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PUPPY HEALTH PROGRAM AND VACCINATION SCHEDULE

Congratulations on the new addition to your family! There's nothing like the love of a warm, fuzzy puppy. We want to help you keep puppy healthy and happy. Regularly scheduled vaccinations are important for building your puppy's immunity to several serious dog diseases.

The examination we perform at each visit will also help us detect any common puppyhood problems or illnesses. Remember that we are always pleased to answer any questions about raising your puppy. Please feel free to bring a list of questions or concerns with you or call at any time. Your veterinarian will provide you with a customized vaccination schedule. Here's the general schedule of visits and vaccinations that we ask you to follow:

AGE OF PUPPY

VACCINATION/PROCEDURE

6-9 WEEKS	With first examination, DHPP 1st may be given. This is the distemper multiple vaccine. Bordetella Oral This is commonly known as the "kennel cough" vaccine. This vaccine will provide local immunity to the respiratory tract. We recommend de-worming on every visit on every young animal. We also recommend you bring in a stool sample to ensure all intestinal parasites have been eliminated.
10-13 WEEKS	Second DHPP booster and exam. This vaccine is done 3-4 weeks after the first vaccine.
13-16 WEEKS	1 year DHPP This is done 3-4 weeks after the previous booster. Leptospira (L4) 1st. This disease can infect people as well as dogs. Rabies vaccination 1 year will be given at this time. Lyme 1st vaccination may be elected at this time. We have a very high incidence of lyme disease in our area.
17-20 WEEKS	Leptospira (L4) 2nd and exam. This is done 3-4 weeks after the previous booster. This vaccine will last for 1 year and will then need to be boosted annually. This booster concludes the series of routine puppy vaccinations. If a puppy starts the vaccine series at a later age, two to three vaccines may be needed in the series. Lyme 2nd vaccination may be elected at this time. We have a very high incidence of Lyme disease in our area.
19-21 WEEKS	Bivalent Canine Influenza Vaccine 1st (or 2) can be introduced at this time. A second stool/fecal exam should be performed. Pre-surgical Blood test may be obtained at this visit.

Bivalent Canine Influenza Vaccine 2nd can be given at this time, 2 weeks after first CIV vaccination

VACCINATIONS:

There are several other vaccinations available which you may need to have your puppy receive. We can advise you on whether or not they should be given. The doctors will often "break up" the vaccination schedule even more to decrease the likely hood of an adverse reaction.

RABIES

This first rabies vaccine is good for 1 year; subsequent vaccinations last for 3 years, although the State of NJ Requires 10 months of coverage in the year for a dog license to be given. Check your county's vaccination requirement to ensure appropriate timing for licensing.

DHPP

This vaccine protects against Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus. It is given at intervals of 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age due to the interference of maternal antibodies until they are this old. It is important that the last two vaccines of this series are administered at the appropriate interval to ensure adequate protection for your puppy.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

This vaccine protects against a deadly bacterial disease found in the urine wildlife and domestic animals (raccoons, skunks, possums, squirrels, rats and sometimes other dogs). Infection occurs when dogs wade through or drink from contaminated water sources. "Lepto" is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be passed from dogs to people. The bacteria can enter through a cut in the skin or mucous membranes such as eyes, nose, or mouth. Treatment often required hospitalization with intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Zoetis, the manufacturer, provides compensation to those vaccinated pets that are suspected to have, or are diagnosed with, Leptospirosis by reimbursing diagnostics and treatments deemed necessary by your vet.

BORDETELLA

This is commonly known as the "kennel cough" vaccine. It protects against a severe upper respiratory infection characterized by a cough caused by a bacteria known as **Bordetella bronchiseptica**. We recommend every puppy be vaccinated against this highly contagious disease. If your dog will be exposed to other dogs in closed situations such as boarding kennels, groomers, or dog shows, continued annual boosting of this vaccine is recommended. In fact, most groomers and boarding kennels **require** this vaccine before admission. It is an oral vaccine and provides protection from this disease for 12 months.

LYME DISEASE

This vaccine offers a good level of immunity against Lyme disease. While still somewhat controversial, Lyme disease is so prevalent in our area that we feel this vaccine should be given to dogs that will be exposed to ticks or wild animals, such as deer, moving through your yard. This vaccine can be given to dogs over 12 weeks of age. A second booster is required 2-4 weeks later and lasts for 1 year. Annual revaccination is required. As with any vaccine, no vaccine provides 100% protection; therefore, good tick control is still essential. Zoetis, the manufacturer, provides compensation to those vaccinated pets that test positive for Lyme by covering diagnostics and treatments deemed necessary by your vet.

CANINE INFLUENZA (H3N2 &H3N8)

This vaccines protects against a disease has only recently been seen in dogs. It is highly contagious and rapidly infects nearly all dogs that are exposed to the virus. The disease process can look just like "kennel cough" or can progress to severe pneumonia, even death. It is much like influenza in humans. The young and old are at most risk for the severe complications. New Jersey is one of the 4 states with growing numbers of cases. An outbreak of the most recently

emerging strain (H3N2) is currently happening in New York City and has been creeping into northern New Jersey. The best way to prevent this outbreak from spreading to our area is vaccinating. If your dog will be boarded, groomed, or attending dog parks and other highly social areas, we recommend vaccination against this disease.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION

Heartworms are a worm-like parasite that are transmitted through the bite of mosquito. They can grow in the heart and cause serious heart disease. We live in an area with mosquitos and a corresponding incidence of heartworms. Indoor dogs as well as outdoor dogs risk exposure. We carry several medications which you can give your puppy on a monthly basis that will prevent the development of the disease if it's bitten by a carrier mosquito. We will begin your puppy on this preventative medication once it has reached 8-12 weeks of age and administration should be continued year-round. An annual blood test (4DX - see below) should be performed to detect heartworms and to make sure the preventative medication is working. We try to coordinate the heartworm test with one of your pet's semi-annual wellness visits. Treatment of heartworm disease is dangerous and if left untreated, a heartworm positive dog may die. Prevention is safe, easy, and inexpensive.

HEARTWORM, LYME, ANAPLASMOSIS, AND EHRLICHIA (4DX) SNAP TEST

Heartworm is a parasite that lives in your dog's heart and blood-stream. It is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Early infections are usually without symptoms and can be detected only by a blood test. Annual testing can identify this potentially fatal disease while it is still treatable.

Lyme is carried by the deer tick which bites the dog and spreads infection. Signs of infection include lameness, fever, swollen joints, anorexia, not acting himself/herself, or may be absent in a silent infection. Rarely, Lyme disease can progress, causing kidney failure. If caught and treated early, the outcome is usually very good with a full recovery from symptoms. Once infected, your dog may remain positive on the 4DX test for years due to the body's inefficiency of clearing the infection completely. C6 titers are used to track antibodies quantitatively and more accurately reflect the current state of infection in a dog.

Anaplasmosis is also carried by the deer tick which bites the dog and spreads infection. Signs of infection include lack of energy, high fever, swollen joints, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, or may be absent in a silent infection. Disease progression may lead to low platelets and white blood cells, and rarely neurological signs. Co-infection with Lyme disease and anaplasmosis is possible. If caught and treated early the outcome is usually very good with a full recovery from symptoms. If your dog tests positive, your vet may recommend checking the blood's complete cell count to detect any changes that may indicate treatment is necessary. Your dog may remain positive for subsequent testing, but will eventually seroconvert back to negative after some time.

Ehrlichia is carried by the brown dog tick which bites the dog and spreads infection. Signs of infection include loss of appetite, depression, fever, painful joints, bloody nose, and pale gums. Disease progression may lead to blindness, autoimmune diseases, and bleeding complications. Co-infection with parasitic diseases may occur. If caught and treated early the outcome is usually very good with a full recovery from symptoms.

FLEAS & TICKS

Many products are available to prevent and kill fleas and ticks. We will be happy to discuss a prevention program based on your individual household. If your dog lives or interacts with small children, you need to be careful with topical preventatives and allow adequate drying time before allowing physical contact. If your dog swims, a collar may not be appropriate. At six months of

age, you may choose to use an oral flea and tick preventative. Speak to our staff or doctors if topicals are not an option for pets under 6 months of age.

SPAYING/ NEUTERING

We recommend surgically altering your puppy if you don't plan to use him/her for breeding purposes in the future. This should be considered once the puppy has reached **6 months** of age, although large breed dogs may gain some benefits by delaying this procedure until skeletally mature. Spaying and neutering your dog at the appropriate age may help prevent many health and behavioral problems later in life. Please discuss the best time for surgery for your pet with our doctors. We recommend pre-operative bloodwork prior to any surgical procedures, including spays and neuters.

MICRO CHIP IDENTIFICATION -

Protect Your Pet - A tiny computer chip about the size of a grain of rice may be injected under the skin. This may be done once your pet is 5 months of age or older. Often it is convenient to do at the time of spaying or neutering as the needle is large and more traumatizing than vaccinations. Each chip is encoded with a separate identification number for each individual animal. All humane societies and shelters have been given (free of charge) universal scanners capable of reading all ID numbers of different manufacturers. We see this microchip ID procedure as a valuable tool in returning lost and or stolen pets to their owners. We strongly recommend it's use!!!!

We hope you find this information helpful. Keeping your pet healthy is important. We will help you keep track of your puppy's vaccination schedules; we'll send you a reminder when a vaccine is due. Please remember that we are available to help you in any way we can with your new puppy. We love to answer questions.

Best of luck with your new pup!!!

Puppy Tips!

Training Basics: Always use positive reinforcement with treats and praise. We recommend starting simple with "**sit, stay, come**" commands. Another good cue to practice is the "**touch**" cue in which the puppy is rewarded for touching his/her nose to your hand. This is useful to get your puppy's attention on walks when he/she is distracted by the environment. Be sure to practice inside first with increasing levels of distraction as your puppy masters the command. It may be helpful to ask your puppy to respond to a command before he/she gets any food. Remember: "Nothing in life is free!"

Desensitization: Positive reinforcement is an excellent tool to desensitize your puppy to uncomfortable aspects of routine maintenance. These include handling the **ears, paws, and mouth** in preparation for ear cleanings, nail trims, and tooth brushing. Please refer to the YouTube video "Positive Reinforcement of Tooth Brushing" for the demonstration of how baby steps can be reinforced to work up to the actual procedure. This tactic can be used as a model for ear cleanings, nail trims, and any other procedure you may need to perform on your puppy. Remember: "Mouth, ears, feet... treat!"

Ask our staff for recommended puppy training classes/trainers!