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Your New Puppy



Your new puppy will bring both you and us much joy! Proper nutrition and health care from its early years on will add much to the length and quality of his/her life.

Vaccinations:

6 weeks of age: DHLPPC* vaccine, fecal exam, de-worming with Drontal, start flea control, start Interceptor Plus

9 weeks of age: DHLPPC vaccine, Lymes vaccine #1

12 weeks of age: DHLPPC vaccine, Lymes vaccine #2, Fecal exam, Bordatella (can be given at 7 weeks), Rabies 1 year

16 weeks of age: DHLPPC vaccine

Once this vaccine series is completed, your puppy is protected from the main viral infection for 1 year.

* *Distemper, Parvo, Corona*

De-worming

Fecal samples should be examined for evidence of intestinal parasites every 6 months after the initial de-worming series. Puppies and Dogs should be wormed every 3-4 months with Drontal.

INTERCEPTOR PLUS

Giving Interceptor Plus monthly prevents the spread for heartworms from mosquitoes, and hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, and roundworms. Interceptor may be given at 6 weeks of age then monthly thereafter; in older dogs (over 6 months of age) a heartworm test is necessary before beginning the preventative. They should be given monthly year-round and a heartworm test will be performed yearly with your pet's annual exam to make sure the preventative is working and as a diagnostic aid to check for Lyme disease and Ehrlichia.

Diet

Diet is an essential part of your puppy's health care. Science diet continues to be the leader in this field. In general, your puppy should have special puppy formula for the first year according to the recommendations of the pet food manufacturer you choose. Once your puppy is a year old, a diet with fiber included (such as Science Diet light) will help maintain health and weight control.

Supplements

Supplements such as glucosamine/chondroitin's (Nupro for dogs) promote joint health. Omega 3 fatty acids (Optima 365) are beneficial for the skin and coat. Omega 3 fatty acids are also a natural way to promote healthy skin and give extra support to dogs that are prone to allergies.

Neutering

Spaying or castrating of your puppy should be done between 4 and 6 months of age. This will help prevent many unwanted behaviors and diseases such as marking, pregnancy, roaming, mammary cancer, testicular cancer, prostate disease, rabies, and much more. Please feel free to ask about our prices for these procedures. Neutering can be done as "same day surgery" if you prefer not to leave your pet overnight. Just mention it to the receptionist when you schedule your appointment.

Flea Control (Bravecto or Advantix)

Controlling fleas on your dog also helps prevent tapeworms and ear mites and a blood parasite called hemobartonella. We recommend Bravecto or Advantix for control of fleas and ticks. These products are safe and effective for your dog. Topicals should be applied to the skin on the back of the head, mid back, and at the base of the tail. Bravecto is a chew that lasts 3 months. Advantix II is a topical that lasts 30 days.

Dental Care

Like people, dogs develop tartar and gum disease. Since it can be very difficult to brush a dog's teeth, it is imperative that you get your dog's teeth and gums checked on a yearly basis. There are dog foods such as Hills Prescription T/D that are specifically formulated to help reduce the buildup of tartar. When your dog develops tartar or inflamed gums, then it is time to get his/her teeth cleaned. Poor dental health can lead to anorexia, and infection in the gums can spread to the heart valves, liver, kidneys, and lungs. Dental cleanings can be done as a "same day procedure."

Microchip

Since dogs frequently lose collars and other forms of identification, microchips are a good way to identify your dog. The microchip is about the size of a piece of rice and is injected under the skin between the shoulder blades. Proof of ownership of a dog can be hard to prove unless you have photo documentation. If a question should arise, your dog could be scanned and the chip number would prove ownership. Microchips can now be used as a permanent dog license when you register it with the courthouse.

Insurance

While the previously mentioned tips can help your dog live a healthy, happy life, there may be times when unexpected accidents or illnesses happen to your pet. Insurance for your dog provides a wonderful safety net to help with intensive and extended care. There are many options for insurance providers. A few of our favorites include ASPCA and PetPlan, but there are many good companies out there. We have brochures for several of these companies available. Please ask the receptionist for more information.

Care Credit is an extended payment plan option, **not** an insurance provider. We have more information on this option as well.