**New Puppy**

**When should my puppy be vaccinated?**

Ideally, they are given at about 6 to 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age, but the recommended vaccines and schedule of injections may vary depending on your puppy’s individual needs.

**Why does my puppy need more than one vaccination?**

A single vaccination, even if effective, is not likely to stimulate long-term immunity, which is critically important. The rabies vaccine is an exception to this; one injection given at the right time is enough to produce long-term immunity due to the lack of maternal antibody interference.

**How can I provide permanent identification for my dog?**

The most widely recommended pet identification device is the microchip. This tiny device is implanted with a needle. The microchip will contain important information about your dog and how to contact you. A special scanner can detect these chips; veterinary hospitals, humane societies, and animal shelters have these scanners.

**Do all puppies have worms?**

Intestinal parasites are common in puppies. Puppies can become infected with some types of intestinal worms before they are born or later through their mother's milk. Microscopic examination of a stool sample often reveals the presence of most intestinal parasites. This exam is recommended for all puppies, especially during their first few veterinary visits.

**What are heartworms?**

Heartworms are transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Heartworm preventives are dosed according to your dog's weight. As your dog’s weight increases, the dosage should also increase. They are very safe and effective when used as directed.

**Why should I have my dog spayed/neutered?**

Spaying is the surgical removal of the uterus and the ovaries and eliminates the dog's estrus (heat) cycles. In an intact dog, these heat periods result in about two to three weeks of vaginal bleeding and discharge approximately every six months. During this time, male dogs are attracted. It is well documented that intact female dogs have a significant risk of developing breast cancer and/or uterine infections.

Neutering is the surgical removal of the dog’s testicles. Intact male dogs tend to be more territorial towards other male dogs and are prone to developing prostatic disease and testosterone-induced tumors.