



House Paws Home Veterinary Care
(651) 283-7216
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Taking Care of Your Puppy

Heartworm Disease

We recommend Heartgard, a monthly heartworm preventative, for your puppy; this is a pill you give one a month to prevent heartworm disease, which is spread by infected mosquitoes. The heartworm preventative also deworms your puppies by killing any intestinal parasites. You can give heartworm preventatives seasonally until November or all-year round if parasites are a high concern.

Fleas & Ticks

Our veterinarian will most likely prescribe monthly Frontline or Nexgard to reduce your puppy's exposure to ticks and fleas. This will decrease your puppy's risk of contracting tick-borne diseases. These medications usually need to be given until around October, depending on the weather.

Vaccines

Your puppy should have distemper combination vaccines beginning at 8 weeks. The distemper vaccine series consists of three booster vaccines spaced 3-4 weeks apart. At the 16-week mark (when your puppy is receiving its final distemper booster) you puppy will also receive a Rabies vaccine. Your puppy's lifestyle may indicate that Lyme, Lepto and Bordetella vaccines are needed as well.

Surgery

Your puppy should be neutered or spayed once it reaches 4 months of age, unless you plan on showing or breeding your dog.

Puppy Classes

We recommend puppy classes for socialization and helping to expose your puppies to as many experiences as possible before they reach 4 months of age. This helps with fear and anxiety issues that may result from exposures to children, men, hats, skateboards, bikes, etc. Taking your puppy out in public and to parks also helps reduce fear and anxiety issues.

Bathing

Your puppy will need to be bathed only when dirty, but you may bathe weekly if desired. Make sure to use a dog shampoo so as to not irritate your dog's skin.

Potty Training

We suggest you kennel your puppy until it is potty-trained. This will prevent confusion so that your puppy is less likely to go in the house. Make sure the kennel is only large enough for your puppy to stand, turn around and lay down; this keeps your puppy from going to the bathroom in its kennel. Always go outside with your puppy when it needs to go to the

bathroom and reward it immediately so it understands why it is being rewarded. If you wait to give your puppy a treat until you reenter the house, your puppy will think the treat is for coming inside.

Biting

Correct play-biting by deferring the puppy's attention to a chew toy. If the puppy is biting you, tell it "no" and remove your hands or yourself from the situation. Do not play tug-of-war until the puppy is 6 months or older to help prevent biting. For more information about raising a puppy, see the document on our website titled "Puppy Training."

If you have further questions or concerns about any of these topics, we will be happy to provide you with more information. Please contact us at (651) 283-7216 or housepawsmn@gmail.com.