

## Basics of Puppy Care

### 1. Vaccinations

Puppies require three (3) sets of initial vaccines given at about 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age (vaccines should not be given earlier than 8 weeks old). These vaccines are time sensitive and need to be done between 4-6 weeks of each other. The vaccines include: Distemper (Parvovirus, Adenovirus/Hepatitis and Parainfluenza which are combined into one vaccine called DA2PP), Rabies, Leptospirosis, and Bordetella.



### 2. Deworming and Preventing Parasites

Puppies are typically born with intestinal parasites that are either spread from the mother during birth or nursing. Puppies explore with their mouths and the environment is infested with intestinal parasites which your puppy may pick up while on walks or in the yard. It is recommended to have your puppy on a good deworming protocol every 2-4 weeks up until 6 months of age. A fecal test will help us to monitor if the deworming plan is working well.



Fleas, ticks, and heartworm are other examples of nasty and dangerous parasites. It is ideal to keep your puppy (and all adult dogs) on a flea, tick, and heartworm prevention from May to November and then, depending on the weather and your lifestyle, staying on a flea and tick prevention all year round.

### 3. Nutrition

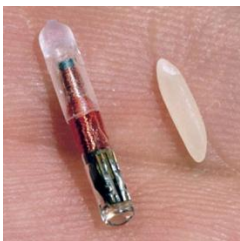
Once weaned from the mother, puppies no longer require her milk. It is recommended to have your puppy on a development puppy formula as these foods are tailored specifically towards their joints and proper growth/development. We recommend feeding your puppy either Royal Canin, Hill's Pet Nutrition or Purina Pro Plan brands as they are the most



reliable brands. As for treats, just be sure to not overindulge your puppy, and while training, use very small pieces of treats or even their regular kibble as a reward for their good behaviour.

#### 4. Spay/Neuter and Microchipping

Spays and neuters can be done around 6 months of age unless otherwise specified by our veterinarian. If you have a large or giant breed it will be recommended to have this procedure done closer to 1 to 1 1/2 years of age. A spay is a day procedure where a female puppy undergoes a general anesthesia in order to surgically remove the ovaries and uterus so she will not be able to have puppies of her own. A neuter is also a day procedure where a male puppy will undergo a general anesthesia in order to have both testicles surgically removed so he will not be able to impregnate an intact female. Spaying and neutering also have multiple other health and social benefits including eliminating the risks of developing ovarian and uterine or testicular cancers, reducing the chances of mammary or prostate cancer, decreasing the chances of them running away as they no longer have the need to search for a mate, as well as significantly help with their behaviour as it can reduce aggression and hormonal mood fluctuation.



\*A microchip compared to a grain of rice

A Microchip can be implanted at the base of your puppy's neck and shoulder blades under the skin. It is as small as a grain of rice and holds a unique number linked to your contact information. This information can be used to trace your beloved furry friend back to be reunited with your family in case of getting lost or escaping from home.

#### 5. Desensitization, Exercise, and Training

Going to the veterinarian can be scary for some puppies; to have the best possible visit we recommend getting your new puppy used to people handling them in many ways. Make sure that you are touching their mouths, ears, paws, and tails so they don't develop any areas that they don't like having manipulated. Another thing that we would highly recommend desensitizing your puppy to is a crate. Even if you don't plan on having them in a crate overnight or when you are away, having your puppy used to being in a crate alone can be invaluable. Your puppy may need to be in a crate during vet visits, traveling, or an emergency situation and having them feel comfortable and not stressed in a crate can help the situation.

Puppies need to start learning at a young age as they are very active animals and need a lot of stimulation. Once they have received their full vaccination certificate, they can now attend puppy training classes. Whether you've trained puppies before or not, puppy classes are a great way to get new training tips and socialize your puppy. While it is fun to teach them lots of interesting tricks like



spin and shake a paw don't forget to focus on basic commands like stay, come, and leave it as these can prove to be life saving in some cases.

Potty training must be slow and progressive. In general, a 1-month-old puppy could hold their bathroom needs for 1 hour, a 6-month-old puppy could hold for 6 hours, and so on. Be sure they are going out for regular potty breaks in order to be set up for success.

## 6. Safety

Puppies are very prone to accidents, diseases, and toxicities. Pet parents must understand that puppies need to be supervised all the time. Puppies cannot chew hard toys or chews as they may choke, or get an intestinal obstruction after ingesting something. Also keep in mind your puppy's grooming needs as this can impact their health and wellbeing. If you have a grooming breed, be sure to start introducing coat brushing right away to help prepare them for their first grooming appointment. For dental care, we recommend brushing your puppy's teeth on a regular basis with pet safe toothpaste to help prevent dental disease when they get older. All puppies will need to have their nails trimmed every few weeks and many breeds will require regular grooming and brushing to prevent matting especially if they have long or thick coats. As always, if you do have any concerns reach out to your vet and make sure you are taking your puppy in for regular vet visits.



For more information on Puppy care check out our website: [huroneastanimalhospital.com](http://huroneastanimalhospital.com)