



Your New Puppy

Vaccinations:

Our vaccination schedule for puppies is as follows:

- 6 weeks: DA2PP/CV
- 9 weeks: DA2PP/CV
- 12 weeks: DHLPP
- 16 weeks: DHLPP
- 20 weeks: Rabies vaccine and Parvovirus booster

Vaccines are extremely important in puppies. Our vaccines protect against distemper virus, parvovirus, corona virus, canine adenovirus type 2, parainfluenza, and leptospirosis. Both canine distemper and parvovirus are common puppy diseases that can often be deadly. Your puppy will get the rabies vaccine and tag when they turn 20 weeks old. After that, your puppy will only need to come in once a year for rabies and distemper vaccine boosters.

Vaccine reactions are rare, but can be seen in puppies. As such, we like to give all puppy vaccines in the morning and encourage you to monitor your puppy throughout the day for signs such as swelling of the lips, hives, vomiting or increased breathing rate. If a vaccine reaction does occur, please contact us immediately and we can advise you what to do next.

Spaying or Neutering your pet:

Spaying or neutering your pet is highly recommended. With these procedures, smaller dogs and cats may be done around 6-8 months. With larger dogs, it is better to wait until 8-10 months. These procedures not only avoid unwanted pregnancies, but are also highly effective at preventing various diseases including mammary tumors, testicular tumors, pyometra, benign prostatic hypertrophy and other common canine maladies. These procedures do require general anesthesia. We ask that you call and schedule a day for the procedure. On that day, you will drop off your puppy in the morning and pick them up that afternoon. We do ask that you remove all food around 8 PM the night before the surgery and remove the water bowl around 6-7 AM the morning of the surgery.

Heartworms:

Heartworms are a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. Mosquito bites can transmit the larva to your pet, which then grows into an adult worm. These adult worms take up residence in the right ventricle of the heart and the pulmonary vessels. If left untreated, this disease can lead to congestive heart failure and death. Prevention is key, as treatment is expensive and can be dangerous. A monthly heartworm preventative can be purchased on our website, www.coolspringsah.com. These tablets are highly effective at prevention and are easy to administer monthly. This prevention can be started when your puppy is about **16 weeks old**. We require heartworm testing once a year to ensure your pet has not been exposed. With a negative heartworm test, we will gladly approve yearly heartworm medications. We recommend Interceptor or Heartguard Plus products. Until your puppy reaches their full-grown weight, we will gladly sell you individual heartworm medications.

Flea and Tick Control:

Fleas and ticks are another problem your pet may encounter. Fleas cause itching and can lead to a flea allergy and hair loss. Ticks carry many infectious diseases, including *Ehrlichia canis*, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme's disease. Ectoparasite prevention is usually applied topically once a month. There are several products on the market, all of which can get bought over the counter at various pet and other retail stores. These products have different ages when you may begin application, so check the label to make sure your puppy is old enough to receive the product. Most products are labeled for **12 weeks old**. We highly recommend Parastar Plus, K9 Advantix and Frontline Plus. When applying these medications, be sure to not bathe your puppy 2 days prior and 2 days after application. We do not typically recommend the use of flea and tick collars, Hartz products or grocery store brand products. Until your puppy reaches their full-grown weight, we will gladly sell you individual flea/tick product tubes.

Fecal Worms:

We routinely screen puppies for fecal parasites such as hookworms, roundworms and whipworms. If these parasites show up on a fecal evaluation, we can provide you with the appropriate dewormer.

At Cool Springs Animal Hospital, we know a new puppy can be both exciting and overwhelming. Please do not hesitate to ask questions either in person or on the phone. We are happy to give you any advice or information whenever questions arise.