



PUPPY CARE TIPS FOR RAISING A HEALTHY PUPPY

REGULAR VET VISITS

- Regular wellness visits are essential to a happy, healthy life
- Reduces stress and anxiety
- They will see the veterinarian several times during the first few months of life, then at least yearly after that

COMPLETE SET OF VACCINATIONS

- Many diseases are that can threaten your puppy's health can be prevented with appropriate vaccination
- The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) provides a list of guidelines for vaccinations
- Your veterinarian can determine a vaccine schedule based on your puppy & their exposure risk

SPAYING/NEUTERING

- Multiple benefits to spaying and neutering your puppy. You can discuss proper timing and surgery information with your veterinarian
- Can help prevent certain cancers and infections later in life
- Helps avoid unwanted behaviors related to hormones & reduce pet overpopulation

PROPER SOCIALIZATION

- Teaching proper manners can help prevent anxiety and fear behaviors.
- Discuss measures with your veterinarian that can minimize risks when socializing your puppy while still building up their immune system
- Provide regular socialization within the first 12 weeks of age

HOUSE TRAINING

- Take your puppy outside after every meal, when they wake up, and after playtime.
- Consistency is key - a regular schedule will help teach your puppy the appropriate times to potty and places to potty

DENTAL CARE

- Periodontal disease is very common in dogs - discuss a good method for maintaining the health of your puppy's teeth
- Providing proper chew toys can help both relieve the need to chew and develop healthy habits for dental health
- Bacteria can affect other body systems

DIET AND EXERCISE

- The right diet is essential for good nutrition and proper growth. Talk with your veterinarian for recommendations based on your puppy's needs.
- Daily exercise can prevent obesity and help with behavior
- A properly fitted collar, harness, identification tag, and leash are key to help walk your puppy safely.

PROTECTION FROM HOUSEHOLD DANGERS

- Puppy-Proof your house is very important. There are many common household items that can be dangerous to your pet.
- Never leave your dog in a closed car and keep electrical cords out of reach.
- Household chemicals (ex: bleach, antifreeze, etc) and foods (raisins, onions, xylitol, chocolate, etc) are common toxins

COMPANIONSHIP

- Puppies are social creatures and thrive on health interaction.
- They love to play & enjoy praise
- Make sure your puppy has proper toys to keep them busy while you're away.

YEAR-ROUND PARASITE PREVENTION

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YEAR-ROUND PARASITE PREVENTION

- The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CPAC) and the American Heartworm Society (AHS) recommend year-round parasite control to help protect against intestinal parasites, ticks/fleas, and heartworms for all pets
 - Fleas: They can cause discomfort - leading to scratching, chewing, biting, etc. They carry and transmit diseases. Also, fleas can cause FAD (Flea Allergy Dermatitis), which is a common skin allergy. Severe infestations can even cause some anemia in your pets.
 - Ticks: Ticks latch onto a host to feed on blood and can spread diseases (some can even be deadly)
 - Intestinal Parasites: There are many different kinds of intestinal parasites that can affect your dog in different ways (weight loss, diarrhea, vomiting, etc). Puppies can acquire parasites from their mothers, contaminated environments, or from eating an infected host. Some intestinal parasites can be contracted by humans as well.
 - Heartworm: Infection is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. If left untreated this can be life-threatening. Critical signs may be absent in early stages; common disease progression leads to coughing, difficulty breathing, and exercise intolerance.