



**Good Friends  
Animal  
Hospital**

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## ***Puppy Health Care***

### ***Vaccinations***

A *Distemper/Parvo combination* is given at 8 and 12 weeks of age (at least 2 need to be given regardless of age) and is recommended for all puppies. After this first series, the Distemper/Parvo vaccine is given every 3 years.

*Rabies* is given at 4 months of age. The first rabies vaccine is good for 1 year, after that, your dog can have a rabies vaccine that lasts for 3 years.

*Bordetella* is needed if the pup will be boarded. The vaccine is good for 1 year.

### ***Nutrition***

Puppies less than 4 months old should be fed 3 meals per day. Adult dogs should be fed 2 times daily. We recommend a good quality food without artificial preservatives.

### ***Spay and Neuter***

Unless you are planning on breeding your pup, ALL puppies should be spayed or neutered between 3 and 6 months of age. Females are less likely to develop mammary tumors and males are less likely to develop anal tumors or prostate problems if they are spayed and neutered.

### ***Parasites***

All puppies should be treated for *roundworms*. A stool sample should be checked at the first appointment and again 3 months later. Other parasites seen in puppies include hookworms, whipworms, giardia and coccidia. *Heartworm* preventative medication should be started at 8 weeks and the puppy should be tested when 6 months or older.

### ***Grooming***

Accustom your puppy to grooming. Flea combs are useful to check for fleas and remove them. Nails grow quickly and should be trimmed regularly, generally every couple of weeks. Teach your pup to let you handle his feet (for a treat!).

### ***Dental Care***

Your puppy's permanent teeth will come in between 3½ to 7 months of age. Dogs can have the same dental problems that humans have so it is important to brush their teeth regularly. This works best if you start when they are puppies.

### ***Training***

An obedience class is a great idea for dogs of all ages! Register your puppy for puppy kindergarten classes as soon as possible.

Use a crate to confine your puppy whenever you can't watch him. This aids in housetraining and prevents unwanted chewing.

### ***Odor Control***

Until he/she is reliably housetrained, every new puppy will have accidents. Be sure to use an enzyme product that will break down the odor before you do any stain removal.