

# Grimsby Animal Hospital

272 Main St. E.

Grimsby, ON

905-945-8631

Dr. Peters

Dr. Gough

Dr. Velianou

Dr. Oliver

## What to expect during your puppy's first year...

We recommend a full examination within the first few days of getting your new puppy to check for any health problems that could be present, such as heart murmurs, umbilical hernias, mal-aligned teeth, external parasites like mites and fleas, and ear mites/infections, and to receive your complimentary 30 day trial of pet insurance.

Vaccinations given prior to 8 weeks of age are temporary and often need to be boosted at 8 weeks.

- 8 weeks:** Complete physical examination and recommended fecal analysis. We will discuss nutrition, house training, the benefits of health insurance and outline your recommended pet's vaccination schedule. It is recommended that a fecal sample be checked at this visit and appropriate deworming medication dispensed. Today's vaccinations will help protect your puppy from Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvo viruses. (DHPP)
- 12 weeks:** Complete physical examination. This is a good time to address questions or concerns that may have come up over the past month, such as flea control, puppy training classes and Heartworm disease. Your puppy will receive his second DHPP vaccination at this visit, and will also receive his/her first vaccination for Leptospirosis. If you plan to have your dog spend any time in a boarding kennel in the upcoming year a Bordetella vaccination would be required to protect them against Kennel Cough.
- 16 weeks:** Complete physical examination. If your puppy was diagnosed with internal parasites at the first visit it is a good idea to have another fecal sample checked at this time to be sure the parasites are gone. Dental care is important in dogs and tooth brushing is more easily accepted by pets when started at young age. We will answer any questions you have concerning the benefits of spaying and neutering and permanent pet identification (microchipping). Your puppy will receive his third DHPPL and Rabies vaccination at this visit. If Bordetella was given at 12 weeks it may be boosted at this time.
- 6 months:** Spay/ neuter +/- permanent pet identification. While your puppy is under anesthetic this would be a good time to remove retained baby teeth if present, and repair umbilical hernias, etc. Some puppies can also be x-rayed at this time to ensure no hip dysplasia is developing. Smaller breeds of dogs are prone to having abnormally retained baby teeth, which should be removed at this time if they have not fallen out naturally by now. Dental radiographs of missing teeth may be recommended.
- Annually:** Complete physical examination. Annual fecal examination is also recommended. DHPPL and Rabies vaccinations are given as needed for each individual pet. Ongoing preventative health care (including dentistry, nutrition and flea control) will be discussed, as well as any questions or concerns you have.
- Every spring:** You will receive a reminder regarding heartworm prevention every spring. Heartworm preventive medication is recommended for the summer months as a minimum. Flea and tick control and prevention is also available. Many dogs are on heartworm and internal parasite medication monthly all year long.

This is only a general guide. A personalized program will be established for your puppy based on his/her age at the first visit. The vaccinations that we administer are for the viruses for which we feel protection is important based upon geographical prevalence and recommendations from the Ontario Veterinary College. Please read through the other information we've included in your 'puppy pack'.