



New Puppy Information

Vaccines

In Calgary, there are 3 vaccines recommended for dogs. Two of these are strongly recommended core vaccines.

1. DHPP - Core Vaccine

- Distemper
- Adenovirus
- Parvovirus
- Parainfluenza virus

Administered: 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks, 1 year later, then every 3 years.

2. RABIES - Core Vaccine

Administered: 16 weeks, 1 year later, then every year OR every 3 years.

3. KENNEL COUGH

Administered: 8 weeks, then every 6-12 months. Recommended if your puppy will be around other dogs (boarding facility, behaviour class, dog park, groomers etc.) It is given once up the nose or twice under the skin (3-4 weeks apart).

If your puppy was not vaccinated at the exact ages above, don't worry! Talk to your family veterinarian to produce a vaccine schedule suited for your puppy. Puppies are not considered fully vaccinated until one week after the last puppy vaccine is given (typically 17 weeks of age).

An exam will be done at the time of each vaccine. This allows us to monitor your puppy as they grow; assessing their heart, lungs, gastrointestinal tract, skin, and teeth. The veterinarian will also address any questions or concerns you may have.

Parasites & Bugs

Puppies obtain gastrointestinal worms through their mother. Some of these worms could spread to humans (known as zoonotic disease).

- Puppies should be dewormed every 2 weeks; from 2 weeks of age until 8 weeks of age, and then monthly depending on their exposure.
- Preventatives for ectoparasites (fleas & ticks etc.) are also recommended, especially if you plan on travelling with your puppy.

Preventative medications should always be discussed with your family veterinarian before applying.

Some topical medications purchased at pet stores can be harmful to dogs.

Dental Care

Like humans, puppies have 2 sets of teeth. Their deciduous teeth (baby teeth) are fully erupted by 8-10 weeks of age. These teeth fall out around 4-6 months of age, as their adult teeth are erupting. Puppies should be given good chew toys (ones that are soft, flexible, and bend) during this period and not bones (may cause fractures). Let baby teeth fall out on their own, do not pull them out. If baby teeth are present at the time of spaying or neutering, your family veterinarian may recommend pulling them to prevent overcrowding.

Once adult teeth have erupted, it is recommended to get pet-friendly toothpaste and a soft toothbrush. Start brushing your puppies teeth to help prevent tartar buildup and dental issues down the road.

For a slideshow on how to brush your dogs teeth, please visit: <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/ss/slideshow-brushing-dog-teeth>

Diet

Puppies require certain nutrients for bone growth and development. They should eat a food that has a life stage meant for "growth" or for "all life stages". At this age, there is no benefit of kibble vs wet food however, they should be fed according to the feeding chart for that particular diet.

Your veterinarian can demonstrate how to body condition score your puppy to determine if they are an appropriate weight as they continue to grow.

Raw food should not be fed to growing puppies (less than 1 year of age). Studies have shown that raw food potentially exposes your puppy and yourself to pathogens including **salmonella**, **campylobacter**, **e. coli**, and **listeria**. Raw food has also been shown to have an inappropriate calcium to phosphorus ratio that could affect growth.

Socialization

Puppies peak socialization between 6 and 16 weeks of age. This is the perfect time to start teaching them basic training commands and rewarding good behaviour while ignoring bad behaviour.

You should begin to leave them alone (in a safe environment) for short periods of time so they can learn to adjust. This is also the ideal time to get them used to having their paws, lips/mouths touched, and ears handled as this will make trimming nails, looking in the mouth, and cleaning ears easier when they are older.

For more information on puppy training/house training, please visit the sites listed in the trusted resources section of this handout.

Licensing Your Pet

All cats and dogs must be licensed in Calgary. For more information on licensing and associated fees, please call 311 or visit the City of Calgary website in the trusted resources section of this handout.

Spay & Neuter

Spaying and neutering your puppy involves removing their reproductive organs. This is recommended to help prevent pets from reproducing, roaming and fighting. More importantly, it will reduce the risk of uterine infections and mammary cancers in females, and prostate cancer in males.

In small to mid breed dogs, it is recommended to spay/neuter at 5-6 months of age, when puppies are approaching sexual maturity.

In large breed dogs, recent research has shown it is more beneficial to wait until 12-18 months to spay.

Microchip administration is offered at the time of spay and neuter.

Pet Insurance

Pet insurance is strongly recommended. Emergencies are always unexpected costs that could add stress to any situation. Having an insurance plan already in place will help ease your concerns if an accident or illness happens. Once a dog has a pre-existing illness/accident, the insurance company will NOT cover it under their health plan. For this reason, it is best to get insurance as soon as possible. Insurance plans will vary based on costs and deductibles.

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Pets Web MD: www.webmd.com

Indoor Pet Initiative: <https://infoorpet.osu.edu/>

Worms and Germs: www.wormsandgermsblogs.com