



## Puppy School part 1

At Veterinary Wellness Center, our Care Team wants to help you spend as much quality time as possible with your pet. Here is some information we think will help your puppy's health get off to a great start!

### VACCINES

Vaccines train the immune system to identify threats. Diseases that could otherwise cause death can be prevented or significantly decreased when the immune system knows how to respond.

Puppies should be vaccinated every 2-4 weeks between 6 and 18 weeks of age to fully train their immune systems.

Vaccine companies will help pay for treatment if a pet tests positive. This guarantee is only offered when the vaccines are given by a veterinarian at the recommended ages and intervals.

#### Side Effects:

- Less than 4 out of 1,000 dogs (0.4%)
- Usually mild- decreased appetite, decreased activity, soreness
- Rare cases- facial swelling, hives, & sudden itchiness can be signs of an allergic reaction

Recheck at VWC at no charge within 24 hours for vaccine reactions.

After hours- please call Pet Doctor 911 for immediate assistance (956) 683-7387.

#### Parvo Exposure Risk:

**HIGH-** no exposure until 2 weeks after vaccine series is completed:

- dog parks
- apartment pet areas
- unknown or unvaccinated dogs
- known parvo cases within past 2 years

**MODERATE-** limited exposure after 12 weeks of age and at least 2 rounds of vaccines:

- paved surfaces in your neighborhood
- puppies under 6 months of age that are getting vaccinated

**LOW-** supervised exposure at any age:

- fenced yards with no parvo exposure for at least 2 years
- healthy dogs older than 6 months with full vaccinations





## HEARTWORMS

Heartworms are transmitted to dogs & cats by mosquito bites. Indoor and outdoor pets of any age are at risk of getting heartworms.

Heartworms can be prevented with low doses of anti-parasite medication. Puppies need a dose of medication every month, and treatment continues for life.

Heartworms will cause permanent damage to the heart and lungs. In severe cases, this damage can lead to heart failure and death.

Prevention medications are significantly safer and less expensive than treatment for a heartworm infection. Cats need heartworm protection too!

## INTESTINAL PARASITES

Symptoms of intestinal parasites in puppies can range from mild to life-threatening. Testing is important to determine which parasites are present in each pet.

Most heartworm prevention medications also treat intestinal parasites!

Some intestinal parasites can be transmitted to people. Symptoms are most severe in young children, and include skin irritation and blindness.

## NUTRITION

Puppies should eat a high-quality puppy food from brands like ProPlan, Science Diet, or Iams for their first year.

Dry food should always be measured using an 8-ounce measuring cup.

How can you make sure your pet gets a balanced diet?

- The Easy Way- dry or canned food
- The Fresh Way- refrigerated or frozen meals
- The Custom Way- home cooking after a nutritionist consultation

### DON'T FEED:

- Chocolate, onions, garlic, grapes, or raisins due to risks of toxicity.
- Chicken bones due to risks of intestinal puncture and life-threatening infection.
- Larger bones or antlers due to risks of choking and broken teeth.
- Raw proteins due to risks of infection in pets & people.

Don't feed pets from the table due to risks of begging and decreased interest in balanced food options. Puppies should "earn" food during training or be fed in their own bowl.