



Congratulations on your new puppy!

Vaccinations

- **Distemper/Parvo Vaccinations** start at 6 - 8 weeks of age with a booster given every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. This vaccine is then administered yearly.
- The **Kennel Cough Vaccine** can be administered as early as 8 weeks of age and is boosted every 6 months. This vaccine is required by all boarding kennels and we recommend it for any dog that will be regularly groomed, attend obedience training, or go to dog parks.
- The **Rabies Vaccine** is administered between 12-16 weeks of age. This vaccine is boosted one year later, then every 3 years as required by Virginia law.

Heartworm Disease

- Mosquitoes transmit heartworm larvae to a dog through bites. The larvae then travel to the lungs and heart, causing severe damage and leading to heart failure.
- In our area of the country, it is important to give heartworm preventative year round.
- Heartworm prevention comes in a monthly oral or topical dose or a twice yearly injection.

Flea and Tick Control

- Fleas and ticks cause irritation to the dog's skin and can lead to secondary infections. Ticks carry many diseases, such as the bacteria that cause Lyme disease.
- There are multiple monthly products to control fleas and ticks – we will choose a product that will work best for your dog and environment.
- In our area, flea and tick control is needed year round.

Intestinal Parasites

- All puppies will receive at least one dose of dewormer at their first visit.
- We will also check a fecal at the first visit to identify intestinal parasites. Some parasites, such as Giardia or coccidia, require additional dewormings.

Nutrition

- Puppies need to be fed at least 2 meals a day.
- Do not supplement with vitamins as a quality dog food will have every nutrient your growing puppy needs.
- Feed puppy food until about 9 months of age for small breeds and 12 months of age for large breeds.

Spaying/Neutering

- Unless breeding or showing, all dogs should be spayed and neutered to prevent unwanted pregnancies, infections, and reproductive cancers.
- This surgery is done at 4-6 months of age.

Training

- Owners should consider enrolling their puppy in an obedience class for socialization and training.