



Puppy & Dog Care Sheet

Exams & Vaccinations:

- **2 & 4 weeks:** deworm with pyrantel pamoate (PyPa). Can start to wean at 4 weeks and completely wean by 6 weeks.
- **6 weeks:** Exam; DHPPV (1st of three); Fecal exam; deworm (PyPa)
- **10 weeks:** Exam; DHPPV (2nd); Lepto (1st of two); Bord; deworm (PyPa); Start Monthly Heartworm Prevention
- **14 weeks:** Exam; DHPPV (3rd); Lepto (2nd); Rabies; deworm Panacure (Pan)
- **Yearly (12 months after initial rabies and then every 12 months):** Exam; Fecal exam; deworm (Pan + praziquantel); HW test; Rabies booster then booster every 3 years; DHLPPV; BORD.

Spay (removal of the uterus and both ovaries): 4-6 months of age, depending on breed, to prevent both unwanted pregnancy and uterine infection (pyometra) which is life threatening.

Neuter (removal of both testicles): 4-6 months of age, depending on breed, to prevent both unwanted mating and testosterone induced prostate enlargement which can cause life threatening urine outflow blockage.

Deworming: Puppy schedule as above. Adult dogs every 6 months especially dogs with access to the outdoors. Triple dewormer (FPP) plus panacure if whip worms are present. Yearly fecal exams are recommended.

Flea & Tick Control: Monthly/Continual. Fleas carry one type of tapeworm egg (rodents carry another). Ticks carry several blood borne diseases for dogs (*Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma*, *Lyme*, *Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever*, etc). A monthly fipronil based topical product is recommended (Frontline) for tick control in high exposure areas. Several monthly flea control products are available & some are combined with heartworm prevention.

Weight Control: Exercise, Exercise, Exercise! Provide running time with walks, ball chasing, obstacle courses, etc. Adult dogs only need to eat once daily. It's OK to vary the diet (unless your dog is on a medical diet) but limit treats. Avoid table scrapes especially in dogs under 30 lbs. Never feed your dog leftovers that you would not eat.

Dental cleanings: Most pet dogs need dental scaling and polishing after 2 years of age & then annually to prevent gum decay & tooth loss. Dental chew treats, enzymatic toothpaste, pet oral rinses & special diets are available and can decrease the frequency of professional cleanings.

Heartworm prevention : Recommended monthly. Heartworm infection occurs in approximately 100% of exposed dogs. See heartwormsociety.org. Recommend yearly test if prevention has been discontinued or missed.

Training: Start gentling exercises and house breaking as a puppy (8wks). Start obedience training at 6 months.