



The care and well-being of your pets, our patients, is our utmost concern.

Congratulations on your new puppy! We are so excited that you brought your new canine family member to visit Town and Country Animal Hospital. We are grateful that you trust us with your new puppy's care. We understand that your puppy's first visit is very important and full of questions. We have provided this puppy information packet to help answer your questions and offer you some suggestions and tips on raising a happy and healthy puppy. If you have any questions about this or any other information about your new family member please feel free to contact us.

VACCINATIONS

Between six and sixteen weeks of age your puppy will lose the disease protection it received from its mother, while beginning to build its own immune system. During this time it is vital to have your puppy vaccinated to ensure that your puppy be protected from many contagious diseases. We recommend that your puppy be vaccinated with the following vaccinations: Canine Distemper Virus, Canine Parvo Virus, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Canine Parainfluenza Virus, Bordetella, Rabies, and Leptospirosis (if your puppy is at risk.) Below is a brief description of each vaccination.

DHPP: (Distemper, Parvo, Hepatitis, & Parainfluenza)

This vaccine is given in a series starting at 6-9 weeks and repeated every 3-4 weeks until your puppy is approximately 16 weeks of age

- **Distemper**- highly infectious viral disease that attacks the lungs, brain, spinal cord, and gastrointestinal tract
- **Parvo**- highly infectious viral disease that attacks the lining of the intestinal tract, causing severe dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea, and can be fatal in young puppies
- **Hepatitis**- viral disease that affects both the liver and respiratory tract
- **Parainfluenza**- causes infectious tracheobronchitis

Bordetella: also known as "kennel cough", highly infectious cause of severe respiratory disease; vaccination usually given at 9 and 12 weeks of age

Rabies: an always fatal virus that attacks the nervous system; virus is transmitted by animal bites or through the saliva of an infected animal; vaccinations are started at 12 weeks of age, boosted at one year, and then every three years after that;

REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Leptospirosis: bacterial infection that causes kidney and liver damage; spread by urine contamination from infected animals such as raccoons, opossums, rats, foxes or other dogs; vaccination only given to puppies who share environments with the previously mentioned wildlife; vaccination usually given at 12 and 16 weeks of age

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Puppies are frequently born with or become infected with intestinal parasites (worms). Intestinal parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and/or blood in the stool. There are several types of intestinal parasites, several of which may be seen in your puppy's stool. At your puppy's first visit we will prescribe a general dewormer to eliminate some of the most

common intestinal parasites. Always practice good hand washing techniques after handling your puppy and your puppy's stool to prevent transmission of any intestinal parasites.

Tapeworms are not treated with a general dewormer and can be seen as little short worms in the stool. These worms can dry on the fur and look like little grains of rice. These worms are contracted from ingesting a flea that was carrying a tapeworm larva. If you see these worms in your puppy's stool please let us know so that we may prescribe your puppy some medication.

HEARTWORMS

Heartworms are actual worms that are transmitted by mosquitoes and take residence in a dog's heart. Heartworm disease causes serious and permanent damage to the heart that leads to heart failure and/or death. To prevent heartworm disease it is necessary that your puppy take heartworm prevention once a month. It is important that you give your puppy its heartworm prevention every month without fail to prevent infection. Testing will be performed annually to confirm that your puppy hasn't contracted heartworms.

FLEAS & TICKS

Fleas and ticks are a year round problem in this area. It is much easier to prevent these parasites than to treat them. We carry several different prescription products that are used to prevent fleas and ticks. It is imperative that you treat your puppy once a month to control these parasites. Please ask us to speak to you about the best product for your puppy.

SPAY/NEUTER

We strongly recommend any dog that is not intended for breeding be spayed (female)/neutered (male) at approximately six months of age. Female dogs that are spayed prior to their first heat cycle are 99% less likely to develop mammary (breast) cancer. Male dogs should be neutered to prevent prostate disease/cancer and testicular cancer. At six months of age it is also a good time for us to check for any retained baby teeth that may need to be removed while your puppy is in surgery.

DENTAL CARE

It is important to take good care of your puppy's teeth. Dental health is a combination of home care (brushing) and periodic dental cleanings at the clinic. Begin gradually training your puppy to allow you to brush his/her teeth with puppy toothbrushes, finger-brushes, or wash cloths. Dog toothpaste should only be used (human toothpaste is toxic to dogs). Your puppy's teeth should be brushed daily for optimum dental health. Make the experience enjoyable for your puppy with lots of praise and a few treats. Dental diets and treats can also be used to encourage good oral health.

MICROCHIP

We recommend that your puppy have some type of identification. We offer AVID® microchips that give your puppy a permanent identification that can be read at most veterinary clinics and shelters. They are placed under the skin with a simple injection and may be placed at any age.

DIET

What type

We recommend feeding your puppy a high quality dog food specifically formulated for puppies (look for food manufactured by major companies with "AAFCO" printed on the label). It is especially important that large breed puppies be fed a food specifically for large breed puppies. We recommend that you feed your puppy Hill's Science Diet®, which is available at

the clinic and comes in many varieties for all types of puppies. Do not feed your puppy any people food as this can cause vomiting and/or diarrhea, and some people food is toxic to dogs.

How often

Most young puppies should be offered food three times a day. Once your puppy has reached ten to twelve weeks of age feedings can be decreased to twice a day. Small breed puppies such as Chihuahuas and Yorkies should be allowed to have free choice of food through the day to help prevent blood sugar levels from becoming too low. Feedings can be decreased with small breed puppies as they gain weight and are able to better maintain their blood sugar levels.

Treats

It's very tempting to offer your new puppy lots of treats, especially when trying to train him/her. Be careful not to provide too many treats. They are usually very high in calories and can cause your puppy to gain excess weight.

Changing food

It is important to change your puppy's food gradually. Changing the food too quickly can cause your puppy to have vomiting and/or diarrhea. Slowly begin to add your puppy's new food in with his/her old food over a course of five to seven days.

TRAINING/DISCIPLINE

It is never too early to start training. Make training sessions fun with lots of praise and small treats for your puppy. Start with easy commands such as "sit" and gradually increase to more difficult commands. Puppies respond to positive reinforcement and punishment is usually not helpful. If you catch your puppy in the act of misbehaving, quickly correct them and always praise them for the right behavior. The key to housebreaking is to take your puppy frequently to the designated area and praise them for the correct behavior. Take your puppy out after waking up, extreme excitement, drinking water, eating, prolonged playing, or if your puppy begins to sniff around the house.

We recommend crate training for your puppy. This gives your puppy a safe place to stay when you're out of the house, but it also gives your puppy his/her own private space. Crates can also aid in housebreaking. We also suggest that you begin to play with your puppy's ears and paws. This will help acclimate your puppy to future exams, nail trimming, and grooming.

Expect that your new puppy is going to chew, and odds are your puppy will chew up at least one object at your home before he/she is grown. Provide plenty of toys for your puppy to chew and remove any object out of your puppy's range that you don't want him/her to have. Remember to remove any toys that become tattered, frayed, or worn.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7:30am-6:00pm
Wednesday 7:30am-12:00pm
Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm

Town and Country Animal Hospital
601-261-3839

www.tomricksdvm.net

COMMON TOXINS/POISONS

- ❑ Houseplants: Philodendron, Poinsettias, Mistletoe
- ❑ Medicines: **never** give any human medication without speaking to a veterinarian
- ❑ Automotive products: any liquid out of a car is poisonous
- ❑ Household products: read all packaging before using around house
- ❑ Insecticides: read all packaging before using around the house
- ❑ Rat Poison: keep all poisons out of reach of your puppy, if you suspect ingestion call the clinic or E-vets immediately
- ❑ Food: chocolate (all forms), onion, onion powder, raisins, grapes, salt , macadamia nuts, avocados, coffee, garlic, alcoholic beverages, xylitol (sugar free gum), raw yeast dough, moldy/spoiled foods, tea leaves

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Town and Country Animal Hospital is affiliated with **Emergency Vets**. If you have an after hours emergency you can reach the emergency veterinarian and/or technician at **601-450-3838**.

Information provided is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for veterinary care. Please contact Town and Country Animal Hospital at 601-261-3839 for more information. If your pet is sick, injured, or in need of medical attention, contact us or an emergency animal hospital immediately