

Going Forward with Your New Dog!



Here at the Worcester Animal Rescue League we have provided your pet with a basic wellness foundation – we know you want a healthy pet! Just as we humans need regular health care, so does your pet, and additional health care beyond the basics that we can provide here at the Worcester Animal Rescue League is often needed.

You need to have your own veterinarian to help you with your pet's health needs in the years ahead. We recommend you make an appointment with your veterinarian in 2 weeks to review your pet's basic care and to discuss preventative health measures such as heartworm, vaccinations and parasite control. This "wellness care" is not only good for your dog, but essential for the health and wellbeing of your family too.

Your veterinarian is the best source for valuable advice and recommendations regarding your dog's care. A healthcare program can be made specifically for your pet that fits both the lifestyle needs of your dog and your budget. Here are some areas for you to discuss with your veterinarian;

- **Complete Physical Exam:** The key is early diagnosis and treatment, before serious damage occurs. This time also provides the opportunity to discuss various aspects of your dog's care in addition to health and nutrition. Getting an understanding on training, appropriate exercise and normal dog behavior is also important.
- **Vaccines:** The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) recommends two groups of vaccinations; core and noncore. It's important to complete the vaccinations as recommended by your veterinarian so your dog is safe to go out into the world and socialize with people and other animals. Some vaccines require booster shots to maintain levels of protection. Be sure to ask your veterinarian about these.

Core

Canine Distemper
Canine Parvovirus
Adenovirus Type 2
Rabies (required by law)

Noncore (Lifestyle)

Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
Lyme Disease
Leptospirosis
Canine Influenza

- **Parasite Control and Treatment:** Year-round parasite prevention offers the best protection. Besides parasites we can see on the dog, such as ticks, fleas and mosquitoes that can transmit deadly diseases, there are other parasites living inside your dog, we also need to be aware of. Your veterinarian is the best source of information about animal diseases or conditions that can affect your family.
- **Diagnostic Health Screens:**
 - **Heartworm Disease:** All dogs are at risk for contracting Heartworms, even dogs confined mostly indoors. A blood test is required annually before monthly preventatives are given.
 - **Gastrointestinal Parasites:** Regular examination of your dog's stool is critical to identify the presence of gastrointestinal parasites. If needed, your veterinarian will recommend treatment to remove them, protecting your pet and family.
 - **Age Appropriate Health Screens:** Dogs age much faster than we do. With this in mind we now know even in younger dogs there may be early signs of organ failure or disease that, if caught early can be treated. Ask your veterinarian to advise you on what's appropriate for your dog.
- **Dental care:** Consult with your veterinarian regarding the appropriate measures you should be taking to preserve and protect your dog's teeth and oral health. A healthy mouth can help your pet live longer, be more comfortable – and have better breath too.