



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY!

## New Pet Owner's Guide for Puppy

*If you are a new pet owner, there are many questions you may have. Hopefully this guide will help. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to ask.*

---

### New Puppy Wellness Examination

Our veterinarians at Eagle Animal Hospital would like to develop a specific and appropriate vaccination protocol for your new puppy. With many vaccinations available our staff will be able to tailor a protocol to keep your pet healthy without over-vaccinating your new family member.

#### Core Vaccinations

1. **Canine Parvovirus** (Given between the ages of 6-16 weeks in intervals of 3 weeks.)
2. **Canine Distemper** (Given between the ages of 6-16 weeks in intervals of 3 weeks.)
3. **Canine Adenovirus 2** (Given between the ages of 6-16 weeks in intervals of 3 weeks.)
4. **Rabies** (One dose administered as early as 3 months of age. )
5. **Bordetella bronchiseptica** (Administered as early as 3 weeks, then booster every 6 months or as needed for protection.)

Vaccines are then administered as needed throughout your pet's life.

#### Optional Vaccinations

1. Lyme Disease
2. Leptospirosis
3. Giardia
4. Coronavirus
5. Canine Adenovirus 1

#### Intestinal Parasites

Intestinal parasites are common in puppies. Most puppies acquire roundworms and hookworms from their mother when they are born. The Center for Disease Control recommends 2-4 fecal examinations during the first year, accompanied by appropriate de-worming. Dogs should be maintained on monthly anthelmintic, which is found in heartworm preventative. People can contract roundworm and hookworm infections through direct contact with infected feces. This can happen through contaminated soil, sand, and plant life.

---

### Parasite Control (Heartworm Preventative & Flea/Tick Control)

Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitoes. The immature worms develop into adults whilst traveling in the bloodstream to the heart and lungs. Signs of disease can range from nothing to coughing, difficulty breathing, collapse, and exercise intolerance.

Heartworm preventative should be given each month, at the same time every month, year-round. It is an oral product that is only available by prescription and is based on the weight of your



## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY!

dog. Not only does it prevent against heartworm disease, most heartworm preventatives also protect against major intestinal parasites. Therefore, you can think of it as an extremely safe and effective comprehensive deworming every month.

A heartworm test is performed yearly in accordance with the guidelines issued by the American Heartworm Society.

Flea and tick control is extremely important in the Midwest. Monthly administration of a topical or oral product is recommended. These products are extremely safe and can prevent significant dermatologic diseases and tick-borne illnesses.

Eagle Animal Hospital recommends the following products:

- Heartgard® Plus (prevents heartworms and intestinal parasites)
- Tri-heart® Plus (prevents heartworms and intestinal parasites)
- Interceptor® (prevents heartworms and intestinal parasites)
- Sentinel® (prevents heartworms, intestinal parasites, and fleas)
- Advantage® (prevents fleas)
- Comfortis™ (prevents fleas)
- Frontline® Plus (prevents fleas and ticks)
- Vectra 3D™ (prevents fleas and ticks)
- ProMeris® (prevents fleas and ticks)

---

## Training

Socialization begins as early as 2½ weeks and continues through to about 13-16 weeks of age. This is the term used to define the time that the puppy will learn appropriate behaviors and about its physical environment. At this age, the puppy should experience circumstances that he/she could see as an adult, including surfaces, objects, physical barriers, people, mild aversions, and frustrations. This will allow him/her to develop normal, adaptive responses to current and new situations later in life. Although socialization is most important in early puppyhood, exposure to new stimuli should continue throughout the first year of life.

Housebreaking is also key to developing a good relationship with your pet. Here are a few tips:

- A good rule of thumb is that a puppy should only be expected to hold its urine/stool for one hour longer than its age in months. When about 5 months of age, he/she should be able to control itself for 7-8 hours.
- Puppies have a strong urge to eliminate after sleeping, playing, feeding, and drinking. Prepare to take your puppy to its selected elimination area within 30 minutes of each of these activities. After elimination is completed, praise and pet your puppy. A few tasty treats can also be given the first few times (immediately upon completion), then intermittently thereafter. You may want to teach him/her a word to cue elimination.
- Always supervise your puppy indoors for pre-elimination signs. That way you can immediately take him/her to the dedicated elimination spot. If your puppy begins to eliminate indoors, use a verbal reprimand or shaker can, never physical punishment.



## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY!

- If your puppy has an accident indoors, it is never appropriate to reprimand after the fact. Only if the puppy is in the act of elimination will it understand the consequences. In this situation, it is not the puppy that has erred; it is the owner that has erred for not properly supervising.
  - A crate is an ideal way to prevent house soiling when your puppy is unsupervised. The crate should only be large enough to allow the puppy to stand up and turn around. There should not be enough room to allow him/her to eliminate in one part and sleep in another. It is also important that your pet sees this as a “safe place” and never as punishment.
- 

### Spaying/Neutering

We recommend that all female dogs be spayed around 5-6 months of age (before their first heat cycle) and that all male dogs be neutered around 7-8 months of age.

Spaying a female dog prior to her first heat cycle decreases her risk of developing breast cancer by over 90%. It also eliminates the possibility that she will have an unwanted litter of pups or a uterine infection. It is not true that a female dog will be a better pet if you let her have a litter.

Neutering a male dog can help to decrease some of the less desirable behaviors (mounting, marking, wandering, +/- aggression). Intact males are also at an increased risk for some other health concerns, including an enlarged prostate and testicular tumors.

---

### Microchipping

A microchip is a small implant just under the skin between the shoulders. It contains a unique identification number that can be recognized by a special scanner available at every animal clinic and shelter. This number is placed in a registry maintained by the manufacturer of the chip and is linked to your name and address.

It is a great way to feel secure that your pet can be identified if they accidentally escape your care and are found without identification tags. This procedure can be done at any visit but is most frequently done at the time of their spay/neuter surgery.

---

### Dental Care

Periodontal disease is the most common infectious disease in veterinary medicine and can not only lead to a painful mouth but also contribute to kidney, liver, lung, and heart disease. However, there are many things you can do at home to help prevent these health problems.

Establishing a dental care routine and incorporating it early is fundamental in maintaining your pet's health and can actually add years to his/her life. The most effective practice you can do at home is daily tooth-brushing. Any toothbrush can be used but the toothpaste must be labeled for pets. There are also many other dental products available that can be used in conjunction with tooth-brushing.

Most pets will eventually need a professional cleaning and possibly several throughout his/her lifetime, but regular brushing will prolong the time between these procedures. Your veterinarian can recommend when this needs to be performed.



## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY!

---

### Puppy Checklist

Congratulations on your new family member. We at Eagle Animal Hospital would like to provide you with a list of supplies that will help keep your pet happy and healthy. Please take a moment to go over the list and formulate any questions you may have for one of our veterinarians.

- Puppy Food (Please discuss with your veterinarian)
- Separate Food and Water Containers (preferably not plastic)
- Crate / Pen (appropriate size)
- Collar and Leash (light-weight)
- Heartworm Preventative
- Flea/Tick Preventative
- Identification Tag/Microchip
- Bed
- Appropriate Shampoo
- Chew Toys
- Training manuals and/or classes
- Grooming Supplies (brush, nail trimmers)
- Carpet Cleaner