

Puppy Wellness Protocol

Congratulations on the addition of your new family member. We know that you want them to have a long and healthy life. We thank you for trusting us to help you with that goal. Our first step in helping your pet is to see them for a series of visits at 3 week intervals. During these visits a number of things will happen. Your pet will be examined and the doctor will consult you on their findings as well as answer any questions you might have. Your pet will receive age and risk appropriate vaccinations. They will be checked for parasites as well as dewormed, and their nails will be trimmed if needed. The vaccinations and services your pet receives will vary depending on their age at the time of their visit. For simplicity and budgeting purposes the price will be the same at each visit. The puppy wellness protocol is as follows:

Puppy #1 up to 8 weeks	Puppy #2 9 to 11 weeks	Puppy #3 12 to 14 weeks	Puppy #4 15 weeks and older
Exam	Exam	Exam	Exam
DA2PP	DA2PP	DA2PPL	DA2PPL
Fecal	Fecal	Fecal	Fecal
Deworm	Deworm	Deworm	Deworm
NT	NT	NT	NT
		Rabies	Bordetella

The current charge is \$69.00

If a pet is first presented to our hospital for vaccination when it is already 15 weeks or older, he/she would start the series at Puppy #3.

Additional vaccines that can be given based on risk assessment include Influenza and Lyme. These vaccines can be started when the pet is 15 weeks old. An initial series of 2 is administered 3 weeks apart. These are charged for individually. If administered after the vaccine series is complete they are given with no doctor visit or exam.

Each of the items included is important for the long term health and comfort of your pet and in some cases important for the health of the rest of your family.

The exam/consultation is important to look for any abnormalities that might be present and have an impact on your pet's health. It also allows for a series of consultations with the doctor as your puppy or kitten is growing. It allows time to discuss proper nutrition, house training, behavior/obedience issues, parasite control, dental hygiene and future spaying/neutering of your pet.

The vaccines are given to help protect your pet from many of the serious infectious diseases they can contact. Some of these diseases can be fatal to your pet if they are not protected. In addition your family can be at risk from some such as Rabies and Leptospirosis.

The fecal exam is done to check for evidence of intestinal worms as well as other parasites such as Giardia and Coccidia. A fecal exam is not 100% sensitive, meaning there will be some pets with parasites that go undetected on a fecal exam. This is one of the reasons the fecal exam is repeated at every visit. The second reason it is repeated is to detect a new parasite infection. Some of the parasites that can be infecting your pet can also infect humans, such as Roundworms and Hookworms.

The deworming is done to eliminate Roundworms and Hookworms from your pet. Dewormings are done at each visit to try and eliminate worms that may have survived the previous dose, as well as eliminate any new infection. Puppies frequently become

reinfected by ingesting the eggs that were laid by their previous worm infection. Each female roundworm can lay up to 300,000 eggs per day so reinfection is not difficult.

Maintaining your pet's nails at an appropriate length throughout their life is important. Proper length nails will reduce the chance of injury to your pet as well as other family members. Long nails get caught and injured more easily. They can also affect how your pet walks leading to arthritis later in life. We encourage you to frequently handle your pet's feet and nails at home. Many adult pets are very resistant to having their nails trimmed. This tends to result in excess stress when they have their nails handled as well as nails that become overgrown.

The frequency with which your pet's nails will need trimming, varies. If your pet is very active, particularly on hard surfaces, their nails may maintain a good length on their own. Most of the time they will require some trimming. On average once a month trimming will be adequate. Many people can learn to trim their pet's nails at home. We are happy to teach you how. If you are not comfortable trimming their nails, we do recommend bringing them to a groomer, or our facility to have them done.

Continued Wellness

After completing the puppy series you will still need to provide a life time of care for your pet. Some of our general guidelines are as follows:

Spaying/Neutering is generally done at approximately 6 months old. This allows pets time to become more mature as well as complete their vaccine series before undergoing surgery. At the same time it is early enough to prevent females from having a heat cycle or most male dogs from starting to mark their territory and develop some dominance issues. We recommend that pets not intended for breeding purposes be spayed or neutered. In addition to the reduction of pet overpopulation it has other benefits. Spayed/Neutered dogs are less likely to develop aggression issues. They are less likely to try and escape to wander the neighborhood in search of a mate. This reduces the chance of being hit by a car or fighting with other dogs. It also reduces the incidence of certain types of cancer. Spaying eliminates the chance for developing a uterine infection, which is a life threatening problem seen in older female dogs.

Oral hygiene is a very important yet often overlooked part of your pet's care. Unfortunately many pets still receive no oral care until later in life when a significant problem is discovered. At that point the care often consists of removing diseased teeth. We would like to encourage oral care from the time your pet is a puppy so they can maintain a full healthy set of teeth throughout their life.

The best way to help your pet maintain a healthy mouth is by brushing their teeth daily. Most dogs will allow their teeth to be brushed if the process is started early in their life. We can provide you with a handout on how to brush their teeth.

In addition to brushing, their teeth can be kept healthier through the use of specially designed foods such as Hills T/D, some types of treats, and oral rinses.

Different pets develop tartar at different rates. Smaller breeds tend to develop tartar much faster than larger dogs. In addition to home care pets should receive professional dental cleanings and exams. The age at which your pet will need their first cleaning and exam will vary. For some it will be as soon as their first birthday, with the vast majority of pets benefiting by age four.