the heart.
- They are 6-14 inches long. Several hundred may be present in the dog!
- Heartworms impair blood circulation, resulting in damage to the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. Serious damage may occur, even before outward clinical signs are detected by the owner.
- Advanced signs include difficult breathing, coughing, tiring easily, listlessness, and loss of weight, and fainting.
- Heartworms are found throughout the United States and Canada.

Mosquitoes spread heartworms:

After ingesting blood from an infected dog, the **MICROFILARIA** (“baby” heartworms) is transmitted to another dog or cat when the mosquito bites it. Once the heartworms mature, they begin reproducing additional microfilaria. This **MICROFILARIA IS NOT DANGEROUS TO THE INFECTED DOG**. A mosquito must ingest the microfilaria before they can become infectious. The mosquito must then inject the heartworm larvae into the susceptible pet. It takes 3 to 6 months for adult heartworms to develop in a dog after an infected mosquito bites it. Heartworms occur in all breeds of dogs: large and small, shorthaired, and longhaired, inside-dogs and outside-dogs. Heartworms also now are known to infect cats. Diagnosis of Heartworms is by blood test to detect the “baby” heartworms in the blood. A special test to detect “occult heartworm disease” is sometimes required when heartworms are suspected, even if the initial screening test is negative, because a small number of dogs may have adult heartworms yet have no microfilaria in the bloodstream. Treatment is very **SUCCESSFUL** when the disease is detected early. The adult worms are killed with an injectable drug given in a series of 2 injections. A few days later, the worms begin to die, and are carried by way of the bloodstream to the lungs where they lodge in small blood vessels. They slowly decompose and are absorbed by the body over a period of several months. Other injections are required to kill the microfilaria (baby heartworms) later.

HEARTWORMS CAN BE PREVENTED!!!!

We strongly recommend the new once/month heartworm preventives or Injectable Heartworm preventative give once yearly or every 6 months, which also aid in the prevention of other internal parasites. It should be given all year long routine testing for Heartworms once each year is suggested for all dogs!