

BEST CARE PET HOSPITAL

PREVENTATIVE PUPPY CARE

Congratulations! You are the owner of a new puppy! We, the doctors and staff at Best Care Pet Hospital, would like to help ensure the health and happiness of your new friend. Following is a list of recommended preventative care for your new pet.

VACCINATIONS:

1st Visit ____/____/____

Temporary distemper combination (distemper, hepatitis, parvo, parainfluenza, and corona), (DHPPC), wellness exam, fecal and/or deworming, heartworm preventative.

2nd Visit ____/____/____

Temporary distemper combination (DHPPC), fecal (bring in a stool sample), and heartworm preventative.

3rd Visit ____/____/____

Temporary distemper combination (DHPPC), heartworm preventative.

4th Visit ____/____/____

Distemper combination (DHPPC), Rabies, heartworm preventative.

***Vaccinations need to be updated once a year. We will send you a reminder when they are due. We ask, therefore, that you please inform us of any address changes.

***Please call to schedule appointments so that we may serve you better.

BORDETELLA (KENNEL COUGH):

If your dog is to be boarded, attend dog shows, or participate in obedience classes, we recommend that your dog receive the bordetella vaccination.

LYME DISEASE:

If your dog will be hunting, camping, or in heavily wooded or tall grass areas, we recommend the Lyme vaccination. This vaccination will help protect against Lyme disease spread by deer ticks. This consists of 2 vaccinations given 2-3 weeks apart, then once a year.

HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE:

All dogs must have an annual blood test for heartworm disease before starting heartworm preventative. This test must be repeated each year before the prescription for heartworm preventative will be renewed. The only exception is puppies which are less than 6 months old.

SPAYING/NEUTERING:

Puppies may be spayed or neutered starting at 4-6 months of age. We strongly recommend spaying/neutering to help curtail some behavior and health problems. Surgeries are scheduled Monday-Friday. Your pet will be admitted to the hospital in the morning and will be allowed to return home the same day. We use isoflurane gas anesthesia which is very safe and allows your pet to return home the same day as surgery. All sutures are placed under the skin and do not need to be removed.

PRE-ANESTHETIC SCREENING:

Medical advancements have greatly reduced the risks involved with anesthesia. We at Best Care Pet Hospital use iso-flurane gas anesthesia, the safest anesthesia available today. Anesthetic risk may be reduced even further, however, through pre-anesthetic screening. The screen consists of a simple blood test which is run here in our hospital prior to an anesthetic procedure. The test indicates whether or not the internal organs are functioning properly. Especially of interest are the liver and kidneys, as the anesthesia is processed primarily through these organs. The screening may indicate hidden health problems which the Doctor would be unable to find on a physical examination. When you bring your pet in for an anesthetic procedure you will be asked to complete a surgical consent form which will offer you the choice of pre-anesthetic screening. Please discuss any questions or concerns with the Veterinarian.

GROOMING:

All breeds of dogs, short or long-haired will benefit from regular grooming. Regular brushing or combing of your pet's coat can help not only with shedding and mats, but can also help you to look out for fleas, bruises, hot spots, or other problems you may not otherwise notice. Some breeds will require professional grooming on a regular basis. If you are unsure about your pet and how often, or how to have it groomed, one of our groomers will be happy to consult with you. When grooming your dog, be sure not to overlook cleaning its ears. A simple cotton ball and warm water can help to keep the ears clean, or the veterinarian may suggest a drying ear-cleaner. Do not place any substance into the ear which has not been approved by the veterinarian. It is also important to keep the nails trimmed on a regular basis. The veterinarian or one of our technicians will be willing to show you how to perform this task at home, or you may bring your pet to the office for regular nail trims.

DENTAL CARE:

Your puppy will benefit throughout its life if you begin good dental care now. It is easier to start good dental hygiene habits now while the puppy is young, and continue those habits for a lifetime. One of our staff will be happy to assist you in the selection of proper chew toys, pet toothpaste, or dental rinse.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES:

Taking your puppy to obedience class is well worth the investment of time and money. A well-behaved pet is a joy to have in the home. Veterinarians and staff can provide you with information regarding local classes and training techniques.

MICROCHIP IMPLANTATION:

Best Care Pet Hospital offers microchip implantation for your pet. A microchip is injected under the skin of your pet and may be read by a scanner if your pet is ever lost or stolen.

FLEA CONTROL:

Flea control has never been easier than it is today. There are a wide variety of safe-to-use, easy and effective treatments available. Veterinarians and staff can help suggest which treatment will work best for you. All pets admitted to the hospital with fleas will be treated and the owner charged accordingly.

TOP TWELVE PUPPY CARE TIPS:

1. Have your new puppy examined by a veterinarian as soon as you bring it home. Your veterinarian will examine the pet and suggest preventative health measures. Some pets are covered by a warranty that allows you to return the pet if it is found to have serious health problems.
2. Find a veterinarian with whom you are comfortable and who will listen to you and your needs.
3. Provide your puppy with a nutritional diet that is appropriate for its age level. The veterinarian can assist you in selecting a proper diet.
4. Handle your puppy often and in a positive manner. Especially play with areas such as the feet, ears, mouth, etc.. Positive handling will make routine tasks such as nail trimming, teeth brushing, ear cleaning and grooming easier as the pup grows into a larger dog.
5. Prepare a small area for your puppy that is just its own safe place. An appropriate kennel is a good idea. Fill its space with comfortable toys and always provide fresh water.

6. Make the puppy's area similar to its expanded home environment.
7. Play with your puppy, this will encourage bonding and life-long friendships.
8. Gradually introduce the puppy to other members of the household. Let it take the lead in what seems comfortable, never push the puppy beyond its limits.
9. Puppy-proof your house before allowing it access, and never allow your puppy freedom without close supervision.
10. Provide only toys that are safe for puppies.
11. Protect the puppy from common household dangers.
12. Consider enrolling your puppy in a socialization/training class to get you started on the "right paw".