

POINT BREEZE VETERINARY CLINIC
6742 REYNOLDS STREET
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15206
(412) 665-1810

Congratulations on your new dog! 😊

The doctors and staff of the Point Breeze Veterinary Clinic want you to have the best possible relationship with your pet. Here are some things you may know, and may not know about your new canine friend!

The following is a list of helpful information to make your puppies transition into your home happy and healthy!

Feeding

Puppies should be fed:

- 4 times a day until they are 4 months of age
- 3 times a day until they are 6 months of age and
- 2 times a day after 6 months, even as an adult dog

Puppies should eat a high quality puppy food for the first year of life, and then can be transitioned to adult maintenance food. Food changes should be gradual, mixing in small amounts of the new food, and slowly increasing the amount of new food over about a week.

After puppyhood, it is easy for our pets to become overweight. Commercial brand foods are packed full of calories. Puppies grow rapidly and therefore need a higher calorie intake than they will need as an adult. You may need to decrease the amount of food you are feeding your pet after spay or neuter, or after the switch to adult food. The use of lower calorie food and a restriction of the amount of food may be needed if a pet becomes overweight.

Toys and Treats

Puppies need to chew! This is a normal process of exploration and teething in dog development. Be prepared to have things that your puppy is allowed to chew on!

The use of Nylabones, rope toys , soft squeaky toys , and Kong bones are just a few choices . You can try multiple different types of toys to see what your puppy prefers. Kong s are hollow hard rubber toys that can be filled with your pets food or treats. Using squeezey cheese or peanut butter in these toys can keep your puppy occupied when needed. You can freeze these treats to make them last longer, and they can also be helpful with teething!

There are also many options of food dispensing toys out there that can keep your puppy stimulated and occupied.

The use of Rawhides, cow hooves or real bones is NOT recommended.

Vaccinations

DHPP (Distemper and Parvo virus) vaccinations are given every three weeks until they are at least 16 weeks of age. Rabies is required by law to be given to all dogs at least 12 weeks of age. There are multiple other optional vaccinations that your dog may need. We will try to tailor vaccinations specifically to your dog and lifestyle. For smaller puppies, we may spread vaccine boosters out over a longer period of time. Larger puppies may get multiple vaccinations at one time; this will all depend on the size and lifestyle of your new pet.

After 1 year of age, we will booster all the vaccines your dog was given at puppyhood. After that, some vaccinations may be given yearly, while others may be given every 3 years.

Spay and Neuter

All pets that are not used for show or breeding purposes should be spayed or neutered. Typically, females are spayed at 6 months of age, before the first heat cycle. Males are also neutered at 6 months of age, but these recommendations may change due to breed and lifestyle.

These types of surgeries on young animals may prevent many problems later in life. Please remember that pet overpopulation continues to be a problem and we have responsibilities to prevent unwanted litters.

Blood testing

We have the ability to do in hospital blood screening on all of our patients. A CBC can be performed to check both the red and white blood cell counts. A blood chemistry will tell us the status of the internal

organs. Blood tests are required for all pets prior to surgery and are especially important for older patients before anesthesia.

When your dog comes in for its yearly visits, we will also do a Vector Borne Disease screening. This checks to see if your dog has been exposed to tick borne diseases including Lyme disease, and also Heartworm disease.

Heartworm Prevention and Flea and Tick control

Heartworm disease is a blood borne parasite that is transmitted via dog to dog by the mosquito. We recommend that all dogs stay on a monthly heartworm prevention year round. We also recommend using Flea and Tick preventatives, which can help prevent the transmission of Lyme disease. Our doctors and staff will consult with you and come up with a prevention regime tailored to your pet's specific needs.

Puppy Socialization and Training

The primary and most important time period for puppy socialization is the first 3 months of life. This is the time period when sociability outweighs fear. This can be the primary window of opportunity for puppies to be exposed to new people, other puppies and animals, and adapt to new stimuli, experiences, and environments.

Try to expose your puppy to as many new things as safely possible during this time period, without your puppy becoming fearful or overwhelmed. (Please refer body language/fear chart at end of packet)

Incomplete or improper puppy socialization can increase the risk of behavioral problems later in life.

It is important for your puppy to have social interactions and play with other puppies and dogs. Through social play, puppies learn how to communicate and interact with each other. Exposure to a variety of different breeds and ages is important for social skills development.

Also, it is important for your puppy to learn how interact and play with people. Learning to interact with people in order to receive rewards is important and should be nurtured during this socialization period. Form positive associations by touching your puppy's paws, ears and face, then rewarding them with praise and treats! Introducing toys and games, and playing with your puppy in a positive way will be an integral part of its development.

Puppy socialization classes and puppy training courses are highly recommended. After puppy classes, moving onto basic training courses are also beneficial. From there, fun activities like agility or fly ball, can be a great bonding experience and rewarding for both you and your pet. Socialization and training can and should be continued throughout your dogs lifetime.

When choosing a trainer, remember that there is currently no training or testing mandated by law for dog trainers. All training and testing is completely voluntary. Research your prospective trainer's certifications; sit in on a class before signing up. Training should be a fun experience for both you and your dog!

Puppy Classes Offered

Jane Gruber, one of our licensed technicians, offers a puppy training class held here at Point Breeze Vet Clinic on four consecutive Sundays. If you are interested please let one of the staff know and we will put you on the list for Jane to contact you.

Crate training

The crate should NOT be a punishment or a place where your puppy goes ONLY when you leave the house or go to sleep at night.

The crate should be a safe haven for your puppy. A place that is only for them and they can be free to go in and out of during the day as they choose.

Make the crate a positive place, where your puppy gets toys, treats, and even his meals! If your puppy has good and positive associations with their crate, going into it when needed (like at night time or when leaving the house) will be normal and even comforting for them.

The crate should be large enough for your puppy to stand, lie down and turn around in. As your puppy grows into an adult, bigger crates may need to be purchased. Some crates come with a divider – so you can start small and make it larger as needed.

Avid Microchip

We have available permanent identification chips for your pet. (This is not a GPS tracking chip). A small microchip can be implanted under your pet's skin. The chip can then be scanned at veterinary clinics and animal shelters to reunite you with your lost pet and save their life!

Licensing and Tags

All dogs over the age of 3 months are required by law to have a dog license. At the front desk, we have applications for City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County licenses. License forms and information can also be obtained online. If your dog has a permanent identification chip or tattoo, you can apply for a lifetime license through the city or county. We recommend that all dogs wear an ID tag on their collars that are kept up to date with the owner's current information.

Veterinary Specialists

If your pet would ever need specialty or emergency care, we can refer you to surgical or medical specialists in the area. We are fortunate enough to have outstanding teams of local specialists at our disposal. Occasionally we will refer to a veterinary university for advanced specialty care if needed.

Veterinary Emergency Clinics

There are two local 24-hour veterinary emergency clinics in the area:

Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialists and Veterinary Emergency Clinic

807 Camp Horne Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412)-366-3400

AVETS

4224 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412)-373-4200

Pet insurance

Pet insurance is available for your pet! There are many different companies available to choose from. Most companies have different types of service plans, and can give you a quote for coverage for your specific pet. Payment of services rendered will be reimbursed to you directly by your pets insurance company.

Useful Links and References

Point Breeze Veterinary Clinic

<http://pointbreezevet.com>

Emergency Clinics

AVETS

<http://www.avets.us/>

PVSEC

<http://www.pvs-ec.com/>

Puppy Books / Reading

Puppy Start Right: Foundation Training for the Companion Dog By: Kenneth M Martin DVM and Debbie Martin, RVT , VTS (behavior)

Perfect puppy in 7 days

By : Sophia Yinn, DVM, MS (<http://drsophiayin.com/>)

Trainers

Val Klein , Family Dog Obedience

<http://familydogobedience.net/>

Tena Parker CPDT-KA, M.S, Success Just Clicks

<http://www.successjustclicks.com/>

Licensing Information/State Dog Law

Allegheny County

<http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/treasurer/dog.aspx>

City of Pittsburgh

http://pittsburghpa.gov/animalcontrol/dog_licenses.htm

Westmoreland County

<http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/index.aspx?NID=121>

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture - Dog Law Enforcement

http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_24476_10297_0_43/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?palid=100&

Traveling With Your Pet

United States Department of Agriculture

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/pet_travel/pet_travel.shtml

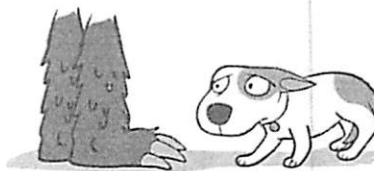
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/TravelWithPets/index.html>

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Covering



Major Covering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brow Furrowed, Ears to Side



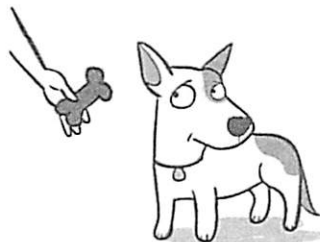
Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



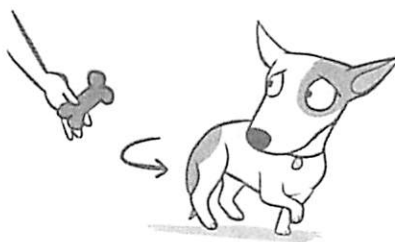
Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



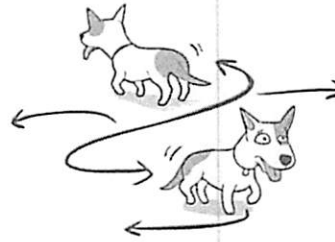
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing