

## Welcome Letters for Puppies!

Congratulations on the addition of your new puppy to your family! The staff here at the Village Veterinary Clinic want to help you and your puppy get started off on the right foot by sending you some crucial information about a puppy's first year. This first year together will be exciting and demanding for you both and we will get to see you pretty often.

Most puppies require a set of three vaccines three to four weeks apart. The core vaccines that every puppy should get are the Distemper/Parvovirus combination and the Rabies vaccine. Frequently, depending on your puppy's lifestyle, other vaccines will need to be added. Did you know that most puppies are born with intestinal worms? It's true! They often pick up the parasites either in-utero or from their mother's milk. Did you also know that some of these parasites can be spread to humans? That is why we will always recommend deworming your puppy several times, to ensure they are not carriers in your household. During warmer months we will also recommend for you to continue to protect your pet from internal as well as external parasites like ticks, fleas and heartworm. For most pets, we will recommend spaying or neutering around 6 months of age. Besides ensuring there aren't unwanted puppies, there are many health benefits to spaying and neutering your pet, not to mention a decrease in some unwanted behaviours. We realize this is a lot to remember. Don't worry we will send out email reminders for your vaccine booster appointments and parasite control in the spring.

We have all heard how important nutrition is to our health. Well, the same goes for our pets. What we put in our pet's bodies will have a profound effect on their health. This is never more important than when they are young and growing, developing strong bones, teeth and muscles. It can be difficult to navigate through all the contradictory information on the internet and even more difficult when you are standing in front of rows and rows of foods at the pet store or the vet clinic trying to determine which food is best. The following is a great article that will help you to ask all the right questions and help you determine which food is best for your pet. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2019/05/pna-pet-food-manufacturer-survey/>

If you are still unsure, remember you can always ask our advice at the Village Veterinary clinic! We also understand that life gets busy and sometimes it is difficult to get to the clinic or the specialty stores to pick up your food. To make things more convenient for you, we now offer home delivery. My VetStore can also be used to auto order food or prepay for your diet and pick up at the clinic. For more information, give us a call or visit <https://www.myvetstore.ca/>.

The mental health of your puppy is equally as important as his or her physical health and how your puppy is raised during the first 16 weeks is crucial to helping them become confident and comfortable in the world. It will set the tone for the remainder of their life. Training and socialization during this time is absolutely necessary. If you need advice on where to find local puppy classes or trainers, please ask our knowledgeable front desk staff.

To help you understand the training and social situations you need to be providing your pet, please take a moment to click on the following link: <https://ultimatepuppy.com/>.

Did you know pets can get insurance coverage? We work closely with many companies to help pet owners, like you, navigate what would work best for them. If you have any questions about pet insurance, reach out to us and one of our customer care representatives would be happy to help!

All this information, and more, is linked to our website:  
<http://www.villageveterinary.ca/>

And don't forget to like us on Facebook or follow the crazy antics of our clinic cat, Tedford Von Lackie III on Instagram! @ted\_ventures

Thank you very much for trusting us with your newest family member. We can't wait to see you again.

Sincerely,

The Staff at Village Veterinary Clinic

613-445-5622