



## 4-10 MONTH PUPPY

The following pet care guidelines are offered to help you properly care for your new family member.

Be aware that vaccination against Distemper and Parvovirus usually begin when the puppy is 6-8 week of age. Since your pup is much older than this, you must realize your new pet is in great danger until properly immunized! It takes a series of vaccinations to properly immunize your pup, just as with children. Dogs must be vaccinated for: Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parvovirus, Coronavirus, and Rabies. The complete vaccination series must be completed to effectively boost your pup's immune response to Distemper and Parvovirus.

Your pet can still get sick with these diseases until two weeks after the final injection in the vaccination series. Be sure to return at the proper time for each injection in the vaccination series.

After exposure to a disease, it takes time for signs of illness to develop:

This is called the **INCUBATION PERIOD**. Therefore, even though your pup appears to be healthy to us today, we cannot be sure it has not been exposed to some disease, and just cannot be detected yet because no clinical signs are present. Notify the clinic if your pup begins to show any signs of disease such as lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, or listlessness.

Your pup's stool should be examined at their first vet visit for the presence of internal parasites (worms and protozoa). The deworming medications used will not make your puppy sick. If any signs of illness develop, such as vomiting or diarrhea, please notify the clinic.

All dogs should be tested for Heartworms, and placed on Heartworm preventive medication. New preventives are given only once each month. It is easy and inexpensive and most offer protection from intestinal parasites as well.

Feed only high quality puppy foods:

- We highly recommend premium high quality pet foods because of the high protein concentration and quality of ingredients. They are much more digestible than all cereal-based foods available at the grocery store. Even though it will cost more per bag, it will cost about the same on a monthly basis, because less food is fed. It makes housetraining much easier. Feed pups 3 times daily until six months of age; then twice daily after that time. Avoid table scraps. See our "Nutrition" page for more on brands of dog food we recommend.

- Spay or Neuter your pup at about 5 months of age to avoid many future health problems. Current research points to the fact that neutering the male dog greatly reduces roaming and prostate cancer later in life. Females are less likely to develop mammary tumors and pyometra.
- Talk to us about flea control
- Most over-the-counter products are a total waste of money. 90% of the flea's life is spent in the YARD and HOUSE - NOT on the dog. Therefore the major factor in successful flea and tick control is proper treatment of the house and yard at **FREQUENT** intervals and **PREVENTION** of infestation. We recommend Sentinel heartworm meds because they also prevent flea eggs from hatching and protect dogs from intestinal parasites.
- Dogs should be bathed once every two weeks to prevent drying out the hair coat. Special shampoos with an adjusted pH should be used if the pet requires a bath more than once every two weeks. We have high quality pet shampoos available that are just as economical as over-the-counter products and usually more effective and less drying to their skin.