

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW PUPPY OWNERS



**MCKENZIE VETERINARY SERVICES**

3888 Carey Road  
Victoria BC V8Z 4C9

[WWW.MCKVETS.COM](http://WWW.MCKVETS.COM)

# CONGRATULATIONS!



Owning a dog can be an extremely rewarding experience, but it is also a big responsibility. We hope this booklet will give you the information needed to make good decisions regarding your puppy.

## MAKING YOUR NEW PUPPY FEEL AT HOME



When welcoming a new puppy into your home, it's important to start off right by making sure you have everything you need for your puppy to settle in well.

'Puppy-proof' your home by clearing tempting objects away from reach, like shoes, electrical cords, and plants.

Show your puppy the special places where he can eat, sleep and eliminate.

If there are young children in your home, make sure they know how to be respectful and gentle with the puppy.

Reward your puppy when she comes to you or responds to her name with praise/treats. Puppies as young as 8 weeks old can begin learning good potty manners and basic training words like 'sit,' 'down' and 'come.'

## DIET AND NUTRITION

Diet is critical during the growing months of a dog's life. There are many commercial foods specially formulated to meet your puppy's unique nutritional requirements. Your puppy should be fed a good quality puppy food until 12 - 18 months of age, depending on your dog's breed and size. Adult formulations are not recommended as they do not provide the nutrition a puppy needs.



We recommend that you buy a brand name food (avoid generic foods) that has the AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials) certification. AAFCO is an organization that oversees the entire pet food industry and sets the minimum requirements for nutrition. Medi-Cal/Royal Canin and Hills Science Diet are excellent veterinarian recommended diets that meet these requirements.

Some owners prefer to feed a home-made diet. If you would like to do this, ensure that you choose recipes that have been formulated to meet all of your puppy's nutritional needs. Vitamin and mineral supplements are available to ensure these requirements are met. Feeding scraps from the table isn't recommended as it can teach your puppy to beg at the table.

We will be happy to assist you in choosing the best diet for your puppy by discussing options with you. Call the clinic and ask for Alli, our nutrition advocate.

How often and how much should I feed my puppy?

There are several "right" ways to feed puppies. The most popular is "meal feeding." The puppy is fed a measured amount of food at specific times of the day. Food not eaten within 30 minutes should be taken away.

The feeding guide on the label of your puppy's food will suggest how much to feed your puppy based on her weight and age. Adjustments may be needed, however, based on your puppy's body condition score. The body condition score (BCS) is used by veterinarians to determine whether an animal is over or underweight.

An ideal body condition score is: The ribs are easily felt but not seen and have a slight fat cover (~1/2"), and a waist is present (i.e. the abdomen tucks in behind the ribs) when viewed from the side and the top.

Puppies 8 to 12 weeks of age should be fed 3-4 times per day. At 3-4 months of age, feeding can be reduced to twice daily. This feeding frequency is also recommended long term throughout your dog's adult life.

"Free choice feeding," means that food is available at all times. This works well with some dogs, particularly small breed dogs. However, other dogs tend to overeat and become obese, while some dogs become "fussy" eaters.

If you are unsure how much or how often you should feed your puppy, please ask us. We will be happy to help.

## CHEWING AND TEETHING



Almost all of a puppy's baby teeth are present by four weeks of age. They begin to fall out around four months and are replaced by the 42 adult (permanent) teeth. Chewing is a puppy characteristic that you can expect until about 6 - 7 months of age.

It is essential to direct your puppy's chewing toward acceptable objects. Provide your puppy with safe objects such as nylon chew bones or other chew toys, so other objects are spared. Keep items off the floor and garbage covered. Avoid toys that look like objects you wouldn't want them to chew. To keep your puppy interested, rotate toys every few weeks.

Do not let your puppy chew or bite your arms or hands ('mouthing') as this teaches the puppy that biting is acceptable. It may not hurt now, but it will when their adult teeth come through. If your puppy mouths, stop playing and say "ouch" in a startling manner. This teaches your puppy that he is being too rough.

It is important that your puppy is comfortable with being handled around the mouth so that future examinations of his teeth are possible. Lift your puppy's lips and examining his teeth frequently while using positive reinforcement. Brushing your dog's teeth is an excellent way to prevent tartar build up. You can start acclimatizing your puppy to brushing at a young age. Use special doggy toothpaste and a small soft toothbrush.

Our technicians are happy to demonstrate brushing proper technique.

## GROOMING AND NAIL CARE

Grooming needs are usually breed and lifestyle dependent. Some long-haired breeds require regular brushing or may need professional grooming to keep their coat healthy, but all dogs can benefit from regular brushing. Introducing your puppy to brushing by using a soft brush will make it easier for you or a groomer as your puppy gets older. Don't let your puppy bite the brush.



Puppies usually don't need to be bathed, but you may want to start getting them used to baths. Don't overdo this, as too much bathing can strip essential oils from their coat and cause skin issues. As every dog's needs are different, please discuss this with your veterinarian. We sell a variety of grooming supplies and can recommend the right ones for your puppy.

Puppies' nails can be trimmed with your regular fingernail clippers or with nail trimmers made for dogs. Nails have a pink 'quick' which supplies blood to the nail and can be seen through clear nails. Avoid the hitting the quick when clipping your puppy's nails. If your dog has black nails, you will not be able to see the quick, so please ask us or a groomer to show you where to cut. Cutting the quick causes the nail to bleed and can be painful, which may make your puppy adverse to nail trims in the future.

Many dogs, especially small breeds, require routine nail trimmings throughout their life. Handling your puppy's feet regularly will get him used to having them touched. Use positive reinforcement during and after nail trims, and stop if they become agitated.

## SOCIALIZATION



The socialization period, especially the first 10 to 16 weeks, is the critical time for shaping your dog's future temperament, character, and behaviour. During that time, a puppy is very impressionable to social influences. If you introduce your puppy to as many different social situations as possible (men, women, children, dogs, other cats, etc.) during this critical period, he will likely accept them throughout his life. Keep these experiences positive and in a controlled and calm environment to avoid having him developing any negative associations.

Puppy preschool or behaviour training classes are an excellent way to socialize your puppy and teach him good puppy manners in play with other puppies and the whole family. All members of the family should be involved in learning how to train your puppy. Please discuss this with us.

To desensitize your puppy to the sights, sounds and smells of the clinic, bring your puppy by for a treat and some attention. We are always happy to see our puppy patients! Nicolle is our very own behaviour enthusiast. If you have any questions when it comes to behaviour or training questions, she would be more than happy to assist you. Call the Client Care Team and ask to set up an appointment.

## HOUSE TRAINING

Housetraining should begin as soon as your puppy enters their new home. Puppies need to go out a lot, and some puppies are not fully housetrained until 6 to 9 months of age, so don't despair. Your puppy wants to please you, but his memory is short, so your patience is essential.



Take your puppy outside first thing in the morning, after naps, and after eating. Keep your puppy on a leash and take them to a designated 'potty spot.' Let him sniff around and use a trigger command like 'go pee' while he goes and use it consistently. Reward your puppy after he has gone with praise and stroking (or use treats). If he doesn't go, bring him back inside and either put him in his crate or keep him near you and try again in 15 mins.

Never leave your puppy unsupervised indoors. Keep your puppy close by and supervised when inside and be aware of signs that they have to go, like looking distracted or circling and sniffing the floor. If you can't monitor them, keep them in their crate or in a confined space without any blankets or rugs, as puppies prefer to go on soft surfaces.

Don't scold, if he makes a mistake so have you! If you catch him in the act, you can firmly tell him 'no' or 'bad' and then quickly take him outside. Never scold your puppy for a potty training 'accident' if you don't catch him in the act. Too much time has passed for him to understand what he has done wrong. Your job is to ensure that your puppy knows when he has succeeded.

## HOUSEHOLD DANGERS



There are many things in your home that can be dangerous to your puppy, including foods and plants... but even a sock can be hazardous if your puppy swallows it! It is best to keep all loose objects up out of reach, garbage cans covered and doors to empty rooms closed. Not all pet toys are safe for puppies, and some toys like ropes and chews should only be played with under supervision. Household plants can be deadly - visit the ASPCA website at: <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are usually given at about 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age, but this schedule may vary depending on your pet's individual needs.

The core vaccination schedule will protect your puppy from several common diseases:

distemper/adenovirus/parvovirus (DAP), leptospirosis and rabies. The first three are included in one injection (DAP)

that is given at 8 and 12 weeks of age. The Leptospirosis vaccine requires 2 vaccinations, 4 weeks apart. The rabies vaccine is given as a single dose at 16 weeks of age.

Two other optional vaccinations are appropriate in certain situations.

Your puppy should receive a kennel cough vaccine (Bordetella) if a trip to a boarding kennel or groomer is likely or if it will be placed in a puppy training class. Lyme disease is transmitted by ticks, so the Lyme vaccine is usually only given to dogs that are regularly exposed to ticks. Please advise us of these needs on your next visit.

Why does my puppy need more than one vaccination?

When a puppy nurses, it receives a temporary form of immunity (maternal antibodies), which lasts for the first few weeks of the puppy's life. This immunity interferes with vaccinations by neutralizing the vaccine.

Since we do not know when an individual puppy will lose the short-term immunity gained from its mother, we give a series of vaccinations. We give the first vaccine between 6 and 8 weeks when most puppies' maternal antibody protection wanes. Booster vaccines 3-4 weeks later ensure adequate antibody production to protect against disease.



## WORMS



Intestinal parasites are common in puppies. Symptoms include poor overall health, chronic soft or bloody stools, change of appetite, a pot-bellied appearance, poor coat, and weight loss. Common parasites include roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, tapeworm and heartworm (heartworm is not generally found in the Vancouver Island area).

Many puppies are born with roundworms or can become infected soon after birth through their mother's milk. Children playing in dirt or sand contaminated with dog feces can also become infected with roundworm by putting their dirty fingers in their mouths.

Tapeworms are a common intestinal parasite of dogs transmitted through fleas. Dogs infected with tapeworms will sometimes pass small worm segments in their stool. The segments are white in colour and look like grains of rice. They are about 3 mm long and may be seen crawling on the surface of the stool or stuck to the hair under the tail.

With the exception of tapeworms, very few internal parasites are visible in the stool. A fecal test can reveal the eggs of internal parasites, but these tests can be falsely negative. For this reason, our veterinarians elect to treat all puppies for worms.

We recommend the use of a deworming product, such as Nexgard Spectra, which is given orally and is safe and effective against several of the common worms of dogs. Deworming treatment should be given twice, about 2 - 4 weeks apart. It is crucial that the treatment is repeated as the deworming medication only kills adult roundworms. Within 2 - 4 weeks, the larval stages, which migrate through tissues in the body, become adults and need to be treated. Periodic deworming throughout the dog's life may be recommended for outdoor dogs.

## FLEAS

Fleas are the most common of all dog parasites. They feed on your dog's blood, causing irritation and itchiness. They can also transmit tapeworm, cause flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), and can bite other hosts (including humans). Adult fleas make up only about 2% of the flea population as an adult flea lays up to 50 eggs per day. Therefore, just killing adult fleas does not get rid of the eggs and larvae in the environment.



The best treatment for fleas is preventing the problem before it starts with a product that kills all life stages of the flea. We recommend topical products like Advantage and Revolution (also kills roundworms), which are applied monthly or Bravecto, which is given either orally every 3 months. We will provide you with an age and weight-specific flea control product that is safe for your pet.

In the Victoria Area, it is recommended to treat year round. The mild winters here never eliminate the outdoor flea population.

## SPAYING AND NEUTERING



Part of responsible pet ownership is ensuring that your dog does not contribute to pet overpopulation. The best way to do this is to have your female dog spayed and your male dog neutered. The operation is done in a single day (dropped off in the morning and picked up later that day) and with adequate pain control, a full recovery is made within 10-14 days.

### Female dogs

Unless she is spayed, your female dog will have a heat approximately every 6 months, with the first one occurring at around 6-9 months of age. During these heats, male dogs will become attracted, and despite your best efforts, your dog may become pregnant. The best time to spay your dog is, therefore before her first heat at around 5-6 months of age. As well, spaying a dog before her first heat virtually eliminates the risk of mammary cancer and uterine infections later on in life.

## Male dogs

Neutering offers several advantages. Unneutered male dogs tend to have a more aggressive and dominant temperament. They also tend to be territorial and mark their territory by urinating in inappropriate locations. As intact male dogs get older, their prostate enlarges causing difficulties urinating/defecating. They are also prone to prostate and rectal cancer. Neutering significantly decreases these risks.

## TATTOOS AND MICROCHIP

Each year hundreds of thousands of lost pets are taken to animal shelters across the country. Many of these animals wear no form of traceable identification and are never reunited with their owners.

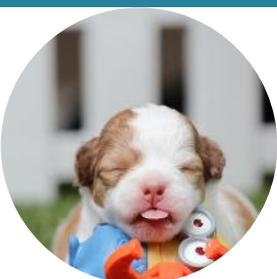


Tattoos and Microchips are excellent permanent and traceable forms of identification for your pet. It is highly recommended that one or both of these be done at the same time as spaying or neutering.

A Microchip is a tiny electronic implant inserted under the loose skin on a pet's neck using a special needle. It can be implanted without the need for anesthesia. Each microchip has an associated identification number which is stored in a computer database with your name, address and phone number. Animal shelters and veterinary hospitals throughout North America are equipped with scanning devices that read the microchip. If your pet is found, they will be able to notify you quickly with your stored information.

Tattoos are etched into one of your pet's ears usually at the time of spaying or neutering when your pet is under general anesthesia. The tattoo number is associated with the vet hospital that gave the tattoo, allowing your pet to be traced to the clinic where your details are kept. Tattoos are a visible and permanent method of identification.

## PET INSURANCE



Pet health insurance can help by sharing the cost of veterinary care in unexpected situations. It also gives you peace of mind that you don't have to worry if you will be able to provide your pet with the medical attention he/she requires.

Most policies cover veterinary fees for diagnosis and treatment of any accident, injury or illness. However, there are many different plans available so it is important to research the right plan for you and your pet.

Most pet insurance companies offer 1 month of free insurance for puppies – ask your veterinarian or the vet staff to sign the form to take advantage of this free offer.

If insurance is not an option for you, it may be a good idea to put some money aside monthly into a separate account so that you have something to fall back on to cover unexpected visits to the vet.

## LOOKING FORWARD



As your puppy grows into an adult dog, she will need regular veterinary care to stay healthy, including yearly exams and vaccinations. Once your dog has reached 7 years, you may want to consider yearly blood panels to look at liver and kidney function and to catch disorders early. Also, your dog will need dental cleanings, which will help her avoid painful and expensive extractions as she gets older.

We are proud to be a partner in your dog's health and will help to guide you through this process. Please let us know if you have any questions.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

On the web - [www.mckvets.com](http://www.mckvets.com)

By phone - 250-727-2125

By email - [contact.us@mckvets.com](mailto:contact.us@mckvets.com)

Book online - <https://mckvets.com/make-an-appointment/>

Got our mobile app for **Android** or **iOS**

Disease	DAPP (Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza)	Leptospirosis	Rabies	Bordetella
Vaccinate at 8 weeks				
Vaccinate at 12 weeks				
Vaccinate at 16 weeks				
Vaccinate at 1 year				
Vaccinate as adults	Every 3 years	Every Year	Every 3 years	Every year
Importance	Essential	Advised	Advised	Advised for puppies, social dogs, dogs in contact with at risk humans and 5-10 days prior to boarding or day care
Clinical Disease	Usually fatal, neurological, respiratory, liver and intestinal diseases as well as Kennel Cough	Kidney/Liver failure which is often fatal, or flu-like illness that results in contagious carrier state. Transmissible to humans	Always fatal neurological disease. Transmissible to humans.	Kennel Cough Syndrome, some forms transmissible to humans.
Transmission	Dog to dog contact, areas in contact with infected dog. Parvovirus persists in ground for years.	Any area with raccoons, rats, marine mammals, deer, etc. Contact with contaminated urine	Bats (~0.5% of all bats in BC are positive, 54 positive bats in 2016 on southern island)	Dog to dog contact (Shared bowls & toys) and any area where infected dogs have been. Cough particles travel up to 8 feet.



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## Canine Vaccination Protocols

# USEFUL CONTACTS



## MCKENZIE VETERINARY SERVICES

3888 Carey Road  
Victoria BC V8Z 4C9

WWW.MCKVETS.COM

Please note: This is a list of businesses in the greater Victoria area that provide specific, pet-related services. Mckenzie Veterinary Services holds no affiliation with any business listed below.

### PET SITTERS AND PET CARE

Maureen Maguire (cats only)  
250-382-5447  
myangelnotes31@yahoo.ca

Big Momma's Pet Sitting  
250-884-0620 (can do meds/fluids)

Cat Nanny Victoria  
604-710-4746

Tech Care Pet Sitting (Nadine McColl)  
250-381-4663

Play Time Pet Care  
250-592-0599

Fisherwood Cat B&B  
250-655-3223

CAMRICK Purr Fetch Petcare  
250-360-4017

Mrs Dolittle Pet Care  
250-478-5563

Mogey's Animal Care Serv. (cats only)  
kamalaray@hotmail.com

Cat Chatter  
250-382-5447

Shayla Schwarz(In your home)  
250-884-5111  
shaylaschwarz97@gmail.com

Lands End Cat Resort  
(Dr Blythe Baillee)  
250-656-1999

Diamond Dogs  
250-590-5866 [www.diamonddogs.ca](http://www.diamonddogs.ca)

The Cat's Meow  
778-4304302

## BOARDING KENNELS

Whiskers Urban Ranch  
Bording, grooming, daycare  
250-388-3647

Ben Kersen and the Wonderdogs  
250-389-1138

Dogwood Kennels  
Boarding and grooming  
250-478-0073

Puppy Love Pet Care  
250-652-23\*01

Top Dog Daycare  
250-920-3647  
[www.topdogvictoria.com](http://www.topdogvictoria.com)

A PAWsh Oasis  
250-589-2072  
[apawshoasis.com](http://apawshoasis.com)

A Spoiled Cat Cottage Retreat  
250-896-2287

Pet Pampering  
250-381-5889

## BEHAVIOUR AND TRAINING

SmartDog Training & Consulting  
250-893-2275

Communi Canine  
250- 216-2416

Clever Canine  
250-382-4408  
[janetparker@clevercanine.ca](mailto:janetparker@clevercanine.ca)

Ethical Canine  
250-889-3417  
[www.ethicalcanine.ca](http://www.ethicalcanine.ca)

Tomey k9 Services  
250-588-9611

Naughty Dogge Behaviour  
Modification  
250-642-0869

A Dog Company  
250-382-4408

The Educated Canine  
250- 588-3171  
[educatedcanine.com](http://educatedcanine.com)

Canine Chaos  
250-896-7297

BabyDog.ca  
(great puppy socials at Bosley's!)  
250-884-8241

## GROOMING

Groomer 2 Go (small dogs under 20lb)  
250-474-9376

Shear Magic  
250-721-1225

Dirty Dog  
250-385-3647

Vroom Groom (small to med. pets inc.  
cats)  
250-884-2200

Pet Grooming by Jan  
250-415-5447

West Coast Sassy Cats (mobile-cats  
only)  
250-580-2287

All Fur Paws  
250-727-3040  
Fussy Cat  
250-744-4319

Vroom Groom(Mobile- cats&dogs)  
250-884-2200

Lavender Pet Spa (good for older and  
stressed dogs)  
250-298-9481

Furever Clean Dog Wash (self serve  
dog wash)  
[www.fureverclean.ca](http://www.fureverclean.ca)

The Wash Rack (Equine & Pet  
Laundry/waterproofing/repairs)  
250-415-4024

## CHARITIES/ADOPTIONS

Animal Crusaders (GVAC)  
[info@gvacrescue.com](mailto:info@gvacrescue.com)

NANA Foundation  
250-477-2062

Dee's Orphan Kitten Fund  
(Feral Cats Only)  
[deesadoptions@shaw.ca](mailto:deesadoptions@shaw.ca)  
<http://www.deesorphan.com>

Cat Rescue Corps  
(Financial Aid for spays/neuters)  
250-656-1100

Victoria BCSPCA  
250-388-7722

Saanich Pound  
250-475-4321

CRD Pound  
250-658-5745

Victoria Humane Society  
[www.victoriahumanesociety.com/](http://www.victoriahumanesociety.com/)

## DOG WALKING

Dog Gone Walkin'  
250-383-8164  
Altirebiter@gmail.com

A Ruff Life  
250-514-5363  
arufflife@telus.net

Central Bark  
250-516-3453

The Woof Pack  
250-884-5322

Play Time Pet Care  
250-592-0599

West Shore Pet Service  
250-920-5678  
info@westshorepetservice.ca

Richard Konopasek  
778-679-5692

Fur the Pets  
loreisayvonne@gmail.com

## TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION

Worldwide Animal Travel  
www.animaltravel.com  
1-877-958-7387

K9 Cabbie  
www.k9cabbie.com  
250-383-5250



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