



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CANINE COMPANION



Fort Street Veterinarian



MTWF: 7:00am - 5:30pm
 TH: 7:00am - 8:00pm
 SAT: 8:00am - 12:00pm

(402) 884-3383

www.fortstreetvet.com

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THE FIRST 3 YEARS

All of us at Fort Street Veterinarian are here to help ensure that you and your pet can share as many happy years together as possible.

On our website we have information and resources we hope you find helpful in caring for your pet. . . some of that info we've included in this pamphlet.

PUPPY WELLNESS THE FIRST YEAR

PUPPY EXAMS & VACCINATIONS: At the first exam you, your pet and your vet begin to form the relationship that will last for your dog's lifetime. We will answer any questions you may have and help you begin to better understand the wonderful new friend who has entered your life.

- **We will assess your pup for:**
 - Overall wellness
 - Congenital defects
 - Intestinal parasites
 - Any breed-specific issues
- **We'll also talk about ways you can keep your pet healthy** as he or she grows such as:
 - Microchipping your pet
 - Spay or neutering
 - Heartworm, flea & tick prevention
- **To welcome you and your puppy,** we'll present you with a Welcome Packet and free 30 days of insurance offered by Trupanion.
- **Vaccinations will be given** to prevent:
 - Canine Distemper Virus
 - Canine Infectious Hepatitis
 - Parvovirus
 - Bordetella
 - Parainfluenza
 - Leptospirosis
 - Rabies



PUPPY VACCINATION SCHEDULE

The following is a general schedule for vaccinations but may vary based on your pup's age at time of initial exam.

6-8 WEEKS

FIRST VACCINATION
 and puppy wellness exam given.
 Free Welcome Puppy Packet presented.

11 WEEKS

SECOND VACCINATION
 and weight checked. You'll be asked to bring your pet's fresh stool sample to this appointment so we can test for parasites.

14 WEEKS

THIRD VACCINATION
 given and weight checked.

17 WEEKS

FINAL PUPPY VACCINATION
 given including Rabies vaccination. Your pet's stool sample will be requested again for parasite testing. Plus, you'll be encouraged to obtain a supply of medications to prevent Heartworm and Fleas & Ticks.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.fortstreetvet.com

*humansociety.org: USA Today, May 2013 article. 2013 State of Pet Health Report

PUPPY DIET:

- **Feed your puppy a quality, nutritionally balanced dog food.** If you do, your puppy should not need any additional supplements. We can suggest food brands you can trust as well as a feeding schedule.
- **Dry foods are generally recommended** and while you can generally follow instructions on the package, we can discuss with you how much to feed.
- **If you decide to give your puppy a new food,** introduce the new diet gradually over 1-2 weeks. Too rapid a change can trigger vomiting and diarrhea, which can be dangerous at this stage.
- **Do not give your puppy “human food”** since it can be hard on the puppy’s stomach and discourage him/her from eating dog food.

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION:

Between 4-12 weeks of age, a puppy will usually accept new experiences and therefore won’t be fearful of them later in life. During this stage...

- Allow your puppy to meet other people and other dogs (*as long as they’re fully vaccinated, healthy and socialized*).
- Expose your puppy to different sounds, lights and places around your home.
- Help your puppy get used to being handled. Gently look into your pup’s eyes, ears and mouth. Feel his or her legs, feet, toes and tail. This will encourage bonding and help your puppy be more relaxed at the vet and groomer.
- Leave your puppy alone for short periods of time, gradually building to longer periods. This can help to prevent separation anxiety later in life.

PUPPY TRAINING:

You are now your puppy’s teacher and “pack leader.” How well your pup adjusts to life with you and your family can depend on consistent, patient training.



- **Be consistent** to avoid confusing your puppy.
- **Train for short spells;** puppies have short attention spans.
- **Be cheerful.** Puppies respond better to cheerful voices.
- **Gently play** with your pup to encourage bonding.
- **Be patient and understanding!**
- And finally, **consider professional training classes.**
- **Toilet training:**
 - Puppies usually need to urinate every 1-2 hours initially so **take your pup into the yard regularly,** especially after they wake or eat.
 - **Repetition and consistency** are important; set an alarm or reminder to help your pup stay on schedule.
 - **Reward your puppy** with a treat immediately as soon as he or she is successful.
 - **Keep your puppy with you** at all times during training. If not possible, consider crating your puppy or confining him or her to a puppy-safe place.
 - **Don’t punish your little one for accidents.** He or she won’t understand and will only learn to fear you. In fact, punishment can cause your puppy to have more accidents.

- **Collars and Leads/Leashes:**
 - As soon as you bring your puppy home, begin to **introduce a collar and lead/leash.**
 - First, put the collar on, give a treat, then take the collar off. Repeat regularly to help the puppy associate the collar with good things.
 - Next, attach the lead to the collar and let the puppy drag it around for a while. Never leave puppy unattended with the lead attached.
 - Eventually, pick up the lead without applying any tension.
 - Finally, take your puppy out for a walk with collar and lead.

PUPPY DENTAL:

- Most puppies begin losing their baby teeth between 4 -6 months of age with the front incisors first to go.
- As puppies lose their teeth and new teeth come in, they can feel poorly and usually want to chew anything handy.
- To keep your puppy from chewing not only the wrong things (*your shoes*) but also dangerous ones (*lamp cords*), give your pup plenty of safe, nontoxic chew toys.
- Now is a good time to introduce your puppy to dental care and tooth brushing. If you start early, your dog will learn to accept this for life. Having good teeth for as long as possible can have a big impact on your dog’s quality of life. **Remember, only use dental products made for dogs, never toothpaste for humans, etc.**
- By 7 months of age, most dogs have 42 adult teeth. If your dog has less—or more—he or she probably has retained puppy teeth and these should be removed. The good news is we can do that easily during a spay or neuter procedure.

PUPPY SPAY & NEUTERING:

- Dogs should be spayed or neutered between 5-9 months of age. Spayed female dogs live 23% longer than un-spayed females. Neutered male dogs live 18% longer than intact males.*
- Older pets can be spayed or neutered but there’s a slightly higher risk of post-op complications, as well as some behavioral and health issues.
- While other Omaha pet clinics offer similar spay services, what sets us apart is the level of care we provide your pet at time of surgery. Just ask for our pamphlet.



JUNIOR EXAMS & VACCINATIONS:

- Annual exams at this stage are important because they help with early detection. While most dogs are very healthy during their junior and adult years, it’s important not to ignore subtle signs in their health because young dogs can develop serious diseases.
- Vaccine boosters and fecal tests are essential. **Your pet must have up-to-date vaccinations in order to be licensed, which is required by law.**
- Routine blood work also helps to identify the presence of underlying disease that may not be evident on physical exam, and creates a baseline should your pet become ill in the future.

JUNIOR DIET:

Did you know...

- **How much a dog weighs is one of the most influential factors in how long a pet will live and the quality of his or her life.**
- Dogs carrying extra weight are at greater risk for kidney disease, many cancers, heart disease, diabetes and crippling arthritis.
- Over 50% of the pets in this country are overweight according to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention.

During exams we will continue to monitor your pet’s weight and...

- Recommend the right food and quantities for your pet.
- Discuss healthy ways you can reward your pet.
- Suggest activities so your pet gets at least 30 minutes of physical exercise a day.

JUNIOR DENTAL:

- If you have not yet introduced your pet to tooth brushing and dental hygiene, do so at this stage.
- Find a dog toothpaste your pooch likes and get him or her used to daily brushings.
- By doing so, you not only **help to prevent the loss of teeth later in your pet’s life but also serious illnesses** than can result from tooth decay and gum disease.

Did you KNOW?

NOT ALL DOGS AGE AT THE SAME PACE. Small dogs usually reach adulthood by the end of the first year and typically live longer than bigger breeds. Large dogs often don’t reach maturity until 18 – 24 months of age.

Plus, personality plays a role in how quickly a pet will mature.

Your pet’s welfare and your peace of mind are important to us. Never hesitate to ask any questions you may have at any time either during or after an appointment.

Contact: 402-884-3383 or staff@fortstreetvet.com.