

Ilderton Pet Hospital

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Your New Puppy

Congratulations on the new addition to your family! This pamphlet contains a summary of important health, wellness, and training tips. We look forward to getting to know you and your new family member and will assist in any way we can to ensure your Puppy's transition is a successful one.



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Socialization

Your new puppy is curious and ready to explore. It is important to take advantage of that natural curiosity and expose your puppy to as many different experiences, people, noises, stimuli and body handling (ears, feet, mouth, nails, etc). After 12 weeks of age, your puppy's prime window of socialization is closing. Experiences during the social period help to give your puppy confidence to adapt and cope throughout their adult life. Early socialization can also help to reduce the risk of fear and other negative behavioural responses.

Puppy classes are an excellent investment with the #1 goal being socialization. Classes should be started before 12 weeks of age during the socialization period. Training techniques are widely varied between trainers. There is no formal education requirement to be a dog trainer. Choose a trainer that uses positive reinforcement techniques and reward-based training. Trainers who promote choke/prong collars, submissive postures, aversive punishment techniques are outdated and these training techniques can do more harm than good. Ask to sit in on a class to ensure you are comfortable that the correct training methods are being used. Classes that advertise as "dog-friendly", "all-positive", "force free", or trainers that recommend the use of head collars such as a gentle leader are on the right track.



Keeping Your Puppy Healthy

1

Preventative Health Care

The initial veterinary visit and booster exam should be between 6-8 weeks of age. Depending on the age your puppy starts their vaccine booster series, they will need a total of 2-3 visits, 3-4 weeks apart. The vaccine protocol will be tailored to your dog's environment to ensure they are protected. Core vaccines are Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus and Rabies. Optional vaccines depend on your dog's exposure risk and include Leptospirosis, Bordetella and Lyme Disease.



3

Microchip Identification

A microchip is a permanent form of identification that is implanted under the skin. If your dog should become lost, the microchip can be scanned and the number is registered to your contact information to reunite you with your dog.



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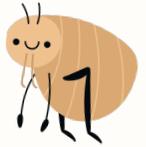
Dental Care

Dental disease is easily prevented with regular home care. Brushing your dog's teeth daily is a great way to fight oral health disease. Dental diets, rinses and dental chews are other items that can help preserve a healthy smile.



2

Parasites



Intestinal parasites can pose a health threat to both you and your pet. Wash hands after handling your pet or scooping poop and make sure to pick up poop daily to avoid contamination in your yard and reinfection. Your puppy will receive a minimum of 2 doses of dewormer, 2 weeks apart. A fecal sample should be examined to ensure all parasites are and appropriately treated.

Heartworm Disease is a potentially fatal parasitic disease of dogs that is transmitted by mosquitoes between June 1 and November 1. Dogs should start a prevention program no later than June 1.

External parasites such as fleas, ticks and mites can be prevented with simple all-in-one products that also protect against heartworm and intestinal parasites.



4

Spay & Neuter

Having your pet spayed or neutered is an important investment to prevent undesirable behaviour, unwanted litters and health complications such as reproductive organ cancers. The optimal age for a spay or neuter depends on the breed of the dog. Your vet will discuss the recommended age.

We recommend pre-anesthetic blood work to ensure your puppy is a good surgical candidate.



Pet Insurance



There are multiple pet insurance companies that offer a variety of health coverage plans. Insurance is a great way to ensure you have the health coverage that meet's your needs, especially when unexpected medical issues or accidents arise. Ask us for more information.

Diet Selection

Feeding a quality diet is one of the most important investments you can make for your puppy. Select a diet with an AAFCO nutritional adequacy statement that indicates animal feeding trials have been conducted. Very little can be determined about digestibility and quality by looking at the ingredient list.

Price of the diet doesn't always correlate with quality. Visit <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Selecting-the-Best-Food-for-your-Pet.pdf> for more information on how to select a quality diet or ask us for our recommendations.



Large breed puppies should be fed a "large breed" specific diet. Puppy food should be fed until one year of age at which time a transition to an adult formula should take place. Follow the feeding guide on the bag to prevent over feeding and obesity. Making a gradual transition between diets (1-2 weeks) will help prevent digestive upset.

Keep it Fun!

Environmental enrichment helps to prevent behaviour problems such as separation anxiety, destructive behaviour, compulsive disorders and keeps your puppy both mentally and physically stimulated. Keep the following tips in mind to keep your puppy entertained...

- Your dog wants to please you, give lots of opportunity for training sessions to keep them mentally stimulated.
- Provide lots of outlets for playing and exercise. Physical stimulation prevents and treats many behavioural problems that arise from boredom and inactivity.
- Offer a selection of toys and appropriate chew toys and rotate toys often to keep your puppy interested.
- Your puppy needs a "safe" place in the house where it can go to be alone (a crate is a great example).
- Puzzle feeders and treat balls give your dog a challenge and can keep them focused independently during busy household times.
- Visit our website at www.ildertonpethospital.com to access our VIN Animal Health Article Library to learn more.





Appropriate Chew Toys

Puppies should be given chew toys that interest them and occupy their time. Follow these tips to select the right toys for your puppy...

- Look for toys that are sized appropriately for your puppy.
- Choose Kongs, Goodie Ships, Buster Cubes, treat balls, etc. and stuff them with kibble, dried liver, or other tasty treats to keep your puppy occupied. These toys self reward the puppy for chewing an appropriate object and are unlikely to cause any dental injuries.
- Avoid rawhides and any hard chews until after 6 months of age when the adult teeth have erupted.
- Baby teeth are easily broken and damaged. Bones should not be used at any age.
- Squeaky toys and stuffed toys are easily shredded and consumed and should be avoided or used under direct supervision only.
- Tennis ball material can wear the enamel on the teeth and result in dental damage.
- Strings from rope toys can get stuck between the teeth or can be ingested and lead to an intestinal obstruction.
- All toys should be introduced under supervision. If your puppy demolishes the toy, you are there to save them!
- Keep a special toy for the crate –an activity chew toy such as a treat cube works as a great reward and occupies your puppy.

Housetraining

Prevention is Key!

- Supervise your puppy indoors and watch for signs of the need to eliminate- circling, squatting, sneaking off or heading to the door.
- Take your puppy outside immediately to their elimination site and give cue words such as “go potty” and reward and praise the puppy for elimination. Timing of the treat must be immediately after the elimination as they are coming up from the squat-not when the dog comes back indoors (too late!).
- If you find the puppy in the act of eliminating indoors, use a firm “no” and immediately take the puppy outdoors to it’s proper site so that it can complete the act, then reward bathroom duty outside.
- Avoid punishment as it can lead to avoidance of family members at a time when bonding and attachment is critical.
- Remember to set your puppy up for success, not failure. If you find a mess in the house, do not make a fuss, clean it up and try to prevent the mistake from happening again.
- Feed a high quality diet in measured meals throughout the day and offer water free choice.
- Generally after sleeping, playing, confinement, eating and drinking your puppy will need to eliminate.
- Although some puppies can control their elimination for an entire night, most will need to eliminate every 2-4 hours throughout the day time.
- Crate training is one of the quickest and most effective ways to housetrain a dog.



Crate Training

Most dogs look at a crate as a den or safe place that provides them privacy, security and comfort.

The key to making the crate the dog's favourite retreat and sleeping area, is to associate the crate with as many positive and relaxing experiences and stimuli as possible (food, treats, appropriate chew toys, bedding) and to place the dog in its cage only at scheduled rest and sleep periods. Be aware that all needs of exploration, play, food, water and elimination are fulfilled before the dog is placed in its crate. NEVER USE THE CRATE FOR PUNISHMENT.



Crate training benefits include:

- Faster housetraining
- Safety for your dog
- Reduced investigative activity that often leads to destructive chewing and damage to your home
- Improved comfort with future boarding or travelling

Success with Crate Training:

- Crate should be large enough for the dog to stand, turn around and stretch out but not too large or the dog may eliminate in it.
- Some dogs prefer a blanket draped over the outside of the crate for security. Leave one side free of the blanket so that they can still see out.
- For puppies, confinement to the crate should be only for the length of time that they can control their elimination. If a puppy needs to be left alone for more than 2-3 hours, an elimination area outside of the crate also needs to be provided. Consider placing the crate in a small room with the crate door left open to access a puppy training mat (pee pad).
- Introduce the puppy to the crate as soon as it is brought home. Use treats in the cage throughout the day so the puppy is encouraged to enter voluntarily.
- After feeding, play and exercise, place the puppy in the crate with an appropriate chew toy and or treat and close the door.
- If the puppy is vocalizing, use remote punishment such as a shaker can to interrupt the crying before intervening. Once quiet, you may enter the room to check on the puppy.



Basic Training & Obedience

With all training, remember to use food rewards and praise your puppy for appropriate behaviour and ignore inappropriate behaviours to avoid inadvertently reinforcing them.

Children in the house should be taught appropriate handling and dog safety to ensure the bond between your child and the dog develops into a happy and safe one. An excellent reference book is "Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind" by Colleen Pelar



Bite Inhibition

Young puppies explore with their mouths. Do not use hands or feet when playing with your puppy. Do not "dominate the puppy" ie. scruff or roll to it's side, or use physical force. If the puppy bites or mouths a human body part, the first step is to move away and not allow the puppy any more interaction.

Use the "settle" command and redirect to appropriate chew toys. If the puppy is mouthing when aroused in play, learn to identify what circumstances trigger it and don't allow play to escalate to that stage.

Important first commands to teach include:
sit, settle (reward for calm), come, down and stay



Grooming & Bathing

Different breeds have different grooming requirements. Dogs with fur that grows continually generally require grooming every 6-12 weeks. Bathing your dog should be done with a quality, gentle dog shampoo and if bathing is performed more frequently than every 6 weeks, use a conditioner to prevent over drying the skin.

Ears should be monitored and if a waxy brown buildup is noted, a quality ear cleaner should be used as recommended. Nails should be trimmed every 4-6 weeks.



Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions about your puppy's health! We are here to help in any way we can!