

Your Guide to Your New Puppy



Congratulations:

Owning a dog can be an extremely rewarding experience, but it is also a big responsibility. We hope this booklet will give you the information needed to make good decisions over the lifetime of your dog.

Making Your Puppy Feel at Home:

When welcoming a new puppy into your home, it's important to start off right by making sure you have everything you need for your puppy to settle in well. 'Puppy-proof' your home by clearing tempting objects away from reach, like shoes, electrical cords, and plants. Show your puppy the special places where they can eat, sleep and eliminate. If there are young children in your home, make sure they know how to be respectful and gentle with the puppy. Reward your puppy when they come to you or responds to their name with praise/treats. Puppies as young as 8 weeks old can begin learning good potty manners and basic training words like 'sit,' 'down' and 'come.'

Diet and Nutrition:

When choosing a food for your puppy, we recommend a balanced food made by a reputable company; preferably one who employs a veterinary nutritionist. Foods with



an AAFCO statement are required to contain at least the minimum nutritional requirements for dogs depending on life stage. Dogs should be fed a puppy formula for the first year of life, sometimes longer for large breed dogs. We strongly recommend avoiding grain free diets for your puppy and adult dogs. There are ongoing studies into a suspected link between feeding grain free diets and the

development of dilative cardiomyopathy (DCM), a very serious type of heart disease, in dogs.

The feeding guide on the label of your puppy's food will suggest how much to feed your puppy based on her weight and age. Adjustments may be needed, however, based on your puppy's body condition score and activity level. Your dog is in ideal body condition when the ribs are easily felt but not seen and have a slight fat cover and a waist is present when viewed from the side and the top.

Teething and chewing:

Almost all a puppy's baby teeth are present by four weeks of age. They begin to fall out around four months and are replaced by the 42 adult (permanent) teeth by 6 months. If your puppy still has baby teeth by the time, they are 6 months old, these teeth should be removed to prevent crowding and early onset dental disease.

Chewing is a puppy characteristic that you can expect until all their adult teeth have erupted. It is essential to direct your puppy's



chewing toward acceptable objects. Provide your puppy with safe objects such as firm rubber chew bones or other chew toys, so other objects are spared. Keep unsafe items off the floor and garbage cans covered. Avoid toys that look like objects you wouldn't

want them to chew (like shoes). To keep your puppy interested, rotate toys every few weeks.

It is important that your puppy is comfortable with being handled around the mouth so that future examinations of his teeth are possible. Lift your puppy's lips and examining his teeth frequently while using positive reinforcement. Brushing your dog's teeth daily is the only effective way to prevent tartar build up.

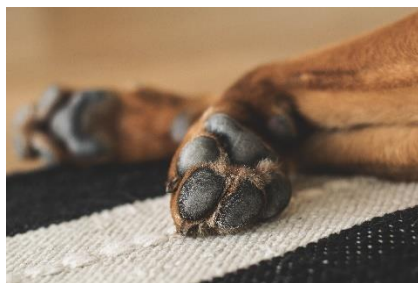
You should start acclimatizing your puppy to brushing at a young age. Our technicians are happy to demonstrate brushing proper

technique. Use special dog toothpaste and a small soft toothbrush (included in your puppy pack!).

Grooming and Nail Care:

Grooming needs are usually breed and lifestyle dependent. Some long-haired breeds require regular brushing or may need professional grooming to keep their coat healthy, but all dogs can benefit from regular brushing. Introducing your puppy to brushing by using a soft brush will make it easier for you or a groomer as your puppy gets older.

Puppies' nails can be trimmed with nail trimmers made for dogs. Nails have a pink 'quick' which supplies blood to the nail and can be seen through clear nails. Avoid hitting the quick when clipping your puppy's nails. If your dog has black nails, you will not be able to see the quick, so please ask us or a groomer to show you where to cut. Cutting the quick causes the nail to bleed and is painful, which may make your puppy averse to nail trims in the future. Many dogs require routine nail trimmings throughout their life. Handling your puppy's feet regularly will get them used to having them touched. Use positive reinforcement during and after nail trims.



Socialization:

The socialization period, especially the first 16 weeks, is a critical time for shaping your dog's future temperament, character, and behavior. During that time, a puppy is very impressionable to social influences. If you introduce your puppy to as many different social situations as possible (men, women, children, car travel, crate training, dogs, other cats, etc.) during this critical period, they will likely accept them throughout their life. Keep these experiences

positive and in a controlled and calm environment to avoid having them develop any negative associations.

To desensitize your puppy to the sights, sounds and smells of the clinic, bring your puppy by for a treat and some attention. We are always happy to see our puppy patients!

House Training:

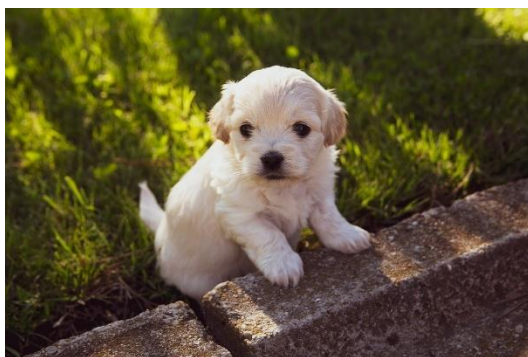
Housetraining should begin as soon as your puppy enters their new home. Puppies need to go out a lot, and some puppies are not fully housetrained until 6 to 9 months of age, so don't despair. Your puppy wants to please you, but his memory is short, so your patience is essential. You should take your puppy outside first thing in the morning, after naps, and after eating.

Vaccinations:

Vaccinations are usually given at 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age, but this schedule may vary depending on your pet's individual needs.

The core vaccination schedule will protect your puppy from several common diseases: DAP (Distemper/Adenovirus/Parvovirus/Parainfluenza), rabies, and bordetella bronchiceptica (Kennel Cough).

See the chart for when each vaccine is due and how each disease is transmitted.



Deworming:

Intestinal parasites are common in puppies. Symptoms include poor overall health, chronic soft or bloody stools, change of appetite, a pot-bellied appearance, poor coat, and weight loss. Common parasites include roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, and tapeworm. Many puppies are born with roundworms or can become infected soon after birth through their mother's milk.



Except for tapeworms, very few internal parasites are visible in the stool. A fecal test can reveal the eggs of internal parasites, but these tests can be falsely negative. For this reason, we recommend treating all puppies for worms and continuing with regular deworming throughout life.

We recommend the use of a deworming product, such as Interceptor Plus, which is given orally and is safe and effective against several of the common worms of dogs.

Deworming treatment should be given every two weeks until the puppy is fully vaccinated. It is crucial that the treatment is repeated as the deworming medication only kills adult roundworms. Within 2 - 4 weeks, the larval stages, which migrate through tissues in the body, become adults and need to be treated. Periodic deworming throughout the dog's life may be recommended for dogs with certain lifestyles.

Ticks and Fleas:

Ticks are very common in the Okanagan. They lie in wait in long grassy wooded areas and hitch a ride when an animal brushes past. They are active when temperatures are 3°C and above. Ticks do not burrow their entire bodies, but instead insert their mouthparts into the skin and begin feeding on blood. During feeding, ticks can



transmit infectious diseases such as Lyme's disease, Anaplasma, Babesia and Ehrlichia. In our area, we also see ticks causing a form of neurologic paralysis. Affected dogs become weak and recumbent and this condition can be life threatening if the tick

is not killed or removed. In the Okanagan, we recommend using a monthly oral tick prevention medication from March through to October.

Fleas are less common in our area, but thrive in warm and moist environments such as the coast. If you are traveling with your pets, or have animals visiting, consider protecting your dog from fleas. Lice are seen intermittently in our area, and are contracted directly from dogs. Lice are more easily treated than fleas since their entire lifecycle is on the dog, whereas fleas lay eggs in the environment.

There are numerous oral and topical treatments available for prevention and treatment of these external parasites. We recommend oral products such as Nexgard, Bravecto or Simparica. We strongly advise against using over the counter products from pet or feed stores. These products are unlikely to be effective, and can be extremely toxic to some pets including cats.

Spay and Neutering:

Part of responsible pet ownership is ensuring that your dog does not contribute to pet overpopulation. The best way to do this is to have your female dog spayed and your male dog neutered. The operation is done in a single day (dropped off in the morning and picked up later that day) and with adequate pain control, a full recovery is made within 10-14 days.

There is no right or wrong answer as to the best time to spay or neuter your dog. There are many factors, such as sex and breed, that affect this choice. Please speak with your veterinarian about the timing of a spay or neuter that is right for your pet!



Tattoos and Microchips:

Tattoos and microchips are excellent permanent and traceable forms of identification for your pet. It is highly recommended that one or both be used.



A microchip is a tiny electronic implant inserted under the loose skin on a pet's neck using a special needle. It can be implanted without the need for anesthesia. Each microchip has an associated

identification number which is stored in a computer database with your name, address, and phone number. Animal shelters and veterinary hospitals throughout North America are equipped with scanning devices that read the microchip. If your pet is found, they will be able to notify you quickly with your stored information.

Tattoos are etched into one of your pet's ears usually at the time of spaying or neutering when your pet is under general anesthesia. The tattoo number is associated with the vet hospital that gave the tattoo, allowing your pet to be traced to the clinic where your details are kept. Tattoos are a visible and permanent method of identification.

Pet insurance:

Pet health insurance can help by sharing the cost of veterinary care in unexpected situations. It also gives you peace of mind that you don't have to worry if you will be able to provide your pet with the medical attention they require. Most policies cover veterinary fees for diagnosis and treatment of any accident, injury, or illness.



However, there are many different plans available, so it is important to research the right plan for you and your pet.

Most pet insurance companies offer 1 month of free insurance for puppies – ask our Client Care Team how to take advantage of this free offer.

If insurance is not an option for you, consider putting some money aside monthly for those unexpected visits.

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