

Comprehensive Wellness Program for Puppies

Step 1. Physical Examination (During your puppy's examination we will do the following):

- Check ears, eyes, teeth and body condition
- Listen to heart and lungs
- Carefully feel the abdomen for any abnormalities
- Look for external parasites such as lice, ear mites, fleas or ticks
- Examine bones and joints for any signs of problems
- Ensure that your puppy is eating properly

Step 2. Protect Your Puppy From Parasites

An internal and external parasite examination is necessary to determine if your puppy has any of these parasites. In most cases, we will administer dewormer to young puppies even if their fecal floatation is negative. We do this because most puppies acquire worms from their mother. Since the parasites shed eggs intermittently we may have a negative sample but an infested pet. In addition, several products are available to help prevent infestation of many parasites. We will help you choose the best product for your puppy.

Some parasites of concern include:

- Ear mites, fleas, ticks, lice
- Demodectic or sarcoptic mites
- Heartworms transmitted by the mosquito
- Roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, coccidia, and giardia

Step 3. Vaccinate To Guard Against Disease

The following vaccines are available at Wellington Veterinary Clinic. We recommend specific vaccines based upon your pet's lifestyle and potential exposure to these diseases.

- **Rabies**- This viral disease is always fatal and can be transmitted to humans. It is required by law.
- **Distemper**- This air-borne viral disease can affect dogs of any age. It can also affect any system and is often fatal. Signs include fever, nasal discharge, cough, poor appetite, diarrhea and seizures. Survivors may suffer chronic debilitating central nervous system problems.
- **Hepatitis**- Some viruses can attack the liver causing severe inflammation. They can be spread by contact with urine, saliva or feces of infected animals.
- **Leptospirosis**- There are several strains of this bacteria capable of causing severe disease in the kidney as well as eyes, liver or reproductive system. Many cases of leptospirosis have been documented in Ohio. The urine, semen, infected fetus or postabortion discharge of infected dogs can spread these bacteria. In addition, exposure to urine of rodents or contaminated vegetation, soil, food, water, bedding may allow transmission of the bacteria.
- **Parvovirus**- The digestive system is mainly affected by this virus. It is spread by contact with feces of infected animals. Signs include vomiting, bloody diarrhea and fever. This disease is highly contagious and can be spread rapidly among unvaccinated puppies and dogs.
- **Parainfluenza**- This virus can contribute to the disease known as "kennel cough". It primarily infects the respiratory tract and causes a characteristic cough.

- **Corona**- This virus may contribute to diarrhea in young puppies.
- **Lyme disease**- The deer tick is responsible for the transmission of this disease. Signs include joint pain, fever, lethargy and anorexia.
- **Bordetella** - Mucus secretions allow the spread of these bacteria. It can cause disease alone or in combination with a respiratory virus leading to "kennel cough". Grooming and kennel facilities are high-risk environments for these contagious organisms.
- **Giardia**- This protozoan parasite can cause diarrhea and inhibit the proper digestion of food. It usually is transmitted in water sources (ponds, creeks etc.) However, some kennel situations can have persistent problems with the spread of this parasite. The vaccine helps to reduce the degree of illness associated with these specific situations.

Step 4. Spay or Neuter

Your puppy will be placed under anesthesia for this procedure. We will perform preanesthetic bloodwork to help us determine your puppy's overall health status and ability to tolerate anesthesia. We will also administer pain medication to reduce discomfort during and after the surgery. We recommend spay/neuter around 6 months of age (but before 7 months) for all dogs that will not be used for breeding purposes. If you wish, this is a great opportunity to place a microchip in your pet's skin for permanent identification.

Once your pet has graduated from puppyhood, they should return yearly for their wellness examination. Any necessary vaccinations can be given at that time.