



## Summary

- Visit your vet at least once every year.
- Limit your puppy's living space to teach potty habits.
- Make sure your pup eats three 20-minute meals each day until he's four months old.
- Encourage chewing on appropriate items for good dental health.
- Maintain clean teeth for healthier kidneys & heart.
- Keep vaccinations current.
- Give heartworm preventative each month, all year round.
- Beware of parasites that dogs can pass to humans.
- Spay or neuter your puppy.
- Call your veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns.

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# MY NEW PUPPY BOOK



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## Congratulations on your new puppy!

**This booklet is designed to give you a head start on your life together so you can enjoy many happy years.**

*The first few weeks your puppy is in your home are very important. The training groundwork you lay at the beginning will pay big dividends down the road. Let's start with the number one concern on most puppy owners' list....*

### POTTY TRAINING



Dogs instinctively keep their living area clean. A crate establishes a living space for your puppy and his instinct will be to keep it clean. Once your puppy learns to keep his crate clean, this "space" can be increased in size by placing a child gate in a kitchen or bathroom doorway and eventually the entire house will be perceived as his living space, one room at a time.

If your puppy isn't keeping his crate clean, then it may be too large of a space and that allows him to have a bathroom area and a sleeping area. Feeding your puppy in the crate will also encourage him to keep it clean. Dogs are routine-oriented animals. Every time you take the pup out of the crate, take him immediately outside, using the same door and going to the same area to potty. Allow plenty of time, as puppies are easily distracted. Never force your pup into his crate. Dogs are den animals and his crate is his very own room in the house, not a place of punishment. Anger should never be associated with the crate. Give your pup a potty break every 2-4 hours to keep him comfortable.

## Poisons

### ***Beware! Puppies get into everything!***

You probably suspect that any number of things around your house might be poisonous to your dog. The following list will help you to learn what to keep out of reach of your new best friend.

Please call us immediately if your pup gets into any of the below listed items. For additional information on pet poisons you may also contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435, there may be a fee).

### ***These are the top ten poisons for dogs:***

1. Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, etc.)
2. Chocolate
3. Ant and roach baits
4. Rodenticides (rat or mouse poison)
5. Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
6. Pseudoephedrine-containing cold medicine (Sudafed)
7. Thyroid hormones
8. Bleach
9. Fertilizer
10. Hydrocarbons (paint, varnishes, lighter fluid, engine cleaners, paint thinner, fuel oils, nail polish remover, furniture polish)



## Chew... Chew... Chew... is good dental care too

We highly recommend giving your dog something to chew! Rawhide bones CAN be good, but there is a wide variation in the type and quality of rawhide on the market. We carry C.E.T HEXtra chews®, which are prescription rawhides with the patented exclusive antiseptic Chlorhexidine System which helps remove plaque and reduce tartar. Kong® toys or toothbrush shaped Greenie's® are also excellent chewing choices for your dog. Look for treats that have the "VOHC Seal", which means the treats are intended to help prevent tartar and plaque on the teeth of animals.



If your dog doesn't like to chew, there are additives for the drinking water that will keep tartar build-up to a minimum. Also, we perform dental services for dogs that include cleaning and scaling the tartar off your pet's teeth.

Your pet's dental health is very important because gum disease is one way for bacteria and infection to get into your pet's bloodstream lodging on the heart valves and in the kidneys. Since congestive heart failure and kidney failure are the two leading causes of death in older dogs, it's important to keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy to help prevent heart and kidney disease.



## Spay / Neuter

We recommend spaying and neutering your pet, NOT just for overpopulation issues (although that is a side benefit), but because it helps make your dog a better pet. Reproductive hormones can raise your pet's energy / excitement level or put them on edge. This will also increase a dog's chance of running away from home to find a mate, thus increasing the chances of being hit by a car.

A female dog is in season for three weeks, and comes in season about every six months. The more heat cycles a female goes through, the greater the risk of mammary cancer. The average female dog, if spayed before their first heat cycle, their chances of mammary cancer is less than 5%, but after just two heat cycles, the chance for mammary cancer goes over 27%. The chances do not continue to go up that fast each cycle after, but will still increase slightly with each heat cycle.

A neutered dog will be less susceptible to testicular and prostate problems.

Ideally, you'll have your pet spayed or neutered around four to six months of age because a younger dog will weigh less and recover faster. The procedures are a one day event.



## Microchips have many benefits!

We do recommend you microchip your pet. An implanted microchip allows for quick identification of your pet should they run away or get loose from you. We use the Home Again<sup>®</sup> microchip program which includes a national registry so you will be notified if your dog is found anywhere in the United States. There are a variety of other services provided by Home Again<sup>®</sup> microchip such as lost pet insurance, free poison control access and more. I encourage you to find out more about this very worthwhile program.



## Pet Health Insurance

Pet insurance is health insurance for your cat or dog. Pet insurance pays a large part of your veterinary bills when your pet gets sick or injured, at any veterinarian you choose.

You can visit any general, specialist, or emergency veterinary hospital in the United States, there are no networks of any kind. You pay your bill at the time of service, have your veterinarian sign a simple form, and send it in to your pet insurance company. You'll usually receive a refund within a couple of weeks.

There are lots of pet insurance plans available, we recommend V.P.I. (Veterinary Pet Insurance), ask us for a brochure. You can also visit [www.PetInsuranceReview.com](http://www.PetInsuranceReview.com) and read customer comments and testimonials about the different plans.

## Care Credit

We offer a payment plan for your veterinary expenses through Care Credit. We can help you apply, or you can visit [www.CareCredit.com](http://www.CareCredit.com) to apply online.



It is not uncommon for puppies to eat their own stool. If this happens, we carry FOR-BID<sup>®</sup> to put on your dog's food. FOR-BID<sup>®</sup> makes the stools undesirable and stops the behavior.



## LET'S EAT!!

Feeding your new pup.

Puppies are always growing so do not simply follow the directions on the back of the bag of dog food. Until your puppy is about 16 weeks of age, we recommend three meals a day.

A 'meal' should consist of whatever your puppy can consume in 20 minutes, after that, pick up the food. Your puppy will then have the urge to go to the bathroom about 30-60 minutes after he eats. If you prefer to offer your puppy "free choice" food, that is fine, but remember that he will have the urge to go to the bathroom a half hour or so after he eats.

If you go for the "free choice" route, it's important to pick up the food around 6:30 or 7:00PM, that way when you take your puppy to the bathroom around 10:00PM, he shouldn't have to go during the night. After about 10 weeks of age, a puppy's bladder has grown to the size where he should be able to "hold it" from about 10:00PM to 6:00AM.

**In addition, we recommend your puppy receive:**

Heartworm prevention – our heartworm preventative begins at eight weeks of age and prevents not only heartworms, but roundworms, hookworms and whipworms as well. Heartworms are carried by mosquitoes and live in your dog’s heart. They will slowly cause heart disease and can cause death.

Trifexis® is what we recommend to prevent heartworm disease and fleas and is given every 30 days. We recommend using Trifexis® year round because even in the winter, your dog can get heartworms or fleas. If given year-round, the manufacturer will pay for any treatment needed if your pet is diagnosed with roundworms, hookworms, whipworms or heartworms. Your pet needs to be tested for heartworms once a year in order to receive a prescription for preventative.



**Lyme** disease has become more prevalent in our area, very prevalent in Morris, Coal City and Wilmington areas and up into Wisconsin and Michigan. Lyme disease is carried by ticks which attach to your dog’s skin and pass the disease. If you are concerned of ticks or see them, we can vaccinate for Lyme disease.

**Bordetella** vaccination is highly recommended and sometimes required by dogs that are being taken to groomers or being boarded. Bordetella, or more commonly known as “kennel cough”, is highly contagious in warm, moist air.



Another recommended test is a fecal, or stool sample. Most pet owners do not know that their pets may carry worms capable of infecting people. Therefore, we recommend regular fecal examinations for your pet.



**Toxocara (roundworms)** are a parasite of dogs and cats which live in the intestines. The eggs are passed in the feces of dogs & cats and can infect people. Toxocara infections in humans, although rare, can cause swelling of organs of the central nervous system. Organs commonly affected are the eye, brain, liver and lung, where infections can cause permanent visual, neurologic, or other tissue damage. In most cases, these infections are not serious, and many adults infected by larvae may not notice any symptoms. The most severe cases are more likely to occur in the elderly and young children, who often play in or eat dirt contaminated by dog or cat stool.

**Ancylostoma & Uncinaria (hookworms)** are another common parasite of dogs and cats. Infection can be through contact with feces or even walking barefoot in your yard and stepping NEAR contaminated feces. When infective larvae penetrate the skin, it is characterized by the appearance of progressive, intensely itchy, linear eruptive lesions. Larvae may also penetrate into deeper tissues and induce other symptoms.

**A fecal allows us to check for a variety of worms, including the ones discussed above.**

**Just bring in a Milk-Dud size stool sample and we’ll do the rest!**





Protect your pet, and your family, by doing the following:

- ❖ Keep the dog or cat, especially puppies and kittens, under a veterinarian's care for early and regular deworming
- ❖ Monitor mature animals through yearly diagnostic stool examinations/fecal tests
- ❖ Clean up after the pet and dispose of stool
- ❖ Keep animal's play area clean
- ❖ Wash hands after playing with dogs or cats
- ❖ Keep children from playing in areas where animals have soiled
- ❖ Cover sandboxes to keep out animals



### Fleas and Ticks

Flea saliva is the #1 allergen for dogs. Similar to the effect mosquitoes have on humans, flea saliva causes a severe itch response in dogs. Fleas also carry tapeworms which would cause white 'segments' to appear in your dog's feces 1-2 months after having fleas. Over-the-counter products such as flea collars, topicals and shampoos are seldom effective and can be harmful. We recommend using monthly Trifexis<sup>®</sup>, Comfortis<sup>®</sup> or Frontline Plus<sup>®</sup>. Ticks carry Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Anaplasmosis, and Babesia. Your dog could pick up ticks in the woods or tall grass.



### Health Issues

*Preventative medicine will insure a longer, healthy life for your pup to share with you. These are our recommendations for a healthy life:*

#### **Vaccinations**

Between six and sixteen weeks of age, your puppy will receive a series of Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza vaccines. These "boosters" are given 2-3 weeks apart for maximum effect. After the series, your pet should have an annual vaccination.

Rabies vaccine is required by law, and the first vaccination is given at 16 weeks of age, and given every 1 or 3 years thereafter.

Rarely, a puppy will have a vaccination reaction. A vaccination reaction may involve slight swelling at the injection site, sleepiness or mild facial swelling on the bridge of the nose or around the eyes. If this happens, give us a call and we will give you step-by-step instructions on how to treat your pet. We will also make a notation on your pet's records so we can avoid any sort of reaction in the future.