



Levittown Animal Hospital

Healing Long Island's Pets Since 1965
2703 Hempstead Tpke., Levittown, NY 11756
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New Dog Checklist

Congratulations! Your new addition to the family will provide you with years of unconditional love and companionship. Our job is to help you ensure that those years are as healthy and happy as possible. Please read over this checklist to make sure that all of these issues are addressed:

Vaccinations: The DA2PP vaccine is ideally started at 8 weeks of age and is given every 3 weeks through 16 weeks of age. At least two doses should be given (3 weeks apart). Rabies vaccination can be done at a minimum of 12 weeks of age, but we recommend giving it at 16 weeks or older. We often postpone leptospirosis vaccination until about 6 months after the Rabies vaccine in order to avoid over-stimulation of the immune system. Annual vaccine protocols are customized for each patient at this hospital.

Spay/Neuter: Unless you have plans to show your dog or become a professional breeder, the spay or neuter should be done by 5 to 6 months of age. This surgery will prevent a number of different diseases, including some types of cancer. It will also decrease your dog's desire to roam around the neighborhood, looking for a mate. Spay your female dog *before* she has her first heat in order to maximize the health benefits.

Identification: Protect your investment! 10 million pets get lost every year and without identification, 90% don't return home. Only about 14% of dogs and 4% of cats who end up in shelters are returned to their rightful owners. 30% to 60% of lost pets in shelters are euthanized because they cannot be properly identified and returned to their owner. Collars and tags are good, but they can easily fall off or be removed. Microchipping is permanent, completely unalterable, and does not harm or change the appearance of the animal in any way. The procedure is safe, inexpensive, fast, and virtually painless.

Heartworm & Parasite Prevention: All dogs need to be protected against heartworm disease and intestinal parasites. Roundworms, hookworms and whipworms are all contagious to humans. All of these infections are easily and effectively prevented by giving your dog a small pill (at home) once a month, year round. Our recommended heartworm preventative is Sentinel, which also protects against fleas. Dogs over six months of age must be tested before starting their heartworm preventative. Routine heartworm testing is done annually, while intestinal parasite screening is done every 6 to 12 months

Training: Solid training provides a great foundation, protecting against many undesirable behavioral problems. It will make the years you spend with your dog less stressful and more enjoyable. We can help recommend the right trainer for your needs.