

# Puppy Health Information

## Vaccines:

- Rabies- Any puppy older than 12 weeks of age can receive its first rabies vaccination which is protective for one year. The second vaccination is protective for 3 years. All dogs over the age of 5 months are required to be rabies vaccinated in the state of Wisconsin. JVC recommends vaccinating as close to 12 weeks as possible.
- DHLPP- Distemper/Adenovirus/Lepto/Parainfluenza/Parvovirus  
Combination vaccination recommended for all puppies. It is a two or three injection series depending on the age of the puppy. The injections for the series are given 3-4 weeks apart. This vaccine is boosted annually.
- Lyme- This is a vaccination against the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Recommended for dogs that will be in high risk areas for ticks or dogs with high exposure to ticks such as hunting dogs. This is a two injection series with 3 weeks between injections. This vaccine is boosted annually.
- Bordetella- Disease of dogs boarded in kennel facilities or areas where there are a lot of dogs concentrated in one area. It is recommended for dogs being boarded or attending dog shows or obedience classes. This is a vaccination given in the nose. One application is all that is needed for one year of protection. It is boosted once a year.

## Heartworm Preventative and Testing:

- Prevention- All dogs should be on heartworm preventative minimally starting in April and going into November. However, JVC recommends year round prevention by giving the preventative every month of the year. Puppies should be started on preventative once they are 8 weeks of age. This prevents transmission of the Heartworm parasite that is spread by mosquitoes and lives in the heart and lungs of dogs. The Heartworm preventative we carry is Heartgard Plus.
- Testing- All dogs over the age of 6 months should be tested before starting heartworm preventative. Retesting should then be done every year for those on seasonal prevention and every two years for those on year round prevention. The heartworm test used by JVC also tests for three tick transmitted diseases known as Lyme, Ehrlichia and Anaplasmosis.

## Flea & Ticks:

- Fleas- Fleas can cause allergies as well as spread disease and parasites. They live in the outdoor environment and can be brought indoors by your dog to start their life cycle in your home. Flea infections can be prevented by using products such as Frontline which is a once a month preventative. The product is applied on your dog's skin and should be used April through October or until the first killing frost.
- Ticks- Ticks can carry many diseases that can cause serious health problems in dogs. The key to preventing transmission of these diseases is by using a preventative such as Frontline.

## Parasite Control:

- Fecal Exam- All puppies should have a fecal exam to ensure they are free of intestinal parasites. These parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, or decreased growth. Some parasites can also be spread to humans. Having a fecal exam can help diagnose an infection to allow the proper treatment. Once a puppy has been diagnosed with parasites and treated they

should be retested to ensure treatment is successful. All dogs should be tested for parasites once a year.

Prevention- All dogs should be on year round heartworm prevention, which also prevents against the most common intestinal parasites, roundworms and hookworms. If a dog is not on year round prevention they should be dewormed every 3 months with a general dewormer.

### **Spay and Neuter:**

Spay- Female dogs should be spayed at 6 months of age before the first heat cycle. This will help prevent breast cancer, ovarian and uterine cancer later in life. It will also prevent against a life threatening infection of the uterus known as pyometra. Most importantly it prevents unwanted pregnancies.

Neuter- Male dogs should be neutered at 6 months of age. Doing so will prevent testicular cancer and reduce the risk of other types of cancers. Neutering males also reduces unwanted behaviors such as aggression towards other dogs, marking or spraying and roaming. It also eliminates unwanted litters.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WORMS

### ROUNDWORM

1. Puppies and kittens may be born with them.
2. The larva can cause eye defects in children.
3. The larva travel through the lungs and can cause a cough and then grow to adults in the small intestine.
4. Dogs and cats get them from sniffing a stool from another dog or cat that had the worm.
5. The worm resembles a piece of cooked spaghetti, 1 to 4 inches long.

### HOOKWORM

1. Puppies and kittens may be born with them.
2. The larva can cause a skin rash in people.
3. The worms are bloodsuckers that live in the small intestine.
4. The larva will live in the ground until it freezes.
5. The worms are like tiny threads and are not usually seen.
6. Like the roundworm, the hookworm can cause a cough.

### TAPEWORM

1. These are flat, ribbon-like worms consisting of segments.
2. The segments will break off and come out with the stool or attach to the hairs under the tail resembling a rice kernel.
3. These worms are not directly contagious from one animal to another.
4. Dogs get them from eating fleas or rabbits.
5. Cats get them from eating mice.
6. The eggs are inside of the individual segments and unless a segment breaks open, they will not be detected by a stool examination by a veterinarian.

### COCCIDIOSIS

1. This is really a protozoan. It lives in the intestine and is diagnosed by a worm test of the stool.
2. The disease usually affects puppies and kittens causing diarrhea - often with blood.

### WHIPWORM

1. This small, threadlike worm lives in the cecum or appendix of dogs.
2. The adults do not produce a lot of eggs and often more than one stool sample has to be examined to make a diagnosis.
3. This is a difficult worm to eliminate.

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WORMS

1. Milk or candy does not cause worms.
2. Many dogs and cats have been needlessly put to sleep because they were blamed for giving children pinworms. **DOGS AND CATS DO NOT GET PINWORMS.**
3. There is no one medication that will eliminate all types of worms; medication is used according to the type of worm.
4. It is best to not worm a pet unless one knows what type of worm the pet has.
5. A negative stool test does not always indicate your pet does not have worms:
  - ⇒ The worm may be too young to produce eggs
  - ⇒ The worms may be mostly males, which do not produce eggs
  - ⇒ Diarrhea interferes with the test
6. A routine stool examination is recommended. This is usually performed when the booster vaccinations are given.

# Important reasons to spay and neuter your pet

## Spaying your female pet (ovariohysterectomy):

Removal of the ovaries and uterus. Ideal age is 6 months.

- Eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer.
- Eliminates unwanted pregnancies.
- If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a less than 1% chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after one heat cycle, your pet has an 8% chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increases to 26%. After two years, no protective benefit exists.
- Pets with diabetes or epilepsy should be spayed to prevent hormonal changes that may interfere with medication.

## Neutering your male pet (castration):

Removal of the testicles and spermatic cord. Ideal age is 6 months.

- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common tumor in male dogs.
- Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis.
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors.
- Reduces roaming and fighting.
- Eliminates or reduces spraying or marking in males neutered at 6 months of age before the onset of these behaviors.
- Eliminates the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Eliminates unwanted litters.

### Common myths:

Spaying or neutering your pet *does not*:

- Cause laziness or hyperactivity
- Reduce its instinct to protect your family and home
- Cause immature behaviors
- Reduce their instinct to hunt
- Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity
- Alter their personality in any manner

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The staff members of Jefferson Veterinary Clinic can answer your questions about spaying or neutering your pet or any other procedure your pet may undergo at our hospital. Please don't hesitate to ask.

# Crate Training

Having a safe place for your dog to go is a great idea. And a crate is often just the place. To be sure that your dog agrees with you about the crate being a great place, you will want to introduce the crate slowly and carefully.

**WARNING!!!** Before you put your dog in the crate, be sure that his/her collar or harness is off. You don't want your dog to get caught on anything in the crate.

Until your dog is used to the crate, you don't want to put anything in the crate with the dog which might harm the dog. Avoid bedding or newspaper that the dog might chew and ingest. Avoid anything that could be chewed into small pieces and choked on.

## **When to Crate Train**

- 🐾 Crate training is going to be easiest with a tired dog and in a quiet environment.
- 🐾 As you go through the crate training, you will be giving the dog treats and a stuffed bone/Kong as a reward for being in the crate. When the crate door is open, be sure to take away the stuffed bone/Kong. Be sure that the treats are high enough value to keep your dog interested!

## **Introduce the Crate**

- 🐾 Set up the empty crate in an area of the house that is away from loud or scary noises, but in a place where the dog feels part of the family "pack."
- 🐾 Secure the door of the crate so that it is open and can not accidentally hit the dog as he/she goes in and out of the crate.
- 🐾 Begin by leaving small treats or toys in the open crate. Allow the dog to find the treats/toys on his/her own. You want your dog to start thinking that the crate is a pretty cool place to be!
- 🐾 You may want to feed your dog in the crate with the door open.
- 🐾 If your dog goes in the crate voluntarily to nap or just rest, you have achieved step one in successful crate training.

## **Teaching the "Kennel Up" Command**

- 🐾 When your dog is comfortable going in and out of the crate on his/her own, you might want to teach the dog to go into the crate on command.
- 🐾 Be ready with 10 to 20 small treats – ¼" cube size. Stand by the crate and throw the treat in the crate. Be sure the dog sees you throw the treat in the crate! As your dog gets the idea, throw the treat farther back in the crate.
- 🐾 As the dog enters the crate, say, "Kennel up!" in a light happy voice! After the dog retrieves the treat, he/she will turn around and look at you. Tell the dog that he/she is a good dog and give him/her another treat in the kennel. Walk away and leave the dog in the crate with the door open!
- 🐾 When the dog comes out of the crate, repeat the two steps above! Repeat this process until the dog starts anticipating the "Kennel up" command and enters the crate when you say the command.
- 🐾 **Avoid talking to your dog in his/her crate.** You want the dog to be happy in the crate without any attention from you.

## **Closing the Kennel Door**

- 🐾 **IMPORTANT!!** It is important that when you open the door to the crate, do not talk to the dog or play with the dog. Some trainers ask their dogs to sit in the crate before the door is opened. Remember, the dog behavior we want in the crate is quiet and calm. That type of behavior is best achieved with quiet, calm owner behavior!

### **Phase 1**

- 🐾 The first time you close the kennel door, the dog should be in the crate with something wonderful to do such as chewing on a stuffed bone or stuffed Kong.

- 🐾 Put a stuffed bone or Kong in the kennel. Tell your dog to “Kennel up” and let him/her find the stuffed bone/Kong and start to enjoy it.
- 🐾 Shut the kennel door for a second or two and open it again. Remove the stuffed bone/Kong from your dog!
- 🐾 Repeat the above process and gradually build the amount of time you can hold the door shut.
- 🐾 **Remember:** remove the stuffed bone/Kong every time the door is opened!
- 🐾 **IMPORTANT!!** The goal is to have your dog to be happy in the crate, not scared or panicked! Shut the door slowly. Avoid banging it closed. Start by having the dog in the closed crate for a second or two and add time **slowly!** If your dog becomes at all apprehensive, back up in your training and progress more slowly.

### **Phase 2**

- 🐾 After you can **hold** the door closed for 30 seconds to a minute, you want to actually close the door. At the beginning of this phase, close the door for only a second or so and stand where your dog can see you.
- 🐾 You will know that you can increase the time that the door is closed if your dog remains interested in his/her stuffed bone/Kong when the door is closed. If the dog loses interest in the stuffed bone/Kong, shorten the time.
- 🐾 Build time slowly with your dog and stay where he/she can see you.
- 🐾 **Remember:** remove the stuffed bone/Kong every time the door is open.

### **Phase 3**

- 🐾 As your dog can stay in the kennel with the door closed and you close by for a longer and longer period of time, you can start to move away from the crate.
- 🐾 Again, build the time that you are away from the crate slowly.
- 🐾 If your dog finishes his/her stuffed bone/Kong and begins to whine or bark for your attention, ignore the behavior. That means no eye contact to the dog, no talking to the dog (which you weren't doing anyway!), and no going up to the cage! Ignore the behavior, and it should stop quickly.
- 🐾 If your dog seems to be panicked, back up your training! At all costs, avoid having a dog that is scared or panicked.

### **Increasing Time Away from Your Dog in the Crate**

- 🐾 By now your dog should be working his/her way up to an hour or more of quiet time in the crate with the door shut and you in sight.
- 🐾 It is time to be out of sight of your dog. Leave the room for a minute or two to begin with. Gradually build time away from your dog.
- 🐾 Eventually, you can leave the house with the knowledge that your dog is safely in his/her crate and will be comfortably resting until you return.

Do not use your dog's crate for punishment. The crate should be a refuge, a fun place to go and relax for your dog! Be sure that you keep it that way!

## GUIDELINES TO HOUS TRAINING

- 1) The first thing to establish is a consistent schedule, SEVEN days a week for the puppy. After all, he depends on you and his bladder fills up even if it is Saturday.
- 2) Initially, if at all possible, take the puppy out hourly. This will help avoid accidents since puppy has not yet come to understand what “going outside” means.
- 3) A basic time schedule (as the puppy gets beyond the “hourly” stage) for taking puppy outside:
  - First thing when you get up (SAME TIME SEVEN DAYS A WEEK)
  - Right after feeding puppy (this should be done 3 times daily)
  - After puppy has spent time playing hard
  - Just before going to bed
  - Learn to know your dog. If you are observant you can learn to watch your puppy for signs that he may need to go- whimpering, sniffing around etc.
- 4) When taking your dog outside take him to the same location each time. The odor from previous trips will encourage him to go and it is nice to have one central place to clean up.
- 5) Decide on one key word to use when you first arrive at the location you have chosen. Use it as a command word and the puppy will gradually make the connection. This comes in handy any time you might travel with your dog or if someone else has to care for him.
- 6) Always praise the puppy when it urinates or defecates outside. NEVER punish a puppy when it goes inside. If it is caught in the act, just yell something like HEY!! Then scoop up the puppy and get it outside. If you find an accident, clean it up thoroughly and ignore the puppy.
- 7) Choose a high quality puppy food for your pet. It will decrease the amount of stool the puppy produces since there is more nutrition per bite and less “filler” in good brand name foods.
- 8) Feed your puppy at specific times. “Free choice” feeding makes it more difficult to develop a routine and it also encourages overeating.
- 9) Always keep fresh water available but take all water away 1-2 hours before bedtime. This will cut down on “night calls”.
- 10) Crates are a great aid in houstraining by being an enjoyable confined area for your pet. It can be put to use at night as well as when you are gone during the day. The crating pamphlet will explain more.
- 11) Make sure your puppy is checked for intestinal parasites. Being infected by intestinal parasites can cause difficulty for the puppy in controlling defecation.
- 12) If after several weeks of being faithful to these guidelines the puppy is still having trouble being houstrained, consult your veterinarian.



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