

Congratulations on your new puppy!



The following information is provided to help your new family addition make a smooth transition into your household and ensure he or she develops into a healthy and obedient companion.

Puppy Training

Crate training your puppy is one of the most important things you can do to establish a good relationship with your new companion. **Crate training helps in all stages of a dog's life** – from house training and chewing in puppyhood to separation anxiety in an adult dog. Some people may believe crating a dog is inhumane, but, in fact, dogs cherish their own safe haven—a dry, comfortable place to call their own.

Commands you should teach your puppy after “**crate**” or “**kennel up**” are “**sit**” and “**down**.” Some other important commands to teach your puppy are “**stay**” and “**leave it**.” There are numerous methods to teach your puppy, but we suggest not jerking or physically pushing your puppy into a sitting position (or any other position). Try elevating her head gently (or holding a treat over her head) to coax her hindquarters toward the ground, all the while saying gently, yet firmly, “**SIT**.”

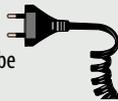
The second command you may teach is to lie down. It is best to just use one word, such as “**down**,” because it uses a hard consonant sound that is easier to understand. You should try to avoid multiple syllables, as too many can be confusing to your puppy. To teach your puppy “**down**,” have her sit, then move a treat downward, toward her paws, to coax her down.

Remember, when teaching your puppy new commands, be patient and always offer rewards. Your rewards should vary – give treats sometimes, and other times give her a nice pat or scratch on the back, or even a warm “**good girl**.” Your puppy should always be required to “**work for rewards**,” meaning she should follow a command before receiving any kind of treat. If your puppy learns that nothing is free, she will be more **obedient** and will have a more enjoyable relationship with you, your family and friends.

Puppy Proofing Your Home

Puppies are toddlers in a four-legged body. Keep this in mind when bringing your new family member into your household. Some dangers include:

- **ELECTRICAL CORDS** – Keep all electrical wires out of your puppy's reach. These can be particularly dangerous when he's teething.
- **BONES** – Forget them. Even if you had your old Fido for 15 years and gave him bones all the time and never had a problem. It just takes one bone to splinter and cause an intestinal perforation. Should your dog have a problem with a bone, think two words: **LIFE THREATENING**.
- **CHOCOLATE** – We all like to give our pets “treats,” but please don't put chocolate on your pet's treat list. The toxic element in chocolate is theobromine. Depending on how much the pet has eaten, it can cause vomiting, diarrhea, urination, hyperactivity, panting, muscle tremors, seizures and even death.
- **DANGEROUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS** – These include ammonia, antifreeze, bleach, disinfectants, drain and oven cleaner, gasoline, medications (your prescription and over-the-counter varieties), paint and rat poison.
- **GREEN STUFF** – The following plants are toxic: azalea, caladium, Christmas rose, clematis, delphinium, dieffenbachia, ivy, lupine, mistletoe, oleander, philodendron, poinsettia, cherry laurel, rhododendron, solanum and sweet pea. And unless you specifically know that the chemicals on your lawn are nontoxic to animals, avoid using them altogether.



Poisons

Beware! Puppies get into everything!

Please call us immediately if your pup gets into any of the items listed below.

- **Ibuprofen or Naproxen** (Advil® or Aleve®)
- **Food items** (coffee grounds, chocolate, yeast dough, macadamia nuts, fatty foods, avocado, grapes, raisins, onions, tea, alcohol, salt, garlic, chewing gum)
- **Ant and roach baits**
- **Rodenticides** (rat poisons)
- **Acetaminophen** (Tylenol®)
- **Pseudoephedrine-containing cold medications** (Sudafed)
- **Thyroid hormones**
- **Bleach**
- **Hydrocarbons** (paint, varnishes, lighter fluid, engine cleaners, paint thinner, fuel oils, nail polish remover, furniture polish)

Dental Care

It is important to start early with your pet's dental health. We recommend brushing daily using a toothbrush and specially formulated enzymatic toothpaste for dogs to prevent the buildup of plaque. If you find brushing difficult, dental rinses or chews are an alternative in the fight against periodontal disease.



Baby Teeth – Puppies have 28 deciduous teeth that usually fall out by 6 months of age. If, at the time of spay or neuter, they have not fallen out, they should be surgically removed so as not to impede the eruption of the adult teeth.

Adult Teeth – As your pet ages it is important to have regular dental health checkups. This can be done at your annual appointment, or can be assessed at any time.

- **Plaque:** Develops when bacteria attach to the teeth.
- **Tartar / Calculus:** Develops when minerals in the saliva combine with the plaque and harden.
- **Gingivitis:** Develops when the tartar irritates the gums, causing inflammation (redness) along the gum line as well as bad breath.
- **Periodontal disease:** Develops when tartar is not removed. Tartar begins to build up under the gums and separates the gums from the teeth, creating multiple pockets, which in turn allows more bacteria to grow. This can lead to loose teeth, abscesses, infection, bone loss and health problems affecting the heart, lungs and kidneys, and can all be quite painful.

Brushing your dog's teeth is easy, and once familiar with the activity, he will look forward to it.



For the first few days, simply hold your pet as you normally do when petting him. For a minute or two, gently stroke the outside of his cheeks with your finger and praise him.

As your pet becomes more comfortable with this activity, place a small amount of **veterinary toothpaste (human toothpaste may be harmful to pets)** on your fingers and let him sample the flavor. Soon, he will consider it a treat.

Next, introduce your pet to an animal toothbrush or finger brush. Gently raise his upper lip and place the brush against an upper tooth and the adjoining gum line.

Gradually increase the number of teeth you brush each day, but go slowly and not beyond your pet's comfort level.



My New Puppy



Shaker

Veterinary Hospital, P.C.

ORDER FROM

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800-803-8832

phil@philwinter.com

We treat all dogs and pets as our own





Vaccinations

Your puppy will receive a series of immunizations so that he is offered the best protection against such diseases as distemper and parvovirus. Your puppy's schedule is as follows:

- **6-8 weeks:** DAP*, possibly Bordetella
- **12 weeks:** DAP, Rabies
- **16 weeks:** DAP
- additional vaccines may be indicated based on individual needs

* DAP - Distemper/Adenovirus/Parvovirus

Shaker Veterinary Hospital has adopted a **Modified Vaccination Protocol**, a risk-based approach to vaccinations. Different pets have **differing lifestyles and environments**, and therefore different exposure to infectious diseases. After your puppy receives his or her first series of vaccinations, a **customized schedule** will be established according to your pet's needs and the latest scientific findings.

Distemper – A highly contagious viral disease. You will find the disease wherever there are dogs. It affects the respiratory and nervous system, eventually causing death.

Adenovirus (Hepatitis) – A contagious viral disease of the liver that can also cause severe kidney damage.

Parvovirus – Highly contagious and often fatal virus affecting the G.I. tract. Severe vomiting and bloody diarrhea lead to dehydration and death.

Leptospirosis – A bacterial infection carried by many wild animals. Dogs affected often have a history of swimming in or drinking stagnant or slow-moving water. Causes liver and kidney damage and is contagious to humans.

Parainfluenza – Frequently referred to as one of the “**kennel cough**” diseases. This virus is highly contagious and causes a dry, hacking cough.

Bordetella – Part of the kennel cough complex. Symptoms include severe coughing spells sometimes followed by vomiting and gagging. Some dogs may also have watery eyes and a nasal discharge.

Lyme Disease – A bacterial disease caused by a bite from an infected tick. Can cause permanent and painful disabilities. It can cause lameness, joint and muscle pain, fever and depression.

Rabies – A disease feared by all. The virus attacks the brain. There is no treatment available for pets, so the disease is always fatal. Pets are exposed to rabies by a bite from an infected animal.

Spay / Neuter

We recommend **spaying or neutering your pet, NOT just for overpopulation issues (although that is a side benefit), but because it helps make your dog a better pet.**

Research has shown that **altered pets have a longer life expectancy** than pets that have not been spayed or neutered.

Female pets altered before their first heat cycle have a significantly reduced chance of developing breast, uterine and ovarian cancer. In addition, spayed pets can't develop pyometra (an infection of the uterus that can result in death). A female dog is in season around 3 weeks and comes in season about every 6 months.

Altered **male pets** before they become sexually mature can prevent Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). They are less aggressive and less likely to exhibit unwanted behaviors, such as marking, inappropriate elimination and mounting. In addition, they will have less desire to roam the neighborhood, which often results in fights and bite wounds that require veterinary care.

Ideally, you'll have your pet spayed or neutered around 6 months of age because a younger dog will weigh less and recover faster.

Microchipping

Each year more than a million pets



are lost. You can greatly reduce the risk of losing your pet if you provide it with a Pet Identification

Microchip.

This “**high-tech**” mechanism is a tiny computer chip that is programmed with an identification number that can be scanned by veterinarians and animal shelters. The chip is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle, which is used to inject the microchip under the skin of your pet. The microchip lasts the life of your pet.

The **pet identification number** programmed into the microchip is registered with a national tracking database system that can provide your name, address and telephone number.

Internal Parasites

A **fecal examination** is a microscopic assessment of feces used to detect the presence of a number of parasites. If a test is positive for a parasitic infection, your veterinarian will start your puppy on a course of medication. To determine if the treatment was effective, we will retest the feces at the end of the course of medication.

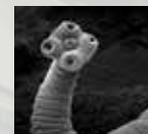
Fecal exams are recommended yearly as part of the annual health check and anytime your pet has ongoing diarrhea or soft stools.



Roundworms



Whipworms



Tapeworms



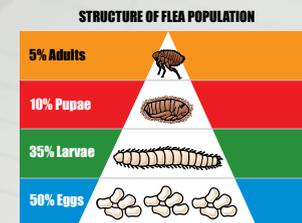
Hookworms

! Can be transmitted to humans

Fleas & Ticks

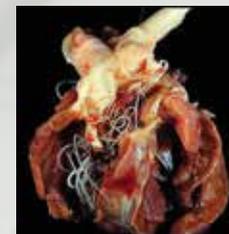
Fleas can cause a range of problems including skin redness, excessive scratching, anemia in puppies, allergic reactions to the flea saliva or contraction of diseases carried by fleas.

It is much easier to prevent flea infestations than to treat them. We recommend a **ONCE MONTHLY** flea preventative for your pet beginning as early as 8 weeks old. **Remember, for every flea you see on your pet, there are hundreds more in your environment.** Successful flea control means treating both your pet and your home.



Ticks live in tall grasses and heavily wooded areas, and can survive cold fall temperatures. It is important to perform a tick check any time you or your pets are in environments favorable to ticks. **Be sure to check between the toes and behind the ears, where ticks love to hide. We recommend a once monthly tick preventive.**

Heartworm Disease



Heartworms, transmitted by mosquitoes, are preventable. To make a long story short, mosquitoes bite an animal that is heartworm

positive. The baby heartworms, called microfilaria, move to the next larval stage within the mosquito, then the mosquito flies over to your dog, bites her, and injects the microfilaria into your dog. These baby heartworms then travel to the heart, where they reside in the pulmonary artery. As the heartworms grow or multiply, numerous complications arise that ultimately result in death. **Therefore, it is important to take responsibility for your dog's health and remember to give heartworm prevention on a monthly basis.** This monthly pill is proven to be effective in killing microfilaria and preventing heartworm disease.

Heartworm testing should be performed on an annual basis, even if you are not likely to miss giving your dog's monthly pill. Puppies typically begin heartworm prevention at their first visit, and their first test will be performed when the puppy is six months of age or older.

Heartworm Facts...



- Heartworm is carried by mosquitoes.
- Mosquitoes and heartworm disease are found in all 50 states.
- A mosquito becomes infected when it bites an infected dog, cat, fox or exotic– then the mosquito bites and infects an uninfected dog or cat.
- Pets that do not receive consistent monthly preventive measures for heartworm disease may only live 2-5 years after being infected.

Keeping your pet inside will not guarantee that it will not get heartworm disease. Mosquitoes can and do get inside the house.