

Congratulations on your new addition to the family! We are so glad you have chosen the Voorhees Veterinary Center as your veterinarian. We are so excited for you and we know getting a puppy can be overwhelming. Below is a brief summary of important puppy information as you begin your journey as a new pet parent.

Vaccines: These will be spaced out based on your puppies age

- **Rabies:**
 - Rabies is a fatal viral disease that is contracted when a rabid animal bites another animal or human, but is preventable with vaccination. Rabies is required by NJ State Law and is given as a single vaccination between 15-18 weeks of age.

- **DA2PP or commonly referred to as the Distemper/parvo combo vaccine**
 - This stands for “Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2 (Hepatitis), Parvo, and Parainfluenza”, meaning that this vaccine protects against all of these diseases.
 - This is a vaccine series that starts when the puppy is around 8 weeks of age, and is administered every 3-4 weeks until the last of the series is administered around 15-18 weeks of age. This vaccination timeline is particularly important, as these diseases (especially parvovirus) are found commonly in the environment, and the puppy’s immune system is not yet mature, thus young puppies are considered very susceptible.

- **Leptospirosis:**
 - Leptospirosis is a disease that targets the liver and kidney, and can cause very serious or fatal infection. It is caused by a bacteria that is found commonly in soil and standing water, and is typically transmitted through animals’ urine. Since the disease is common in this area, dogs can be exposed in their own backyards.
 - This disease is also transmissible to humans, so vaccination protects not only your dog, but your family as well. This is a two part vaccine series given 3-4 weeks apart, and can be combined with the last two Distemper vaccines.

- **Bordetella (aka: Kennel Cough)**
 - Kennel cough is a highly-contagious respiratory disease, and vaccination is essential for dogs that may be exposed to other dogs, especially in group settings such as grooming facilities, doggy daycare, dog parks, or boarding facilities. This is given as a single dose orally at our hospital.

- **Lyme**
 - Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that targets joints, kidneys, or can cause serious autoimmune disease. Lyme is transmitted by ticks, and is very prevalent in the northeast region of the United States.
 - This vaccination is a two part vaccine series given 3-4 weeks apart, and along with monthly flea/tick medication will help lower the risk of a serious lyme infection

- **Canine Influenza**
 - Canine influenza (CI), or dog flu, is a highly contagious respiratory viral infection in dogs, and is an important vaccine for dogs in group settings such as doggy daycare,

dog parks, or boarding facilities. This is a two part vaccine series administered 3-4 weeks apart.

Heartworm and Flea/tick prevention

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm is spread through mosquitoes and is becoming more common in this region. To prevent infection, your puppy needs heartworm prevention monthly year -round.

Fleas and ticks are common skin parasites of dogs. A female flea can lay as many as 50 eggs a day and an average of 27 eggs a day for up to 100 days. Fleas are species specific and prefer to feed on dogs and cats, but can easily hitch a ride on you and spread to your animals. Ticks can carry multiple bacteria that can cause significant infections. The most common tick-borne illnesses in this area include Lyme disease, Anaplasma and Ehrlichia. To prevent infection, your puppy should receive flea and tick prevention monthly year-round.

Fecal Testing

Routine fecal examinations are used to detect intestinal parasites in your dog. These parasites may include worms (such as hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms) and microscopic parasites (such as Giardia or Coccidia). Intestinal parasites not only cause gastrointestinal disease in dogs, some of them can also be infectious to humans (hookworms, roundworms, and Giardia). We check two fecal exams spread out to ensure we detect these intestinal parasites at different stages of their life cycles. We then continue with annual fecal exams to ensure your pet stays healthy.

Socialization

Until your puppy has at least three Distemper combination vaccines and Rabies vaccine on board, your puppy should not be exposed to high traffic areas including dog parks, pet stores or other areas with unvaccinated pets.

Spay/Neuter

Spay: involves surgically removing a female dog's reproductive organs. Spaying your dog eliminates risk of potentially life threatening uterus infections, and can reduce the risk of mammary cancer later in life. It also generally limits some unwanted behaviors that may lead to training frustrations.

Neuter: involves removing the testes from male dogs, which reduces the breeding instinct, making them less inclined to roam and more content to stay at home. Neutering your male pet will lessen its risk of developing benign prostatic hyperplasia (enlarged prostate gland) and eliminate risk of testicular cancer.

Spays and neuters are performed after six months of age. Prior to surgery your pet will have blood work performed and a full physical exam to ensure they are a safe candidate for anesthesia.

We look forward to seeing you at your next visit! Please don't hesitate to call us at 856-435-8090 or email at info@voorheesvet.com with ANY questions or concerns!