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New Puppy Information

First and foremost, congratulations! Having a new puppy is very exciting, but can be overwhelming. Here are some tips to help you!

Potty Training and House Training

- Pick puppy pads or outdoors training – NOT both
- Take puppy outside EVERY hour AND after they wake up, eat, or finish playing.
- Make sure everyone in the house is using the same commands.

Feeding

- The smaller the puppy the more often it needs to eat!
- A Labrador puppy may need to eat 2-3 times a day, but a Teacup Yorkie puppy needs to eat every 3-4 hours.
- Do not just leave food down!
- Food should be offered for 10-15 minutes then picked up
- Always have your puppy sit and wait politely for their food.
- Always feed a high quality puppy formula diet.

Crate Training

- NEVER punish your puppy by putting it in the crate.
- Use the crate as a safe “bedroom” for your puppy
- Place beds, toys, treats, etc. in crate.
- Have a crate this big enough for the puppy to sleep comfortably, but not so big that it will eliminate in the crate.
- If you have purchased a large crate for the dog to grow into, use spacers to make the crate appropriately sized for your pup.

Every Day

- Place your hands in and around your puppy’s mouth, eyes, and ears.
- Play with paws and nails multiple times a day
- Open and close your puppy’s mouth
- Examine baby teeth – teething should be complete by 6 months of age.

Vaccinations

- Puppies need a series of Distemper/Parvo vaccinations before they are fully protected.
- Ask your veterinarian if your puppy needs Bordetella (Kennel Cough) or Lyme vaccinations.
- Rabies vaccination is typically given at 6 months when your pup is spayed or neutered.
- If you are not planning on spaying or neutering your pup, discuss with your veterinarian when to give the rabies vaccination.

Worms

- It is very common for puppies to be diagnosed with worms.
- Most types of worms are microscopic and you may never see them!
- If your puppy has been diagnosed with worms, practice good hygiene at home and wash hands well after handling fecal material.
- Immediately clean up after your puppy.
- Some types of worms are transmissible to other animals and can live in the yard for years if not cleaned up.
- Follow all the directions on the medications sent home to treat the worms.
- Bring in a fecal sample 10-14 days after treatment to ensure that all the worms are gone.

If you ever have any other questions about puppies feel free to ask any of the staff at PVC!