



Navarro Small Animal Clinic

5009 Country Club Dr. Victoria, TX 77904 361-573-2491

www.navarrosmallanimalclinic.com

Bring Home A New Puppy

By: Dr. Shana Bohac

Wellness exams are of utmost importance with a new puppy. Your veterinarian will ensure that your puppy is checked for parasites (both internal and external) and make sure that proper vaccines are given at the appropriate times. There are several significant diseases that your pet can be protected from or at least if the pet acquires the disease, it is much less severe. Distemper, parvovirus, coronavirus, adenovirus, parainfluenza, bordetella, and rabies are covered in canine core vaccines. You may want to discuss with your veterinarian potential travel, hunting/training, or lifestyle that you plan for your puppy. Your veterinarian will make vaccine and external parasite control recommendations accordingly.

Stress is an important cause of illness and death in newly acquired puppies. There are many sources of stress. Simply moving into a new home, holding him too much, contending with other pets, or being allowed too much playtime are just a few sources of stress. A new puppy is nervous and excited because they are unfamiliar with their new surroundings and new family. They are like babies who need regular scheduled times to eat, sleep, drink, go to the bathroom, and play.

The crate is one of the most important items to have for a new puppy. It can be a carrier, cage, playpen, or even a small enclosed area in a quiet room of your home. The crate serves two purposes. It will help house train your pet and protect his health and well-being. The crate provides a secure, comfortable place where it can rest and play at his own pace. The crate should be placed in an area where the temperature stays consistent all the time. Avoid areas that are drafty. Provide a comfortable bed in the crate since puppies sleep 90% of the time until they are older. A tired puppy will not eat well and missing a meal can be life-threatening since it can lead to a condition known as hypoglycemia or low blood sugar.

Hypoglycemia is caused by low blood sugar. It occurs mainly in toy breed dogs between the ages of 6 to 16 weeks. Infrequent meals are the leading cause. The first signs of hypoglycemia are listlessness and depression. They are followed by muscle weakness, vomiting and/or diarrhea, tremors (particularly facial tremors), and later convulsions, coma, and possible death. Hypoglycemia can occur without warning.

The best way to control or avoid hypoglycemia is to feed them every 4 to 5 hours. Treatment is directed at restoring the blood sugar level. To prevent recurrent attacks, make sure your puppy eats frequent meals.

Raising a puppy is like raising a small child, they get into everything. To a puppy everything is exciting. Puppies do their investigating through their mouths. They love to taste everything, so here are a few guidelines to follow. Make sure all poisonous household items are securely stored out of the puppies reach. Remove all poisonous plants from your house and yard. You will also want to look at your house from a puppy's point of view and remove all hazardous items such as needles, buttons, and electrical cords, as well as anything you don't want teeth marks on.