

GUIDE TO PUPPY AND KITTEN CARE

Herbers Veterinary Services (780) 467- 3765

- The addition of a new family member is always an exciting! Keeping them happy and healthy is a priority for all of us. Here is a timeline of major milestones for your pet that should involve your new family member visiting their veterinarian.

AS SOON AS YOU PICK UP YOUR PET:

- Most kittens and puppies arrive at their new homes at 6- 8 weeks of age and it is a good idea to have them examined soon after you pick them up. By doing this, you can ensure they are healthy (and not showing any signs of contagious diseases which potentially could be transmitted to any pets you already have in your home). A visit to the vet at this young age will help get he/she comfortable in the clinic environment, which helps to promote future, positive visits.

EIGHT WEEKS OF AGE:

- Your pet's eight week exam is very important to make sure he/ she is developing properly. This visit will also include their first set of vaccinations given to provide immunity against common contagious diseases. The maternal- immunity their moms provided in young puppy/ kitten hood has now ceased. Internal and external parasite control and prevention will also be provided.

TWELVE WEEKS OF AGE:

- The twelve- week check up ensures everything is still on- track with your new pet. This visit will also include another set of booster vaccines to make sure your pet's immunity is still effective. Now is also a great time to bring up any behavior/ training concerns you may have with your puppy or kitten as well. Your veterinarian is an excellent source of information to help get your questions answered!

SIXTEEN WEEKS OF AGE:

- At sixteen weeks of age, your new pet will begin losing baby teeth and adult teeth will erupt. Your veterinarian will make sure this is going smoothly, as well as another physical exam to ensure they are still growing and developing well. This visit will also include the final booster vaccine for your pet. After this vaccine, their bodies will have enough of an immune memory to fight the diseases we are vaccinating against. Your pet will also receive a rabies vaccine at this visit.

SIX MONTHS OF AGE:

- Now that your pet has matured, it is time to have them spayed or neutered. Spaying and Neutering will prevent pregnancy as well as substantially decrease the risk of diseases involving the reproductive organs; such as potentially fatal infections and certain types of cancer. This surgical procedure can also help to decrease territorial, marking, and other behavior issues. At this time we will tattoo your pet for identification too.

ONE-YEAR VACCINE ANNIVERSARY:

- Your new pet will have celebrated their first year milestone and hopefully is a healthy, happy member of your family! Even as a young adult, your pet should make a yearly trip to see their veterinarian for physical exams and vaccination boosters to ensure they remain healthy and happy! Routine exams provide your veterinarian an opportunity to get to know your pet and observe any underlying problems at an early stage and begin treatment to delay or halt progression.

- Please do not hesitate to direct any questions to us at Herbers Veterinary Services! (780) 467- 3765

