

Puppy Packet

Examinations

Physical exams are as important as any vaccines we administer.

Every new puppy should have a full physical examination after coming home and then with each set of vaccines, to make sure that she/he is in good health, and to discuss preventive medicine, and answer any questions you may have. After the initial puppy series, we recommend checkups at least once a year. These exams are as important as any vaccines we administer.

Vaccines

Puppies require a variety of vaccines in their early months to protect them from illness. After puppies reach adulthood, their vaccines are updated at intervals to ensure continued protection.

Puppies receive two core vaccines: the rabies vaccine (which is required by New Hampshire state law) is administered at 3-4 months of age, and a booster 1 year later, then every 3 years; and the distemper vaccine, protecting against distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, and parvovirus. It is also updated at intervals through a dog's life. There are several other lifestyle vaccines which may be appropriate for your puppy depending on his or her environment and degree of interaction with other dogs: Bordetella ("kennel cough"), Leptospirosis, and Lyme. We can discuss these additional vaccines during your visit.

Intestinal Parasite Screen

This test is a check for a variety of intestinal parasites, and is recommended for all puppies, then once yearly in older dogs. These parasites can be harmful to puppies, and sometimes people, so it is important to bring in samples regularly.

A small, fresh stool sample can be brought in a plastic bag or Tupperware. It is checked for a various intestinal parasites. Tapeworms and roundworms may also be seen in the stool or on the fur around the puppy's anal area. Because some intestinal parasites can cause serious disease in humans, please test regularly and give deworming medicine and regular monthly from areas that may be contaminated by feces, and clean up feces in the yard to avoid environmental contamination and reinfection of dogs.

Heartworm and Intestinal Parasite Prevention

Heartworms are blood borne parasites that are transmitted by mosquitoes from dog to dog. They live within the heart and can cause heart failure, breathing difficulty and death.

Intestinal parasites are very common in dogs, especially puppies, who can acquire them from their mothers. Once monthly treatment is recommended year-round to prevent heartworm infection and protect against intestinal parasites. This medication is usually started at 8 weeks of age, and adjusted for weight as the puppy grows.

Spaying/Neutering

We recommend sterilization for our patient's health and behavioral reasons, as well as population control. This surgery is typically done at 6 months and older. Please discuss this procedure as the best time for your individual dog with the veterinarian.

Diet

Puppies should be fed 2 to 3 times a day until they are 6 months old, and then twice a day thereafter. Larger breed puppies in particular should not be allowed to become overweight, as this can predispose them to joint problems such as hip dysplasia. You can switch to adult dog food at 1 year of age. Supplements are not necessary if fed an AAFCO approved diet. **Dogs should never eat grapes, raisins, chocolate, macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, or anything artificially sweetened with xylitol.** If your puppy eats any of these, please call the clinic immediately. Treats can be excellent for training and bonding, but should not make up a large percentage of your dog's diet.

Obedience

All puppies and all puppy owners can benefit from dog obedience training, either private or in classes. We consider the training and education of puppies and their owners to be absolutely vital to their ultimate health and wellbeing. Please feel free to discuss any behavior issues, including house training and separation anxiety, with the veterinarian.

Microchip

We strongly recommend this safe, permanent means of identification for your dog. We inject a tiny transponder under the skin and register your dog for life. You must keep the registry informed if your phone number or address changes. If your dog is lost and is taken to a shelter, he or she will automatically be scanned for a microchip, and you will be notified of their whereabouts.

