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## New Pet – Puppy Talk

Welcome to All Creatures Animal Hospital & Congratulations on your new family addition! This talk is meant to assist you with some basic information you may want to know about owning a puppy. We will address medical, behavioral, nutritional, financial, and grooming information. You have also been provided with a comprehensive Pet Care Kit going in more detail about each issue. This outline sheet is meant to be a reminder or guideline of our discussion today for your future reference.

### Medicine

- **Physical Exam**-On your puppy's first visit to the clinic, our doctors are looking for any obvious hereditary/congenital problems, as well as for any signs of illness (I.E. coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, ear debris, or eye discharge).
- **Vaccinations**- Puppy's get: **4 Rounds of DHLPP (Distemper), 2 Rounds of Bordetella (Kennel Cough), and Rabies at 12 weeks** of age and done 2-3 weeks apart. Puppies are up to date with vaccines when they leave Petland. Just because they have had some vaccines previously doesn't mean they have had all recommended boosters. As an adult, we recommend your dog go in for vaccines yearly and receive: DHLPP, Bordetella, and Rabies as your core vaccines. Canine Influenza is also recommended but it is not considered a core vaccine.
- **Fecal Testing**- A fecal test is recommended to be done at your puppy's very first visit as well as with their last puppy boosters. There are four common intestinal worms that are found in fecal exams: **Roundworms, Hookworms, Whipworms, and Tapeworms**. Also two common types of protozoa parasites that are found: **Giardia and Coccidia**.
- **Dewormings**-At Petland/Breeders puppies start on a deworming schedule. It is important that if your puppy's fecal tests positive for these parasites, that they receive the proper medications to get rid of them.
- **Preventatives**-It is very important that your puppy be on Flea, Tick and Heartworm preventive every month, **ALL YEAR LONG**.  
**Suggested brands include:**
  - **Revolution**: a topical Heartworm/Flea/Tick preventative for your puppy. This must be given monthly, all year long.
  - **Trifexis** : an oral Heartworm/Flea/Intestinal parasite preventative for your puppy. This must be given monthly, all year long.
  - **Pro Heart**: an injectable heartworm preventative that lasts for 6 months. Can start at 6 months of age or older.
  - **Simparica**: an oral Flea/Tick preventative for your puppy at 6 months of age and older. This must be given monthly, all year long.
  - **Simparica Trio**: an oral Flea/Tick/Heartworm preventative for your puppy at 6 months of age and older. This must be given monthly, all year long.

### Behavioral

- ❖ **Potty Training/ Crate Training:**
  - The Crate itself: Use the Divider! Give only enough room for pup to lay down to sleep – no spare space
  - No Food or Water is to go in the crate
  - No potty pads/ towels/ blankets in crate
  - Routine, Routine, Routine
  - ❖ If eyes are not on the puppy-> **Crate**
  - ❖ Every time you take your puppy out of the crate -> **POTTY**
- **Toys** – give plenty of toys to give mental challenges; if toy tears, breaks up, starts losing fluff—**THROW AWAY**. Ingesting foreign bodies can block their intestines and lead to emergencies and surgeries.
- **Socialization** – **ALL CREATURES SATURDAY PUPPY CLASS! 1PM – 3PM**. They need to meet all types and sizes of people and animals
- **Interactions** – Expose pup to different sounds, machines, bikes, cars, skateboards, high heels, etc. so they 'norms'
- **Biting Vs. Teething** – try to re-direct any biting or teething behavior to a TOY, not a person's hands, arms, etc.

### Nutrition

- Puppy's need to be on a puppy diet until a year of age. Once puppies are at a year of age they can transition to an adult food.
- Rules of Food: If your puppies not eating their current food, then change to something they will eat.
- Examples: Hill's Science Diet, Royal Canin, Purina, Iams, and Eukanuba
- Puppy Eats: check the instructions on your puppy food to make sure you are feeding the appropriate portions.
- Puppy has good bowel movements: if they are not having normal stool, you may want to check for intestinal parasites
- Doesn't have to break the bank : expensive food does not mean good food!

## **Financial:**

- Financially prepare yourself for “Preventative” Wellness Care, as we as “Emergency” or “Illness” Care.
- **Preventative Wellness Care** should consist of the following:
  - Doctor Exam: an Annual Exam and a Semi-Annual Exam (6month exam)
  - Vaccines: Rabies, Bordetella, and Distemper. You can get some as a 3 year vaccine, but we recommend yearly so you remember yearly about vaccines.
  - Fecal Exams (lab): to check for intestinal parasites.
  - Dewormer (medication): this helps flush the gut for any intestinal parasites that may be there.
  - Bloodwork (lab): to check that the internal bodily systems are functioning well.
  - **Total is roughly \$500 per year**
- **Emergency Care** – could be an injury or an illness – unplanned services
  - This can be for minor issues such as a skin rash that won't heal, ear infection, diarrhea.
  - This can also be for major issues, such as: ingesting a foreign body or unknown substance, poison control, broken limb.
  - With illnesses & injuries you can expect: Exam cost, lab workups, medications, and follow-up appointments to check the healing process.
  - This can range from \$200 for minor issues to \$3,000 for severe injuries & surgeries (and follow-up care).
  - **Set aside at least \$1,000 for a 'rainy day' illness pet care per year.** What you don't use in the 1<sup>st</sup> year you may need when they're older. B

## **Grooming:**

- Short-haired and long-haired dogs need different grooming & bathing care.
- Do not bathe dogs daily – this will remove essential oils from their skins and lead to skin irritation.
- Bathe dogs when they are dirty, every other week, or once monthly.
- Do not use human shampoos/conditioners – they contain chemicals that are irritants for dogs. Choose an dog-specific shampoo like an Oatmeal shampoo.
- Some thick-coated dogs, like Huskies, have multiple coats and may need a “De-Shedding” treatment to help remove the hairs, especially in the spring & summer.

### **Short Haired Dogs:**

- Short Haired dogs do not require hair cutting.
- A Groom services for them should include:
  - Get a bath
  - Nail trimming
  - Ear cleaning
  - ANAL Glands Express (AGE)

### **Long Haired Dogs:**

- **Make sure to brush their hair daily** to prevent matting. Matting holds moisture and bugs (mites) that will cause irritation and even skin infections.
- **Make sure to groom (cut) their hair every 4-6 weeks:** This will reduce matting and give your dog a good coat.
- First Puppy Groom: usually not a full cut & shape groom. This is usually just to get the pet used to being around scissors and being handled.
  - Taking a little hair off the body (Let the groomer know how much to take off)
  - Sanitary Trim – trimming around the bum
  - Clean up the eyes so they can see (cutting bangs out of the eyes)
  - Nail trimming
  - Anal Glands Express (AGE)
- Once they've had their first puppy groom, a groomer can give them a full groom.