

Puppy Wellness Guide

Designed and written by

The Staff of

The Animal Hospital of Clinton-
Perryville

**Client Continuing Education by the Receptionists, Technicians, Management and Doctors of
the Animal Hospital of Clinton-Perryville**

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The decision to bring a puppy into your home can be a tremendously rewarding experience. This puppy will make its way into your family and your heart and form a relationship you will never forget. So it is not a decision to be taken lightly – or made hastily. Bringing a puppy into your family will impact your family life in many ways and for many years. That said, puppies do require a lot of work and patience. They require regular exercise and training, and there are the expenses of feeding and health care. You must consider your lifestyle and be sure you pick the right dog for you, and that you will be able to offer the care and companionship your dog will need. Be sure you have honestly considered these factors before making the commitment to bring a puppy into your life. If after careful thought and consideration you decide to take the plunge, here are some ways to go about it.

Where to get a puppy:

Breeder

If, after careful research into dog breeds, you have managed to come up with the perfect breed for you and your family, and your hopes are to find a healthy puppy with a wonderful temperament that grows into a dog that fits well into your lifestyle....a reputable breeder is a good place to start. (You can search for a breeder in New Jersey at www.njfederationofdogclubs.org).

Pros:

- ✓ Responsible breeders make their breeding choices based on producing puppies with the genetics for both good health and good temperament.
- ✓ A reputable breeder is knowledgeable about their breed and can help you decide if their breed is right for you.
- ✓ A good breeder is very careful to try and place their puppies successfully and will be there to help and advise you throughout your dog's life. They are a lifelong friend to your dog and a support system for you.

Cons:

- Puppies purchased from a breeder will generally cost more (as compared to shelter or rescue adoptions).
- You may have to wait until a puppy is available. Many reputable breeders have a waiting list for their puppies.

Animal Shelter

There are many dogs in shelters in need of a good home. The majority of them are adults or young adults. However, you will sometimes find puppies available for adoption.

Pros:

- ✓ Giving a shelter animal a good home is always a good thing!
- ✓ If you are adopting an adult- then what you see is what you get! No guessing on how big he'll be, or how rowdy! His personality is there on full display!
- ✓ Shelters generally charge an affordable adoption fee. This money supports the shelter to help other homeless animals.
- ✓ Many shelters participate in a low cost spay/neuter program.

Cons:

- If you are looking at a puppy, there may not be a great deal of background information, such as what breed or mix of breeds it may be. Without this information you may not know what long term health issues the dog might develop. You also may not know how big the puppy may get or have much insight as to what its temperament will be like.

Did you know....

- * Between 3 and 4 million homeless cats and dogs living in shelters are euthanized in the United States each year. Many of these animals would make wonderful pets, if only they were given a chance.

Rescue Organizations:

There are many volunteer organizations dedicated to rescuing and finding homes for displaced pets. Some of these organizations concentrate on rescuing a specific breed of dog, while others do not. Again, there are more adult or young adult dogs, but puppies are sometimes available. The American Kennel Club website (www.akc.org/breeds/rescue.cfm) can direct you to rescue groups who work with a particular breed or you can go to Petfinder.com for links to rescue organizations.

Pros:

- ✓ The dogs live in foster homes. These foster owners see to their health needs and try to socialize them while they are in their care. Living with these dogs gives the foster owner some insight into their needs and temperament which may help to place them successfully.
- ✓ The foster owners are often available for help and advice.
- ✓ The cost of a rescue adoption varies, but in general covers the cost of food and medical treatment and is usually a reasonable amount.

Cons:

- Once again, there may not always be a lot of background information available about puppies from rescue organizations.

Where not to get a puppy:**• Pet Shop**

We do not recommend buying puppies from pet shops.

These puppies often have health problems (which may not be apparent until the dog gets older) and have not been properly socialized. Pet shops get their puppies from puppy mills or puppy brokers, also known as commercial breeders. These people breed with no consideration as to the health and temperament of the dogs. They breed solely for quantity – not quality. The consumer protection laws do offer some protection if your pet becomes ill or dies, but it addresses the financial investment you have made – not the emotional investment. Your options include returning the puppy and being reimbursed for veterinary bills. Unfortunately, by this time your family has already become emotionally attached to the animal and financial reimbursement or replacement of the puppy do not compensate for the emotional upheaval of the situation.

Keep in mind that a **good breeder** *does not* sell their puppies to a pet shop. No puppy acquired from a pet shop is the product of a reputable breeder. And prices from a breeder are usually comparable and sometimes less than what you will spend at a pet shop for an animal that is often ill and very prone to inherit medical problems.

- **Puppy Mills**

Puppy mills exist, in one form or another, in nearly every state, but Pennsylvania and Missouri have the highest number. As mentioned above, puppy mills produce dogs on a large scale with little or no consideration given to the quality of the puppies. The parents of these puppies generally live their entire life in a cage – their sole purpose in life is to produce as many puppies as possible for human profit, then they are euthanized when they can no longer produce large litters - usually by the age of three. For the puppy mills to be profitable, these dogs have minimal healthcare and live in very substandard conditions. The profit comes when dogs live in cages, rather than with human companionship. The profit comes when commercial operations provide only the minimum requirements to keep a dog alive and able to breed.

Every puppy purchased through pet shops or directly from puppy mills, continues these inhumane conditions. Do not encourage these businesses to exploit innocent animals. That purchase makes it profitable to breed the parent dogs again, and the cycle of suffering continues.

- **Backyard Breeder**

This term refers to people who breed dogs without a great deal of knowledge about how to breed dogs responsibly. Usually this is someone with one dog, perhaps purchased from a pet shop originally, who loves their dog and decides they want puppies. Although their intentions are good, they usually have not done the research into the breed, the genetics and temperament of the parents, or the dogs' lineage. These breeders do not always take the steps that a knowledgeable breeder will take in order to socialize their puppies correctly, therefore increasing the chance of a successful adoption. In general, the Backyard Breeder does not offer the same quality of support you would get from a more responsible and knowledgeable breeder. The Backyard bred puppy may make a good companion dog, if the parents were good companion dogs. However genetic and health problems may be waiting to emerge if the proper steps were not taken in the breeding process. It's more of a gamble as to how a puppy will turn out under these circumstances.

Now that you have your puppy....

Congratulations

This is the beginning of a long and rewarding relationship with your new family member. Taking the time to educate yourself on some basic information regarding the health and behavior of your pet will help to ensure that this relationship is a successful one.

It is recommended that you bring your puppy in for an exam as soon as possible. Calling ahead (even before you bring him home) will ensure that you are able to get an appointment within the necessary time frame. Please forward any paperwork and information you have regarding your puppy prior to your appointment. This gives the doctor the opportunity to review everything before you arrive and to better prepare for your appointment.

Being prepared for the arrival of your new pet will help make the transition easier for both you and your pet. The following is a list of things you will want to have on hand **before** the arrival of your puppy:

- ✓ Crate (see section on crate training)
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Food and water dishes (we recommend stainless steel or ceramic – some pets have allergic reactions to plastic)
- ✓ Collar
- ✓ Leash
- ✓ Name tag with your phone number and address
- ✓ Proper grooming tools appropriate for your breed of dog
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ Training treats (now is a good time to start researching training classes!)
- ✓ Bedding (remove from crate if puppy is chewing on bedding)
- ✓ Carpet cleaner (one of our favorites is Spot Shot)

Puppy–Proofing your home and yard:

Puppies can easily get themselves into a lot of dangerous situations, therefore puppy proofing your home is an important step in safe-guarding your new pet.

The time to begin is **before** you introduce your puppy to your household. The best way to get started is to get down on the floor to his eye level and check your home for any potential dangers.

Potential household dangers:

- Small areas through which the animal can become stuck or escape.
- Things he can chew on such as electrical cords, plants, carpets, toys....
- Poisons he may encounter such as plants, pesticides, rodenticides, antifreeze....(refer to our website for a link to the ASPCA Poison Control Center).
- Choking hazards
- Things that can easily be knocked over that may be fragile, or may fall on and injure your pet.
- Access to trash.
- Access to human medications and vitamins.

Potential dangers in the yard:

- Areas in which he can get stuck or escape
- Poisons (lawn chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze....)
- Trash
- Choking hazards
- Strangulation (a particular concern with dogs that are tied to a leash outside).
- Drowning (be sure your pet does not have unsupervised access to your pool).
- Safety from other animals
- Safety from vehicles

Some specific concerns about lawn maintenance:

Lawn maintenance can pose a serious threat to pets. Many people use chemicals on their lawn that are hazardous to animals. Our pets are constantly walking on these chemicals, sniffing and possibly ingesting them if they decide to chew on the grass, or lick their feet. You should be very cautious about what chemicals you put on areas of the lawn that your pet has access to. Be sure that your lawn maintenance service knows that you have a pet. If possible, leave a section of lawn untreated and be sure to have a list of chemicals used in case there is a suspected poisoning in order to help identify the poison. Beware of organic lawn care products. Read labels carefully. Just because they are organic does not mean they are not a danger to your pet.

Always **supervise** your young pet. Restricting them to certain areas of your home and yard will make it easier for you to supervise their behavior and prevent them from getting themselves into trouble.

Introducing Your Puppy to Children and other Pets:

Once again, **supervision** is the key to safely introducing your puppy to your children and other resident pets. Young children should never be left alone with an animal. They can easily harm a puppy or be inadvertently injured themselves by a frightened or rambunctious animal. Children must learn to respect animals. They must understand that puppies are not toys and should be treated with the same care you would provide a human baby. They need to be handled gently and require a lot of sleep. As your puppy gets older it is important to give some training in basic obedience. If possible, involve your child in this training. This will enable your child to have some control over the dog and teach your dog to obey commands from the child.

When introducing your new puppy to existing pets, it is important to follow some basic guidelines in order to help the two animals adjust to each other. We recommend that you confine your new pet and allow your existing pets the household freedom they have been accustomed to, but do not allow them to have access to the new pet. You can allow each pet to become familiar to the new animals' scent by letting them sniff a cloth with the other pets' scent on it. With the first face to face introduction it is best to have the new animal in a crate and allow them to sniff each other through the crate, and then separate them once again. If you have multiple pets, be sure to introduce them to the new dog one at a time. Do this until the reaction from the older animal seems favorable. The next day you can try introducing them to one another outside of the crate, preferably on leashes. Once you are confident that they are comfortable with each other you can let them be together without restraint (with

supervision), but be sure to separate them when you are not home. We recommend having a trial run before leaving the two animals out alone together for any period of time.

Some discussion about Crate Training your dog....(or – what is crate training and why do we recommend it?)

We strongly recommend crate training your puppy for 3 reasons. First, it is a great aid in housetraining. Animals prefer not to urinate or defecate in their sleeping quarters, so keeping them in a crate when not being supervised will help prevent household accidents. Second, crating your puppy when you are not able to supervise him will keep him safe. You don't have to worry about what he is chewing on and it limits the amount of damage done to your home by a curious and teething puppy. And third, dogs that have been crate-trained fare much better if they have to be hospitalized, groomed or kenneled than those who have never been in a crate.

When you are home and awake, allow your puppy out of the crate with your supervision. Do not keep him in the crate excessively. Puppies need exercise, mental stimulation and guidance. But when he is sleepy, put him gently in the crate for a rest. Do not allow young children in the dog's crate and teach them that they must respect the dog's need for quiet time and must leave him alone when he is in his crate. It is very important that the crate **never** be used as a punishment. The crate should be the dog's safety zone where he can go to be quiet, to rest and to feel safe.

Things to consider when crate training your puppy:

Size

Choose a crate that will accommodate an adult dog of your pup's breed. Your (or a knowledgeable pet store clerk) can help you. Your dog needs only to be able to stand up and turn around in the crate. Having a crate that is too large may sabotage your housetraining efforts since the dog can sleep on one side of the crate and relieve himself on the other side. You may need to divide the crate in half until your puppy gets bigger (some crates are designed for this).

Where to put the crate?

Think long term. Where do you want your dog to ultimately sleep? This is where you want to keep the crate. It is up to you whether you want your dog to sleep in your bedroom or another room in your house. Some trainers feel it is helpful to crate your new puppy near you in your bedroom for the first few nights to help him acclimate to his new home and learn to sleep through the night, as well as to help you hear when he needs to go out to relieve himself (if he is too young to be able to make it through the night without urinating). If your bedroom is not where your pup will eventually be kept at night, you may need to gradually move the crate farther from you, and eventually out of the bedroom and to its permanent spot. However, it is fine to put the crate in a separate room right from the beginning, if this is what you prefer.

What to put in the crate?

Start with a blanket or some sort of bedding in the crate for your pet to sleep on. But check it periodically to be sure it is not wet and that the puppy is not chewing on it. If he is, remove it for awhile. We do not recommend using disposable absorbent pads

(such as “wee wee pads”) in the crate. This encourages the puppy to urinate in the crate. If he does not feel wet or uncomfortable, he may continue to urinate in the crate and make it difficult to houstrain him. Keep in mind that it is not necessary to have bedding in the crate. Your puppy will be fine sleeping on the crate floor.

Do not leave food or water bowls in your puppy’s crate. You may feed him in the crate, but remove the bowls when he is finished. Also, be careful when choosing toys for your pup to chew in his crate. Be sure the toys are not a choking risk. Frequently evaluate all toys and chews for size and damage, keeping in mind that as he grows his needs will change.

Introducing your puppy to the crate:

Every puppy needs to learn the skill of resting calmly in a crate. Making the first introduction to the crate a positive one will help your puppy achieve this skill more easily. First get him used to going into the crate without closing the door or leaving him. After he is comfortable with this you can close the door for a short while. When this is comfortable for him you can try leaving him for a short time and gradually increase the time he is left alone. Do not run to his rescue each time he cries. This will only teach him that making a lot of noise will bring you to him. Be sure he is calm and quiet before letting him out of the crate. And don’t make a big fuss when you do let him out. Stay calm to keep him calm.

How long should you use the crate? Plan on using the crate for at least one year. Some breeds will continue to chew and be destructive for up to two years of age and will require additional crating and supervision. If after one year you would like to allow your dog out of the crate alone, have a trial run. Leave him unsupervised for a brief period. If all is well you can gradually increase the amount of time you leave him alone until you are confident that he can be safely given free and unsupervised run of your home.

Keep in mind that many people continue to crate their dogs indefinitely either out of necessity or preference. Often the dog likes having his crate available. The crate is his special retreat where he can go to have some quiet time. You may want to keep the crate around, leaving the door open so he can come and go as he pleases.

A note about allowing your puppy on your bed:

We agree with Cesar Milan (The Dog Whisperer), that your dog should not share your bed with you. There are a number of reasons for this, but the most important reason is to help your puppy understand his position in the family “pack”, which should unquestionably put him as the lowest ranking member. Sleeping on your bed may give your dog the idea that he has status equal to or better than the human family members. At the very least, we recommend waiting until the dog is an adult before allowing him bed privileges. A dog who shows any signs of aggression, dominance, or who may leap or snap defensively when startled or awakened should never be allowed to sleep on your bed. We especially caution people with small children (or small children who visit) when considering whether or not to give your dog bed privileges. Letting the dog on your bed (or sofa!) often puts the dog’s teeth right at

the child's face level. In the event that the child does something to elicit an aggressive reaction from the dog, the results can be devastating.

Consider the long term effects of letting your puppy onto your bed. There is always a possibility that at some point in your dog's life he may develop an illness or have occasional hormonal incontinence which would cause him to be evicted from your bed.

Also, small dogs and dogs with orthopedic problems can be injured jumping off of beds (and other furniture).

And finally, where there are dogs – there is dog hair (among other things!). Be sure this will not be a problem before getting your pet in the habit of lounging on your bed or other furniture. It is much more difficult to take this privilege away than it is to train your pet to sleep on the floor next to your bed (or wherever you chose) in the first place.

Check out Cesar Millan's website at www.dogpsychologycenter.com for more advice from Cesar.

Housetraining your puppy:

The first step in housetraining your pup is to decide where you would like him to eliminate. Each time you take him out to relieve himself you should take him to that spot. This will help make it clear to him the reason he is out there. It will also make it easier for you to keep your yard clean and limit lawn damage. We do not recommend paper training your dog. This only teaches him to relieve himself in the house and makes the housetraining process more difficult and confusing.

You can have more control over your puppy's elimination routine by controlling his feeding schedule. Most puppies should eliminate within an hour after eating, so it's best to avoid feeding him a large meal right before confinement. You should offer him food two or three times each day at the same times and only have the food be available for a maximum of 30 minutes. The last meal of the day should be finished between three and five hours before bedtime so he has plenty of time for elimination.

DO's: Be sure you take your puppy outside to relieve himself after eating, drinking, sleeping or playing. Develop a schedule of mealtimes, play sessions, confinement periods and trips outside to his "bathroom spot". This will help develop a fairly predictable elimination schedule.

Your puppy **will** have some accidents in the house. The only way to minimize these accidents is through **constant supervision**. If you are not able to supervise him, confine him to his crate. Always take him outside to eliminate before you confine him and immediately after letting him out of the crate. If, after a period of confinement, you take him outside and he does not go to the bathroom, put him back in his crate (or supervise him **closely** in the house). Take him out frequently. Praise him when he does go to the bathroom outside. If he repeatedly soils in his crate take out any bedding and be sure the crate is not too large. When accidents happen – **and they will** – it is important that you handle it properly. If you **catch him in the act** of

eliminating indoors you should correct him with a mild, startling distraction (say “no” sharply, clap your hands, or shake a can of pennies at him...) and then immediately take him outside to finish eliminating. Praise him when he is successful.

DON'T s: Do not correct your puppy for indoor accidents unless you catch him in the act of eliminating or **immediately** afterwards. Correcting him more than a few minutes after he eliminates is ineffective because he will not understand why he is being corrected. Never correct your pup harshly as this will only teach him not to eliminate in front of you. Rubbing his nose in his mess will only teach him to be afraid of you. If you find a mess, just clean it up and **be more vigilant!**

It is important that you clean up after indoor accidents thoroughly. Use an effective commercial product to remove urine and fecal odor so he will be less likely to return to this spot. If he continues to eliminate in certain areas of your home try blocking his access to these areas. Many pets will not eliminate in areas where they eat, rest or play, so you can also try placing food or water bowls, beds or toys in areas where he repeatedly has accidents.

Praise and Positive Reinforcement:

When houstraining your pup – or crate training – or any training at all – we cannot stress the importance of **positive reinforcement** enough. Never use punishment to teach your dog. This will only teach him to distrust you. Positive reinforcement will teach him to trust you and follow your leadership and help develop a rewarding relationship between you and your dog. Food rewards are usually **very** positive with puppies, but verbal praise is better and less fattening! Be sure to link food rewards with verbal praise. Your goal should be to eventually wean the pup off of food rewards and stick with the verbal praise. Otherwise you may end up with a fat dog who will only comply with you to get a treat!

Socializing your puppy:

Socialization is an important part of your puppy's development. Exposing your puppy to many different situations, places and people early in his life will help make him become comfortable in any situation. (In the case of an extremely young and unvaccinated puppy, care should be taken to limit contact with other animals until he is vaccinated.)

Ideally, your puppy should receive a good foundation of experiences in order to develop the ability to cope with all types of people and situations as an adult dog. You should expose him to people of all ages, size, color and description as well as different sounds and places. Your goal is to have every experience end happily. You do not want to overwhelm him with too much at once. Just spend some time each day getting him accustomed to the world around him.

Puppies are warm, cute and also quite capable of learning manners early. It is easier to prevent unwanted behavior than to correct or break a bad habit later, if at all. What do you want your puppy to grow into as an adult? For example, do you want a dog friend that can greet company at the door politely or a dog that has to be locked away whenever company arrives? Make a list of how you want your friend to behave as an adult and start the ground rules immediately. The same example again: if you don't want him jumping on company and

ruining your friend's dress don't let him jump on people as a puppy. Teach him instead that he gets praised if he's sitting politely. The list can go on depending on what you want: Car rides, walking with other dogs, toe nail clips, playing with children, brushing teeth, etc.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING: Taking your pup to a training class or "Puppy Kindergarten" class is a good way to socialize him with other dogs. This will help teach him to be more accepting of other dogs when he becomes an adult.

We strongly recommend getting your puppy started in a group obedience class by 6 months of age. It can help to prevent a lifetime of behavior problems. We can recommend several local trainers. (Did you know unacceptable behavior is the number one reason pets are surrendered to animal shelters?).

It is also a good idea to acquaint your puppy with a kennel, if you think that you will be boarding him as an adult. Research the kennels in your area and inquire as to what age they will accept puppies for boarding. Then board your pup overnight. This will help him understand at a young age that boarding is okay and that you will be back for him.

You will find that proper socialization and development of your puppy's disposition will take time and patience, but in the end your efforts will be well worth it when you have a very friendly and confident companion who will be loyally by your side for many years to come.

Your Puppy's Visits to Our Veterinary Hospital

Please be assured we all love puppies here and strive to make their visits to us enjoyable and to minimize any stress. Most puppies love food, and so we distract them with biscuits, and they usually hardly notice any vaccinations or other shots. Your puppy will get a complete exam and we will discuss with you his risks for contagious disease and set up a vaccination protocol appropriate for your dog. Below is a list of the things we recommend in general and a little explanation for each item. We can discuss these with you and answer any questions during your visit. Bring a list of any questions or concerns so we don't miss anything you want to discuss.

Vaccines

DAPPL: All puppies should be vaccinated against this group of diseases. Puppies start their vaccinations at 6 weeks of age and need a booster every 3 weeks until they are 16 weeks old. As an adult dog, he will need a booster at 1 and 2 years of age and then every 3 years for the DAPP and every year for the L to maintain immunity.

WHY DOES MY PUPPY NEED MULTIPLE BOOSTERS?

Your puppy is highly susceptible to infectious diseases. By giving boosters every 3 weeks we protect your puppy until his immune system can form a complete immunity at 16 weeks of age.

WHAT DO ALL THOSE LETTERS (DAPPL) MEAN ANYWAY?

D-is Distemper, a virus that causes vomiting, diarrhea, pneumonia, brain damage and death.

A-is Adenovirus which causes hepatitis.

P-is Parainfluenza which causes bronchitis or kennel cough in dogs.

P-is Parvo, a rapidly fatal viral infection in puppies. Parvo causes diarrhea, dehydration and death.

L-is Leptospirosis which causes severe kidney and liver infections.

RABIES: Puppies should be vaccinated against rabies after they are 3 months old. The first vaccination provides protection for 1 year, the second one for 3 years. **IMPORTANT:** puppies do not develop immunity until 30 days after the first vaccination is given, therefore you should keep your puppy very closely supervised until that time.

KENNEL COUGH: IF you plan to board, kennel or show your puppy he should be vaccinated against "kennel cough" or Bordetella. Bordetella is a contagious respiratory infection.

LYME: We recommend vaccinating against Lyme disease, due to the high incidence in our area.

HEARTWORM: Puppies are started on a heartworm preventative by 12 weeks of age, and we recommend using prevention all year long. We recommend Interceptor, a once a month preventative, because it also prevents roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.

FECAL EXAM: Parasites are common in puppies and should be eliminated. We recommend a fecal exam and de-worming for all puppies. Roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and Coccidia all cause diarrhea and poor growth.

DIET: We recommend that you feed a good quality, name-brand commercial puppy food, that is appropriate for your puppy's breed and size, until your puppy is 6 months old. Then switch to adult food. (For example – large-breed puppy food for labs and shepherds, small breed for yorkies). Studies have shown that overfeeding and over-nutrition can increase your puppy's risk for certain bone diseases like hip dysplasia. We also recommend dry food instead of canned food because it is healthier for your dog's teeth.

NEUTERING/SPAYING: We recommend neutering male dogs between 6 and 12 months of age, and female dogs right at 6 months of age. The timing is particularly important for female dogs because if we spay them before they have a heat cycle we prevent breast cancer and uterine infections when they are older. Neutering your male dog will help to prevent prostate problems.

HIP DYSPLASIA IN LARGE BREED DOGS: Most owners know that large breed dogs (German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers) are at risk for developing hip problems. We recommend preliminary hip xrays on large breed dogs when they are under anesthesia for their spay or neuter. If you have a large breed dog that you want to breed, it

should have its hips certified when it is two years old. We do not recommend breeding dogs with genetic defects.

MICROCHIPS: We have microchip implants available which allow a shelter to identify your dog if it is lost. We recommend implanting the microchip when your puppy is 6 months old. It can be done on an office visit, or more easily when they are here for their spay or neuter.

FLEA AND TICK CONTROL: We recommend Frontline Top Spot for flea and tick control. It is the only once a month topical that is safe and effective against all ticks and fleas.

TEETH & TOENAILS: We encourage you to handle your puppy's feet and nails frequently so nail trims are less scary when they get older. We also encourage you to get your pup used to having your fingers or a toothbrush in his mouth. As he gets older brushing his teeth will keep them healthy and strong for a lifetime.

So – Once again – Congratulations –

How exciting to bring home a new member of the family. We hope this guide answers lots of questions and helps get you on your way to a long and successful life together. Please don't ever hesitate to call us with questions. There are no unimportant questions – just some which are easier to answer than others!!