Puppy Schedule

8 Weeks: **Complete Physical Exam**
1st Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus (DA2PP)
The benefits of proper nutrition, feeding schedule, pet health insurance and parasite control/treatment will be discussed. We will dispense deworming medication and start your puppy on a deworming schedule as outlined by Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

12 Weeks: **Physical Exam**
2nd DA2PP and Bordetella vaccination
Deworming medication will be dispensed and we will perform a Body Condition Score (BCS) and take a current weight. We will discuss dental care, grooming, and training requirements.

16 Weeks: **Physical Exam**
3rd DA2PP and Rabies vaccination
Based on your puppy's lifestyle, additional vaccines for Lyme disease or Leptospirosis may be recommended at this time (these vaccinations will require a booster at 3-4 weeks). Deworming medications will also be dispensed and a B.C.S & weight will be recorded. In addition, spay or neuter surgery, pre-anesthetic bloodwork, and identification options will be discussed.

6 Months: **Spay/Neuter Surgery with pre-anesthetic bloodwork done 7 days prior**
Tattoo and/or microchip can be done at the time of surgery. During the procedure we will be doing a complimentary dental exam and nail trim. We will also discuss post-operative home care and dietary recommendations. Deworming medication will be recommended as per adult dog protocol.

Annually: **One year from the date of the second vaccination, your dog will be due for an Annual Physical Examination.**
At each yearly visit our Veterinarians will gather information to determine which vaccines will be recommended based on your dog's lifestyle, health and risks.

Examination and discussion may include:
Strategic deworming program
Parasite/flea control
Heartworm prevention
Proper nutrition/dietary recommendations
Routine dental exam and dental care
Weight management

Canine Vaccinations

There are several thing that your veterinary team will cover during your puppy's appointment, including vaccination. Your veterinarian will design the best protocol for your pet depending on your geographic location, your travel plans and other key factors. Below is a list of common diseases for which vaccines have been created.

Disease Name	What does it affect?	How is it spread?	Symptoms
Bordetella (Kennel Cough)	• Respiratory System	• Air borne	Persistent coughing, sneezing or retching
Coronavirus	• Gastrointestinal tract	• Contact with infected blood, feces, or vomit	Occasional vomiting, fever and diarrhea
Canine Distemper	• Respiratory, gastrointestinal, nervous system • Viral Disease	• Air born • The main source of transmission is respiratory secretions	Coughing, sneezing, nose and eye discharge, fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, listlessness, and seizures
Infectious Canine Hepatitis (aka Adenovirus)	• Liver, kidney and cell lining blood vessels • Viral disease	• The spread is from inhalation or ingestion of infected feces, urine or saliva	High fever, thirst, inflammation of nose or mouth, diarrhea, abdominal pain and tenderness, vomiting, loss of appetite, hemorrhage and depression
Parvovirus	• Viral infection • Affects mostly gastrointestinal tract • Can lead to shock and death	• Contact with an infected dogs blood, vomit or feces	Sever bloody diarrhea, fever, vomiting, and loss of appetite
Parainfluenza	• Viral infection • Respiratory system	• Spreads quickly among dogs in close quarters	Dry hacking cough, loss of appetite, depression, and runny eyes and nose
Rabies	• Infection of the central nervous system • Always fatal	• Through the bite of an infected animal • Humans can be affected	Two phases: 1. Excitatory phase/furious rabies: restless, irritable, unprovoked biting, sensitivity to noise. 2. Paralytic phase/dumb phase: paralysis, cramps, swallowing difficulties

Parasites

Parasite Name	Where do the live?	How are they contracted?	Symptoms
Fleas	• They live on the body of the pet.	• Through contact with other animals and environments with flea infestations.	• Droppings or “flea dirt” in a pet's coat. • Flea eggs on pets or in pet’s environment. • Allergic dermatitis. • Excessive scratching, licking or biting at skin. • Hair loss. • Scabs and hot spots. • Tapeworms.
Roundworm	• They live in the intestines of the pet.	• Consuming infective worm eggs from soil in the environment (generally through normal grooming//self-licking). • Nursing from an infected mother dog. • Consuming a prey animal (usually rodent) that is carrying developing worms. • During embryonic development when an infected mother is pregnant (most puppies are infected this way).	• Weight loss • Coughing • Potbellied appearance • Visible worms in feces or vomit
Tapeworm	• They live in the intestines of the pet. • They also infect hums, normally children.	• Eating fleas and small rodents.	• Visible segments in feces and fur around anal area. • Bloated stomach • Increased appetite
Whipworm	• They live in the cecum (the part of the large intestine where the small and large intestine meet).	• Eggs and infected larvae live in the soil and infect pets through direct contact.	• Watery, bloody stool • Weight loss • Lethargy and debilitation
Hookworm	• They live in the digestive system of the pet and feed off their blood. • They also present a zoonotic risk to people.	• Eggs and infected larvae live in the soil and infect pets through direct contact or ingestion.	• Weight loss • Blood loss • Diarrhea
Heartworm	• They live in the heart and pulmonary arteries of an infected dog.	• Dogs acquire this infection through mosquito bites as mosquitoes readily pick up larval heartworms from infected dogs and carry them to new dogs.	• A soft, dry cough • Inactivity or lethargy • Weight loss or anorexia • Rapid or difficult breathing • Collapse

Spaying and Neutering

Anesthesia

Spaying and neutering are routine surgeries, but because they require an anesthetic there is a risk just like with any anesthetic procedure. We take every precaution that we can to minimize the risks while every patient is under anesthesia:

- We only use the safest gas anesthetic.
- We use pre-anesthetic and induction medications that minimize the amount of gas anesthetic needed, and provides circulatory support.
- We provide pain medication during surgery to lessen discomfort felt by the patient after surgery.
- Pet's heart rate and blood pressure are continuously monitored with a Doppler heart and blood pressure monitor.
- All pets are monitored by a skilled, trained, and experienced Animal Health Technician.

Pre-anesthetic blood work

Your pet looks healthy, and has been given a clean bill of health by the veterinarian. So why would we consider doing a blood test?

Even young animals can have underlying problems with their major organs that can't be detected by a physical exam. A blood test lets us know how the major organs (kidneys, heart, liver etc.) are working. Most young animals will not have a problem in their lab work, in this case it gives us a base line for what's "normal" for your pet in case there are future problems.

A small amount of pets do have problems that would lead us to change the types of anesthetic or pain control drugs used, or to postpone the surgery all together.

Intravenous Fluids

IV fluids are delivered through a catheter. They have many benefits, including:

- Supporting the kidneys. The kidneys excrete the anesthetic drugs, and IV fluids make it easier for the kidneys to filter them out. This helps your pet recover from anesthetic faster.
- Blood pressure. Anesthetics can lower an animal's blood pressure. IV fluids help keep blood pressure at a normal level.
- Hydration. Because pets are fasted before surgery they can become a little dehydrated. IV fluids help alleviate this.
- Quick access to a vein in case of an emergency. If an emergency does happen, every second counts. If an IV catheter has already been placed, we will have instant access to a vein to deliver emergency drugs.

WHY TAKE THE RISK?
GET YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED

Permanent Identification

Tattoos
British Columbia has a Province-wide tattoo identification program. Animals are tattooed in the right ear with a code specific to the veterinary hospital where the tattoo was done. If your pet is lost, and ends up at a shelter or another veterinary clinic, the staff there will be able to tell where your pet was tattooed. They will contact that clinic to get your contact information. Tattooing requires a general anesthetic, and is generally done at the same time that your pet is spayed or neutered. If you adopt an older pet that does not have a tattoo, veterinarians generally suggest that you have a tattoo done the first time your pet is given a general anesthetic (such as during a dental cleaning.)

Microchips
Microchips are another form of permanent identification. A small microchip is injected under the skin of your pet. A document is sent to the microchip company with your contact information, and information about your pet (such as name, breed, colour, medical information, etc.) The microchip can be read with a special scanner. Your pet will also receive a collar tag to wear that indicates that he or she has a microchip. If a clinic or shelter does not have a microchip scanner, they will be able to give the microchip company the number on your pet's tag in order to get in contact with you. Microchip implantation does not require an anesthetic, and can be implanted in a veterinarian's office.

Does my pet need permanent identification?
We recommend that all dogs and cats have a tattoo or microchip.
No one plans on their pet going missing. Having a tattoo or microchip greatly increases the chance that you and your pet will be reunited.
Very often we hear that a pet doesn't need a tattoo or microchip because he or she never goes outside. Very often, "indoor only" pets do go missing. These pets tend to panic, as they're not used to being outside and they become frightened. The can tend to bolt from anything that scares them; loud noises, cars, strangers, and other animals. Collars and tags are a good form of identification, but they can break off. This is why we recommend collars and/or tags as well as a permanent form (tattoo/microchip) of identification for ALL pets.

What about breeder tattoos?
Sometimes, purebred animals are tattooed by the breeder. Quite often, these tattoos are put in the groin. As the dog grows, the skin stretches and the tattoo may become unreadable. Also, on dogs with thick fur, the tattoo may not be visible under the fur.
If your dog has a tattoo from the breeder, it's important to make sure that your information is given to the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) after you purchase the dog.

Keeping your information up to date
Once your pet has a tattoo or microchip, it's important to ensure that the veterinary clinic that tattooed your pet and/or the microchip company has your updated contact information. If you move or change your phone number, remember to call your veterinary clinic to update your information.
If you have any questions about permanent identification, please feel free to give the clinic a call. One of our staff members will be pleased to assist you.

Feeding your Puppy

Feeding Guidelines & Recommendations for Monitoring Growth Rates in Puppies

1. Do not feed free choice.
2. Feed controlled portions 3-4 times per day until the puppy is at least 6 months of age. Thereafter, 2-3 meals a day are acceptable. Remove any uneaten food after 20-30 minutes
3. Weigh and monitor body condition every 1-2 weeks.
   Use a "walk on" scale for large puppies. Rapidly growing, large and giant breed puppies have a very steep growth curve; food requirements can change quickly in a short time.
4. Monitor body condition score (BCS). It is easiest if you can stand over the puppy and look for an obvious waistline behind the rib cage. With an ideal BCS, you should be able to feel the ribs but not see them and the waistline should be obvious. If too thin, the ribs and pelvic bones are seen and felt. If overweight, the waistline disappears and the ribs are harder to feel. If the puppy is beginning to put on too much weight or is growing too quickly, the daily amount of food will need to be reduced.
5. Feed in a quiet place. Some dogs eat too much or too quickly, especially in the presence of other pets or people.
6. Avoid feeding just prior to or just after exercise.
7. Feed healthy treats. Many treats on the market are very high in calories, fat and salt. Treats have to be taken into account when calculating how many calories the puppy needs daily, particularly for those pups that may be receiving lots of "rewards" at obedience class.
8. Avoid supplements of any kind. Good quality puppy food is balanced in vitamins and minerals - don’t upset the balance by adding calcium, raw meat, milk, bones etc.
9. Do not feed raw meat. Raw meat can contain a number of pathogenic bacteria and parasites that would be hazardous to your puppy’s health. A complete raw meat diet is not a balanced diet and would have a large number of nutrient deficiencies.
10. Do not feed bones. Bones damage teeth. Bones and bone fragments can become lodged almost anywhere in the gastrointestinal tract.

Why We Feel Confident In the Food Products We Provide

1. The foods we provide are made at their own production centers, no other brands of food are manufactured there.
2. They source their ingredients as locally as possible and have rigorous contracts with these sources to ensure consistent and quality supply.
3. The production centers have state of the art equipment which screens incoming ingredients for contamination and also assesses nutritional breakdown. If a truck-load of incoming ingredients does not pass the multiple tests, it is turned away.
4. Only slaughtered, human grade animals are used in their diets. There are NO “already dead” animals rendered and used for these diets.
5. These food production centers are spotless and meet rigorous health inspections. The employees are all pet owners themselves.
6. They do beneficial food trials with animals to research the nutritional and health benefits their food provides. They maintain their animals in “natural” settings or use their own pets and data from outside hospitals. They do NOT do invasive or terminal experiments.
7. Diet pricing does fluctuate as cost of the ingredients fluctuate. These companies refuse to source cheaper, lower quality ingredients or change their formulations to fool clients in order to keep their pricing low.
8. They strive towards international accreditation for environmental standards.
9. They guarantee all of their diets 100%. Not only for quality but for palatability as well.
10. They have technical support staff made up of veterinarians and veterinary specialists who can answer any questions and will review your pet’s medical cases to ensure they are getting the appropriate nutrition.