



PUPPY VISIT #1

Congratulations on obtaining your new puppy! To get you and your pet started out on the right foot, we've prepared this information packet to help you. Please take the time to read the enclosed materials, they have been selected because they are easy to understand and contain important information to make raising a happy, healthy, well-behaved puppy much easier.

VACCINATIONS

Inoculation against the most common and serious puppy diseases are the framework for puppy health.

DISTEMPER: A viral disease very common in nature that causes diarrhea, vomiting, convulsions, and death.

HEPATITIS: A viral disease causing sever liver damage.

PARINFLUENZA: A viral disease causing respiratory problems.

PARVOVIRUS: The *most serious* viral disease of puppies; causing vomiting, bloody diarrhea and heart damage, often fatal

The initial puppy vaccine contains temporary protection against all of these diseases in one injection (DHPP) usually given at *6-9 weeks of age*. A booster vaccine including Leptospirosis is necessary at *10-12 weeks of age, then a final booster at 16 weeks of age*.

LYME: This disease is transmitted by deer ticks and is the most common, serious preventable dog disease in our area. Vaccines given to puppies prior to exposure to ticks are about 95% effective at preventing infection. The initial Lyme vaccine is given at or after 12 weeks of age, boosted 3-4 weeks later, then given annually. The other common tick-borne disease, ANAPLASMA, does not have a preventative vaccine available, so tick control is very important!

FLEAS & TICKS

Fleas and ticks are major problems for pets in our area. To kill fleas and ticks in dogs over 8 weeks, we recommend Frontline Gold or Nexgard. We believe Frontline Gold is the best flea and tick *topical* preventative, and Nexgard is the best *oral* chew preventative. We recommend these products should be used from March to December.

HEARTWORMS

As the name implies, dogs develop worms in their hearts that eventually cause heart failure and death! Heartworms are transmitted between dogs by mosquitos. A simple blood test is performed at annual vaccine time to be certain that your dog didn't develop heartworms the previous season. Fortunately, heartworms are very easily prevented using the monthly medication, HEARTGARD PLUS.

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HEARTGARD PLUS is given year-round. Be sure to pick up a dose today to begin prevention. Further doses will be given according to body weight.

Heartworm disease is a VERY SERIOUS health threat to dogs in this area.

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Intestinal parasites, found in most puppies, can easily be detected with an examination of their feces called a fecal test. A small sample of feces is mixed with a special solution, and then a drop of this mixture is examined under a microscope to detect the parasite eggs present in the sample. Most puppies that have intestinal worms DON'T have visible worms in their feces.

After the type of intestinal parasite is identified, a specific medication is prescribed to kill that parasite. The medication is usually given at home mixed in a small amount of food.

DENTAL & NAIL CARE

Begin now by gently playing with your pet's feet, lips, and mouth. Dogs by nature dislike having their feet and mouth handled, but by gently touching, rubbing and manipulating their paws and mouth now, your pet will be more submissive to you and will allow dental and nail care when it's needed.

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT

Nutrition: A key ingredient in keeping a dog healthy and happy is a high quality, easily digested food. We recommend PURINA PRO PLAN, DIAMOND, and FROMM'S as examples of excellent premium foods widely available. It is usually best to feed 2 meals per day. Follow the feeding recommendations on the back of the bag according to your pet's weight beginning with the lowest quantity in the range. If your pet walks away before finishing the amount, pick up the bowl until the next meal. If your pet seems to want more at a meal, give more; but don't exceed the highest quantity in the range for your pet's weight.

Training/Housetraining: Proper obedience training is critical in developing a puppy that is a joy to own, rather than a hassle. Properly trained puppies are also happier and healthier because they know what is expected of them, and they learn how to please their owners. The *Wisconsin Rapids Kennel Club* offers puppy-training classes that we highly recommend. If you can't attend training classes, using the *Purina Puppy Book* we have provided will help guide you in training your pet.

NEXT VISIT – ONE MONTH

The next check-up for your pet will be due in 3-4 weeks, and will include booster vaccines and a fecal test. It is very important to follow the correct series of vaccine visits to completely protect your pet from these diseases, as well as getting the Doctor's advice on continued puppy care.

EMERGENCY CARE

Please contact the *PAW Health Network Animal Emergency Center* in Mosinee at 715-693-6934. The Emergency Center's standards of care most closely mirror Woodland Veterinary Clinic, Ltd. They are open from 6pm – 8am, Monday – Thursday; and 5pm Friday – 8am Monday; as well as holidays. From Wisconsin Rapids, it should take about 45 minutes to get there.