



**Arlington Heights
Animal Hospital**

NEW PUPPY

Congratulations on the new addition to your family! We have compiled some helpful information regarding your new puppy's health and wellness.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are an important part of your puppy's (and grown dog's) preventative health. As puppies, vaccinations are given at four week intervals in order to stimulate your puppy's immune system and to break through the declining antibodies received from the mother dog. After the initial puppy series, vaccinations are boosted yearly.

The **Distemper** vaccination (**PDA2P**) contains protection against several viruses in addition to Distemper. Viral Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvo Virus are also included in this important inoculation. These protect your dog from viral liver, respiratory, nervous system, and intestinal diseases. This vaccination is typically given at 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age, then annually.

Leptospirosis is a preventable bacterial infection which can attack your dog's kidneys, liver, brain, lungs, and heart. It is spread animal to animal through urine, and can be present in moist soil and water. This disease is zoonotic, meaning that humans may also become infected. We typically vaccinate against Leptospirosis at 12 and 16 weeks of age, then annually.

Bordetella Bronchiseptica (also called "Kennel Cough") is another bacterial infection of dogs. It causes respiratory illness and is an airborne infection spread dog to dog. We administer this vaccination in an oral liquid or as an injection at 8 weeks of age, then annually.

Rabies Virus is always fatal. This virus is spread by bites or scratches from infected warm-blooded animals. It spreads along the nerves to the brain. Since this infection is deadly and is zoonotic (has the ability to infect humans), it is required by law. This vaccine is given at 16 weeks of age and is boosted yearly. A three year Rabies vaccine is available for adult dogs.

Canine Influenza is a viral disease of dogs which is spread through direct contact with an infected dog or infected surfaces, and through the air. It is highly contagious and causes respiratory illness. There is more than one strain of influenza virus and some new strains may develop over time. Vaccinations for the two prevalent strains are available and are typically given at 12 and 16 weeks of age.

Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection carried by ticks that causes fever, joint swelling, and pain; it may infect the kidneys, heart, and nervous system. Dogs at risk for being exposed to ticks should be vaccinated at 12 and 16 weeks of age, then annually.

Parasite Prevention

Intestinal Parasites live in the intestinal tract and lay microscopic eggs which are shed into the stool. Adult worms are rarely seen in the stool unless they are present in very large numbers or your pet has been given medication to remove them. It is possible to have adult parasites that are not shedding eggs at the time a stool sample is checked. As a result, we recommend checking two stool samples at two different times to try to prevent undetected parasite infections. Samples should be less than 12 hours old and only need to be about teaspoon sized. You may bring the sample in during an examination or may drop one off at the front desk. Preventative deworming will be instituted based on previous medications administered. Different intestinal parasites require different medications, and not all medications treat all intestinal parasites.

Heartworm disease is a blood parasite spread from dog to dog by mosquitoes. Once exposed, it takes 6-8 months to be detected by a blood antigen test. Therefore, in order to protect puppies, we recommend starting your puppy on monthly heartworm prevention starting at 8 weeks of age. These prescription preventatives are given year-round to protect against the worm stage carried by mosquitoes. Your dog's blood will be tested yearly for heartworm at the annual exam.

Fleas and Ticks are common blood-sucking external parasites of dogs. They are typically in higher numbers during the warm months of the year, but fleas can remain active indoors year-round. Some species of ticks, like deer ticks, have been found to be present during very cold months as well. We recommend starting your puppy on a flea and tick preventative at 8 weeks of age and continuing preventatives year-round.

Spaying/Neutering

Spayed or neutered pets are typically healthier and happier pets. Neutering may help to reduce urine marking, roaming, decrease aggression, decrease chances of developing cancers and infections of the mammary glands and urogenital system. Unwanted litters are prevented with spaying/neutering as well. Males are typically neutered at 8 months of age, and females spayed at 6 months of age to allow development of internal organs (liver, lungs, kidneys). Some females may benefit from going through one heat cycle. Presurgical bloodwork will be done on the day of surgery to detect hidden problems.

Microchip Identification

A Microchip is a form of permanent identification which is injected with a sterile needle under the skin near your puppy's shoulders. When a microchip is detected by a handheld scanner, a distinct identification number is revealed. This information is used to obtain the contact information you have provided to the microchip company in order to reunite you with your lost dog. We only use ISO compatible internationally accepted microchips. We can place this during an examination or during the spay/neuter surgery.

Feeding

Due to their fast metabolism and small stomachs, it is important to feed your puppy three times a day until around 10 to 14 weeks of age. Smaller breed puppies may require frequent feedings until older. Most older puppies and dogs can be fed twice daily. Adult food formula may be started between 6 months to 1 year of age. In recent years, it has been discovered that grain-free foods may be associated with a type of heart failure called dilated cardiomyopathy. Please make sure that your puppy (and any adult dogs) are not fed grain-free foods.

Chew Toys/Treats

Your puppy will want to chew on anything and everything in sight while they are teething, which usually lasts until around 7 months of age. It is important to choose toys that cannot be torn up, risking ingestion and becoming a foreign body or choking hazard. Treats can pose the same risk, so choose carefully. Do not give your puppy or adult dog anything too hard which can cause teeth to break. This includes antlers. Please check the Veterinary Oral Health Commission's website vohc.org for a list of veterinary dental specialist approved treats and toys. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) has lists of toxic and safe plants. Go to ASPCA.org for more information.

Obedience

The importance of good obedience training cannot be overstated. Well-trained dogs are typically happier and more secure, while making interacting with your dog more enjoyable for both of you. When enrolling your dog for training, please inquire with the training facility which vaccinations are required to attend.

Grooming

Start grooming your pet at an early age so that your puppy gets used to the handling and is accepting of it. Also get your puppy conditioned to having paws, ears, and mouth touched to make it easier to trim the nails, clean the ears, and brush the teeth and coat. Never use any products with permethrins or pyrethrins, as these may be toxic. A good choice is Burt's Bees oatmeal shampoo and conditioner for dogs.

Insurance

In recent years, the importance of having pet insurance has increased. There are several policies available and it is important to choose one that fits your and your pet's needs. Many people have opted for policies that cover major injuries and intensive care/hospitalization, as most yearly vaccinations and preventatives are typically manageable financially. Intensive and specialty care improves the well-being of your pet, but does come at a cost that may reach several thousand dollars if very serious in nature.

Weather Extremes

Chicagoland weather extremes may post a risk to your dog, so please take care in protecting them from overheating and hypothermia. It only takes a few minutes for a pet to become critically ill if left in a hot vehicle or left outdoors in extreme weather conditions.

Emergencies

A medical emergency can be scary, especially if it happens in the middle of the night.

Sometimes continuous intensive medical care is needed throughout the night or weekend. Below is a list of local after-hours and 24-hour emergency hospitals to use if we are closed. You may wish to remove this sheet and post it near other important numbers.

Elk Grove Veterinary Specialty & Emergency
1050 Bonaventure Drive
Elk Grove Village
847-584-0200

Thrive Pet Healthcare Specialists-Hoffman Estates
2700 W. Higgins Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
618-323-3718

Golf Rose Animal Hospital:
1375 N. Roselle Rd. (near Golf and Roselle Roads)
Schaumburg
847-885-3344

Veterinary Specialty Center:
2051 Waukegan Rd.
Bannockburn, IL 60015
847-459-7535

Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center:
3125 N. Clybourn
Chicago
773-281-7110

Midwest Animal Emergency Hospital (exotic animals treated as well)
7510 W. North Ave.
Elmwood Park
708-453-4755

FOR TOXIC EXPOSURES:

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC)
(888) 426-4435

Please be advised that there is a fee for this resource.

