



Puppy Visit Protocol

If you just acquired a new puppy, you're probably wondering when you need to bring him/her to their first veterinary appointment. Puppies need a series of Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus (DAPP) vaccines from roughly 6-8 weeks old to 16 weeks of age due to their "maternal" immunity waning and their own immunity needing stimulated and developed during this period. At Ely Veterinary Care (EVC), we recommend the following protocol to help protect your new puppy from harmful viruses in their environment and keep them happy and healthy for many years to come:

Puppy Visit Protocol:

- **8 weeks of age:**
 - Annual Exam
 - First DAPP vaccine (1 of 3)
 - Deworming
 - Puppies are recommended to be dewormed with pyrantel pamoate at 2,4,6, and 8 weeks of age to protect against hookworms and roundworms.
 - If this is your puppy's first deworming, then he/she will be sent home with another dose of dewormer to be given two weeks later based on his/her anticipated weight at that time.
 - Owners can also choose to have a fecal floatation performed (in-house vs. laboratory send out) on a sample of their puppy's stool to rule out a current parasitic infection.
- **12 weeks of age**
 - Brief examination
 - Second DAPP vaccine (2 of 3)
 - Start a lifestyle vaccine series if your puppy is over 10 lbs.
 - Lifestyle vaccines are not required. They are recommended based on your puppy's individual lifestyle and activities.
 - Lifestyle vaccines offered at EVC include Bordetella, Leptospirosis, and Canine Influenza. The rattlesnake vaccine can be administered when you puppy is 16 weeks of age or older, and is recommended in early spring, prior to rattlesnakes emerging from hibernation.
 - Puppies under 10 lbs. who receive multiple vaccines at one time are at a higher risk of vaccine reactions.
- **16 weeks of age**
 - Brief examination
 - Third DAPP vaccine (3 of 3; 1 year vaccine)
 - One year rabies vaccine if your puppy is over 10 lbs. at the time of the appointment
 - Lifestyle vaccine booster(s) if elected at last visit.



- Optional rattlesnake vaccine (1 of 2) or spring time election
- Preventative discussion and elective initiation
 - Heartgard Plus is a monthly chewable antiparasitic medication intended to protect canines against heartworm disease while also providing dogs with a monthly dewormer.
 - NexGard is chewable monthly flea and tick preventative for dogs.
- **6 months of age:**
 - Small to medium breed dogs can be spayed or neutered at 6 months of age.
 - Large to giant breed dogs can be spayed at 6 months to 18 months of age.
 - Large to giant breed dogs can benefit from longer exposure to their hormones for adequate growth and development, but the larger your dog is, the more difficult their spay can be, which can increase their risk of internal bleeding complications.
- **12 – 18 months of age:**
 - Neutering a large or giant breed dog is best performed at 12 – 18 months of age to aid in adequate growth and development.
- **Roughly 16 months of age:**
 - All dogs need their DAPP and rabies boosters one year after their last set of puppy vaccinations.
 - After these annual boosters, both the DAPP and rabies vaccines will be due every 3 years.
 - Lifestyle vaccine annual boosters would be due at this time as well and every year thereafter.
 - If your pet is on heartworm prevention, a yearly heartworm test is recommended to make sure the medication is working properly.

*For more information on the different types of vaccines available and the potential of vaccine reactions, please see the handouts on our website titled “Canine Vaccines Available at EVC” and “Vaccine Reactions.”

* To purchase your pet’s preventative medications, please see our online pharmacy link at <https://elyvetcarepllc.securevetsource.com/index.pml>