



New Puppy Information Packet

Congratulations! You are about to embark on a fun and rewarding journey of raising a puppy! Whether you are experienced with dogs or a first-time dog owner, this packet will supply you with the most current information and advice about how to raise your new friend. If you have any questions during or after your visit, please feel free to ask one of our doctors or nurses. We are here to help!



Vaccines

Vaccines are a very important part of your dog's preventative healthcare plan. Especially in puppies, they are essential in preventing potential fatal diseases. We at Sangaree Animal Hospital use the most recent research and AAHA Guidelines to individually tailor your dog's vaccination schedule according to his or her risks. Some dogs need more vaccines than others because they engage in "risky" canine behavior.

core vaccines

The CORE Vaccines: Canine Distemper, Parvo, Rabies
CORE vaccines protect against diseases so devastating and so common. We believe every dog should be protected against all three of these diseases- distemper, parvo, and rabies. If not vaccinated, these diseases may cause major illness, if not death, in infected dogs.

Canine distemper virus is not that common in SC, but it can cause gastrointestinal signs, severe respiratory disease, and/or neurologic signs, such as seizures. It can be fatal in all 3 disease forms. There is no cure; we just try to treat the symptoms.

Canine parvovirus causes wretched, unrelenting vomiting and literally gut-sloughing bloody diarrhea. It also suppresses the immune system often leading to sepsis and death. Untreated puppies almost certainly die. Even with aggressive and expensive treatment, about 25% of puppies die. There is no cure, we simply treat the symptoms and try to prevent secondary infections.

Distemper and parvo vaccines are given in a combination shot starting at 6-8 weeks of age and then every 3 weeks until the puppy is 18+ weeks of age. A booster is given a year later, and then the vaccine is given once every 3 years in adult dogs. It is of the utmost importance to follow the vaccination schedule in puppies because any missed vaccines can put your pup at risk.

non-core vaccines

The NON-CORE vaccines: Not for every dog, non-core vaccines are based on lifestyle. At every annual well visit exam, we discuss your dog's lifestyle and choose the best vaccine protocols for your family member. We recommend that all puppies are vaccinated for Bordetella (kennel cough), then as needed.

Bordetella, Adenovirus Type 2, and Parainfluenza: There are over 12 different causes of kennel cough in dogs, and we have vaccines which protect against the 3 most common and severe cases. Although it is possible for vaccinated dogs to get kennel cough, the symptoms are usually milder in dogs that are vaccinated. Our vaccine is injectable and is given once yearly. Any dog that is exposed to other dogs, such as at kennels and dog parks, is at risk.

Leptospirosis is not a common infection in this area, but it can cause liver and kidney failure. Dogs who are exposed to natural standing water, such as ponds and puddles, are at risk. The initial series is given with the last 2 puppy visits, then once yearly.

A lapse in non-core vaccines greater than 2 years requires an initial and booster vaccine 3-4 weeks later.

RABIES: By SC law, the rabies vaccine must be given after 12 weeks of age. A booster is given one year later, then every 3 years so long as your dog's vaccine is still current. If a dog has no proof of previous vaccination, we are required to give a one year vaccine no matter how old the dog is. There are serious legal consequences for dogs that are not current on their rabies vaccine if they bite someone or if the dog gets bitten by another animal. So don't take that risk. Keep your dog vaccinated.



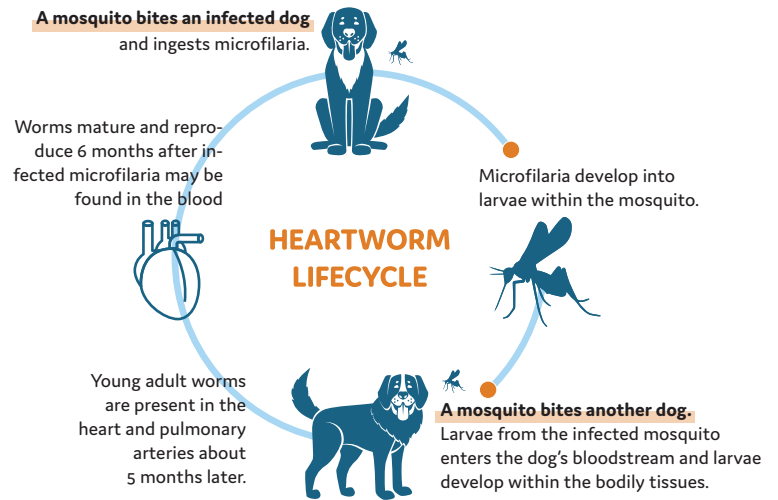
Heartworm Prevention

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition that affects dogs, cats and up to 30 other species of animals. It is caused by parasitic worms (heartworms) living in the major blood vessels of the lungs and often within the right side of the heart. Although heartworms begin as microscopic forms called larvae, the adults can grow to a length of 10 to 12 inches.

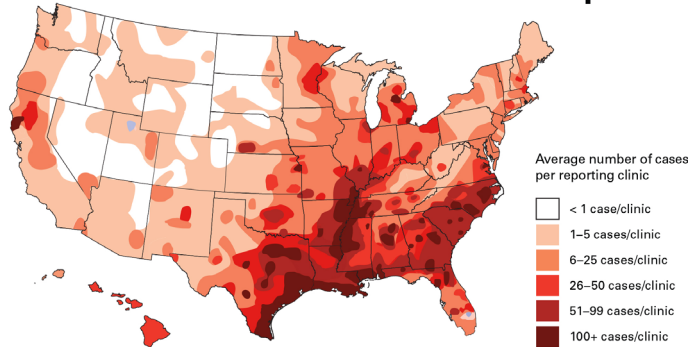
In dogs, heartworms can cause a variety of medical problems, including lung, heart, liver, and kidney damage. Any of these problems, alone or in combination, can lead to death. Treatment to kill the worms is available, but it is more expensive than prevention and not without risk for your pet. Despite the fact that heartworm disease is virtually 100% preventable, many dogs and cats are still diagnosed with this disease each year!

WHO'S AT RISK?

Dogs and cats of any age or breed can be infected, and heartworm disease has been found in all 50 states. The state of South Carolina is ranked in the top 10 for states with highest heartworm disease. Pets become infected with heartworms (known scientifically as *Dirofilaria immitis*) when they are bitten by an infected mosquito. Dogs are particularly vulnerable to heartworm infection. And, as we well know, mosquitoes are a real problem in SC. Even if your pet only goes outside to potty or walk to the car for a ride, they are still at risk!



U.S.A. Heartworm Incidence Map



© American Heartworm Society

PREVENTING HEARTWORM DISEASE

Prevention is much safer (and less expensive) for your pet than treatment, and it is simple to do. If your new puppy is older than 7 months of age, the veterinarian will likely want to test for heartworm disease prior to starting a new preventative. All dogs should be tested yearly from thereon as part of normal preventative care. At Sangaree Animal Hospital, we recommend several different products to protect your puppy. Please make sure to discuss which may be best for your puppy's lifestyle with our doctors and nurses.



Flea & Tick Prevention

Fortunately, today we have very effective flea and tick preventatives that have a wide margin of safety and are easy to administer. **According to your dog's lifestyle, we recommend the use of monthly oral preventatives such as Simparica, Nexgard and Revolution.**

Flea collars, with the exception of Seresto collars (which also prevent ticks), sprays, baths and flea-bombs are generally ineffective and employ harsh chemicals that are irritating and even toxic to your dog.

Preventative tick collars, such as Seresto collars, however, can be used to repel and have a wider margin of safety.

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Many puppies are born with intestinal parasites from an infected mother (in-utero), via milk, or feces ingestion. The only way to diagnose them is by microscopic examination of your dog's feces for the eggs shed by the adult worms. In very large infestations, some adult worms can be observed in your dog's bowel movements, or after he vomits. Dewormers can be given orally but we first need to diagnose which parasites your puppy has. We recommend having your puppy's feces checked at each puppy booster appointment and yearly thereafter.



Spaying & Neutering

The old adage that "if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem" is particularly applicable to unwanted pregnancy in dogs-- and that includes purebred dogs!

Spay Your Female Dogs

Aside from the very real pet overpopulation problem, there are some valid health reasons for spaying female dogs. Spaying your dog will not change her personality, and there is no benefit to letting a dog "have just one litter." In fact, it just leads to more overpopulation when those puppies have litters of their own. Additionally, it is a myth that spaying your dog will cause her to gain weight. There are numerous benefits to spaying your dog including:

Eliminates Chances of Pyometritis. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus that is fatal if emergency surgery is not performed immediately. This is a life-threatening condition and creates a great financial expense to the owner.

Decreased Risk of Mammary Cancer. Ideally, to give a female dog protection against mammary cancer, she should be spayed prior to her first heat. In many large breed dogs, we also worry about the risk of early onset arthritis associated with developmental disruption. Each case is unique, but we often recommend waiting until after the first heat cycle in these cases. Each subsequent heat brings a greater chance of mammary cancer at a later time.

Eliminates Risk of Ovarian or Uterine Cancer. Spaying a dog involves the removal of the uterus and ovaries. No organs; no cancer; simple as that.

Did You Know?

If a female dog remains unneutered and allowed to reproduce unchecked, their offspring will multiply quickly!

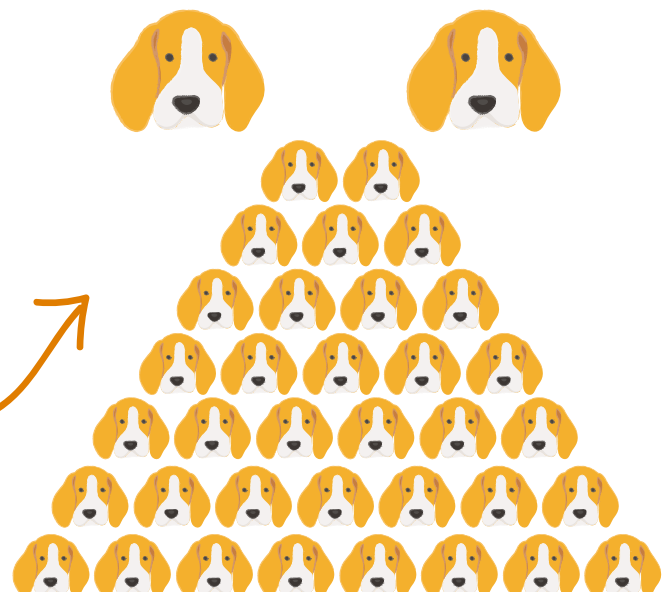
1 YEAR: 16
2 YEARS: 128
3 YEARS: 512
4 YEARS: 12,288
6 YEARS: 67,000

Neuter Your Male Dogs

This is the most proactive step. Neutering is a relatively simple surgery with a quick recovery period. Besides preventing unwanted pregnancies, neutering a male will help mitigate certain problem behaviors found in unneutered males, and in addition, it will help prevent certain medical conditions. Neutering will not take away his personality or "manhood." The only thing he will miss is fighting and running away from home!

- Neutered dogs are less likely to mark their territory by urinating.
- Neutered dogs are easier to obedience train and are better family pets.
- Neutered dogs will be less likely to try to escape/run away.
- Neutered dogs will be less likely to get attacked by other dogs.
- Neutered dogs will not be subject to testicular cancer.
- Neutered dogs will have decreased risk of prostate cancer.

Basically there are many good reasons to neuter male dogs. He will be a much more pleasant companion, and will ultimately be happier and healthier.





Feeding Your New Puppy

Typically, tiny puppies (those under 12 weeks of age) should eat three to four times a day. Once a puppy is 3 months old, he can generally make the switch to eating two to three times a day. The frequency of feedings, however, will depend on the puppy's breed, size and individual needs. This frequency should continue until the puppy has reached adulthood



Growing puppies require significantly more food for their size than adult dogs. The feeding guidelines listed on your pet food bag are a good place to start, but you should monitor how well those amounts seem to be meeting your puppy's needs. A puppy that is leaving food in the bowl at mealtimes or becoming too pudgy may be eating too much; a puppy that seems lethargic or excessively thin may not be getting enough.



It is also important to set a regular schedule for feeding your puppy. A good schedule helps prevent stomach upsets and supports house-training of your young pup.



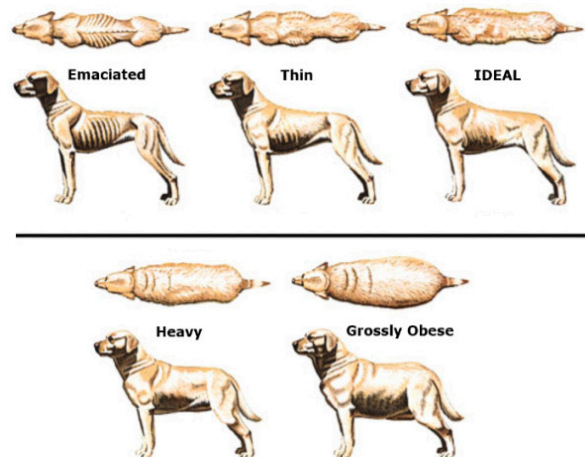
Use treats only as a tool for training and never feed from the dinner table. This will become a learned behavior to beg for food. Overfeeding treats or table food can lead to a lifelong struggle with obesity, predisposing to conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, pancreatitis, and more.



For optimal health, it's best for all dogs (puppies and adults) to be a little on the lean side. That doesn't mean your pet should be abnormally skinny. It means you should be able to feel (but not see) ribs when you run your hands down your pet's sides. Your puppy should also have a definite "waist" when viewed from above. If you have any concerns about your puppy's growth rate, condition, or eating habits, schedule a weight check.

Healthy Puppy Weight Guide

- ✓ Ribs cannot be seen
- ✓ Ribs can be felt
- ✓ Puppy has a waist
- ✓ Puppy has a tuck



Microchipping

Even the most experienced and diligent pet owner is at risk for losing their dog. While collars and tags are important and certainly beneficial when worn by your pet, they are subject to breaking, fading, becoming scratched, and even falling off. If this occurs, there is no way to determine to whom your puppy belongs. Microchipping is a permanent means of identification, and the best possible way of bringing your lost or stolen best friend back to you.

A microchip is a rice-grain sized electronic chip enclosed in a glass case that is injected under the skin of your dog using a hypodermic needle. If your puppy is ever lost and brought to a veterinary hospital or shelter, one of the first procedures performed is to scan for a microchip. Though no one wants to suffer the heartbreak of losing a pet, microchipping helps create a happy reunion.



Insurance

Pet insurance is becoming more popular in the United States. In European countries, it is already well established. Pet insurance can help with unexpected costs associated with illness or accident. If interested in insurance, it is best to go ahead and start when your pup is young. There are quite a few insurance companies. We have attached a chart comparing some of the more popular companies: ASPCA, Embrace, Figo, Nationwide, Petplan, Pets Best, Trupanion.



Dental Care

We clean our teeth twice a day (imagine what our mouths would be like if we didn't), and dogs are no exception. It's important to develop a dental care regime at an early age to get your puppy used to it. The gold standard of care is daily brushing with doggy toothpaste. If you're not sure you'll be able to keep up with this, we recommend using dental chews, such as Veggie-dent treats. Unfortunately, all dental treats are not created equally. Certain products are much more effective than others, which is why it is important to ask your veterinarian what will be best for your puppy.



Prevent Accidental Poisons

Have you taken inventory of your medicine cabinets lately? Are you properly storing lawn and garden pesticide containers? When you tidy up around the house, do you put food, liquor, and tobacco products safely out of harm's way? These precautions are second nature to households with children, but homes with animals must be just as secure.

Many foods that are good for us, are toxic to our furry friends:

Foods



Avocado



Garlic



Grapes/Rasins



Onions



Eggplant



Macadamia nuts



Chocolate



Tobacco

Plants

- Bird of Paradise
- Buttercup
- Elephant's Ear
- Holly Berries
- Tomatoes (leaves & stem)
- Marijuana (cannabis)
- Sago Palm
- Azaelea
- Hydrangea
- Mistletoe Berries
- Lily of the Valley
- Most Lilies

For a complete list, visit [ASPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control](https://www.aspcapetcare.com/pet-care/animal-poison-control)