

Time to Care for Puppies and Kittens

NEW BEGINNINGS

Springtime is the time for new beginnings and summertime is the time for caring for those new beginnings.

Medical Needs

New puppies, kittens and older pets adopted into your family will have medical and health needs. Be sure to discuss proper pet nutrition, vaccinations, deworming and spay/neuter programs with us. Taking care of these needs is vital to the health and well being of your pet and your family.

Social Needs

Dogs and cats need medical care and good nutrition and they need a social life too. While some pets may be more interactive than others, they all need attention. When adding a new pet to your family, be sure to take their need for companionship into consideration. Feeding them, brushing them and playing with them is good for their physical well being, and it also benefits their emotional well being. Dogs and cats need their human caregivers to be their families. While our pets do need to learn to be comfortable when we are away, we also need to be sure to provide them with attention every day. Dogs especially should have an opportunity to socialize with other dogs. Puppy classes are a great way to teach some basic skills and let your new pet learn to play with others. Puppies and kittens that are not well socialized can grow up to be fearful and/ or aggressive and this can lead to dangerous behaviours.

Exercise

Pets need love and they need exercise, every day. Even indoor cats benefit from a few minutes of playtime every day. Be sure to consider your family's schedule and plan to spend some time being active with your pet each day. Make sure that your pet is fit enough for your chosen activity. Otherwise, work into the exercise gradually to prevent injuries. Activities for dogs include walking, jogging and swimming. More active dogs may enjoy flyball, Frisbee, fetch and agility training. Cats may enjoy interactive play with balls, strings, and motorized toys or light beams to chase. Make sure to put strings away when you are done playing to prevent your cat eating them.

BE INFORMED

Accurate information empowers us to make the right decisions for our pets. Your vet will assist you with making decisions regarding the care for your sick pet and will recommend care for your seemingly healthy pet. This is called preventive healthcare.



Talk to your vet about the medical needs for your new pet.

- > Nutrition
- > Vaccination
- > Deworming
- > Spay / Neuter

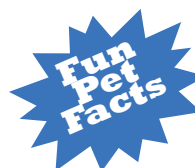
KEEP PUPPIES and KITTENS SAFE

Puppies and kittens should be introduced to collars, harnesses and walking aids early. Collars are not only useful for walking, but also for identification. Attach a small durable ID tag to allow easy identification of your pet. You may want to keep a collar on your pet and only use your harness or walking aid when walking. Microchips offer an ID solution that can't be lost, but collars and tags can easily identify your pet, and return them home, faster. Using multiple means helps to ensure your pet gets returned home if they get separated from you.

Be sure to check the collar regularly as it may need adjusting or replacement, especially in growing puppies and kittens. Breakaway collars are often used for cats. These collars have a buckle or strap designed to break if the cat gets caught in something while playing, indoors or out.

You also should have a secure means of transporting your pet when walking is not an option. Use a plastic or wire kennel, or a pet seat belt when travelling in the car. A pet seat belt is a harness that attaches to your vehicles seat belt system. The goal is to keep your pet inside the vehicle in case of an accident.

Even the toughest of toys can be swallowed or damaged; so, be sure to supervise your pet when they are playing with toys.



Calico cats, 3-coloured cats, usually black, white and orange, are always female. This is because of the way the cat's genetic information is arranged. Female cats, like female humans, have two chromosomes (XX), males have an X and a Y (XY). The gene for orange or black coat colour is on the X chromosome. Since male cats have only one X chromosome, they can be either black or orange, but not both. Females have two X chromosomes, so their coats can be orange and black. In order to have a male calico cat, a genetic mistake would have had to occur, creating a cat with an extra X chromosome (XXY).