

HomeVets

→ WELCOME

TO YOUR PUPPY PACKET!

Welcoming a new puppy into your home is an exciting time with many questions. We're here to address any concerns you may have along the way.



Welcome to the HomeVets Veterinary Puppy Packet, designed to guide you through the essential care and well-being of your new furry family member. In this resource, you'll find valuable information to help you give your puppy the best possible start in their new home!

Whether you're navigating the exciting journey of puppyhood for the first time or looking to refresh your knowledge, our packet aims to equip you with the information and tools needed to ensure a healthy life for your pup.



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Puppy packet

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VACCINE SCHEDULE

may be adjusted based on veterinarian recommendations

	8 - 12 weeks	12 - 14 weeks	14 - 17 weeks	Revaccination
Rabies *			Initial (1 of 1)	A single dose within 1 year following the initial vaccination. Administer subsequent boosters every 3 years.
Distemper Adenovirus Parvovirus Parainfluenza *	Initial (1 of 3)	Booster (2 of 3)	Booster (3 of 3)	A single dose within 1 year following the initial vaccination. Administer subsequent boosters every 3 years.
Bordetella	Initial (1 of 1)			Administer subsequent boosters annually.
Leptospira *		Initial (1 of 2)	Booster (2 of 2)	Administer subsequent boosters annually.
Lyme		Initial (1 of 2)	Booster (2 of 2)	Administer subsequent boosters annually.
Influenza		Initial (1 of 2)	Booster (2 of 2)	Administer subsequent boosters annually.

*ESSENTIAL VACCINES



After vaccinations, it is normal for a puppy to be a little sore and sleepy for the next 24 hours.

If you see any of the following signs, please notify us so that we can adjust the plan for next vaccinations: lumps/swelling/pain at the vaccine site, limping, or crying out.

We will often administer a single dose of anti-inflammatory medication to help prevent this.

If you see any of the following serious signs, please contact us ASAP or pursue care at a local emergency or urgent care group if we are closed: vomiting, weakness/falling over/extreme lethargy, facial swelling, hives, or breathing abnormalities.

For more information about vaccine allergic reactions, refer to this article: [Vaccine Allergic Reactions in Dogs and Cats \(from VIN\)](#).



overview of VACCINES

CORE VACCINES

RABIES VIRUS

Rabies is a serious, contagious, fatal disease of animals and humans. Because of the deadly nature of this disease, vaccination of dogs is required by law. The law varies by state. In Maryland, rabies vaccine is required for puppies, then one year later, and every three years thereafter.

DHPP

(CANINE DISTEMPER VIRUS, CANINE PARVOVIRUS, CANINE ADENOVIRUS-2, PARAINFLUENZA)

This is a combination vaccine that protects against a number of different respiratory viruses that are highly contagious, and dogs of all ages are at risk of becoming infected.

INFLUENZA

Canine influenza virus (e.g. CIV or dog flu) is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by two specific type A influenza viruses (H3N8 virus & H3N2 virus). Our CIV vaccine protects against both viruses and is recommended for dogs that are more likely to be exposed by going to areas such as boarding kennels, grooming salons, dog parks, or doggie daycare.

Core vaccines for puppies are those recommended for all dogs due to the risk of severe, widespread diseases, regardless of their lifestyle or environment.

Lifestyle vaccines, on the other hand, are tailored to the individual pup's risk factors based on factors like geographical location, exposure to other animals, and travel habits.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

This vaccine protects against a dangerous, sometimes fatal, disease caused by *Leptospira* bacteria that can affect both animals and humans. Leptospirosis is carried by wildlife such as rats, squirrels, and deer and can contaminate water sources your pet may come in contact with, including ponds, streams, puddles, or wet soil in your backyard. Any dog that regularly goes outside is potentially at risk of contracting this disease and most dogs in North America should be considered at risk, according to AHAA.

LYME

Lyme disease is caused by infection with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted to dogs through the bite of infected ticks. In addition to monthly tick prevention, the Lyme vaccine can further protect your pet from acquiring the disease by maintaining antibodies against *B. burgdorferi*.

BORDETELLA

This vaccine protects against a bacterium called *Bordetella bronchiseptica* which commonly causes kennel cough in dogs. Kennel cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection that spreads quickly from an infected dog's respiratory or oral secretions.



PREVENTION

We recommend year-round, broad-spectrum parasite control to protect against heartworms, fleas, ticks, and gastrointestinal parasites. There are many options available that come in various forms such as topical ointments, orally administered medications, and collars. Our veterinarians will work with you to find the product that is best suited to you and your pet.



COMBINATION PRODUCTS (ALL-IN-ONE MONTHLY CHEWABLES)

- Simparica Trio (in-clinic item)
- Nexgard Plus



HEARTWORM-ONLY (ORAL CHEWABLES)

Pair with a flea/tick product

- Heartgard Plus (in-clinic item)
- Interceptor Plus
- Sentinel



FLEA/TICK PREVENTION (ORAL CHEWABLE)

- Nexgard
- Simparica
- Credelio



FLEA/TICK PREVENTION (TOPICAL OR COLLAR)

- Bravecto
- Credelio
- Seresto collar

Standard over-the-counter prevention such as Frontline or K9 Advantix may not be effective control against fleas and ticks. If you choose to use this product, we recommend close monitoring of your pet for infestations or infections.

We strongly advise not using over-the-counter preventions such as Hartz, Sergeant's, or Adams products of any kind.

SPAY / NEUTER

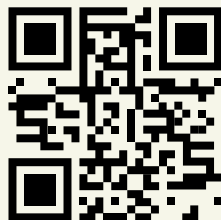
TALK TO OUR VETERINARIANS ABOUT THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF SPAYING AND NEUTERING SO YOU CAN MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.

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Deciding whether and when to spay/neuter your puppy is important for decreasing possible health risks and preventing unplanned litters. Spaying female dogs can prevent life-threatening uterine infections (pyometra) and reduce the risk of mammary, ovarian, and uterine cancer. Neutering males can eliminate their risk of testicular cancer and reduce their risk of developing enlarged prostate glands (known as benign prostatic hyperplasia). Spay/neutering your puppy can also decrease unwanted behaviors that are associated with intact dogs, such as roaming and urine-marking behaviors.

While there are risks associated with spaying and neutering, they are generally low, and one of our veterinarians can provide personalized recommendations and guidance throughout the process. Timing is also a consideration, with recommendations varying for dogs based on individual factors. By discussing the benefits and risks with your veterinarian, you can make an informed decision that prioritizes the health and well-being of your pet.

**Check out more information
on the AVMA website:**



Rosie cuddling with nurse Sarah after her spay!





DENTAL

To ensure proper dental care for your puppy, it is recommended to start toothbrush training as soon as you bring your little one home. The Veterinary Oral Health Council website is a great resource and can provide guidance on suitable products for maintaining your puppy's dental health. We carry the CET line by Virbac for purchase in the office, which is highly regarded by veterinarians for its effectiveness. To introduce your puppy to tooth brushing very slowly, start by letting them taste the toothpaste as a treat. Gradually incorporate brushing a few teeth at a time, followed by a favorite treat to reinforce positive associations. Aim to brush the outside surfaces of all teeth at least three times a week to promote optimal dental hygiene. This routine helps prevent dental issues and ensures your puppy's teeth and gums remain healthy. If your puppy is fearful of the toothbrush, we can discuss other options. Consider also using specific treats/chews, food, or water additives as additional prevention.

The average puppy will lose all of their baby teeth around 6 months of age. Did you know that most puppies swallow their baby teeth? This is a normal behavior and is not harmful, so don't be alarmed if you don't find any of the fallen teeth. If your puppy is older than 6 months and still has a baby tooth present, give us a call. This can often be addressed by removing the tooth when your puppy is comfortably asleep for their spay or neuter.

DIET

Puppies under 6 months should get three scheduled feedings per day. Older puppies can be fed twice a day: once in the morning and once in the evening.

When choosing what to feed your new puppy, we recommend selecting one of the major pet food brands because they have undergone AAFCO feeding trials and have conducted decades of extensive nutritional research on their products. These brands include: Purina ProPlan or Purina ONE, Royal Canin, Eukanuba/Iams, or Hills Science Diet. Avoid boutique or grain-free diets due to potential links to dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Home-cooked diets are not recommended for your puppy without the guidance of a board-certified nutritionist (available through the American College of Veterinary Nutritionists). For adult dogs, you can refer to the website [Balance.it](https://www.balance.it) to build a custom, balanced recipe that meets your pet's nutritional needs.

We typically advise against relying solely on the suggested food quantity provided on your pet food bag, as it may offer inaccurate caloric recommendations. Instead, you can determine your puppy's recommended daily caloric intake based on their weight and age using the QR code below, or consult your veterinarian.

Estimated Energy
Requirement Chart

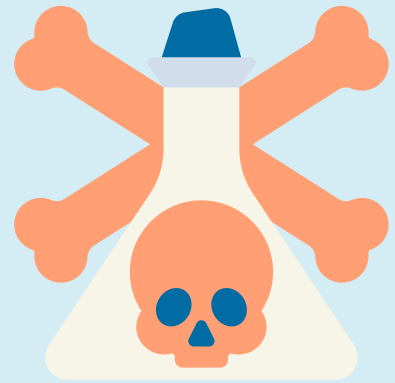


Scan me!



HomeVets

COMMON TOXINS



PAGE 6

Steer your puppy clear from these items:



ALCOHOL



CAFFEINE



CHIVES



SHALLOTS



GRAPES | RAISINS | CURRANTS



ONIONS



CHOCOLATE



FATTY SCRAPS



GARLIC



MACADAMIA NUTS



LEEKs



RISING DOUGH

If your pet ate something you think may be poisonous, call one of our veterinarians at HomeVets or Pet Poison Helpline immediately. The sooner a pet poisoning is addressed, the easier, less expensive, and safer it is to treat.

Pet Poison Hotline



(855) 764 - 7661

**ASPCA Animal Poison
Control Center**



(888) 426 - 4435



PET INSURANCE



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We recommend getting pet insurance for your new puppy while they are young and free of pre-existing conditions! While you can plan for routine yearly expenses for your pet, such as annual exams and vaccines, pet insurance is important for covering unanticipated costs. From potential chronic conditions to unexpected accidents like knee injuries that require surgery, unforeseen trips to the vet can cause stress and financial strain.

Pet insurance offers peace of mind by covering a portion of veterinary expenses for your pet's illnesses and injuries, minimizing the financial burden in times of need.



Pet Insurance Ranking	Best Overall	Best For Young Pets	Best No-Cap Payouts	Best Coverage	Best Value	Best Newcomer	Best Vet Direct Pay	Best For Pre-Existing Conditions
Company	PetsBest	Fetch	Healthypaws	Embrace	Figo	Lemonade	Trupanion	AKC Pet Insurance
Average Policy Price	Variable	Variable	Variable	Higher	Lower	Average	Higher	Variable
Policy Coverage	Extensive	Extensive	Limited	Extensive	Extensive	Limited	Limited	Extensive
Customer Service & Reputation	Good	Good	Excellent, Stable	Excellent, Stable	Excellent, Stable	Uncertain, New	Excellent, Stable	Excellent, Stable
Average Claim Processing	18-30 Days	5-6 Days	2 Days	5 Days	3 Days	2 Days	2 Days	2 Days
Vet Direct Pay Option	✓		✓	✓			✓	

See Canine Journal's review of available pet insurance companies at caninejournal.com/best-pet-insurance/. Updated frequently.

TRAINING & HANDLING

At HomeVets, we understand the importance of providing your puppy with the tools they need to thrive, and training is a crucial aspect of their development. In this section, you'll find valuable information on various topics, including preventing and addressing separation anxiety, the importance of socialization, local training resources, and grooming options to keep your puppy looking and feeling their best. Whether you're a first-time puppy parent or experienced with canine companions, our goal is to support you in raising a happy, well-behaved pup.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Separation anxiety (SA) in dogs, including puppies, can be a distressing behavioral issue for both the pet and the owner. Recognizing and understanding separation anxiety prepares owners to prevent and address the condition effectively.

SA manifests as extreme stress when a dog is left alone, often resulting in behaviors that indicate fear or panic. Symptoms include pacing, whining, destructive chewing, excessive barking, and accidents indoors. These behaviors go beyond occasional mischief and indicate genuine distress.

Prevention and treatment of SA involve several approaches, many of which align with standard puppy training practices. Crate training is a valuable tool, providing dogs with a safe space to relax. Desensitization and counter-conditioning techniques help dogs associate separation with positive experiences. Gradually increasing the duration of absences and rewarding calm behavior can alleviate anxiety. Exercise, both physical and mental, is also beneficial in managing SA.

Encouraging independence and avoiding over-reliance on constant attention can prevent clingy behaviors that contribute to SA. Maintaining a calm demeanor during departures and arrivals, along with refraining from punishment for accidents, helps reduce stress. In some cases, medication or natural supplements may be recommended by a veterinarian to support treatment efforts.

While SA may not always be preventable, early intervention and a comprehensive treatment plan can effectively manage the condition. Consulting with a certified animal behaviorist or veterinary behaviorist can provide additional guidance and support in addressing SA in puppies and dogs. With patience and consistent training, it's possible to alleviate your dog's suffering and improve their quality of life.



SOCIALIZATION

Why is Socialization Important?

Socialization of puppies is paramount because it directly impacts their behavioral wellness as adults. The critical socialization window is a pivotal period where puppies are highly receptive to learning about the world around them. Failure to adequately socialize puppies during this period can result in various behavioral problems, including poor impulse control, resource guarding, anxiety, and aggression.

Preventing temperament issues during early puppyhood is crucial because rehabilitating adult dogs with behavioral problems is complex and time-consuming. While manners and obedience can be taught at any age, preventing temperament problems through early socialization is far more effective and less challenging.

How Should You Socialize Your Puppy?

When socializing your puppy, it's crucial to start early and ensure that all experiences are positive and enjoyable for them. Begin by gradually introducing your puppy to new environments, people, animals, and stimuli, allowing them to explore at their own pace. Use rewards such as treats, toys, and praise to reinforce positive behavior. It's essential to observe your puppy's body language and cues, respecting their boundaries and letting them approach new things at their own pace.

EXPOSURE LIST

- Friendly, vaccinated dogs and cats
- People outside of household, including children and men
- Handling: Hugging, restraint, grooming
- A variety of unusual noises, such as thunder, construction, and the vacuum. *You can use youtube to generate new sounds.*
- Locations & Experiences: Various environments like parks, vet visits.
- Surfaces: Grass, sand, pebbles, metal grates.

Avoid overwhelming your puppy with too many new experiences at once, and prevent them from developing negative associations with socialization by avoiding situations that could frighten or stress them excessively. Never force your puppy into interactions they're not comfortable with, and refrain from exposing them to potentially dangerous environments or situations.

When Should You Start Socializing Your Puppy?

You should start socializing your puppy as soon as you bring them home, typically around 8 weeks old. This early start allows them to become accustomed to new experiences, people, and environments during their critical socialization window, which usually closes between 12 and 16 weeks of age.

There are some health concerns associated with early socialization of puppies, primarily related to the risk of infectious diseases such as parvovirus. However, while it's important to be cautious, the benefits of early socialization often outweigh the risks. To mitigate risk, it's essential to prioritize safe socialization practices, such as avoiding areas with high levels of contamination, like dog parks, and ensuring that other dogs your puppy interacts with are healthy and vaccinated. Additionally, you can host controlled puppy playdates with vaccinated dogs to minimize exposure to infectious diseases while still providing valuable socialization experiences. Consult with our veterinarians on how to avoid unnecessary health risks for puppies still receiving their initial vaccine series.



CRATE TRAINING

Why Should I Crate Train My Puppy?

Supervising your puppy is essential, and when not actively engaged in play-training, confining your pup to a designated area like an appropriately sized dog crate is recommended. Short-term confinement has three main benefits:

- **Preventing Accidents:** Closely confining the puppy encourages them to refrain from urinating and defecating until released, enabling you to predict when they need to eliminate and aiding in potty training efforts.
- **Encouraging Settling Behavior:** Providing chew toys stuffed with food in the crate teaches the puppy to settle down calmly and quietly.
- **Curbing Destructive Behavior:** Crating prevents puppies from having access to household items they should not chew on or play with.

How To Begin Crate Training?

Crate training should be introduced gradually and associated with positive experiences:

- **Introduce the Crate:** Begin by placing the crate in a central area of your home and encouraging the puppy to explore it using treats or toys.
- **Feed Meals in the Crate:** Start feeding the puppy their meals near the crate and gradually move the food dish inside to create a positive association.
- **Practice Longer Crating Periods:** Gradually increase the time the puppy spends in the crate while you're home, rewarding calm behavior.
- **Crate When Leaving:** Once comfortable, start crating the puppy for short periods when leaving the house, making departures low-key.
- **Nighttime Crating:** Crate the puppy at night near you initially, gradually moving the crate to the desired location once they're comfortable.



POTTY TRAINING

Potty training is a pivotal aspect of early puppy development, and employing effective methods can lead to quicker and more successful results. You should offer frequent bathroom breaks to accommodate puppies' small bladders as they are learning. The general rule of thumb is that puppies can usually hold their bladder for **one hour for every month of age**, until they are about a year old. For example, a 2-month-old puppy can hold it for about two hours, while a 3-month-old puppy can hold it for about three hours. Overnight, set an alarm every 4 hours to ensure the puppy has the opportunity to eliminate outside. It's best to avoid leaving the puppy alone for longer than they can hold their bladder.

You can also start teaching your puppy to "ask to go out" by establishing a routine and training signals such as sitting by the door or ringing a bell. Each time you bring the puppy outside have them signal by sitting or ringing a bell so that they associate this action with going outside to eliminate. By incorporating these methods into your puppy's routine, you can facilitate effective potty training and set them up for success in their new home.



Additional

BEHAVIORAL RESOURCES



To read more in-depth recommendations, check out these books/websites:



"THE PERFECT PUPPY IN 7 DAYS"

by Dr. Sophia Yin | Book



"THE WHOLE DOG JOURNAL"

Behavior advice by Pat Miller
| Online



"ZAK GEORGE'S DOG TRAINING REVOLUTION: THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO RAISING THE PERFECT PET WITH LOVE"

| Book



"THE PUPPY SOCIALIZATION EXPOSURE CHECKLIST"

by Mardi Richmond, CPDT-KA
| Online



"THE PUPPY PRIMER"

by Dr. Patricia McConnell
and Brenda Scidmore | Book

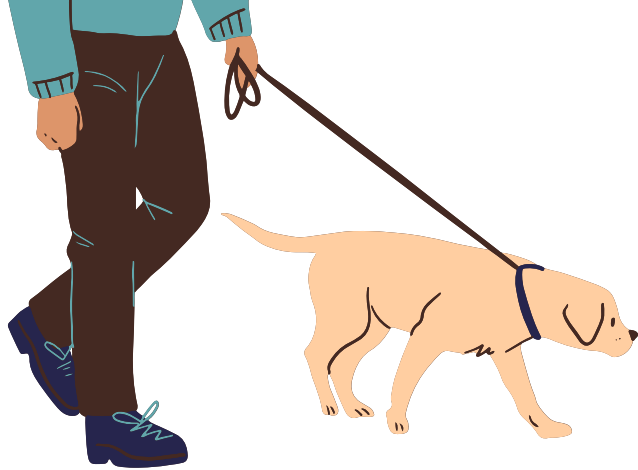


DUNBAR ACADEMY TRAINING COURSES

by Dr. Ian Dunbar | Online



For your adventures outside the home, refer to the **Dogs Ride Certified website** for car safety information, including as links to harnesses, seat belts and crates that have been crash tested and certified through the support of this organization.



MOBILE GROOMERS

HOMEVETS

We now offering in-hospital AND mobile grooming in most areas.

MUDDY PAWS DOG HOUSE

Serves Baltimore County & NW Baltimore City

(443) 201-1341
muddypawsdoghouse@gmail.com

WOOFIE'S

Serves Columbia, Ellicott City, and surrounding areas

(443) 201-1341
woofies.com

AUSSIE PET MOBILE

Serves Columbia, Elkrigde, Ellicott City, and surrounding areas

(410) 220-6948
aussiepetmobile.com

PUPPY LOVE MOBILE PET GROOMING

Serves Baltimore & surrounding areas

(410) 488-4444
puppylovemobilepetgrooming.com

TRAINING

DOLPHINS TO DOGS

Serves Baltimore City, Baltimore Co., Howard, Anne Arundel, Prince George

dolphinstodogs.com

THE COVENTRY SCHOOL

Located in Columbia, MD

thecoventryschool.net

YOUR DOG'S FRIEND

Located in Rockville, MD

yourdogsfriend.org

BARK BUSTERS

In - Home Service

barkbusters.com

SIT MEANS SIT

Located in MD

sitmeanssit.com

OSCAR WINNING BEHAVIOR

Located in Randallstown, MD

oscarwinningbehavior.com

PAWSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Serves Baltimore area

pawbehaviorsolutions.com

HOMEVETS PUPPY PACKET

NOTES



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