

## Stine Veterinary Hospital

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### New Pet Owner

We would like to welcome your new puppy , to our practice, and pass along some advice that will help make his or her puppyhood a happy experience for the entire family.

The time between 6 and 14 weeks of age is very critical in any puppy's social education, and we urge that all punishment be avoided during this period. Instead, try to anticipate the puppy's needs and show extra attention and praise only when desirable behavior occurs. For example, most puppies will urinate or defecate shortly after eating. Take them outside often at these times, and praise them lavishly when they eliminate properly, and you'll be surprised at how smart your new puppy really is!

Vaccinations and dewormings are an essential part of keeping your puppy healthy, and proper timing of these procedures can be critical to providing protection. We advise a vaccination series that, when completed, will protect your puppy against seven common and very serious diseases. Testing of your puppy for roundworms and other harmful parasites is also recommended, and a stool specimen should be brought in at vaccination time to check if worm treatment is needed.

Fortunately, feeding the new puppy should be no problem. There are several excellent commercial puppy growth diets available and one of them should be fed exclusively to avoid digestive upset and promote proper growth. A multiple vitamin may be supplemented if desired, but avoid feeding table scraps or the puppy may become a "picky" eater.

When your puppy is four to six months of age, a rabies vaccination is recommended. Also, at this time, seriously consider having your puppy spayed or neutered. We strongly recommend these operations in all pet dogs or cats since they are more contented and less of a problem to their owners and others. And you'll be doing your part to help control our pet overpopulation problem. Generally, either spaying or neutering is best performed at about five months of age.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you and urge that you call us if additional questions arise.

Sincerely,

Roger Paulson DVM