



Puppy Veterinary Care Checklist

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Puppies need a lot of care! Use the checklist below to make sure your puppy is on track.

- Examination – every puppy should have a comprehensive physical exam as soon as possible after coming home; this will ensure that no health problems are lurking undetected. Exams will be continued at regular intervals during growth to make sure development is progressing as expected.
- Intestinal Parasite Testing – puppies can pick up a variety of parasites; testing will help us determine the best treatments for your new pet.
- Deworming – puppies need to be dewormed multiple times, sometimes with multiple medications, in order to eliminate the risk of parasites spread from mother to puppy and picked up from the environment.
- Parasite preventatives
 - Flea and Tick preventative – dogs should be on a topical preventative for these parasites once a month, year round. We'll start your puppy on an appropriate preventative and reweigh him/her each month to make sure an effective dose is used each time.
 - Heartworm preventative – heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes and causes permanent damage to the heart and lungs, but is entirely preventable, and all dogs in our area should be on a once a month preventative year round.
- Vaccines
 - Distemper, Hepatitis, and Parvo virus – this combination vaccine (often referred to as 'distemper' or 'DHP' is critical for even young puppies; it prevents the three most common viral diseases in dogs, all of which can be fatal. Puppies should receive this vaccine every 3-4 weeks until they are at least 16 weeks old, and their immune system is capable of creating a lasting immunity to these diseases.
 - Rabies – rabies is always fatal, and in New York City all dogs are required to be vaccinated.
 - Bordetella – this vaccine is also called 'kennel cough' and protects puppies against highly contagious upper respiratory infections, which can result in pneumonia in young dogs.
 - Lyme disease – of the common tick borne diseases, lyme is the only one we have an effective vaccine against, and we recommend all dogs living in high risk areas (aka NYC!) be vaccinated.
 - Leptospirosis – a bacterial disease spread by rodent urine, this disease can result in sudden death or permanent kidney damage, and we recommend all dogs be vaccinated.
- Spaying or Neutering – we recommend spay and neuter procedures around 5 months of age, before our patients enter puberty. Spaying female dogs before their first heat cycle will reduce the risk of breast cancer later in life by 99%! Neutering male dogs helps reduce their risk of prostate disease and some types of cancer.
- Training and socialization are critical to your new puppy becoming the friendly, happy companion you want. We'll help you find appropriate puppy classes, and give you some tips on socialization to make sure everything goes smoothly.