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**Getting a new puppy is a fun and exciting time! We are excited that you chose and trust us for the care of your four-legged family member!**

## VACCINES

Companion animals today have the opportunity to live longer, healthier lives than ever before, in part due to the availability of vaccines that can protect pets from deadly infectious diseases.

We recommend vaccinating your pet at the ages of 6, 9, 12 and 15 weeks old. But, what if your dog is 8 weeks old when you pick up? No worries! We can get you started and on the right track! Every puppy appointment includes their appropriate vaccines, a fecal to check for worms and an exam by one of our friendly veterinarian.

Until your puppy is fully vaccinated, we do not recommend any trips to the pet store, dog park or other areas where they would come into contact with other pets. This is to ensure that your puppy doesn't pick up any preventable infectious viruses or diseases.

## HEARTWORM PREVENTION

Heartworms are a real danger and pose a serious threat to your new puppy's health. Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. Mosquitos can survive and thrive in a variety of climates and environments, and unfortunately Arkansas is a hotspot! A heartworm infestation is difficult and expensive to treat in dog. BUT, Heartworm preventives are effective and easy to administer to pets. Plus, prevention is much cheaper than treatment. Treatment costs more than 15 times that of a year's worth of heartworm preventive.

Your new puppy has been started on Interceptor today which is a monthly chew that protects them against heartworms and various intestinal parasites. Once appropriate we recommend switching your pet to ProHeart, an injectable form of heartworm prevention.

## FLEA & TICK PREVENTION

Several species of fleas can infest pets, but the most common one found on cats and dogs is the cat flea, *Ctenocephalides felis*. In addition to skin irritation, fleas can also cause anemia and, in certain situations, death—especially when young animals experience large infestations. Adding insult to irritation, fleas can spread multiple pathogens such as tapeworms, cat scratch fever bacteria and other bacterial diseases that can infect both pets and people.

We carry two different brands of preventative to keep your puppy protected! We start all puppies with Nexgard, a 30 day preventative given orally.

## SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Although it's commonly referred to as a spay, this surgery is actually a complete ovariectomy, or the removal of both ovaries and the uterus. Spayed dogs are at much lower risk for ovarian cancers and cysts, mammary gland tumors, and uterine infections. Neutering is the removal of both testicles. It sounds worse than it is—and no, he won't miss them! Neutered males are less susceptible to prostate disease and testicular cancer. It also eliminates unnecessary marking behaviors. They're less likely to act aggressive or to wander away from home, so neuter your pet before his heart leads him into the path of an oncoming car.

We recommend spaying and neutering pets as soon as possible. We can even do your pets last round of vaccines whenever you schedule your surgery. Don't worry, they recovering quickly and will be safe to go home on the same day.

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## MICROCHIPPING

A microchip is a tiny computer chip, about the size of a grain of rice, programmed with an identification number. The chip is enclosed in biocompatible glass and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. Once an animal is injected with a chip, it can be identified throughout its life with this one-of-a-kind number. Microchips are permanent and can't be lost, altered, or destroyed.

A special scanner is used to send a radio signal to the chip to read the identification number. The pet feels nothing when the scanner is placed over it. The number is displayed on the scanner, and the person reading the scanner can contact a national registry to find out who the pet belongs to.

Microchips are implanted with a needle beneath the skin between the shoulder blades. They can't be felt or seen. Most pets react the same way to this shot as they do to any other. Young pets can be microchipped as early as 6 to 8 weeks of age.

The microchips used here at our clinic are easy to register online and there is no annual fee to maintain an account. If you move, don't worry just reach out to the company and update your information!

## FOOD

Keep your new furry friend on a quality puppy food for their first year of life, we carry Science Diet and are happy to help you find one your pet will love!

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