



## For An A+ Puppy

### Physical Exam

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Ears & Eyes	Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____	Abdomen & GI	Normal	Abnormal _____
Nose & Throat	Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____	Muscles & Joints	Normal	Abnormal _____
Heart & Lungs	Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____	Skin & Coat	Normal	Abnormal _____
Additional Notes or Comments _____				

### Preventive Health Care

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Now that your new puppy has had his or her first physical, please read the following information regarding ongoing care for your new family member. Feel free to discuss these topics with your puppy's doctor.

#### Vaccines and Their Schedule

- Puppy vaccinations, a combination vaccine against Distemper, Parvo Virus and Corona Virus, are given every 3 weeks until the puppy is 4 months of age. The vaccine, known as DHLPP, is given annually thereafter.
- Rabies vaccines are given once at 4 months of age. One year later, your puppy will receive another rabies vaccine which will protect him/her for three years. Thereafter rabies vaccines are given once every three years.
- The Bordetella vaccination is recommended (and in many instances required) for pets that will be boarding, attending obedience or other training classes, and even visiting grooming salons or doggy day cares. This annual vaccination protects against some of the viruses and bacteria commonly known as Kennel Cough.
- The Lyme Disease vaccination protects dogs from the tick transmitted disease of the same name. This annual vaccine is highly recommended if you live in a wooded area or intend to recreate in wooded areas (such as Castlewood or Babler) with your dog (hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting). Lyme Disease is a devastating disease in dogs as it is often difficult to detect until a significant amount of damage has been done.

#### Annual Wellness Visit

- Once your puppy has completed the puppy series of vaccines, he or she will need to visit their doctor at least once per year for annual vaccinations, a comprehensive health exam, a heartworm test, and an intestinal parasite examination. These are essential to the long term health and well-being of your new family member.
- As your pet ages, your veterinarian will recommend additional annual testing to ensure that changes in your pet's health are diagnosed early.

#### Intestinal Parasite Control (Worms!)

- A stool sample from your puppy should be checked on the first and third or final puppy visit. Since several parasites are transmittable to humans, it is critical that your new four-legged family member be tested early.
- Your puppy will be checked each year at the time of his or her annual exam and vaccination visit.

#### Heartworm Disease and Prevention

- Heartworm, a mosquito transmitted disease, is difficult to treat and fatal if untreated.
- Prevention and an annual blood test are the keys to avoiding this very common disease.
- Start your puppy on preventives at 8 weeks of age.
- Heartworm preventives come in the form of a beef flavored cube and are given monthly – Pets Love It!
- **Keep your pet on heartworm prevention year round for the life of your pet.**

#### Dental Care

- Start after your puppy loses its baby teeth at 6 months of age.
- Practice brushing your puppy's teeth using CET toothpaste and finger brushing.
- Your veterinarian will examine your pet's teeth annually to determine when it is time for a dental prophylaxis.

- Dental prophylaxis procedures are necessary to prevent loss of teeth and infectious damage to internal organs.
- Weekly brushing and using a sealant such as OraVet will extend the timeframe between prophylaxis procedures.

### Family Planning

- Have your puppy surgically spayed or neutered at 5-6 months of age.
- Spaying or neutering at this age has overwhelming medical and behavioral benefits.
- Our doctors always recommend pre-anesthesia blood work to screen for risk factors associated with anesthesia.
- Our doctors recommend Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD) screening x-rays in nearly all breeds at an early age. Screening for this disease is done under anesthesia and can be combined with any other anesthetized procedure such as the pet's spay or neuter. The benefit of diagnosing this disease at a young age is that the pet can begin therapies early on that will postpone, and possibly even prevent the painful symptoms of CHD.
- If you are considering breeding your dog, discuss the following with your puppy's veterinarian:
  - Potential negative health effects of postponing spaying or neutering;
  - Pre-breeding health screenings that check for common, genetically influenced diseases such as hip dysplasia, eye and heart disorders.

### Nutrition

- High quality foods, such as Science Diet or Iams, make a difference in the short and long term health of your puppy and the cost per serving is similar.
- Large Breed Growth Food, from Science Diet, was created to decrease the risk of joint disease.

### Microchip Permanent Identification System

- A numerically encoded chip is injected under your puppy's skin. Best done at time of spay/neuter.
- Most veterinary hospitals and all humane societies and shelters have a way to scan for a chip.
- The chip provides an ID number for the lost pet and a 24 hour "Hot Line" reunites you and your pet quickly.

### Flea and Tick Control – BEFORE You Ever Have a Problem

- Frontline is the **gold standard** for flea and tick control, there is no other product like it on the market today.
- For tick-borne diseases other than Lyme, there are no vaccinations. Frontline offers effective protection.
- It is a topical product applied **monthly**. The product is absorbed in the pet's oil glands and distributes throughout his or her body. 24 hours after the product is applied, your pet can have a bath or go swimming without affecting the product's level of protection.

## Behavioral Management

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### Socialization and Pecking Order

To ensure your puppy knows his or her place and that you, the human family members, can touch all parts of the puppy without causing undue stress, we recommend the following be done for 2 minutes each twice daily and never allow your puppy to "win" or dictate when these sessions are over.

- Hold your puppy in the air and try to maintain eye contact (use gentle voice persuasion).
- Hold puppy like a baby or lay him/her on their back and maintain eye contact (gentle voice).
- Rub and gently squeeze puppy's feet, even gentle tugs (very important for trimming nails).

### Training Steps – Consistency, Praise, Reward

- Housebreaking – There are no **accidents!** A dog will not eliminate where it lives. The key is teaching your puppy that all indoor areas are where it lives.
  - Do not give your puppy free rein of the house; leash them in whatever room you are in.
  - Use an appropriately sized crate (comfortable but not large), IT WORKS! It is not a punishment; dogs have natural den instincts so they like a place of their own. It is also a **safe** place for your puppy.
  - Frequent potty breaks, - every 2 hours if you are home and every 4-5 hours if they are in their crate.
  - Take them out on leash, no playing, use repeated firm commands of "go potty" or "do your business".
  - Praise and reward for successful breaks.
  - For unsuccessful breaks, short 15 minute crate session then try again. Continue until successful.
  - If your puppy eliminates in the house, **you have given him/her too much free space**. Clean thoroughly and treat with Odor Eliminator.
  - **Do not** train your puppy to a newspaper or absorbent pad.
- Chewing/Biting/Jumping – Correct in a low, growling tone; have plenty of toys; don't play tug of war games.
- Obedience classes benefit all puppies and are a great way to bond with your newest family member.
- Consider our favorite training book: Good Owners, Great Dogs by Brian Kilcommons.

**Good Luck and Most of All Enjoy Your Puppy!**