

THE NEW PAWRENTS GUIDE TO YOUR PUPPY'S FIRST VET VISITS

A Guide for New Pawrents

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Note from the Author

Congratulations on your new family member!

As your pet's medical care provider, your veterinarian is an integral part of your pet's care team. We encourage you to develop a relationship with your veterinarian, let them get to know your family. Tell us about what activities your family (and soon your new puppy) enjoy and where you travel to. By getting to know your family it allows us to create individualized wellness plans to provide your dog with optimal preventative care for their lifestyle. Your puppy's first visits to the vet are an important part of building the foundation for excellent preventative care. The challenge is retaining all the new information amongst the fluffy excitement and underlying sleep deprivation. I created this book, to provide new puppy or dog "pawrents" with a reference guide to understand those first few visits to the vets. I hope you and your family find it to be a helpful resource in getting your new best friend off to the right start.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chung Yeen Mac

About the Author

Born and raised in Oakville, Mac Animal Clinic is a life long dream come true for Dr. Mac. After graduating from the Bristol Veterinary School, England she worked in a 24 hour small animal hospital in rural Suffolk before returning home with her Border Terrier "Monkey" and her rescue tabby cat "Matilda". Since returning home, she has practiced in the Oakville community working with various patients and their families. In 2019 Dr. Mac opened Mac Animal Clinic, Oakville's first Fear Free Certified Veterinary Practice.

Her family has recently grown to include her Shepherd cross "Maple", her fiancée's Pyrenees cross Loki and her toy Morkie "Millie". Dr. Mac is a very proud pet parent, caring for animals is not only her career but an important part of her family.

When not at work, Dr. Mac can be found biking the trails of Oakville with Millie in her back pack, hiking up Bronte Creek with the dogs, in the gym or watching terrible British reality T.V.



Dr. Mac with her cat, Matilda and her four dogs (from smallest to biggest) Millie, Monkey, Maple & Loki.

Fear Free Vet Visits

Did you know that it is possible for your pet to feel comfortable and even excited about going to the vets? With a little bit of preparation, you can help show your pet that going to the vet doesn't have to be scary.

Tips for making your puppy's first few vet visits as Fear Free as possible:

Try and ensure your pet gets to the clinic in a calm state of mind.

Budget plenty of time to avoid feeling rushed. If you are stressed, your pet will be too.

Make time for bathroom breaks.

Try and ensure your pet has the opportunity to relieve themselves prior to leaving home and if possible, again before entering the clinic. Nothing escalates stress more than having to use the bathroom.

Try to reduce the amount of food your puppy eats before a veterinary visit.

Having less food in their stomach will make your puppy less likely to feel nauseous during car travel. Nothing contributes to fear, anxiety, and stress if you are already feeling nauseous from the car ride.

Being a little bit hungry will make the treats at the clinic extra appealing. If your puppy has some favorite treats, bring them to the appointment.

If your puppy has a sensitive stomach or is not food motivated, bring their favorite toy!

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If your puppy has a sensitive stomach or is not food motivated, bring their favorite toy!

Try to reduce the amount of food your puppy eats before a veterinary visit. Pheromones can help comfort your puppy and can be used for your puppy's first few nights in their new home, make other new experiences less scary, and can promote better training and socialization.

Talk to your vet about “friendly vet visits”, where you occasionally stop by your veterinarian’s office for a brief visit just to say hello and have some treats.

At some point in your dog’s life, they will need to visit the vet clinic because they are feeling unwell. If your puppy learns a veterinary hospital is a safe place - a fun place full of treats and cuddles, this can provide a lot of comfort (to both your dog and your family) during scarier times.



Vaccinations

Your dog will need a series of vaccinations as a puppy followed by annual vaccinations for the rest of their life. Therefore, it is important to understand what vaccines your dog is receiving and why vaccinations are so important. Every puppy's vaccine protocol is structured based on their individual lifestyle and risk exposure. In Oakville, our dogs are fortunate enough to experience both an urban and rural lifestyle. However, this also means our dogs are exposed to diseases carried by other dogs in the city but also diseases spread by wildlife.

There are four "core" vaccinations are vaccines that are advised for all dogs.
(based on the World Small Animal Veterinary Association guidelines)

In Oakville the core vaccines are:

- 1 Rabies vaccine
- 2 Distemper combination vaccine
- 3 Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease - Kennel Cough Vaccine
- 4 Leptospirosis vaccine

Dr. Mac hiking with her dogs Maple and Millie in Lions Valley, Oakville. Vaccinations ensure your pets are protected on all of your family's adventures



What vaccines does my puppy need?

DISTEMPER COMBINATION (DHPPi)

DHPPi stands for Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Parainfluenza. This vaccine vaccinates against a combination of potentially fatal viruses which affect the gastrointestinal, neurological and respiratory systems.

- ✓ Canine distemper is a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems. Our resident wildlife in Oakville, especially those cute little raccoons are carriers of distemper.
- ✓ Canine Hepatitis primarily affects the liver, it is extremely contagious and often fatal. Pets that recover become carriers of the virus and can infect other dogs.
- ✓ Parvovirus is one of the most serious and common of canine infectious diseases. It is extremely contagious and outbreaks. This virus causes severe gastrointestinal disease which can lead to dehydration and collapse. Puppies and older dogs are most at risk of these diseases but unvaccinated dogs of all ages are at risk.
- ✓ Parainfluenza is a highly contagious respiratory virus and is one of the components of the canine “kennel cough” disease.

RABIES

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that affects the nervous system. There have been over 100 confirmed cases in Ontario, the animals that most often transmit rabies are bats, skunks and foxes. Up to date Rabies vaccination in pet dogs is also a legal requirement.

CANINE INFECTIOUS RESPIRATORY DISEASE (CIRD)

CIRD (commonly known as Kennel cough) is a highly contagious upper-respiratory infection caused by several viruses and a bacteria called Bordatella. Dogs that visit dog parks, boarding kennels, groomers, show, or interact with other dogs should be vaccinated.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease shed in the urine of wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, beavers, and rodents, which can cause fatal kidney and liver failure. It is also a disease that can be spread from dogs to humans. It is very difficult to prevent exposure to Leptospirosis, every dog that ventures outdoors is at risk. Vaccination is an affordable and effective way to protect your dog from a disease that can be very difficult and costly to treat.

Example Summary of Your Puppy's First Few Vet Appointments

8-9 weeks of age

- 1st Distemper Combo
- 1st Leptospirosis Vaccine
- Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Vaccine
- Deworming
- Flea and tick prevention
- +/- heartworm prevention

12 weeks of age

- 2nd Distemper Combo
- 2nd Leptospirosis Vaccine
- Rabies Vaccine
- Deworming
- Flea and tick prevention
- +/- heartworm prevention

16 weeks of age

- 3rd Distemper Combo
- Introduce Lyme vaccine if appropriate
- Deworming
- Flea and tick prevention
- +/- heartworm prevention
- Discuss timing of spay/neuter

NON "CORE" VACCINE: LYME VACCINE

Ontario is considered an 'endemic' (regularly found) area, as is the U.S indicating dogs may be exposed to ticks carrying Lyme disease. If your puppy will be vacationing at cottages and along waterways, running through tall grass, exploring ravines or wooded areas and travelling to the U.S we recommend vaccination.

When should my puppy receive these vaccines?

- ✓ The first vaccine at 8-9 weeks of age
- ✓ A second vaccine three to four weeks later
- ✓ The third vaccine at 16 weeks of age or older

Why does my puppy need a series of vaccines?

Normally vaccines can stimulate immunity in one or two vaccinations. However, young puppies receive protection from their mother's milk called maternally derived antibodies (MDA). These antibodies protect your puppy from viruses and bacteria but they can also block the immune system from responding to vaccines. The mother's antibodies protect each puppy for a highly variable amount of time, the level of maternal antibodies declines anywhere from about 3 weeks of age and are usually gone by 14-16 weeks of age. Every puppy's level of antibodies they receive from their mother is different depending on their individual immune systems, how long they nursed their mother for and if their mother was vaccinated.

Vaccinations for the major viral diseases are administered at 3-4 week intervals to provide disease protection to your puppy as their level of maternal antibodies decreases and to ensure the vaccines we administer properly activate the puppy's immune system.

The goal of vaccinations are:

- ✓ To start early enough to prevent puppies from being vulnerable to infection
- ✓ To administer the vaccinations at appropriate times to ensure your puppy creates adequate immunity to each vaccine without interruption from MDA.

An example puppy vaccination schedule would be:

Age of Dog	Distemper Combo	Rabies	Kennel Cough	Leptospirosis
8-9 weeks	✓		✓	✓
12 weeks	✓	✓		✓
16 weeks	✓		✓	
12 months	✓	✓		✓
After 1 year old vaccines	Every 1-3 years depending on vaccine	Every 1-3 years depending on vaccine	Annually	Annually

Parasite Control 101

Heartworm

- Annual heartworm testing in April/May each year
- Treatment from June 1- November 1

Flea, Mite, & Tick Prevention

- Year Round Prevention

Deworming

- Annual fecal testing
- Deworming based on results or lifestyle

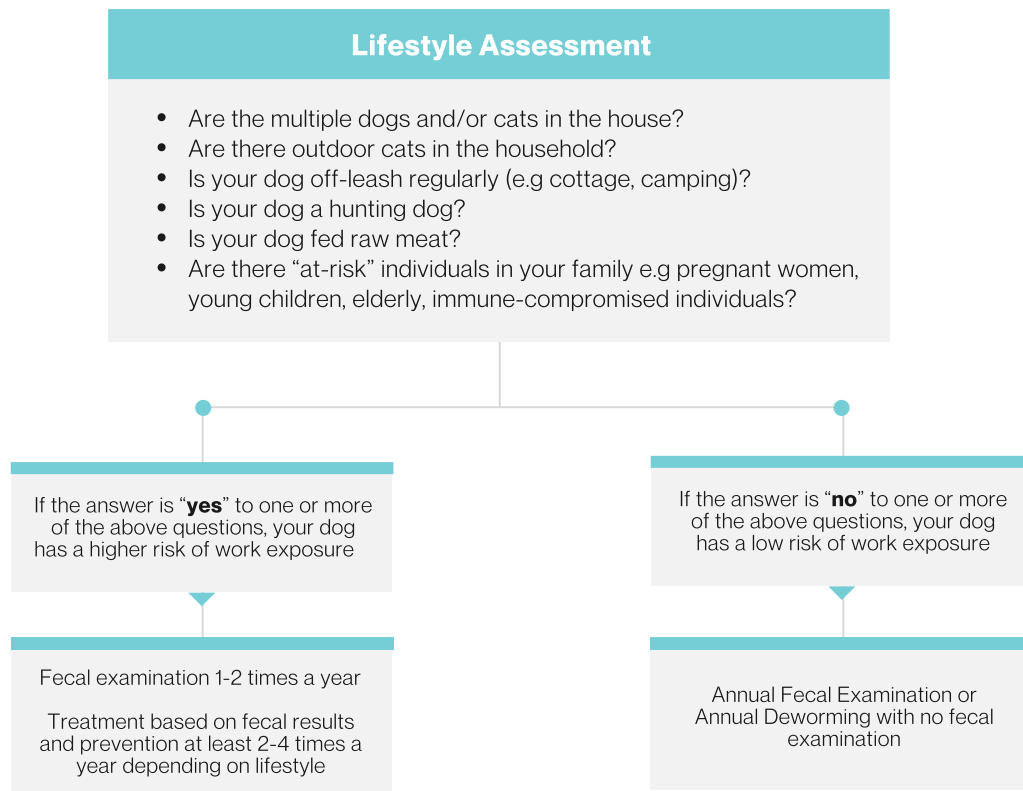
Deworming

Most breeders deworm the mother and her puppies, however deworming medication is only effective on the adult worm. Repeated deworming is advised due to the life cycle of the worm to ensure that various cycles of adult worms are eliminated.

We advise that puppies are dewormed when they are first brought home by their owner for a minimum of three treatments to treat any potential worms that were passed to the puppy from their mother. **For convenience, we advise deworming each time your puppy comes for their puppy vaccinations.**

Deworming after the puppy stage:

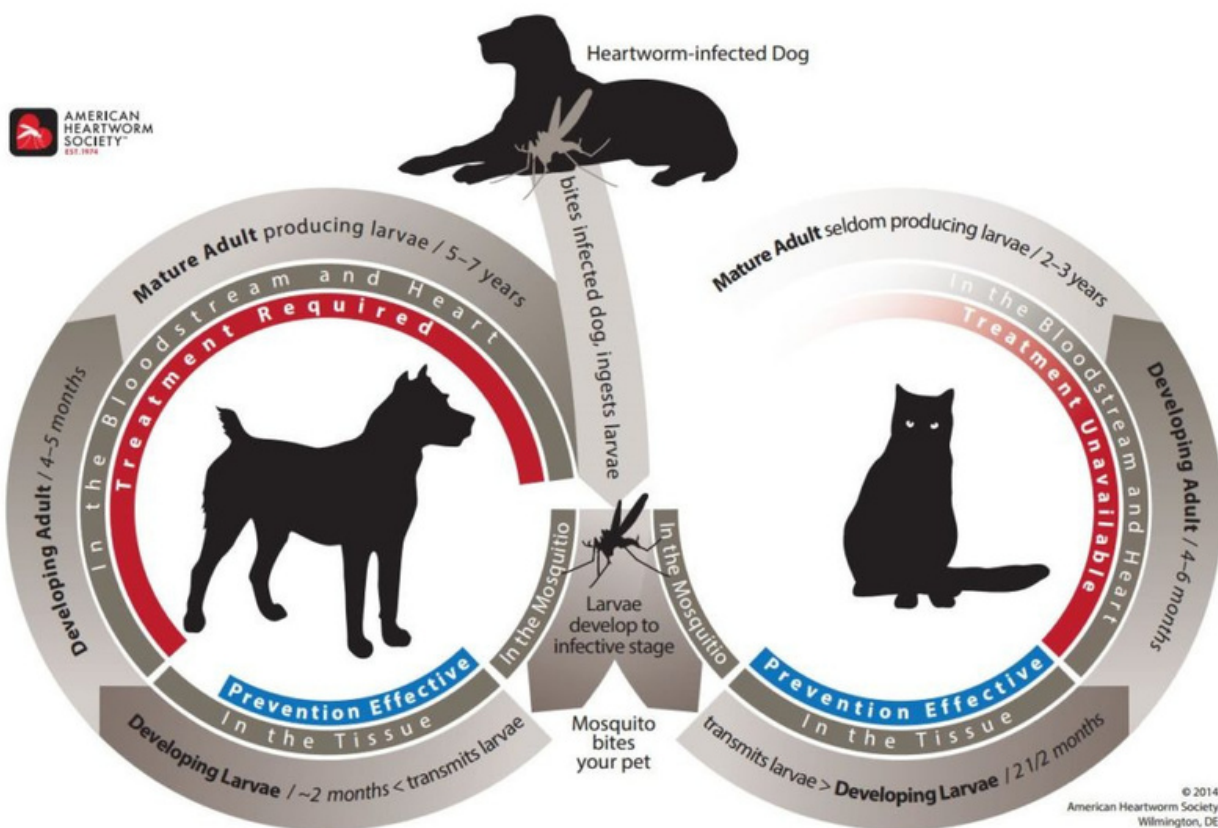
Fecal testing and preventative deworming for dogs over 6 months of age is advised based on your pet's lifestyle. At Mac Animal Clinic we recommend annual Fecal Anitgen Testing which detects a substance (antigen) secreted by the worms in the faeces which allows for earlier detection of infection.



Heartworm

What is heartworm?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease caused by worms that live in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of affected pets. This causes severe lung disease, heart failure, and damage to other organs in the body. Wildlife such as coyotes, wolves, and foxes are also susceptible to heartworm infection and can act as potential reservoirs of infections for pets.



How is heartworm disease treated?

The treatment for heartworm infection involves significant medical therapy including an antiparasitic to kill adult worms, antibiotics to treat the release of bacteria from the heartworm, and steroids to minimize the risk of anaphylactic shock. This is not a benign treatment.

When should I be giving my dog preventative medication?

Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes. For this reason, heartworm prevention for dogs should be given at minimum to protect dogs from the first mosquito bite of the season to the last. In Ontario transmission season typically begins in early June and around the second week in October. [4]. Dogs that are fortunate enough to vacation down south during winter should be treated all year round. Heartworm preventative medication comes in chewable tablets or spot on applications which often have additional flea, tick and intestinal parasite coverage as well.

Why do I have to test for heartworm every year?

While preventative medication is highly effective it is not 100% effective. Don't forget, life happens, your dog may spit out a tablet, or the medication may wear off early (for example if your dog is an avid swimmer). Due to the serious nature of heartworm disease, early detection is crucial to increase your pet's chance of recovery. There are very few early signs of the disease, for this reason, the heartworm test is extremely important as it works by detecting the presence of heartworm proteins in the bloodstream.

We advise annual testing to ensure your prevention program is working and to allow early detection of a potentially fatal disease.



Fleas & Ticks

Your dog can catch fleas and mites from the environment, wildlife, and other dogs and cats. These little critters not only live on your pet but hatch their eggs in the environment, which could be in your carpet! Flea infestations can take months to eliminate and involve treating all household furnishings plus the four-legged members within.

Dogs with outdoor access, live multi-pet households, visit boarding or grooming facilities, or exposure to rescue animals are at risk of exposure

Ticks

The prevalence of ticks in the U.S and Ontario is increasing. Ticks can carry Lyme disease amongst other diseases.

Dogs that vacation at cottages and along waterways, frolic through tall grass, explore ravines or wooded areas, and travel to the U.S are all at risk of exposure. Historically, parasite control in Ontario was only given from June – November, during the heartworm season. However, with global warming resulting in warmer winters and the continued migration of ticks into new areas, ticks are now present all year round. Ticks are active in temperatures as low as 4 oC therefore we advise year-round tick prevention for at-risk dogs. For dogs with increased tick exposure Lyme vaccination is advised.



Pet Insurance

Pet ownership isn't all puppies and rainbows. Illness and injury happens, insurance can help protect you from unexpected costs while allowing you to provide the best veterinary care for your pet. Veterinary care has progressed providing access to more sophisticated technology, techniques and procedures making it increasingly more important to consider pet medical insurance

“My puppy is healthy. Why don't I wait until he is older?”

If you wait until your dog develops health issues you might find yourself with an insurance policy with several exclusions. Any conditions that exist before the insurance policy is started is considered a “pre-existing condition” and won't be covered by the policy.

“Instead of paying pet insurance monthly, can't I just put that money in a bank account?”

This is a great idea, assuming Fido doesn't get sick for 5 years. Will there be \$4000 in the account if Fido eats one of your socks two weeks after you get him? Putting money aside and saving for your pet is responsible, but you can't predict when emergencies will happen. **Pet insurance can provide your family the peace of mind that you can handle the unexpected.**

“We will just make it work if he needs emergency surgery.”

You love your pet, and if he needs surgery, you will make it possible. This is the first step. But consider this. If your dog ruptured their cruciate ligament would you like the option for a board-certified specialist to perform the surgery? Insurance allows you to seek the highest quality of care for your pet, such as specialist care or special order medication, without hesitation. Insurance allows you to make decisions purely in your pet's best interest and minimizes financial worry.

Don't forget, insurance is for accidents AND illness. For example, what if your pet develops allergies? Allergies are often lifelong conditions as there is no cure for allergies. Diagnostics, allergy testing, immunotherapy, and allergy medication can cost thousands of dollars.



Ask yourself the following questions:

- ✓ If your pet needed \$4000 surgery tomorrow would you be able to afford it or would it cause significant financial burden?
- ✓ If in your pet's old age they needed \$500 worth of medication a month plus \$200 of blood work every 4-6 months? Would that eventually begin to wear on the family budget?

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"Pet insurance can help protect you from unexpected costs while providing the best veterinary care for your pet"

ONTARIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

What to ask when choosing a pet insurance company?

It is important to make an informed choice when purchasing pet health insurance. Make sure you understand how your insurance works and what is covered before you have to make a claim. Here are some questions to ask when purchasing pet insurance:

- ✓ What illnesses and injuries does this insurance cover?
- ✓ What is covered and what is not?
- ✓ What constitutes an accident?
- ✓ Are there any breed-specific exclusions? (i.e it won't cover certain hereditary illnesses common to specific breeds)
- ✓ Is my pet still covered if we're traveling out of province or the country?
- ✓ Will my premium increase if I make a claim? Do they change over time or as my pet ages?
- ✓ How do I make a claim? Do I have to pay the veterinary bill upfront?
- ✓ How long does it take to process a claim?
- ✓ Is there a waiting period before I can make my first claim?
- ✓ How do enrolling multiple pets impact my plan?

Source: Ontario Veterinary Medical Association

What do you need to know about spaying & neutering your dog?

Spaying (females) or neutering (males) your dog not only has numerous health benefits but is also part of responsible dog ownership. There are few things in life that are cuter than a bundle of puppies, which is why it is not uncommon for owners to be tempted to breed their adorable 8-week old puppy.

Before deciding to breed your dog, consider the following:

- ✓ Will the new owners walk them, train them, be able to pay for vet care? Will they keep them forever or will they join the millions of dogs that are kept in shelters? Unless you intend on keeping all of the puppies, can you guarantee that your pup's offspring will all go to good homes?
- ✓ What will you do if your female dog has pregnancy complications or needs a caesarian?
- ✓ Will you ensure all the puppies are dewormed and vaccinated?

This isn't a decision you need to make until your puppy is 6 months old. While it may be tempting to "keep the option open" it is important to make the decision in the first year of your dog's life. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for owners to find out their seven-year-old un-neutered female dog has a malignant mammary tumour. Most of these owners never end up breeding their dog and wish they made the decision to spay earlier. These situations highlight the health benefits of spaying and neutering.

Health benefits of spaying your dog

- ✓ Prevents the risks associated with pregnancy and labour.
- ✓ Prevents pyometra which is an infection in the uterus (womb). This is a serious and life-threatening condition resulting in sepsis (bacterial infection in the bloodstream). This condition typically needs to be treated surgically.
- ✓ Decreases the risk of mammary cancer. If a dog is spayed before their first season they have a 0.5% risk of developing a mammary tumour. If a dog is spayed after one estrus cycle there is an 8% chance of them developing a mammary tumour. Following the second estrus, there is minimal protection against mammary tumour development

Health benefits of neutering your dog

- ✓ Remove male behaviors e.g roaming, marking, aggression, and mounting
- ✓ Prevents future prostate problems
- ✓ Prevents testicular cancer

When to spay or neuter your dog?

Spays and neuters maybe some of the most commonly performed procedures by veterinarians, but there is no “hard and fast” rule for the best time to spay and neuter. The decision on when to spay / neuter is highly patient-specific. Here are some considerations when making a decision on the timing of when to spay and neuter your dog.

Male dogs can be neutered from 6 months of age. Here are some considerations when deciding the best time to neuter your dog.

When to wait?

- ✓ If your dog does not have two descended testicles. In these cases, it may be worth waiting until he is 8-10 months before proceeding with surgery to allow time for the second testicle to descend. Bear in mind, some testicles may never descend.
- ✓ If your dog has retained baby teeth, waiting until 8-10 months may be advised to see if those teeth will fall out as he matures.
- ✓ If your dog is a large breed dog, it may be advisable to delay neutering. Some studies have shown an increased incidence of cruciate rupture and neoplasia in specific breeds of dogs that are neutered early [8,10].



When not to wait?

- ✓ Male behaviours such as mounting and marking are fuelled by testosterone but they can become learned behaviours. This means that if you wait until your dog is 2 years old before neutering him, he may never stop mounting his favorite pillow or your leg. If your dog is exhibiting several anti-social male behaviours it may worth neutering him sooner than later.
- ✓ As dogs hit “puberty” they emit different pheromones. If your dog is frequently going to dog parks or mixing with other dogs and is starting to get into fights (either as an instigator or victim), it might be time to think about neutering.
- ✓ If your dog has retained testicles beyond the age of 12 months. This condition can affect one or both testicles. Testicles are meant to be stored at a lower temperature which is why the scrotal sack is outside of the body. Testicles that remain inside the body, eg. in the abdomen are 300 times more likely to become cancerous. So if they haven’t descended on their own by the time your dog is 12 months, then they need to come out!

Female dogs can be spayed from 6 months of age. It is advised that female dogs are either spayed before their first heat (at six months) or 3 months after their first heat to minimize the risk of mammary cancer. If you know you aren't going to breed your dog, it is strongly advised that they are spayed before they go through their second heat cycle. If you aren't sure, try to make the decision before their second heat cycle.

When to wait?

- ✓ If your dog is a large breed dog, it may be advisable to spay her after her first season. Some studies have shown an increased incidence of cruciate rupture and neoplasia in specific breeds of dogs that are neutered early [6].
- ✓ Early neutering (before 6 months) has been associated with Urinary Sphincter Mechanism Incontinence (USMI), which is why it is advisable to wait until your dog is 6 months old before performing the procedure. USMI tends to develop in middle aged to older dogs, studies have found certain large breed dogs have an increased risk of developing this condition [3,9]. For these breeds, it is advisable for these dogs to be spayed 3 months after their first heat to minimize the risk of urinary incontinence but also minimize the risk of mammary cancer.



Additional Procedures at Time of Neuter

The following procedures may be advised at time of neutering.

Gastropexy Procedure

Gastropexy is an abdominal surgery that involves creating a permanent adhesion between the stomach wall and the side of the body to prevent the stomach from twisting.

When the stomach twists this results in Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV) which is a life-threatening medical and surgical emergency.

A preventative gastropexy may be advised for deep-chested dogs or breeds that are predisposed to GDV to protect these dogs from the life-threatening aspect of this condition.

Dewclaw Removal

Some breeds of dogs can have extra “toes” on their hind limbs. Removal should be considered in dogs with dew claws that are very loose or “dangling” or dogs that are very active there is the potential that these toes will catch and be a hazard later in the dog’s life.

Removing Deciduous (Baby) Teeth

Some breeds (especially toy breed dogs) are predisposed to having retained baby teeth. Retained teeth can cause crowding, are a place for excessive tartar accumulation and can result in infection of the nearby adult tooth. It is advised that baby teeth are removed if they are still present at the time of neutering. If your pet still has their baby teeth by 8 months, they’re unlikely to fall out. Try to coordinate the removal of baby teeth for around the time of neutering to avoid an additional anaesthetic procedure.

Microchipping

Microchips are tiny computer chips, the size of a grain of rice which is inserted using a large needle (similar to a vaccination). If your dog is not microchipped by the time he/she is neutered they might appreciate not having to be awake for their microchip implant!

Each microchip carries a registration number that is associated with the owner’s name and contact information which is then stored on a national database. Microchips trace your dog to you in the unfortunate even of your dog being lost or stolen.

Nutrition 101

Guidelines for Feeding Your Puppy

- 1 Growing puppies should be fed puppy food. Puppy food is formulated to meet the specific nutrition needs a puppy needs for growth.
- 2 If you have a large breed dog, >40 pounds adult weight, it is advisable to find a large breed formulation. These diets are formulated to support slow and steady growth for your large breed puppy to support healthy development of their bones and joints.
- 3 For the first 6 months feed your puppy 3-4 small meals a day.

Feeding Your Adolescent & Adult Dog

- 1 Dogs that keep at their ideal weight from puppy hood through the senior life stages live an average of 15% longer.
- 2 After spaying and neutering is the most common time we see a spike in weight gain as this is when their energy requirements decrease. Begin feeding two meals a day and change to adult maintenance food. This is typically age 7 – 9 months for small dogs and 12 – 14 months for large breed dogs.

How much food should you feed your dog?

All dogs have different metabolisms and nutritional needs. The number one way to determine how much food your dog needs is by assessing your dog's body condition. If you can count your dog's ribs, it is probably time to increase your dog's portions. Equally, if you're feeding what the food bag advises but your dog has no waist and you can't feel his ribs no matter how hard you try, it is time to decrease his portions. Your dog is your best feeding guide. For ideal body condition your dog should have a waist, their ribs under gentle pressure and have a slight tuck of their belly when viewed from the side.

Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering



Waist easily noted when viewed from above

Abdomen tucked up when viewed from the side

Choosing the right diet for your pet

A high quality diet is a precise blend of ingredients to meet a specific nutrient profile based on a pet's life stage, lifestyle or disease condition. A quality diet contains a higher nutritional density, contains nutrients that are readily absorbed by the body and are easily digestible

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"Most pet owners base food decisions on ingredient lists, and we want them to understand the decision should be more focused on quality control, nutritional expertise, and other important factors surrounding the pet food manufacturer"

**JULIE CHURCHILL, DVM, PHD, DACVN AND
PET NUTRITION ALLIANCE PRESIDENT**

Nutrients and high quality ingredients are both important in a pet food. But nutrients are what your pet's body absorbs, not ingredients. The optimum food is made of quality ingredients selected for nutrients, quality and taste precisely formulated to deliver the correct amount of protein, fat, carbohydrates, fibre, vitamins and minerals to meet the pet's nutritional needs. A pet food is a sum of it's parts.

TIP

Research the company making your dog's food, and find out who has formulated the recipes. Make sure that a veterinary nutritionist is the one formulating all recipes, so you know your dog will be receiving an optimal diet.

Unfortunately, the pet food industry is not as regulated as we think. Few pet food companies actually have a licensed veterinary nutritionist on their team, which is likely the reason why we are now seeing the emergence of nutritional based illnesses such as Dilated Cardiomyopathy which is linked to grain free, raw and exotic protein diets.

Dog food is also formulated to provide all the necessary nutrients for your dog, which can be a challenge with home-made or raw diets. By investing in good a good quality diet, you will have more consistency in food quality, the appropriate nutrient profile for your pet's life stage and may even need to feed less food meet your dog's nutritional requirements.

Just like for humans, a good quality diet that suits one individual may not suit another. It may take a couple of trials before you find a diet that suits your puppy, be patient. Monitor the following factors to assess if a diet is appropriate for your dog.

- ✓ Stool quality & consistency
- ✓ Flatulence
- ✓ Vomiting

But my dog doesn't like their food.

Not every dog gobbles their food the second its placed in front of them (picky labs exist). If you're finding your dog loves their food for a few days but then begins walking away, be careful, this may be a well laid trap. It is not an uncommon occurrence for some dogs to sniff their kibble and then turn around to go ask for table scraps or wait until someone adds their favorite topping. Who wouldn't wait if they know their cereal could turn into a mountain of pancakes! I've seen a lot of owners resort to changing kibble every week, adding "toppings" or creating Gordon Ramsey style dog meals to get their dog to eat.

If you are noticing this pattern: dog liked the food, ate the food, food isn't causing any gastrointestinal problems but dog won't eat food; your dog may be a picky eater.

Try the following tips to avoid spending the next 10 years of your life cooking for your dog or storing a buffet of kibble in your kitchen.

- 1 Find a good quality diet that agrees with your dog's gastrointestinal system.
- 2 Offer the food to your dog.
- 3 If your dog does not eat the food within 5 minutes of it being offered, pick it back up and offer it again at the next meal time.

This routine increases the value of your dog's dinner. Now look who is training who?



For more information, we recommend the following trusted resources:

American College of Veterinary Nutrition: www.acvn.org

Pet Nutrition Alliance: www.petnutritionalliance.org

Petfoodology: www.petfoodology.org

World Small Animal Veterinary Association Global Nutrition Committee.

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