



Your New  
Puppy



# Congratulations

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Congratulations on the new addition to your family and thank you for choosing McLeod Veterinary Hospital. This can be both a fun and overwhelming time and we hope this information provides you with the appropriate tools to help guide and prepare you for life with your new puppy.



# Vaccines

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There are many viruses and bacterial diseases that are prevalent in Winnipeg and its surrounding areas. Some of these viruses can survive in the environment and do not require direct contact with another infected dog to be transmitted. Puppies obtain antibodies from their mother, and vaccinating too early may not elicit the immune response required, therefore we recommend vaccinating puppies at 8 weeks of age.

It is also important to keep your puppy protected from viruses until the series of vaccine boosters are complete. Refrain from puppy classes, or walks in public areas until your puppy has adequate immunity. We vaccinate to protect your dog from the following diseases:

- **Distemper:** A viral infection that affects the respiratory, digestive and nervous systems.
- **Parvovirus:** A viral infection that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting.
- **Adenovirus 1:** A viral disease also known as Hepatitis that affects the liver, kidneys and eyes.
- **Adenovirus 2:** A viral disease that can lead to respiratory disease.
- **Parainfluenza:** A viral infection that can lead to respiratory disease.

Protection from these viruses is provided in one vaccine (at 8 weeks) and it requires two additional boosters in puppies at 12 and 16 weeks of age. In addition there are also other diseases that we vaccinate against.

- **Rabies:** A virus that enters the body through a wound and affects the nervous system. This virus is transmittable to humans.
- **Bordetella:** A bacterial infection that damages the respiratory system. This vaccine is recommended for dogs that are commonly in contact with other dogs, such as dogs that attend off leash parks, kennels and groomers.
- **Lyme:** A disease transmitted by deer ticks that causes joint and kidney disease and high fever. This vaccine is recommended for dogs that are exposed to ticks.

## Pet Insurance

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You may want to consider pet insurance for your puppy. There are different companies that offer insurance and have different plans available. Refer to the following websites to determine if this is appropriate for you, and which coverage best suits you: [www.petsecure.com](http://www.petsecure.com) and/or [www.vetinsurance.com](http://www.vetinsurance.com)

# Deworming

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Puppies are susceptible to various intestinal parasites. Within Manitoba, roundworm is the most commonly diagnosed intestinal parasite. It is transmitted from mother to puppy in the uterus, and while nursing. Roundworm can also be transmitted by ingesting contaminated soil.

The deworming medication we dispense will also treat other intestinal parasites such as whipworm and hookworm which are less prevalent. We dispense deworming medication for puppies at 8, 10, 12 and 16 weeks of age to treat all stages of the life cycle and prevent against re-infestation. Although it is uncommon, roundworms can also be transmitted to humans. Children are most susceptible. It's important to promptly pick up feces after your pet, always wash your hands after playing with your puppy or playing outside and never eat anything your puppy has licked.

**Tapeworm** is another intestinal parasite that your dog can contract by ingesting infected animals such as birds, rabbits, rodents, fish and fleas. Dogs that hunt or consume raw food diets should have their feces analyzed yearly.

**Heartworm** is a parasite that lives in a dog's heart. It is transmitted by mosquitoes bite. Since mosquitoes get indoors all dogs are at risk and should be on a preventative medication throughout the spring to fall months. We recommend heartworm testing in the spring to ensure your puppy was not exposed to any

infected mosquitoes during the previous season.

# General Grooming

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Some breeds of dogs require daily brushing and routine hair trimming. This can be very important in maintaining the skin's health. Only use a pet shampoo and always rinse thoroughly to prevent irritation.

Nails also require routine trimming. We can demonstrate how to do this during an appointment and we also offer this service.



# Spaying & Neutering

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It is recommended to have your puppy spayed or neutered, at 6 months of age. There are medical and behavioral benefits for having this procedure done. Non-sterilized dogs are predisposed to prostate, perianal, and mammary tumors, as well as severe uterine infections. They are also prone to undesirable behavioral problems such as roaming, inappropriate urination, aggression towards people, and other animals. Additional information is available, upon request, on this procedure.

# Nutrition

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Nutrition is an important factor affecting your puppy's health and development. Young puppies should be fed 4 meals per day. By 3 months of age they can be reduced to 3 meals per day.

It is important to provide your puppy with a growth formula. The diets we recommend are nutritionally balanced using high quality

ingredients, and have been researched and developed by a team of veterinarians. We can determine feeding amounts at each visit to ensure your puppy will maintain an optimum body weight and condition. We can also recommend appropriate diets at different life stages specifically for your dog.

# Oral Health

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As puppies develop they go through a painful teething process just like babies. It is very important to provide chew toys as this provides relief for them during this time. All deciduous (temporary) teeth should be gone by 5-6 months of age.

We encourage you to handle your puppy's mouth as this will allow them to be more comfortable when the veterinarian examines

their mouth. We also encourage you to attempt brushing your puppy's teeth. Periodontal disease is a natural process that occurs when oral health is neglected. Regular teeth brushing and routine dental cleanings can greatly decrease this disease process. For useful demonstrations and information on proper oral care refer to the following websites: [www.toothvet.ca](http://www.toothvet.ca) and/or [www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org).

# Training and Behavior

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It is important to start obedience training as soon as you get your puppy. Being well prepared before you get your puppy, having a crate or kennel and adequate supervision will help set your puppy up for success. Puppy classes can be a wonderful environment to socialize your puppy with other dogs and people.

It is important to reward your puppy for

appropriate behaviors. Harsh physical punishment or severe scolding can result in aggressive or very fearful dogs. Good behaviors can be rewarded with praise or small treats. Avoid playing games that encourage play biting, keep appropriate chew toys available, and keep other inappropriate objects such as clothing and food out of eyesight and out of reach.

# Housetraining

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The principles of housetraining are to teach your puppy to eliminate in a desired location while preventing them from developing habits of eliminating in unacceptable areas. Do not punish your puppy for having accidents. If you catch your puppy during the act of elimination in an unacceptable area create a distraction (a sharp noise such as clapping your hands or having a can of rocks to shake) without frightening your puppy, then take your puppy to the desired location to finish. Be sure to clean any messes immediately to prevent re-soiling of

the area. Keep a very close eye on your puppy when not confined.

Creating a routine for your puppy will also help. Your puppy may need to eliminate after eating, playing, napping and before and after confinement. Frequently taking your puppy to the desired location at these times will encourage appropriate elimination. Every time you catch your puppy eliminating in the desired location offer an immediate reward to encourage and praise this behavior.



# Crate Training

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Crate training is very important for safety, damage prevention, housetraining and sometimes traveling. Crates should be large enough to allow your pet (at adult age) to stand up and turn around. Choose a location for the crate where your family spends a lot of time.

Encourage your puppy to enter the crate on command. During meal time grab a handful of puppy kibble and throw a few kibbles in the crate and give a verbal command (such as “kennel”). Once your puppy has entered, give verbal praise. Continue this game for 15-20 times per session. You can also hide treats or toys in the crate for your puppy to find. Avoid

scolding and never handle your puppy roughly as you put them inside their crate. Limit the amount of time your puppy spends in their crate. Crating for no more than 4 hours at a time during the day and crating overnight is discouraged. Any period of time that is longer than your puppy can control their bladder requires more room; an exercise pen or puppy proofed room may be necessary.

Never release your puppy from their crate if they are vocalizing as this will only encourage this behavior. You may distract them again with a loud noise and then only release them once they are quiet.



# Happy to Assist You

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It is our hope that the information in this booklet has been helpful and will aid you and your family on this exciting new journey with your puppy. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please access the web links provided, or contact our hospital at **661-3334** and we will be happy to assist you. Have fun and enjoy your new puppy!

## Hospital Hours:

Monday – Friday..... 8:00am to 9:30pm

Saturday & Sunday..... 8:30am to 3:00pm

Appointments are necessary.



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