

Diet

The following companies have shown a commitment to creating diets that are ideal for our pets, and thus you can feel confident in offering them to your puppy: Hill's (aka Science Diet), Royal Canin, Iams (aka Eukanuba) and Purina. These four companies make both prescription diets as well as non-prescription diets. Prescription diets are of the highest nutritional quality and are generally purchased through a veterinary office and are often intended to help specific medical concerns. Should you choose another brand, please check the food label to make sure the food has been tested by AAFCO "feeding trials"; be careful if the label simply says the diet has been formulated to meet AAFCO "standards", as this often implies the manufacturer may not have even thoroughly evaluated the diet.



Pet Insurance

We recommend considering pet insurance for your new puppy

The ability of our hospital to provide a very high standard of care does come at a cost, and having pet insurance does help offset the unexpected medical expenses. Without pet insurance, some owners are burdened with large medical bills for their pets.

Just as with pet foods, there are many different insurance companies and options that clients can choose from. To help make this decision easier, please read the enclosed brochures.



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER!



NEW PUPPY INFORMATION

(856) 234-7626

220 Mount Laurel Rd

Mount Laurel, NJ

mlahvet.com

Serving South Jersey for over 40 years.

Congratulations on your new puppy! Having a new family member is exciting. We know that this transition can be stressful for some, especially if they have not had a puppy before. Rest assured, at Mount Laurel Animal Hospital, we are committed to ensuring the health and safety of your new puppy, and we are open 24/7 to do so. The information in this brochure should help review some important health topics for your puppy.

Until your puppy is 16 weeks of age, he/she should be seen every 3-4 weeks for vaccine boosters and health screenings.

Fecal Samples/Deworming

Please bring a stool sample to each appointment. It is very important to ensure that your puppy is free of intestinal parasites, especially since some parasites are contagious to humans. After your puppy is finished with his/her puppy visits, we advise checking a stool sample every 6 months for parasites (this is also the recommendation of the CDC).

Parasite Prevention

Our hospital strongly recommends using parasite prevention year round, especially considering the unpredictable weather patterns in our area. There are many available products, however, our doctors meet annually to review all products and we recommend the following:

Recommended Preventatives:

Heartworm and intestinal parasite protection: Interceptor®

Flea and tick protection (topical): Parastar Plus®

Flea and tick protection (oral): Nexgard® (1 month) or Bravecto® (3 months)

We feel that these products provide the broadest protection possible. There are other options available for dogs that are at very high risk of tick exposure to be extra safe, but please consult with us before trying another product.



Sterilization (Castration/Spaying)

Spaying or castration is important for your new puppy. In females, spaying eliminates the risk of ovarian cancer and uterine infection. It also vastly decreases the chance of breast cancer; however, for each heat cycle your puppy experiences the benefit from spaying is reduced. Castrating male puppies will eliminate the chance of testicular cancer or infection, as well as decrease the chance of prostate infection. Therefore, the veterinarian will review a medical treatment plan including spaying/castration during your visit. This plan will be tailored to your pet's specific condition and medical history. Our hospital offers the latest technology, including laparoscopic ovariectomy, which means that the procedure can be done minimally invasive. At the time of the procedure, should your puppy have baby teeth that have not fallen out by the time of its castration/spay, we will advise surgically removing them, as retained baby teeth can cause problems later in life. We also recommend implanting a microchip into your puppy at the time these procedures are performed to ensure the best chances of being reunited with you if your pet ever escapes.

Feeding

We recommend feeding your puppy three times daily until they are large enough to prevent a crisis caused by low blood sugar. For small breed dogs, this usually means feeding them three (or more) times per day until they are at least four (to even six) months of age; for medium or larger breed dogs, most can be weaned to a twice daily feeding schedule around three months of age. As a general rule of thumb, similar to humans, eating several small meals per day has more metabolic benefits than eating a single meal; therefore, we encourage clients to feed their pets at least two or three smaller meals per day, throughout their entire lives.

Online Information

When you research information online about your pet, please be careful of the source of the information. Unfortunately many websites contain misleading information, and others may have non-factual information and/or simply offer the (potentially uneducated) opinion of the webpage's author. The following are some websites we can feel confident in recommending for information about your pet:

www.healthypet.com

www.veterinarypartner.com



Bravecto® is recommended for puppies 6 months of age and over.

Just ONE DOSE kills fleas and ticks, and prevents flea infestations for up to 12 weeks!

That's 3 times longer protection than a monthly treatment!

UNDERSTANDING VACCINES

Vaccines help prepare the body's immune system to fight the invasion of disease-causing organisms. Vaccines contain antigens which help prepare the body to fight the disease causing organisms. When the vaccine is introduced to the body, the immune system is mildly stimulated. Therefore, if the dog is ever exposed to the disease, then the body is prepared to recognize and fight off the infection.

During your first visit you can expect the doctors and staff to discuss the following:

Vaccine Side Effects

The most common side effect from vaccination is a low-grade fever, which can manifest as your pet appearing lethargic or having a reduced appetite for one to two days after receiving a vaccination. Keep in mind that vaccine reactions are rare, but may occur. If a severe reaction is to occur, we would expect to see these signs within the first hour after vaccination. You should bring your puppy back in for evaluation and/or treatment as soon as possible should it show any of the following signs: severe vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, or has any collapse, facial swelling, or trouble breathing. Lastly, while there are actually many vaccines available for use in dogs, our doctors will carefully tailor a vaccination protocol for your pet based on his/her exposure to various diseases, medical history, etc. We encourage clients to read below to learn more about these "optional" vaccinations and inform us if you believe your dog is at risk and would be a candidate for protection from any of these additional vaccinations.

Core Vaccinations: Rabies & Distemper

Up until 16 weeks of age, puppies can retain antibodies (provided by their mothers) within their bloodstream. As these antibodies begin to wane, we will begin vaccination to stimulate the puppy to develop his/her own antibodies. The distemper (DH_PP) vaccine, therefore, must be given every 3-4 weeks (starting at 6 weeks of age and finishing at 16 weeks of age). The other core vaccine we give to all puppies is the rabies vaccine, which is given once, usually between 12 and 16 weeks of age. These vaccines will be boosted again 1 year later. Thereafter, these vaccines will both be boosted every 3 years to provide ongoing protection against these infections.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacteria shed in the urine of wild mammals, such as raccoons, squirrels, and rabbits. The infection caused by Leptospirosis can cause kidney and liver failure, and can be fatal (to both animals and people); it can also be transmitted from animals to humans. Because the bacteria is transmitted by urine, the biggest risk is associated when a dog comes into contact with urine-contaminated water (such as rivers, lakes, streams, or anywhere that water may pool); dogs living in areas where the aforementioned animals live in higher numbers are also likely at an inherently higher risk. Any dog that camps, hikes or hunts, or is considered a "farm dog" is very likely at an above average risk. Vaccination against this infection is highly recommended for dogs that may be at higher than average risk to encounter this potentially fatal infection.

Lyme

Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which itself is transmitted by tick bites. The typical case of Lyme disease will present with a dog showing signs of lameness. As with any vaccination, there are potential risks of using Lyme vaccination, and some researchers are trying to determine if some dogs may have a genetic predisposition to developing the kidney version of this disease and whether the vaccination may contribute in any way to their increased risk. Similar to Leptospirosis, any dog that camps, hikes or hunts, or is considered a "farm dog" is very likely at an above average risk for being exposed to this infection. Lyme vaccination should not replace the use of tick preventatives because there are many other diseases transmitted by ticks which are not covered by the Lyme vaccination. For more information, reference a blog written by Dr. Torre at http://mlahvet.com/resources/blog_torre_ticks.php

Bordetella and Flu

While these vaccinations protect against different diseases, the clinical signs of infections for these diseases are similar causing an upper respiratory tract infection, and are commonly referred to as "kennel cough" or "canine flu". Bordetella is one of the most common bacteria involved in upper respiratory tract infections in dogs, and canine influenza is a virus that behaves similarly to the flu in humans. Thankfully, patients acquiring either infection generally respond well to supportive care. Though neither vaccine can outright prevent your dog from getting an upper respiratory infection (since there are many strains of the diseases), research has shown that severity of illness in vaccinated patients is generally less than those who have not been vaccinated. Most kennels require dogs to be vaccinated against Bordetella and Flu.