

## YOUR NEW PUPPY



Congratulations on the new addition to your family. You probably have a million questions about your new friend. Hopefully, this information will answer many of them.

### INTRODUCTIONS:

Just like bringing home a new baby, bringing a new puppy into the home is a cause for excitement. Everyone will want to see and play with your new pet. Remember, he/she is an infant and has a lot of adjusting to do to the many changes in his/her life. It's hard work being an active puppy, and your pup will need lots of sleep between play sessions.



### TESTING:

A fecal exam for intestinal parasites ("worms") is necessary for all new puppies. Normally this is performed at your puppy's first exam, and at least once more during the first series of visits. It is common for puppies to have parasites; they can be transmitted from their mother. Intestinal parasites can also be contracted from fleas, or even contact with soil and grass. **It is important to eliminate intestinal parasites from your puppy because some of them are contagious to humans!** More than one dose of deworming medication may be required before your puppy is free of parasites. Annual fecal exams and prompt treatment will ensure that your puppy remains parasite-free.

### IMMUNIZATIONS:

Puppies need to receive a series of immunizations, just like infants. Your puppy should begin his/her vaccine series at about 6 weeks of age. In accordance with current vaccine recommendations, we offer the following protocol.

AGE	VACCINE
6 WEEKS	Canine Distemper, Canine Adenovirus2 (Hepatitis and Tracheobronchitis), Canine Parainfluenza and Canine Parvovirus
8 WEEKS	Intranasal Bordetella (Tracheobronchitis, also known as "Kennel Cough")
10 WEEKS	Canine Distemper, Canine Adenovirus2 (Hepatitis and Tracheobronchitis), Canine Parainfluenza and Canine Parvovirus
12 WEEKS	Intranasal Bordetella (Tracheobronchitis, also known as "Kennel Cough") and Rabies
14 WEEKS	Canine Distemper, Canine Adenovirus2 (Hepatitis and Tracheobronchitis), Canine Parainfluenza and Canine Parvovirus. Also 1 <sup>st</sup> of either Lyme Disease or Leptospirosis for at-risk puppies
16 WEEKS	Lyme Disease and/or Lepto for at-risk puppies. Test antibody levels for Canine Distemper and Parvovirus
18 WEEKS	2 <sup>nd</sup> of Lyme Disease or Leptospirosis

In addition, we will start your puppy on monthly preventive for Heartworm disease and intestinal parasites. Since your pup will be growing, we will dispense the appropriate dosage for his/her body weight until he/she approaches adult weight.

After a booster vaccination one year later, your dog's immunization schedule will be determined based on various risk factors, including indoor vs. outdoor, presence and health status of other animals in the home, travel, grooming, boarding plans, etc.

### FEEDING:

Your puppy should be fed a high quality puppy food; as much as he/she will eat, three to four times a day. This frequency will gradually decrease as your puppy gets older. At about 6 to 8 months of age, you will be feeding twice a day. The choice between dry or canned food is up to you. Large breed puppies should be fed a diet designed for their special needs, to prevent bone problems during rapid growth phases. Clean water should be available at all times. It is important not to feed your pet any chocolate or candy.

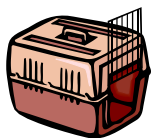


### OBEDIENCE TRAINING:

The biggest killer of dogs is not accident or disease; it's behavioral issues. Most of these tragedies can be prevented by training your puppy to understand the basic rules of living with people. **Basic obedience is the most important thing you can do for your puppy!** At Indian Walk Veterinary Center, we are proud to be partnered with Philly Unleashed,™ widely considered to be the best dog trainers in the Philadelphia area. They offer reasonably priced, fun and positive-based training methods to help you develop a healthy relationship with your new puppy!

### CRATE TRAINING:

The most important thing you can buy your puppy is a sturdy crate to sleep in. This will be his/her bed, sanctuary and home-away-from-home when traveling. Remember that dogs are den animals. They normally seek out small enclosed places to feel secure. Your puppy needs to know that he/she will always be safe and unmolested while in the crate. Start with a crate just large enough for your pup to lie down and stand. An open cage will not offer the security of a large plastic crate. Place a towel or blanket on the bottom to absorb any accidents. Your puppy will need to be in the crate whenever you cannot give him/her your undivided attention. A puppy wandering around unattended will always have accidents and possibly encounter some danger. The crate should be located in a room that is used by the family, so the puppy can feel part of the action. At night, the crate should be in the bedroom so your puppy can hear and smell your presence and does not feel abandoned. An "abandoned" puppy will vocalize a lot. This is not attention-demanding or temper. This is a survival instinct; in the wild a lost pup has to vocalize so its mother can locate it. Keeping the crate in the bedroom with you will eliminate the crying. It will also allow you to hear when your puppy needs to be walked during the night.



### HOUSEBREAKING:

The key to successful housebreaking is consistency. Remember that a young puppy has **no** bladder or bowel control. You cannot expect your puppy to tell you he has to go if he doesn't know it himself! The first few weeks are dedicated to establishing a routine of feeding and walking times. Your puppy should be fed at the same times every day. He/she should be walked first thing in the morning, within 15-30 minutes of eating, immediately upon waking from a nap and every 1-2 hours during the night. As your puppy gains capacity and control, the walks can become less frequent. In general, puppies reach housebreaking proficiency at about 5 to 6 months old.

### GROOMING & HYGIENE:

Daily brushing is recommended to help control shedding hair, and is extremely important for long or thick-coated dogs to prevent tangles and mats. Contrary to rumor, it is fine to bathe your puppy! Just make sure not to let him/her get chilled. Use a mild shampoo made for dogs. In a pinch you can use human baby shampoo. Dry your puppy well after the bath and don't let him/her outside on a cool day until he/she is completely dry. It is important not to buy over-the-counter flea and tick products, as they are not all FDA approved and can be toxic to your pet. Ask a staff member to recommend a safe, effective product for your use.



### DENTAL HEALTH:

For your puppy's dental health it is important to start brushing the teeth at an early age. Playing with the mouth and gums can be helpful with this process. Please visit our retail area for toothpaste and toothbrushes, CET medicated dental chews, Hexarinse oral cleansing gel and Science diet T/D kibble for your new puppy's dental care. Please feel free to ask our staff to demonstrate the proper way to brush your puppy's teeth or to help select the appropriate dental home care products for your puppy.

### ROUTINE SURGERY:

Your puppy should be spayed/neutered at six months of age. Spays stay one night, and neuters go home the evening of their surgery. We highly recommend microchipping your puppy at the time of this surgery. This will help you to be reunited with your pet in case he/she becomes lost. Please feel free to ask one of our technicians to give you an estimate for these procedures for your puppy.

### SAFETY TIPS:

**Again, it cannot be emphasized too much that a puppy is a baby and should never be left unattended out of his/her crate.** Whether indoors or outside, a puppy's explorations can lead to injury without adult supervision. Become familiar with your house and landscaping plants and know whether any of them are toxic if eaten. Keep your puppy away from all poisonous plants, mushrooms, rocks and other material outside.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

We have a list of groomers, pet sitters and boarding facilities that our clients have recommended over the years. We will be happy to give you a copy. If you have any to add, please let us know.

Your puppy's health and comfort are very important to us. If this handout has not answered all of your questions, please feel free to ask.

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