

Visit One: Puppy Health

Clermont Animal Hospital, Inc.



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Clermont Animal Hospital, Inc.

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Vaccinations for Your Puppy



Vaccinations are shots given to your pets that will protect them from getting diseases. Many of the vaccinations require one or more **booster vaccinations**, which are shots that renew the effectiveness of the original vaccine. It is very important to get the vaccinations and booster shots on schedule to keep your puppy healthy. The information below will describe what type of vaccinations your puppy needs and when he or she will need them.

When should my puppy be vaccinated?

Clermont Animal Hospital recommends that the first temporary vaccination be given when your puppy is five to six weeks old. This vaccine is repeated at eight weeks, and then booster vaccinations are given every three to four weeks until your puppy is five months old.

Most breeders or rescue organizations give at least one set of vaccinations while the puppy is in their care. For this reason, it is important to bring any records you received with your puppy so we can give your puppy the vaccinations at the appropriate time.

A typical vaccination protocol is provided below to give you a general guideline of the ages that your puppy will need vaccinations:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccination</u>
6 weeks	DHP-P (usually given by the breeder/rescue group)
8 weeks	DHP-P
12 weeks	DHLP-P and Corona and Bordatella
16 weeks	DHLP-P and Corona and Bordatella
20 weeks	DHLP-P and Rabies
Annual booster	Vaccinations

Please note that puppies vaccinated more frequently than every four weeks may receive an extra DHLP-P because the last booster must be given on or after 20 weeks.

Why does my puppy need multiple booster vaccinations?

Puppies have some natural immunity to any diseases to which the mother is immune. This immunity is passed to the puppies through the colostrum during the first 12-24 hours of nursing in the form of *maternal antibodies*. These maternal antibodies provide some natural protection against disease, but do not prevent it entirely. Unfortunately, these maternal antibodies also interfere with the ability of the body to respond to the vaccinations. This means that vaccinations given to young puppies (except Rabies vaccinations) only provide temporary immunity and must be repeated to ensure a long-lasting effect. In addition, most vaccinations (regardless of age) must be administered twice before they become fully protective. For this reason, puppies starting their vaccinations late must have both the vaccination and the booster vaccination to be protected. If your puppy is not receiving vaccinations at the recommended ages for any reason, be sure to talk with our doctors about a modified vaccination schedule for your pet.

Will the vaccines cause reactions or side effects?

Only a small percentage of vaccinated dogs have a reaction to the vaccine.

Common Reactions

- Low-grade fever

- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Loss of appetite (inappetance)

Most of the time these symptoms begin four to 12 hours after the vaccination is given and are gone within 24 to 72 hours. **If your dog is exhibiting signs for more than three days, it is important that you contact our hospital.**

Site Reactions

Another common reaction is a bump or swelling at the injection site, called a site reaction. **If you notice a vaccination site reaction, please bring it to the attention of our veterinarians.** Most of the time these bumps are not a medical concern. In rare cases, an infection may occur at the vaccination site, causing a small abscess (lump) to form.

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions to vaccinations are uncommon but can occur. **If your dog exhibits any of these signs of allergic reaction, please contact us immediately:**

- Swollen face
- Swollen eyes
- Hives or red skin
- Difficulty breathing (in extreme cases)

What diseases do vaccines prevent?

Below you will find a discussion of recommended vaccinations, the diseases they prevent and the ages at which they are given.

DHLP-P Vaccine: The DHLP-P vaccine will protect your dog against several common infections. It is first given when your puppy is five to six weeks old and repeated when your puppy is eight weeks old. It is then boosted every three to four weeks until your puppy is at least 20 weeks old. Booster vaccinations are then given yearly.

Clermont Animal Hospital uses a special “high-titer” version of this vaccination for all puppies under one year old. This provides an extra boost for your pet’s developing immune system and gives the best protection currently available.

DHLP-P Vaccine: The DHLP-P vaccine prevents a number of diseases including:

- The **distemper virus**, which causes neurological problems including seizures, respiratory problems and gastrointestinal problems. This virus is deadly in about 50 percent of the cases.
- **Viral hepatitis**, which is a deadly liver condition.
- **Leptospirosis**, which is a bacterial infection that causes severe, life-threatening liver and kidney failure. The leptospirosis component of the DHLP-P vaccination is known to cause allergic reactions. If your dog experiences an allergic reaction we will not give this component during future vaccinations (we will give a DHP-P instead of the DHLP-P).
- **Parainfluenza**, which is a canine disease very similar to human influenza.
- **Parvovirus**, also known as **parvo**, which is a life-threatening disease that causes bloody diarrhea, vomiting and immune suppression. Dobermans and Rottweilers are particularly sensitive to this disease. If you have a purebred or mixed breed dog of one of these breeds, it is very important not to miss or be late for any DHLP-P vaccinations in order to ensure that your dog remains protected against parvo.

Corona Vaccine: The corona vaccine protects your dog against the corona virus, a disease that causes signs very similar to parvo, including vomiting and bloody diarrhea. Corona usually affects young dogs under one year of age. Puppies can be infected with both corona and parvo at the same time. This results in a very severe disease that often ends in death.

The first corona vaccination is given when your puppy is at least 11 weeks old. It is boosted one time three to four weeks after the first vaccination. Dogs older than one year old are not routinely given the corona vaccination because they are considered to be at low risk for the disease.

Rabies Vaccine: The rabies vaccine protects your dog from rabies, which is a disease of the nervous system that is transmitted by a bite from an affected animal. Humans can get rabies.

The rabies vaccination is required by law for *all* dogs. Clermont Animal Hospital routinely gives the rabies vaccination with the last DHLPP vaccination at around 20 weeks of age. If your puppy has high exposure to wildlife or travels to areas where rabies is more common, we can give this vaccination as young as 12 weeks old.

The first vaccination must be boosted after one year. **In Ohio, your dog is required to get a rabies vaccination every three years after the first booster.** If your dog travels to a state where rabies is a greater concern, we may recommend yearly vaccination.

With each rabies vaccination, you will receive a certificate to keep as proof of vaccination. We can also provide a rabies tag free of charge that you can attach to your dog's collar. This tag has an identification number and our hospital's telephone number. We keep a database of all rabies identification numbers and owner information. If your pet should ever be lost while wearing this tag, anyone who finds your pet can report it to our hospital and we will help reunite you and your dog.

Bordatella Vaccine: The bordatella vaccination protects your dog from a disease known as kennel cough. While most cases of kennel cough can be treated easily with antibiotics, the disease can progress to a life-threatening pneumonia in a small percentage of cases. In addition, the cough associated with this disease can cause both the dog and the owner several sleepless nights before the antibiotics can control the infection.

The first bordatella vaccination should be given when your puppy is 12 weeks old, and booster vaccinations are recommended yearly for most dogs or every six months for dogs at high risk of exposure.

While the bordatella vaccination is an optional part of your dog's vaccination program, most boarding kennels, training facilities and some groomers require it. Kennel cough is highly contagious and the can be spread through the air, so it will benefit most dogs.

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Puppy Parasites

Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.

Intestinal Parasites

Intestinal parasites, such as round worms, hookworms, tapeworms and coccidia, are a very common problem in puppies. In fact, nearly all puppies are born with round worms. Round worms can be transmitted from the mother to the puppies while they are still in the uterus and can also be passed through the milk to nursing puppies.

Symptoms

Symptoms of intestinal parasites include vomiting and diarrhea, poor condition of fur, and in extreme cases, even death. However, some dogs with parasites do not show these symptoms. Just because you do not see the worms does not mean that they are not there. It is important to realize these worms live in the intestines, so you will NOT see them in the stool (excrement) of your dog unless they are dead

or dying.

Prevention and Diagnosis

Worming: We recommend routine worming for all puppies every two weeks until they are eight weeks old. Older puppies should be given a general de-wormer when they come in for their vaccinations every three to four weeks until they are at least four months old. Puppies with a lot of worms or with vomiting or diarrhea related to the worms may need to be wormed more frequently. A single worming is never enough to protect a puppy because these worms migrate through the liver and lungs, but can only be killed when they are in the intestines. It is also important to remember that giving your puppy a general de-wormer does not lessen the need for a fecal analysis. The fecal analysis will show us whether your puppy is actively shedding eggs or has other parasites not treated by the general de-wormer.

Fecal Analysis: In addition to giving your puppy a de-wormer at each visit, we recommend routine fecal examine at each visit. Please bring a small amount of stool with you when you bring your puppy for vaccinations. If you have several puppies from the same litter, only one stool sample is needed. It is best if the sample is less than 24 hours old.

The fecal analysis shows if there are intestinal parasite eggs or single-cell parasites called coccidia in your puppy's stool. This is important to know because some parasites can infect humans when the eggs are being shed in the stool. It is also important to know that your dog can re-infect himself or infect other dogs when eggs are being passed. Eggs can survive in your yard for long periods (in some cases, up to 5 years) if stools are not properly disposed of. For this reason, it is important to pick up all stools promptly and properly dispose of them, especially if your puppy has parasite eggs in the stool.

It is important to understand that just because your puppy's fecal analysis was negative (no worm eggs) at a previous visit, it does not mean that these parasites are not present. Due to their complex life cycle, worms may be present without shedding eggs. It is important to have at least three negative stool samples before we can assure you that your puppy is free of all parasites.

Adult Fecal Tests: At your last puppy vaccination visit, we recommend an "adult" fecal. This is because by the time your puppy is four months old, he or she can be infected with worms that are a problem for adult dogs. These worms are more difficult to detect and require a more sophisticated test to ensure accuracy. **We recommend that this test be run twice a year (spring and fall) for all adult dogs.**

Can intestinal parasites affect my family?

It is important for you to know if your puppy is currently shedding eggs in his or her stool so you can protect your family. Humans, particularly children, can be infected with round worms by ingesting the egg once it has developed in the environment for 24 hours. This is only a concern if there are eggs in your puppy's stool. Hook worms can hatch out of the egg and penetrate human skin. Prompt removal of all stool and proper hygiene can easily prevent any chance of infection.

If your puppy is actively shedding parasite eggs, it is very important to be as clean as possible in dealing with your puppy. **It is also very important to pick up ALL stools to prevent accidental infection of a family member or re-infection of your puppy.** If the stool is left in the yard, eggs can survive in for more than a year and can contaminate soil even after the stool has degraded.

Heartworms

Heartworms cause a deadly disease in dogs. Dogs living in Eastern Cincinnati and Clermont County are at higher risk than dogs in other parts of the Tri-state area.

How do dogs get heartworms?

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. When a mosquito bites a dog with heartworms, it picks up microfilaria (baby heartworms). The mosquito can then spread the disease by biting a healthy dog. The microfilaria travels through the blood vessels to the heart and lungs where they develop into adult heartworms. If untreated, the adult worms will eventually cause heart failure, killing your dog.

Prevention

While heartworm disease can be treated, treatment is both expensive and dangerous, with long periods of confinement required. In addition, there is often irreversible damage to the dog's heart and lungs that occur before the worms are even detected.

Fortunately, we have very effective medications to prevent this disease. **Year-round heartworm prevention is recommended.** Clermont Animal Hospital, Inc. currently recommends either Trifexis® or Interceptor® on a monthly basis for young puppy heartworm preventative.

Interceptor® is a monthly tablet that prevents future intestinal parasite infections, in addition to heartworms. **Trifexis®** has the same active ingredient as Interceptor® for heartworm and intestinal parasite control, but also has a component that provides excellent flea control. This is a chewable tablet that should be given with a full meal (vomiting may occur if given on an empty stomach).

Until your puppy reaches the adult weight range, we will sell you individual doses of the medications each month. This is because products are dosed by weight, and your puppy is still rapidly growing. When your puppy reaches his or her adult size, (usually around six months), we can sell you a six-pack of the appropriate dose size he or she will need.

Detection

Puppies under six months old do not need to be tested for heartworms before starting on a preventative. If your puppy is older than six months old and has not been on heartworm preventative, we need to do a blood test to make sure he or she is not already infected.

Clermont Animal Hospital, Inc. recommends this test yearly for all adult dogs. This is particularly important if you ever miss a month of preventative or if you are more than a week late in giving it to your dog. The FDA requires proof of annual heartworm testing prior to the purchase of any heartworm preventative. **Remember, heartworms kill dogs. Early detection is very important.**

Fleas and Ticks

Many dogs have a problem with fleas. If you notice just one or two fleas on your dog, chances are there are many more in your house and yard. Fleas spend less than 15 percent of their time on the animal. The rest of the time is spent in the surrounding environment. For this reason, for every flea you see, there may be six more hiding in your carpet or yard. In addition, fleas reproduce very quickly. A small number of adult fleas can generate hundreds of thousands of fleas within a few months.

Ticks are most common in mid-to-late spring and early summer, but can be a problem from early spring to late fall. Animals that run through tall grass, weeds, or wooded areas are at risk. Tick control is important because ticks can carry a number of diseases that can affect both your pet and your family.

Prevention

Because it is easier to prevent a flea or tick infestation rather than eliminate it once it occurs, we recommend using monthly flea preventative for all dogs. Currently we recommend **Simparica®** for routine monthly protection against fleas, ticks. There is currently no product that will provide adequate protection from both ticks and heartworms; however, if ticks are not a concern, we recommend **Trifexis®** to provide flea, heartworm, and intestinal parasite control. This prevention is for both dogs and cats. Our doctors and staff will be happy to help you choose a product that best fits your pet's needs.

Treatment

Clermont Animal Hospital offers a variety of products for flea and tick control. Because each situation is unique, our staff will work with you to suggest the product or combination of products that will most quickly and effectively eliminate your flea or tick problem. The products we carry are much more effective than anything you can buy from a pet store or grocery store. Most products you get from a pet or grocery store only treat fleas in the adult stage and have limited (if any) effectiveness against ticks. It is important to remember that only 5 percent of the fleas are in the adult stage, and immature fleas will survive and develop into adults even when these flea treatments are used. For every adult flea, there may be close to 100 immature fleas. Not all life stages can be killed,

so once your dog is infested with fleas; it may take several months or more to totally eliminate the problem.

Once fleas have been spotted, it is necessary to treat them aggressively for several months in a row to ensure that all immature fleas have been eliminated. Our staff can help you create a customized treatment plan for successful treatment of both your pet and the environment. Ask us for further information.

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Nutrition for Your Puppy

Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.



Choosing a Puppy Food

The first year of your puppy's life is a time of rapid growth and change. It is essential to feed a high quality puppy formula diet to ensure that he or she has all of the nutrients needed for strong bones, a healthy immune system, and overall health and well-being. In addition to ensuring your puppy's continued health, high quality foods are more digestible, resulting in fewer stools and fewer digestive upsets, both of key importance to housebreaking your puppy. While high quality foods tend to be more costly, the benefits are well worth the price, especially during the first year of life. If you have questions regarding the quality of the diet you have chosen for your puppy, please feel free to consult with one of our veterinarians or staff members.

It is best to avoid store-brand foods and generic labels. None of the major reputable pet food companies offer their formula through an off-label generic. These lower-cost foods often do not back up their nutritional claims with food-trial studies in dogs. While the nutrients may be included in the food as the label claims, there is no guarantee that they can be digested, absorbed, and available for use by your pet's body. In addition, they tend to use lower grade ingredients and a higher percentage of "fillers" in their products.

Feeding Your Puppy

Puppies under four months old should be fed three equal meals spaced throughout the day. Because puppies do not have a lot of fat stores or energy reserves, they need to eat frequently and on a regular basis. Feeding a puppy less than three meals a day can result in low blood sugar, a condition that can cause lethargy, shaking, tremoring, and (in severe cases) seizures and death. This is a particular problem in small breed puppies.

Puppies between four and six months can be fed two full meals with a third feeding as a snack.

Gradually decrease the amount of food offered as a snack from a full meal at four months to a few kibbles at six months. Puppies between six months and one year should be fed at least twice daily.

Once puppies reach twelve months they can be transitioned to an adult formula food. At this time, some dogs may also transition to one large meal a day with or without a second small snack.

Puppies under one year old may also feed free-choice (meaning that food is available at all times); however, there are disadvantages to this feeding method that make it less desirable. In multiple-dog households, free-choice feeding makes it difficult to prevent adults from eating the puppy food and visa versa. This method of feeding also makes dogs more prone to obesity problems as adults. While the majority of puppies will not eat to the point of obesity, it can create poor eating habits that are

difficult to break later on. Finally, free-choice feeding makes it difficult to monitor food intake, which can be important during times of illness or transition from one food to another.

Vitamin Supplementation

While high quality puppy foods theoretically provide complete nutrition, this assumes that your puppy is eating well at every feeding and that parasites and dietary indiscretion (eating things other than the normal food) are not preventing the normal absorption of these nutrients. To provide extra insurance that your puppy is meeting all nutritional needs, a daily vitamin is recommended.

Visorbites® are available through the Clermont Animal Hospital and are recommended for all medium and large breed puppies during their first year. Giant breed puppies should receive this supplement until they are 18 months old. For small and toy breeds, **Nutrical®** is the recommended daily vitamin. This supplement also provides extra calories and can be used three to five times a day in dogs that are not eating well to help maintain caloric intake and prevent low blood sugar.

Spaying or Neutering your Puppy

Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.



***Spaying** females prevents unwanted pregnancy and eliminates behavior changes that occur when your dog is in heat (having her period). Spays also prevent certain health problems such as some cancers and life-threatening uterine infections.*

***Neutering** male dogs prevents them from getting a female dog pregnant and may help to eliminate behavioral problems such as roaming and aggression. Neuters also prevent certain cancers.*

When should I get my puppy spayed or neutered?

Clermont Animal Hospital recommends that all dogs be spayed or neutered once all of the baby teeth have fallen out (around five to six months old), unless your dog is a purebred breeding animal. At this age, they are old enough to handle the effects of the anesthetic but have not reached sexual maturity.

Breast tumors are very common in dogs. By having your female dog spayed before the first heat cycle, her chance of developing this type of tumor is greatly reduced. By waiting for the baby teeth to fall out, we eliminate the possibility that a second anesthetic will be needed to remove retained baby teeth. If these teeth have not fallen out once all of the adult teeth are fully in place, they can be extracted easily and inexpensively at the time of the spay or neuter procedure.

Dogs can be spayed and neutered at any age, but once your dog is sexually mature, the procedure is more involved and often more costly. Dogs who are in heat or are pregnant have a higher risk of problems related to this surgery. Please be sure to discuss this with our veterinarians.

Are these procedures safe?

Spays and neuters are low-risk surgical procedures. In young, healthy animals, the risk of complications is minimal. Our experienced doctors take every precaution to ensure your pet's safety.

Our surgical suite offers the most up-to-date equipment to monitor your puppy while he or she is anesthetized, so your puppy will be in good hands at Clermont Animal Hospital. All patients are monitored with a heart/respiratory monitor so that any changes in heart rate or respiration are detected immediately. Other sophisticated monitoring equipment is also available should problems arise. We use water circulating heating pads during surgery to ensure that your puppy's core body temperature does not drop too low. The injectable and gas anesthetics we use are the safest available. This helps ensure that your pet has a quick recovery and allows us to do spays and neuters as outpatient procedures for most animals. This way your pet will not have to spend a night away from home.

Despite the latest in technology and all of the precautions we take to ensure safe anesthesia, every anesthetic procedure has a small risk associated with it. Most anesthetic complications occur when underlying liver, kidney or heart problems exist but cannot be detected on physical exam. While these complications are rare in young animals we recommend pre-surgical blood screenings to aid in detecting underlying problems before anesthesia. These tests also help us establish baseline blood values for your pet when he or she is young and healthy. These baselines are important for

interpretation of blood work later in life following accident or injury.

Will the surgery be painful?

Pain management is an important concern to our doctors and staff. We make the smallest incision possible to decrease the amount of post-operative soreness. We also routinely prescribe anti-inflammatory medications to provide pain relief for your puppy after he or she puppy goes home. Most experience minimal discomfort and recover quickly from routine spay and neuter procedures.

Common Puppy Health Problems

Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.



Diarrhea

What causes diarrhea?

Episodes of diarrhea are very common among puppies. Common causes include intestinal parasites, diet changes, dietary indiscretion (when your puppy eats something he shouldn't), and infectious diseases, such as parvo.

Is diarrhea serious?

The consistency of the stool can range from just slightly soft to very watery. **Any puppy with watery diarrhea should be examined as soon as possible.** If your puppy has watery diarrhea, dehydration (lack of water in the body) may be a concern, particularly if the diarrhea is accompanied by vomiting or decreased water intake.

In less severe cases, the puppy should be examined if any of the following apply:

- Your puppy is also vomiting.
- Your puppy is lethargic (lacking energy) or is not eating.
- Diarrhea lasts for more than 48 hours.
- Blood is in the stool or stool is black and tarry.

Vomiting

Is vomiting serious?

The same things that cause diarrhea can also cause vomiting. If your dog "spits up" his food shortly after eating but has no other signs, it is probably not a concern.

However, it is good to have your dog examined if he or she:

- Has more than three vomiting episodes in a 24-hour period
- Has vomiting episodes several days in a row
- Is vomiting even when his or her stomach is empty
- Vomits up blood
- Is known to have swallowed a non-food item

If you know your dog has swallowed a non-food item (part of a toy, garbage, a bone, etc.) and is vomiting, it is important to seek immediate attention. If a foreign object becomes lodged in your dog's intestines, it can create a deadly blockage.

Low Blood Sugar

Low blood sugar is when your puppy does not have enough sugar in his or her blood to function. It is a serious condition and could result in death.

What causes low blood sugar?

Low blood sugar is particularly a problem in very young puppies and toy/miniature breeds (any puppy weighing less than five pounds). Small puppies have very little extra energy reserve. If they go too long without eating, either from lack of appetite due to illness or from lack of food availability, they can develop low blood sugar.

What are the signs?

Signs of this condition include:

- Severe lethargy (having little energy)
- Weakness
- Tremors
- Seizures

What should I do if my puppy shows signs of low blood sugar?

This is an emergency situation, which can lead to death if not corrected. If you suspect low blood sugar in your puppy, immediately rub Nutrical[®], Karo[®] syrup, or honey on his or her gums and call us as soon as possible. Most cases of low blood sugar need to be treated with IV dextrose (sugar) fluids.

How do I prevent low blood sugar?

To prevent low blood sugar, feed your puppy three to five times a day until he or she is at least five pounds or five months old. We also recommend using Nutrical[®] regularly in toy breed puppies to prevent low blood sugar while providing vitamin and calorie support.

Upper Respiratory Infections

What signs should I look for?

Sneezing, coughing, runny nose and watery eyes are all signs of respiratory infections. Most of the time these are mild problems similar to colds in children, however, sometimes these signs can indicate a more serious problem such as kennel cough or pneumonia.

When should I schedule an appointment for examination?

- If your puppy stops eating or drinking or has a significant decrease in appetite.
- If there is thick yellow-green mucous discharge from the nose and/or eyes
- If there is a persistent, frequent cough.
- If there is a significant decrease in activity level (playing less, sleeping more)
- If your puppy seems febrile (belly is warm to the touch; rectal temperature >102.5)

What can I do at home for mild infections?

- Use a vaporizer or humidifier in the room where your puppy sleeps or plays
- Use Little Noses[®] Decongestant: 1 drop in each nostril twice a day for 3 days
- After three days of decongestant, switch to nasal saline (use as above) for 3 days

Accidental Poisoning

Puppies are very curious and may get into trouble by eating things that are poisonous. Rat poison, antifreeze, medications (including Tylenol and Advil), and chocolate are all common examples of toxic substances. It is important that you keep anything poisonous out of your puppy's reach.

What should I do if I think my puppy has eaten something poisonous?

If an accidental poisoning should occur or be suspected, emergency attention may be necessary.

- Don't wait. Call us immediately.** Puppies who have been poisoned have the best chances of surviving if they are treated within two hours of eating the poison.
- If possible, have the package of the toxic item available when you call for emergency attention.
- Do not try to induce vomiting or feed your puppy any thing until you have spoken with a

doctor.

Developing a Healthy Relationship with Your Puppy

Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.





Getting to Know Your Puppy

It is important for your puppy to feel comfortable in your home and to trust you and your family.

Below are some tips for you and your family to follow to help build good trusting relationships:

- ❑ NEVER cause your puppy pain as punishment (beating, kicking) no matter how mad you are! This will lead to an aggressive, fearful dog that does not trust you.
- ❑ Be sure to supervise all young children around the puppy so that they do not hurt the puppy.
- ❑ Make sure that all members of your family spend time with your new puppy and participate in all care and training. This way your puppy learns to love and respect all family members.
- ❑ Have friends and neighbors play with your puppy and offer treats and praise. This will help your puppy become comfortable around other people.
- ❑ Play with your puppy's ears, feet and mouth. It is important that your puppy learns to allow you to do this so that later on you can trim nails, brush teeth and administer medication. Be sure to make this fun with lots of praise, treats and play.
- ❑ Hold your puppy in various positions: on his back, high in the air, etc. This helps build trust.

Identification for Your Puppy

Despite your best efforts to keep your puppy in your home or yard, many dogs run away or are lost. In some cases, dogs may even be stolen. Providing proper identification for your puppy may help reunite you and your puppy should these ever occur.

Rabies Tags

The **rabies tag** we provide is one such form of identification. Each tag has a unique number that can be searched in our data base to help the person finding your puppy locate you. Unless you request otherwise, we will automatically provide any caller with your dog's correct description and rabies tag number with your basic information (name, phone number(s), and address).

Microchips

Rabies tags will not help if your puppy loses his or her collar, so we recommend that all puppies be **microchipped**. Microchipping provides a permanent form of identification. All area shelters and veterinary hospitals are equipped with scanners and can identify your dog in this way. We recommend that you have your dog microchipped at the same time that we spay or neuter your pet.

To place the microchip in your dog, we use a large needle to implant a small, sterile chip under the skin between your dog's shoulder blades. (This is a simple procedure that does not require sedation but does cause momentary discomfort in awake animals due to the large needle size used.) When a scanner is passed over the chip, it will read the unique identification number programmed into the chip. The system we use at Clermont Animal Hospital is called Home Again[®]. The American Kennel Club maintains a database on all dogs microchipped with this system.

Training Your Puppy

Clermont Animal Hospital Inc.



Training your puppy is another important step in building your relationship with him or her. Training teaches your puppy to follow your commands to do things you want, like to come, sit or stop doing something she shouldn't be doing. It is also important to house train your puppy so she won't make a mess in the house or other unacceptable places

Puppies need lots of repetition in order to learn new things. With young puppies in particular, it is important not to “schedule” a training time, but rather work training into all aspects of daily routine. For all new commands that you want to teach your puppy, it is important to choose a one-word voice command and a simple hand command. Remember to be consistent—make sure that all family members use the same command every time.

What commands should I teach my puppy?

The first commands your puppy should learn are “sit” and “no.” We suggest working with your puppy on these commands over the next month. At your next visit, we will give you more detailed information on training.

To teach your puppy to sit:

- Give the “sit” command—tell him to “sit.”
- Gently help your puppy into the sit position.
- You can also hold a treat at face level and then raise it upward about six inches. Most puppies will watch the treat and sit naturally.
- When your puppy sits after the command, give a treat and lots of praise. (Be sure to break all treats into tiny pieces so that your puppy doesn’t get a tummy ache from too many treats).
- Remember that repetition is the key. Practice with your puppy before going out on a walk, before meals, before playtime and every other chance you get.

To teach your puppy the “no” command:

- Give your puppy a sharp “NO!” whenever he or she is doing something bad. Tone of voice is very important. Use a deep, low voice and a firm tone.
- If your voice does not stop your puppy immediately, try shaking a can of pebbles or squirting him in the face with a spray bottle or water gun.
- Once you have your puppy’s attention, gently but firmly redirect your puppy’s energy and interest to something more appropriate.
- This command can be used for nipping, inappropriate chewing (also see the Chewing Handout), or when your puppy uses the bathroom in the wrong place.

House Training

House training is getting your puppy to use the bathroom outside or in a designated place. It is important to start house training your puppy as soon as possible. Until your puppy is house trained, it is important to watch your puppy closely at all times. Below are some tips for house training your puppy.

Preventing a mess

- If you see your puppy sniffing around, squatting or moving like he or she is going to go to the bathroom or in the act of going to the bathroom, make a loud sharp noise to distract your puppy. Then take your puppy outside immediately.
- Remember to be firm but not harsh. Never use harsh physical correction—this will only cause your puppy to fear you.
- Rewarding good behavior is much more effective than punishing bad behavior. When your puppy potties outside, be sure to give plenty of immediate praise and/or a treat.

Finding a mess after the fact

- If you come into a room to find a mess on your floor, do not reprimand your puppy. Puppies do not associate correction after the fact in this case.
- If you find a mess, just clean it up while the puppy is out of sight. Then watch your puppy more carefully to catch him or her in the act.

Crate training

- If you cannot be with your puppy all of the time, crate training is an excellent method of housebreaking your dog (see Crate Training handout).
- If you are crate training, remember that your dog will still need to get outside frequently (young

puppies every 2-4 hours, older puppies every 4-8 hours).

Taking your puppy outside

- It is a good idea to take your puppy outside on a regular schedule. This helps prevent messes in the house and gets your dog used to going at times that are convenient for you to walk him or let him outside.
- You can also train your puppy to always use the bathroom in one corner of the yard by always taking him or her to the same spot. Be sure to stay in this spot until he is finished, but discourage play during this time.
- Leash walk your puppy until she has completed her business. Do not allow her to play and explore at this time. Once she has finished (and you have praised her), allow her to run, play, explore and have fun for at least 5-15 minutes. This encourages her to be prompt about her bathroom habits and rewards her for a “job well done.”
- Both eating and exercise will cause your dog to have to use the bathroom. For this reason, it is important to walk your dog 15-20 minutes after feeding or play sessions. Feeding your dog in “meals” rather than making food available all the time may help you better predict when your dog will need to go out.

Preventing mid-night runs

- If you are having trouble with your puppy getting you up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, try feeding her dinner earlier in the evening.
- Restrict water access during the night and up to 2 hours before bedtime as long as the dog is not overactive or sick.
- Take up all food 3 hours before bedtime.
- Higher quality dog foods are more digestible and result in smaller fecal quantities. This may make training easier.

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