

Congratulations!

Congratulations on your new puppy! All the responsibilities can be overwhelming, especially when there are so many sources of information at your fingertips. Our goal is to clearly summarize what we here at the Glenview Animal Hospital recommend. We also want you to know that we are only a phone call away. Getting a good start with your puppy will lead to a long and happy life!



Feeding

There are many good premium pet foods that you can purchase at the store. There are also some that may be better for your new puppy because of the breed and the size that your puppy will grow to. Please discuss with us the brand that you are considering using. Most important, if you are changing the food that you are feeding, it should be done gradually. It is best to take a week to change foods. Start by adding just a small amount of the new food to the original food the first day (about 1/8th the amount). Then each day add a little more. This should help reduce the chances of diarrhea. If there are problems, please feel free to call us.

The Adult Years

Adulthood 1-7 years

Yearly wellness exams are recommended

- Physical examination
- Opportunity to discuss feeding, behavior, and other concerns
- Annual booster vaccination
- Heartworm test
- Prescribe Heartworm preventative and flea and tick preventative
- Address any concerns found on physical examination

Senior Years >7years old

We have found that many of the problems that we see in older dogs begin to creep up as early as seven years of age, especially in larger breed dogs. Animals, by nature, do not show signs of disease until they simply can not hide it any longer. Often, by that time, it is too late to eliminate the problem. It is for this reason that veterinary medicine has learned that it is extremely important to screen for issues before they become apparent.



Wellness examinations twice a year are recommended at this age. One visit we will continue to do the yearly adulthood care and on the six month visit we will perform a full blood panel and urinalysis to screen for early disease processes. Remember, doing this once a year is analogous to doing it every six to eight years in a person. A dog's physiology changes at a much faster rate than people's physiology.



Puppy Care

What to Expect the First Year



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*Dedicated to providing
compassionate & comprehensive
care for your pet*

Your Puppy's First Year

Our goal is to maintain wellness in your puppy through disease prevention. The following are the recommendations of our staff to help achieve this goal.

Vaccinations

Core Vaccinations

Distemper Complex

- Actually contains five vaccines: Distemper, Parvovirus, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Leptospirosis
- Must be given every 3 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- Generally a minimum of three vaccinations
- Boostered Yearly

Rabies Vaccination

- **Required by law**
- Given once as a puppy at 16 weeks of age
- Boostered Yearly

Non-Core or Elective Vaccinations

Bordetella (Kennel Cough)

- Prevalent upper respiratory infection contagious between dogs
- Required by most boarders, trainers and groomers
- 2 vaccination series as a puppy
- Boostered Yearly

Lyme Disease

- Spread by the deer tick
- Becoming more prevalent in Illinois
- Signs of disease are vague and difficult to diagnose. Prevention is stressed
- 2 vaccination series
- Boostered Yearly

Internal and External Parasites

Intestinal Parasites

Roundworms and Hookworms

- All puppies are assumed to be carrying these worms at birth
- Can cause serious illness in humans, especially children
- Puppies should be dewormed two to three times during the first 4 months

Coccidia

- Picked up in the environment
- Not a worm, it is a protozoa
- Not treated unless detected on fecal exam

Heartworm Disease

- Transmitted by mosquito bite
- Not an intestinal parasite, actually a blood parasite
- Untreated will cause respiratory and heart failure
- Treatment is costly and has side effects. **Prevention is stressed.**
- Heartgard is used as a preventative once monthly year-round
- Yearly heartworm blood test needed to prescribe medication
- First blood test is done at 6 months of age

Flea and Tick Prevention

- Frontline or Advantix are the recommended products applied topically once monthly
- Protects against ALL tick-borne diseases-not just Lyme disease
- Safer than the more generalized insecticides available at the pet stores

Spaying and Neutering

- Recommended at six months of age
- This age decreases chances of medical issues from being spayed or neutered at too young or too old
- Also will decrease chances of behavioral issues

Dental Care

- 2nd most common health problem in dogs (#1 obesity)
- Dry food is best for dental maintenance
- Brushing will promote oral health
- Chew toys and dental treats help
- Periodic professional cleaning will be recommended at yearly exams if necessary
- The more home maintenance done, the less frequent professional cleanings

Microchipping

- needed
- A major advantage in reuniting lost pets with owners
- Size and shape of a grain of rice
- Not a tracking device- gives a serial number that can be scanned at most veterinary