



Cardinal Animal Hospital

www.cardinalanimalhosp.com

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PUPPY HEALTH PROTOCOL

Dogs can be a very important part of your family and it is our goal to keep them healthy, active and enable them to live long lives. This all begins as a puppy and our recommendations for a long and healthy life are as follows.

When the puppy is 6-8 weeks of age we begin with a thorough physical exam, microscopically check a stool sample for intestinal parasites, start on a vaccination program, and start on heartworm prevention.

The vaccinations are to protect the puppy from Parvo Virus, Distemper Virus and Canine Hepatitis are given every 3 weeks until the puppy is 16-18 weeks old. These boosters are very important due to the fact that the puppy's immune systems are immature and are unable to maintain a good level of protection until they are 16 weeks old. At 16 weeks of age a Rabies vaccine is given to protect them from this very serious disease which can also affect humans.

Intestinal parasites such as hookworms, whipworms, roundworms, tapeworms and coccidia can seriously affect your pets health and sometimes your childrens as well. Checking for these parasites and treating are a very important part of maintaining good health.

Heartworms are another serious parasite that are transmitted by mosquitos. They get into the blood stream and eventually end up in the heart where they can cause serious disease and even death. We prevent this by giving your puppy an oral tablet on each visit and having the owners continuing it at home on a monthly basis.

Another important part of keeping your new dog healthy is diet. Your new puppy requires the proper nutrition for growth and we recommend feeding a good quality puppy food until they reach 1 year of age. We feel that Science Diet Growth is unsurpassed as a diet for your puppy during this first year.

We also strongly urge you to spay and neuter your new puppy at 5-6 months of age. This not only prevents pregnancy but also lessens the chances of them developing mammary cancer, testicular cancer, prostatic disease and uterine infections.

We hope this information will be helpful. Our professionals here will continue striving to provide outstanding care for you and your pet. Thank you for your business and please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns. Cardinal Animal Hospital