

Havertown Animal Hospital

Puppy Information

Our staff thanks you for your confidence in entrusting us with the care of your puppy. This packet contains the information discussed in the first puppy appointment – please reach out with any additional questions that you might have.

*** Videos on Nail Trimming, Ear Cleaning and Teeth Brushing ***

Please look at our website: www.havertownanimalhospital.com

VACCINE SCHEDULE FOR PUPPIES

The schedule below is a general recommendation and explanation for the most common canine vaccines. Vaccination protocols should be tailored to each pet's lifestyle and administered only if necessary.

Splitting up these vaccines may be recommended in order to not overstimulate the immune system - especially in smaller dogs.

Vaccines should always be administered at least two weeks apart in order to allow the body to mount an appropriate immune response.

We recommend discussing your puppy's particular lifestyle with your veterinarian to create the most personalized schedule for your puppy.

6-8 weeks old

- 1st DHPP (next vaccine to be given 4 weeks after the first one)
- Stool sample to be sent to Lab, checking for internal parasites
- Discussion about Flea/Tick/Heartworm Preventatives

10-12 weeks old

- 2nd DHLPP vaccine (next vaccine to be given in 4 weeks), this vaccine is the same as the 1st DHPP, but with the added protection against Leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a bacterium that is spread through the urine of wildlife and can potentially be zoonotic (can be spread to humans). This bacteria affects pets in both rural and urban settings
- Bordetella or "Kennel Cough" vaccine. Sometimes this vaccine is given initially by the shelter you adopted from or from the breeder. If given elsewhere, we would then just give the 2nd bordetella booster. Bordetella (often referred to as "Kennel cough") protects your puppy from the most common bacterial cause of "Kennel Cough." Although "Kennel Cough" technically refers to a number of bacterial and viral causes of infectious cough in dogs, Bordetella is a vaccine that is often required if a dog is boarded at a kennel, goes to the groomer, or frequently visits the dog park and is exposed to a lot of other dogs. We like this vaccine to be boosted every 6 months for adequate protection.
- Rabies vaccine is required by law in a puppy 12 weeks or older. Rabies is unfortunately endemic in the area is one of the most important vaccines that your puppy must remain up to date on his/her entire life.
- Monthly preventatives

- Check a stool sample

16-20 weeks old

- 3rd DHLPP vaccine (last puppy DHLPP vaccine). The DHPP is good for 1 year and will then need to be boosted every 3 years after that. The leptospirosis vaccine will be done on a yearly basis after that.
- 1st Lyme vaccine. Lyme is a very common bacterial disease that is spread through ticks and especially prevalent in the NorthEast. Your dog does not necessarily have to be a dog that likes to hike or spend long periods of time in the woods, ticks can be found even in your own backyard. You cannot get Lyme from your pet, however, your pet can unknowingly bring ticks into your home.
- Monthly preventatives.
- Check a stool sample.

18-20 weeks old

- 2nd Lyme vaccine (will be done on a yearly basis after that).

6 months old

- Spay +/- neuter
Although there are studies that recommend waiting to neuter a male, large breed dog until they are 12 – 24 months of age, our recommendation (and the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine recommendation) is to spay a female dog before their first heat in order to significantly decrease the risk of breast cancer.
- Retained deciduous teeth (baby teeth) can be pulled at time of spay or neuter if they haven’t come out on their own. Typically, all baby teeth should have fallen out by the age of 6 months. We check this on the day of spay or neuter and will call you to inform you that this needs to be done to make room for the adult teeth.

1 year from the last date of vaccine

- DHLPP booster, Rabies Booster, Lyme, Fecal Exam, Deworm (if necessary). Bordetella is boosted every 6 months for adequate protection.
- Again, ALL vaccination protocols should be tailored to the individual pet and should only be administered based upon their level of risk.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING YOUR FIRST PUPPY APPOINTMENT

1. Vaccines

- Vaccines are personalized recommendations based upon your puppy’s lifestyle. DHPP (Distemper) and Rabies are both core vaccines. Rabies is required by law and may be vaccinated at a separate appointment or at the doctors’ advisement. All other vaccines should be administered based upon risk.

2. Spay/Neuter

- Benefits from Spaying and Neutering decrease the risks of certain illnesses (such as pyometra) and cancers. It will reduce the risk of mammary tumors in females, uterine and ovarian infections and tumors. In males it will reduce the risk of prostate cancer, infections and a hernia around the rectum.
- Spaying and Neutering is very important for avoiding certain behavior issues for your dog.

- Spaying and Neutering is also very important in avoiding unwanted pregnancies. There are unfortunately many dogs and cats who will never find their forever homes and ‘population control’ is imperative to decreasing this risk.

3. Housebreaking/Behavior

- **(Housebreaking)** Housebreaking can be one of the greater challenges in owning a new puppy. Patience, consistency and positivity as a new parent are most important!
- As a rule of thumb, puppies can hold their bladder the number of hours for as old as they are. An example, if your puppy is 2 months old, it can hold its bladder for 2 hours, 3 months old for 3 hours and so on.
- Positive reinforcement is most important. Reward your puppy often with treats and praise. Try to avoid ‘no’ as much as possible. If you catch your puppy urinating or defecating in a spot that is inappropriate, intercept and take them outside immediately. Reward them AFTER they urinate or defecate outside. Do not praise for bad behavior.
- If you miss witnessing them have an accident, it must be cleaned up with a clean slate. Clean the area thoroughly with a high-quality cleaner such as “Nature’s Miracle.” They have such short-term memories that they may not understand why they were being scolded if not caught in the act.
- It can be tough at times to notice their signs telling us when they need to go out. Be consistent, keep them in a protected, easily observable space and use the crate as needed.
- The crate should be a safe, comfortable, ‘happy space’ for your puppy where they do not want to urinate or defecate. You can use this space to help train your puppy by carrying them outside as soon as they exit the crate and then again just before entering it.
- **(Behavior)** Puppies should have 2-3 different toys that they really like. Rubber kongs and rawhide or nyla bones are some of the most popular. Toys that are almost impossible to destroy and are good for chewing are recommended. Toys that come apart easily can be harmful to your pet because those pieces can cause obstruction (an example is squeak toys) In order to learn which toy your puppy might like best, get a variety of safe toy options and allow them to ‘choose.’
- **(Diet)** If your pet is over 6 or 7 pounds, they should eat twice daily. If your pet is less than 7 pounds, they should eat three times daily to avoid low blood sugar. They can eat dry, wet or a combination of both foods. Veterinary Recommended diets include: Purina, Royal Canin, Science diet, Eukanuba or Iams PUPPY food. It is important that your dog is fed a Puppy Food and not an All-Stage Dog food.
- **(Socialization)** It is not recommended to go to the dog park or pet store with your new puppy until it is fully vaccinated due to risk of infectious diseases in the environment. It is okay, however, to expose your puppy to other age appropriately vaccinated and dewormed dogs in a safe environment. This may be in your or your friend’s backyard, a puppy class or even a reputable doggie day care. It is important to expose your puppy to new environments during their socialization period (between 3-14 weeks). It is suggested to socialize your puppy with dogs you are familiar with.

4. Flea, Tick and Heartworm/Intestinal Parasites

- Preventatives are the best way to keep your puppy healthy. There are many different preventatives out there – most are given monthly and come as both oral or topical treatments.
- There are preventatives that just treat Fleas and Ticks or Heartworm and Intestinal Parasites and then there are preventatives that treat all of these ectoparasites and endoparasites.
- We recommend administering these preventatives all year round to best protect your puppy.

5. Pet Insurance

Pet Insurance There are many different policies and we recommend that you explore the different options listed on our website – from the AVMA’s resources to Petinsuranceinfo.com Our personal recommendation is Pumpkin Pet Insurance – especially for your new kitten or puppy. Please check out our website for more information.

RECOMMENDED PUPPY CHEW PRODUCTS

Jack and Pup Billy Sticks

Whimzees

Nylabones

Purina ProPlan Veterinary Dental Chewz

www.vohc.org for Veterinary Dentist approved products

Kong with Peanut Butter (frozen)

Stuffed Toy (goDog, Tuffys) as long as does not swallow

HOUSEBREAKING SCHEDULE

Puppies 7 Weeks to 6 Months Old

7:00 am	Walk
7:30 am	Feed, water and walk
9:00 am	Water and walk
11:30 am	Feed, water and walk
1:30 pm	Water and walk
3:30pm.	Water and walk
5:30 pm	Feed, water and walk
8:30 pm	Water and walk (no more water after this time)
11:00 pm	Walk only

Puppies 6 to 12 Months Old

7:00 am	Walk
7:30 am	Feed, water and walk
12:30 am	Water and walk
4:30 pm	Feed, water and walk
7:30 pm	Water and walk
11:00 pm	Walk only

Dogs 12 Months and Older

7:00 am	Walk
7:30 am	Feed, water and walk
	• Ideally mid-day walk still recommended
4:30 pm	Water and walk
7:30 pm	Feed (if feeding twice daily), water and walk
11:00 pm	Walk



CRATE TRAINING

Long before your new puppy was a pet, wild dogs lived with a pack in a den. The den was used for sleeping and eating only, something new puppies learned early from their mothers. You can use this natural instinct in your favor by crate training your dog. Crate training is a safe, comforting way to housebreak your puppy as well as preventing older puppy behaviors such as chewing.

The crate does not represent a prison to your dog. On the contrary, your dog will come to look upon the crate as a refuge, a place to relax and get away from it all. This is especially important if you have children who like to play with your dog. It is important for your dog to have a safe place to go where his/her privacy is respected.

Select a crate appropriately sized for your dog or puppy. It should be large enough for the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in comfortably. It should not be so large that your puppy can go to the bathroom in one end and lie down in the other. For example, a crate that would suit a full grown Rottweiler would be an exercise pen for a Rottweiler puppy. Crates are available with sliding dividers to accommodate growing pups.

Before beginning the training, set up the crate. Take your dog to the crate and let him/her investigate it. Show it to him/her while talking in a happy voice. Rattle it a little to show it can make noise. You don't want him to first hear the rattle when he is inside the crate.

Armed with a bowl of treats...begin crate training as follows!

- 1.) Slowly acclimate your puppy to the crate. Start by giving him/her treats outside of the crate.
- 2.) Encourage your dog into the crate with a command such as "Crate" said in a happy voice. Once inside, praise him with a treat. Immediately let him out. Repeat 3-5 times or until your puppy is getting into the crate with very little physical guidance.
- 3.) Encourage your puppy into the crate, praise him, give him the treat and then close him inside. Scratch him through the crate, tell him how wonderful he is, and then let him out. Repeat this step 5 times.
- 4.) Command your puppy into the crate, praise him, give him the treat, shut the door and leave the room for 5 seconds. Return, let him know how wonderful he is, and let him out.
- 5.) Command your puppy into the crate, praise him, give him the treat, shut the door and leave him for 10 seconds, then 20, then one full minute.
- 6.) The final step is to put your puppy into the crate, praise him, give the treat and leave the house.

The quickest way to accustom a dog to a crate is to keep it in the bedroom and crate him at night. Remember these important rules for crate training:

- During the training process, always give the puppy a treat for getting in to the crate.
- Do not be apprehensive or apologetic to your puppy for putting him in the crate.
- As long as your puppy does not chew bedding, make sure your puppy has comfortable blankets in his/her crate.
- Some puppies are soothed by a stuffed animal dog to sleep with.
- Using a kong with frozen cheese or peanut butter can also be a high reward that also acts as a distraction until your puppy can settle.
- Never let your puppy out of the crate while he is crying or barking. This will be rewarding your puppy for that behavior.
- If you are using the crate for housetraining and your puppy has an accident in the crate, do not punish him. He has been punished enough by having to stay in close quarters with the waste. Simply let him outside and then clean up the crate.
- When your puppy is confined to the crate, leave the door open so he can have access to it at will. In time, he will go in and relax on his own.
- **Do not use the crate as a form of punishment!! Remember, it is your puppy's own special area.**

Good Luck!!

WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

Many people have questions about whether or not they should have their pet spayed or neutered. Often, pet owners feel that they wish to have a litter of puppies or kittens from their pet. Unfortunately, breeding your pet has many risks and expenses. We recommend against breeding your pet to prevent unwanted health and behavior problems, as well as unwanted puppies and kittens.

Why should I spay my female pet?

A spay, or ovariectomy, is a surgical procedure performed on female animals under general anesthesia. Through an abdominal incision, the ovaries and uterus are removed and the incision is then closed. A spayed female is unable to become pregnant.

Unspayed female dogs and cats will go into “heat” about once every 6 months. This is when your pet can become pregnant. When a dog is in heat, she can drip blood for several days to weeks. She may appear to be distracted and lethargic, and a decreased appetite is common. Often dogs will enter a false pregnancy following their heat cycle, which can cause behavior changes such as aggression or anxiety. Cats in heat will be disruptive. They often vocalize throughout the night and will remain in heat for days to weeks.

If during her heat cycle your pet becomes pregnant, it is important to know that female animals do not always have a stress free pregnancy or birth process. It is not uncommon to see infections or difficult births that require emergency treatment or surgery.

The most important reason for spaying your pet is health related. We know that in both dogs and cats, spaying before their first heat will decrease their chances of developing breast cancer by 99%! Spaying also eliminates the possibility of life-threatening uterine infections (pyometra) as well as ovarian and uterine cancers.

Why should I neuter my male puppy or kitten?

The neutering of an intact male involves a surgical procedure performed under general anesthesia during which both testicles are removed through a small incision. Neutered males are unable to impregnate a female animal.

Unneutered male dogs and cats can display a variety of undesirable behaviors. Aggression towards other animals is common in both dogs and cats, as well as increased urine marking behavior. Unneutered dogs are very prone to diseases affecting their prostate glands. Prostate enlargement, prostate infections and prostatic cysts are common and can be life threatening. Testicular cancer is also common in intact older males.

We recommend spaying females at 6 months of age and neutering male puppies at 6 – 9 months of age or 12 – 24 months if they are medium to large breed dogs. When your pet is young and healthy and will recover from these routine surgical procedures.

Spaying and Neutering Saves Lives!

When you spay or neuter your pet, you are preventing unwanted litters of puppies and kittens that could end up in shelters. There are millions of homeless pets in shelters across the country and unfortunately about half of these animals are euthanized simply because there is not enough space. Even if your pet’s puppies or kittens are adopted, they are still occupying valuable shelter space that could have been used for another animal. Pet overpopulation is a major problem, and you should feel good about being a part of the solution by making the responsible choice to spay and neuter!

BLAND DIET FOR DIARRHEA

- Begin by cutting the normal amount of food in half
- Feed home cooked bland diet (recipe below) or prescription bland diet (canned or dry, available through Gladwyne Animal Hospital). Examples of prescription diets are Science Diet i/d, Purina EN, or Eukanuba Low Residue)
- If possible, offer 3-4 smaller meals throughout the day instead of 1 or 2 larger sized meals.
- After 3-4 days of bland meals, gradually add regular diet in small portions

Ratios for a homemade bland diet:

- 33% of the diet: low fat cooked meat such as boiled chicken or boiled hamburger
- 66% of the diet: cooked white rice or another bland, easily digestible grain. Oatmeal or baked/boiled potato works well also.
- Add 1 to 3 tablespoons of cottage cheese or yogurt per meal.
- Do not add any spices, oils, or fats!

