



Puppy and Kitten Wellness

How to give them the best start possible

Just as with human babies, puppies and kittens need to see their doctor more frequently than when they're adults.

Devoting some time to a young pet's well-being pays off later with a healthier adult and senior pet.

Key facts about puppies and kittens:

- Their weaker immune systems make them more susceptible to infection from diseases and parasites.
- They're in a high growth stage and need diets specially formulated for their nutritional needs.
- They need to be examined more often than adult pets to make sure they're developing properly.

Puppies and kittens are inquisitive and adventurous. Have a safe area prepared where he/she can eat, sleep and play.

Get puppies and kittens accustomed early to home dental cleanings to reduce dental problems and to make home cleanings easier.

VCA
Pet Tip:

Questions & Answers

Why do puppies and kittens need so many shots?

Their immature immune systems can't fight off diseases as well as when they're older. While the maternal antibodies in their mother's milk do offer initial protection, these same antibodies can interfere with the development of the more permanent immunity afforded by their vaccines.

For maximum possible protection, it's very important to make sure pets get the right shots, in the right sequence and at the right time.

How can I tell if my pet has a parasite?

Some signs of intestinal parasites include vomiting, diarrhea, distended abdomen, lethargy and scratching. Sometimes there are no signs. Routine microscopic exams of fecal samples will help detect these infections.

Signs of fleas can be found near the ears, neck, tail and tummy region (look for flea dirt or live fleas).



VCA 161 QC (06/2010)

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or call 1-800-VCA-PETS (822-7387)

Exceptional Pet Healthcare

Puppy and Kitten Wellness

These little family members have lots of special health needs!

Step #1: Run! Don't walk

Your first stop after adopting your pet should be for an initial complete physical examination. You need to ensure that your pet is healthy and doesn't bring fleas, ticks, intestinal parasites or any other transmittable health problems into your household.

Protecting puppies and kittens from parasites

Parasite infestations can seriously threaten a puppy or a kitten's health. Thankfully, today's safe and effective deworming, heartworm preventive and flea and tick control products can keep them protected.

Ways to keep you, your family and your new pet safe from parasites:

Intestinal worms

Believe it or not, most puppies and kittens are infected with worms transmitted by their mothers. That's why we recommend routine deworming treatment. All puppies and kittens should also have at least two fecal tests done during the first four months of life to check for intestinal parasites.

Fleas

In a small pet, the blood loss caused by a severe flea infestation can be fatal. Many flea products can be used in puppies and kittens as young as 6 weeks.

Heartworm disease

Heartworm infection is a serious problem in both dogs and cats, but it's nearly 100% preventable with medications that can be administered to pets as young as 6 weeks. Even indoor cats are at risk.

Feeding your growing youngster

By maturity, most puppies and kittens will have increased their birth weight by 40 to 50 times – so they need a diet formulated for growth.

A high quality growth diet helps develop strong muscles, bones and teeth, with higher levels of protein and other nutrients, i.e., the “building blocks” needed for this life-stage. We will help you map out a complete nutritional plan for your pet.

Why it's so important to spay or neuter your pet:

Tragically, millions of unwanted pets are euthanized each year. If you love pets, the kindest thing you can do is to have your own pet spayed or neutered.

Generally performed at about 6 months of age, spaying or neutering also cuts the risk of your pet contracting cancer and other serious diseases, and reduces unwanted behaviors like roaming, spraying (cats), inappropriate elimination, or mounting.

Your new pet's vaccination needs

Vaccinations are critical to keeping a young pet healthy. Some of the most important include:

Dogs

- Canine Distemper
- Leptospirosis
- Canine Flu
- Canine Parvovirus
- Rabies
- Canine Bordetella (kennel cough)

Cats

- Feline Panleukopenia
- Rabies
- Feline Leukemia Virus
- Feline Rhinotracheitis/ Feline Calicivirus

Your veterinarian will advise you if any additional vaccines are necessary based on your location and your new pet's lifestyle.

