

We would like to congratulate you on your new PUPPY!  
The following information will help you give your puppy a long and healthy life.

### **Nutrition:**

- When choosing a puppy food it is important to feed an AAFCO labeled food, in order to be approved it must have gone through AAFCO feeding trials. Most major brands have done this: Eukanuba, Iams, Purina and Science Diet. You can find AAFCO label on the back of the food near the list of ingredients.
- Large breed diet for a large framed dog. If you have a puppy that will be over 50# as an adult, you need to feed a Large Breed Puppy Diet because you need to control the growth rate to allow the joints time to grow and not put too much stress on them.
- Dental care issues: Do not feed canned food; feed dry solid foods that are abrasive while your puppy chews. The following dry foods have teeth cleaners in their adult formula line: Eukanuba, Iams, and Science Diet. The Science Diet T/D is great for treats.

### **Vaccinations:**

- A series of vaccinations will be necessary to fully protect your little one from deadly viruses. The ideal situation is to start the series at 6 weeks old, but may begin as soon as you receive your new puppy. These vaccinations must be given 3-4 weeks apart in order to be effective.

### **Internal Parasites:**

- Unfortunately, worms are so common that most puppies are born with them. Problems that intestinal and blood parasites can cause include the following: anemia, weight loss, and even death.
- How they are contracted:
  - Heartworms: mosquitos
  - Roundworms: through nursing or eating rodents
  - Hookworms: through the uterus, nursing or through the skin
  - Whipworms: through fecal contact of other dogs that are infected
  - Tapeworms: through ingestion of fleas or from eating rodents
- Another very important reason we need to keep our puppies worm free is that some of the internal parasites are zoonotic (meaning that humans can catch them also)!
- There are some great medications that are available that puppies love because they taste great and we can also love because they deworm our furry friends monthly and eliminate the parasites. Products we have available are the following: Heartgard or Sentinel. During your exam the Doctor will help you pick the one that is right for your pet.

### **External Parasites:**

- Fleas are annoying little guys that cause our furry friends to scratch terribly, but that is not all, they also are the cause of poor health conditions such as skin infections, tapeworms, anemia and hair loss.
- Products available are Frontline and Nexgard. Again, your Doctor will assist you in picking out the correct product.

### **Crate Training:**

#### **Is Important Because it:**

- Gives your puppy a safe place to rest and call home. In other words, a safe haven.
- Aids as a training tool without being a place of punishment, such as during potty training.

### **To Breed or Not to Breed:**

- Here are a few good reasons to spay or neuter your puppy:
  - Spaying before the first heat cycle decreases the chance of mammary cancer by 99% compared to spaying after just one heat cycle, which reduces the chance of mammary cancer only 85%.
  - Neutering your puppy decreases the likelihood of aggression, marking, wandering off, prostate infections and prostate cancer.
  - We recommend scheduling the spay/neuter to be done at the time of your last vaccination examination.

### **Identifying Your Little One Permanently:**

- During the spay or neutering procedure we can place a microchip under the skin to serve as a permanent identification in the unforeseen circumstance that your pet may become lost.