



PUPPY INFORMATION

Thank you for choosing Dean Park Pet Hospital to provide care for your new puppy.

Contained in this booklet is some important information regarding the well-being of your new pet, we hope this will allow you to make informed decisions. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

Introducing your puppy to your home

Some ways that can help your puppy feel comfortable and settle into your home safely include:

- Provide a safe, secured space for your puppy to play inside the home.
- Show your puppy where to eat, drink, sleep and go to the bathroom.
- Place any potential hazards (such as sharp objects or objects that could be eaten) out of reach. You can check for any poisonous plants, foods or household items here <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>
- Time outdoors should be supervised to ensure their safety; it will also help you get to know their bathroom habits which will help with training.
- If other pets are present, it is important that they are up to date with their vaccinations and flea/tick/worm control to prevent transmission to your
- Introduce them to family members and other pets slowly to help everyone feel comfortable.
- If there are young children in your home, ensure they know how to be gentle and are respectful of your puppy's space.

Diet/Nutrition

Puppies require a well-balanced puppy specific diet up to the age of 1 year. This is dependent on breed and desexing status. A well-balanced diet ensures they have the correct amount of macro and micronutrients including vitamins and minerals to best support their growth. We are happy to provide recommendations for food.





Vaccination

Vaccination decreases the likelihood of serious disease if your puppy becomes infected. The core vaccine, DA2PPV, covers Canine Distemper/Canine Hepatitis/ Canine Parvovirus/Parainfluenza. It is important to limit your puppy's interactions with the outside world until they have had their second set of vaccinations at 12 weeks, especially avoiding places with a lot of dog traffic (such as dog parks) prior to vaccination.

Vaccinations for Leptospirosis, Rabies and Kennel Cough (Bordetella) are also recommended. Throughout their adult life, these vaccines are boosted at 1–3-year intervals.

Age	DA2PPV	Rabies	Leptospirosis	Kennel Cough
8wk	+			
12wk	+		+	+
16wk	+	+	+	

Flea/Tick/Worm Control

Puppies may acquire parasites from their mothers through ingesting milk or grooming, therefore it is important to start with a preventative early on. We recommend starting deworming at 8 weeks of age and then at monthly intervals throughout puppyhood. Flea and tick control is also recommended. We have a few different options available based on your needs and will discuss this with you at your appointment.

Behaviour

Between the ages of 2 and 16 weeks, puppies are at a critical age for learning how to socialize and fit in with their surroundings. Introducing them to new experiences in a positive and controlled way will help reinforce good behaviour as your puppy develops. Training sessions are best in short bursts to ensure you keep your puppy's focus and they feel motivated to learn. There are many resources online regarding positive reinforcement training and different mental exercises for your puppy as well as physical exercise.

Here is a useful link: *Puppy Behaviour: 5 Skills to Recommend* BY KAREN VAN HAAFTEN, DVM, DACVB
<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/WCV-June-2021-IND-STORY-Van-Haaften>





Nails

By introducing nail trimming at an early age, this will help to build trust with your puppy that it is routine and nothing to fear. By also ensuring your puppy has some harder surfaces to walk on this will provide some natural wear of their nails.

Spay/Neutering

Spaying/Neutering prevents unwanted pregnancy, reduces the incidence of reproductive specific cancers, and can decrease unwanted behaviours associated with reproductive hormones, such as spraying urine in the house or aggression.

The age we recommend you spay or neuter your puppy depends on a variety of factors - such as size and breed - though it is typically done between 6 months to 1 year. We will be happy to discuss our recommendations for your puppy at your appointment.

Microchipping

A microchip gives your pet the best chance of being returned to you if they ever get lost. When a missing pet is found and taken to a vet or shelter, they will be scanned for a microchip. This will identify your pet and you will be notified.

The microchip is smaller than a grain of rice and is placed under the skin between the shoulders. Puppies are often microchipped while under general anaesthesia during his/her spay/neuter procedure.

Insurance

Insurance is widely available for dogs. It is best started when your puppy is young and healthy, and it can help manage unexpected health care costs such as emergencies and ongoing diseases.

Our recommendations include Trupanion <https://trupanion.com/canada> and Pets Plus Us <https://www.petsplusus.com/>.

