VETERINARY CENTER
— OF MORRIS COUNTY —

Vaccinations: Please see the Canine Vaccine Information Sheet for further information. Because your puppy has a naive immune system, most of the vaccines that they receive will need to be boostered with another vaccination, usually 3-4 weeks later. The exception to this is the Rabies vaccine, in which the first vaccine lasts 1 year, and the Distemper vaccine, which needs to be boostered every 3-4 weeks old until the patient is over 16 weeks old. In the beginning, your puppy will be here often. Don't worry though, most pups can move to visits every 6 months after their initial puppy series.

Crate training: We strongly recommend crate training for a couple of reasons. First, it helps with potty training. Please see the Crate Training sheet in your puppy information for details. Secondly, it helps keep your puppy safe when they cannot be supervised. Puppies will get into the darndest things! They need to be constantly supervised to make sure they aren't ingesting anything that can harm them. The third benefit to crate training is that it can actually be a comfort for your pet. Many puppies, once acclimated to the crate, see the crate as their safe place and oftentimes will retreat there on their own to sleep, rest, or if they are afraid.
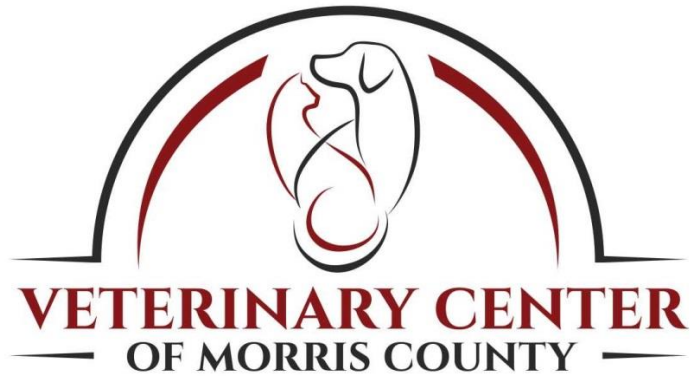
Pet Insurance: Pet insurance is a great idea for our pets! Puppyhood is a great time to insure our puppies because they have no preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will offer a variety of plans. Some will include wellness services, such as vaccines and exams, whereas others will include accidents or emergencies only. There are many different insurance companies to choose from. The largest and most popular companies include ASPCA, PetPlan, Embrace, Trupanion and Nationwide.

Stool sample: If you haven't already done so, please submit a stool sample on your puppy as soon as possible. Gastrointestinal parasites are very common in puppies and some can even be transmitted to people. We want to address these issues quickly! You do not need an appointment to drop off your stool sample. Please drop off a sample that is as fresh as possible.

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Heartworm Preventative and Flea and Tick Preventative: Your puppy will need to be on monthly heartworm preventative and flea and tick preventative all year long. We usually recommend Heartgard as our monthly heartworm preventative and Nexgard as our monthly flea and tick preventative. For our pups under 4 pounds, we will likely prescribe topical Revolution instead. This will cover both heartworms and fleas. We recommend that you purchase your preventatives one at a time, until your pup is closer to their adult weight. Since the dosing is based on weight, we don't want to take a chance that they will grow out of their weight class. Once your pooch is 1 year old, you can consider a ProHeart 12 injection, which is a 1 year injection of their heartworm preventative. Even if your pet is on ProHeart, they still need to take their once monthly flea and tick preventative.

Spaying or Neutering your Puppy: We recommend that all pets be spayed or neutered. There are a lot of benefits to spaying and neutering, including reduced risks of uterine infections, mammary cancer, testicular cancer and prostate issues. Females should be spayed between 5 and 6 months old, before coming into their first heat. Males should be neutered between 5 and 9 months old. For smaller breed dogs, we should wait until they get their permanent adult teeth before spaying or neutering them. Oftentimes these guys hold on to their baby teeth and do not lose them normally. We will extract them at the same time of their spay and neuter.

Microchipping your Puppy: Microchipping is a great idea for all puppies. It is a quick and relatively painless procedure that we can do during your puppy's spay or neuter. No bigger than a grain of rice, the microchip contains all of your and your pet's information, in the event that your pet becomes lost. If you have adopted a shelter puppy, the shelter normally implants a microchip before they are adopted. Please make sure to register their microchip with your information.

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