



**Animal
Adoption**



**Veterinary
Center**



718-544-PETS (7387) www.LowCostVet.org

Taking Care of Your New Puppy

Vaccine and spay/neuter schedule

Puppies **MUST NOT** be walked on the street until the series of vaccinations are complete. The current core vaccines recommended are DHPP (distemper, parvo, parainfluenza, and hepatitis) and rabies. Optional vaccines include Lyme, an option for dogs that have frequent access to the outdoors, where ticks may be encountered, and Bordetella (kennel cough), recommended for dogs that are in frequent contact with other dogs, such as boarding or frequent visits to the groomer.

Spaying and Neutering

Spaying your animal before six months of age (usually the time of the first heat) significantly reduces the chance of developing mammary tumors (breast tumors) later in life and prevents future pyometra (infection of the uterus), which both cost \$1000-\$2000 to resolve. 50% of mammary tumors are malignant in dogs and 90% are malignant in cats, which means that your pet would have to die prematurely if you could not afford the high cost of immediate surgery. If the spay is postponed for more than 2 heat cycles, the chances of reducing mammary cancer can no longer be lowered. In order to take advantage of this you must spay your pet no later than before its first birthday.

Neutering a male takes away risk of future prostate infections and prostate enlargement that occur with age and can cause pain and difficulty urinating.

Although animal control and rescue agencies do their best to place animals in homes, many animals are still euthanized daily due to lack of adoptive homes. When pet owners who are not showing their pets in shows and competitions permit their pets to breed, even if homes are found for the litters, they take away the potential homes of pets being euthanized at animal control (NYCACC). Consequently, owners breeding their pets results in the “domino effect” of a) the premature death of the pet owner’s own pet due to the cancers and infections which result from the failure to spay and neuter, b) the death of many pets being surrendered to animal control (NYCACC) due to the lack of enough homes, and c) costing the breeding pet owners thousands of dollars for veterinary care to cure the cancers and infections and treat and wean the puppies.

Proper Supervision of Puppies

Puppies are very fragile, especially tiny breeds, and therefore they should not be given to children under 18 years old to carry, walk or play unsupervised by an adult. It is **VERY** important to have a collar and ID tag on all puppies as statistically every pet gets lost at least twice in its lifetime, and 90% are unable to be reunited with their owners without a collar or ID tag. The Vet Mobile provides **FREE** ID tags. Make sure the collar is not too tight and not too loose, and that it is gradually loosened as the puppy becomes an adult, or the puppy will suffocate when it outgrows the collar.



Diet



There is no one perfect dog food. Choose a high quality dog food and give yourself the freedom to change brands if your puppy prefers one food over another. Many small breed animals such as Yorkies and Maltese quickly become picky with their dog food and instead prefer home-cooked diets such as chicken and rice. While this is adequate food when given short term during episodes of vomiting and diarrhea, formulating a proper home-cooked diet is not straight-forward and improper diets can lead to serious bone deformities and anemia if fed long-term.

Heartworm Preventative

Heartworm is a parasite of the heart that is transmitted by mosquitoes. While considerably less common in the north than in the south, risk of heartworm disease exists during warm seasons in the northeast. Many heartworm preventatives are available including **Heartgard**, **Interceptor**, **Sentinel**, **Revolution**, **Iverhart**, and **Tri-Heart**. Most preventatives also contain a dewormer that prevents against intestinal parasites. Most veterinary clinics require an annual heartworm test to obtain one of the above preventatives. Heartworm preventative or prescription for preventative can be obtained through the Vet Mobile clinic.

Flea and Tick Preventative

Fleas and ticks are a nuisance and potential disease carriers during warmer months in the northeast. Although over-the-counter products for fleas and ticks are available at pet stores, these preventatives are rarely effective and can be dangerous for cats. Flea control is much more effectively achieved through newer products such as **Advantix**, **Advantage**, **Sentinel**, **Revolution**, **Comfortis**, and **Promeris**. These products are monthly preventatives that are tiny liquids applied between the shoulder blades of the animal.

Annual Exams

Annual exams are highly recommended for your pet. Even if vaccines are not due that year, an exam can identify eye, ear, skin, and dental disease, discuss issues such as seasonal allergies, and plan long term preventative care for pets with health issues. A yearly exam with your veterinarian can save considerable cost by finding disease early and addressing it in a timely manner for the better health of your pet. Early detection also keeps medical costs low and in many cases saves the pet's life, as many people will not be able to afford the additional costs necessary to cure an issue which was not caught early.

Please note:

The Vet Mobile clinic is available to sign NYCHA housing forms.