

# Health Care Plan

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date

- Spay/Neuter
- FIV/FelV Test
- Heartworm Test
- Fecal Exam
- Start Heartworm Prev.
- Deworming—1st dose
- 2nd dose

*Vaccinations*

- Canine— 6 week DA2PP
- 8/9 week DA2PP
- 12 week DA2PP
- 16 week DA2PP
- Rabies
- 20 week DA2PP
- Feline— 6 week FVRCP FeLV
- 8/9 week FVRCP FeLV
- 12 week FVRCP FeLV
- 16 week FVRCP FeLV
- Rabies
- 20 week FVRCP FeLV
- Bordatella (Kennel Cough)
- 2nd Bordatella
- Annual Vaccinations

## Puppy & Kitten Care

*Preventative Health Care Guide*

**TLC ANIMAL HOSPITAL**



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1851 N Lee Trevino  
 El Paso, TX 79936  
 (915) 592-6200  
[www.tlcvetelpaso.com](http://www.tlcvetelpaso.com)



# Keeping Your Puppy or Kitten Healthy

Ideally, puppies & kittens should be kept with their mother and litter mates until they are 6 weeks old and completely weaned. Early separation may result in the animal becoming afraid of or aggressive toward others of its species.

## Physical Exam

A new puppy or kitten should be taken to be examined by a veterinarian soon after being obtained. The vet will check for any abnormalities and make care recommendations at this time.



## Nutrition

A good quality, name-brand puppy or kitten food should be fed until 12-18 months of age, at which time you may gradually transition to an adult food. Toy and miniature breed puppies under 4 months of age should be fed 5-6 times a day. Large breed puppies should be fed a good quality large breed puppy food until 18 months of age. The amount fed may initially be based on label recommendations and adjusted as needed.

## Toy & Miniature Breed Puppies

Special consideration must be given to these puppies. They are very fragile and easily injured. Children should be supervised when playing with the puppy. They are also prone to hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and must be fed 5-6 times a day until they are 3-4 months old. Dry food may be soaked in water or broken up if it is too large for the puppy to eat. Nutritional, a high calorie supplement, may be given several times a day between meals. Care must be taken to keep them warm. They should be kept indoors and sleep in a small crate or container with plenty of blankets or towels. If a heating pad is used, it must be covered at all times, otherwise it may cause severe burns. If at any time the puppy appears lethargic, cold, does not want to eat, collapses, or has a seizure: begin to warm it up, apply a small amount of Karo syrup, honey, or Nutrical to the gums, and bring it to a veterinarian immediately.

## Vaccinations

Puppies and kittens must receive multiple vaccinations at specific times in order to establish full immunity. After this initial series, boosters should be given yearly. Parvovirus and Distemper in dogs, and Feline Leukemia Virus in cats, to name a few, are common and life-threatening diseases that can be prevented with vaccination. Rabies vaccinations are required by law and are essential to protect your pet and family from this disease. Until he/she is fully vaccinated, avoid taking your new pet to the pet store, park, groomer, or other places where unvaccinated animals may gather.



## Parasite Prevention

### Heartworm Prevention

Involves giving a medicated treat monthly throughout the animal's life. Heartworm disease is a life-threatening condition commonly seen in dogs and cats. Prevention should be started before 8 weeks of age. For dogs, a heartworm test should be performed at 7 months of age and if a month of prevention is missed. Some preventatives, such as Heartgard, also prevent hookworms and roundworms.

### Flea & Tick Prevention

Fleas and ticks can cause anemia and transmit serious diseases, such as tapeworms, Ehrlichia, Anaplasma, Lyme disease, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Prescription prevention products are recommended, as they have proven to be safe and effective.

### Intestinal Parasite Prevention

These parasites are very common in puppies and kittens. They are spread through feces-contaminated soil, mother's milk, and other sources. Anemia, malnutrition, diarrhea, vomiting and respiratory disease may occur. This is especially serious in very young animals—some may even die if not treated. Hookworms and roundworms may infect children and cause damage to the skin, eyes, or internal organs. Routine deworming and fecal exams are recommended.

## Disease Testing

### Heartworm Disease

A heartworm test should be performed as early as 7 months of age, especially if the puppy is not already consistently receiving monthly heartworm prevention.

### FIV & Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

FIV & FeLV are serious, incurable cat diseases. FIV is spread through cat bites. FeLV can be spread during gestation, through milk, social grooming or shared food/water bowls. All new cats and kittens should be tested, especially if they are not the only cat in the household.

### Fecal Exam

This test checks for intestinal parasite eggs in a stool sample. Once the parasites are identified, appropriate treatment may be given.

## Spaying and Neutering

Are highly recommended for all animals to decrease animal overpopulation and prevent several serious health problems. Pets, especially female dogs and cats, should be spayed or neutered between 4 & 6 months of age. Ideally, all pets should be spayed/neutered before puberty (6 months of age) to maximize the health and behavioral benefits.

## Socialization

To help ensure the puppy/kitten will get along with other animals and people when it grows up, it is important to introduce it to people and animals it may associate with later in life during the socialization period (4-12 weeks of age). Close human contact and interaction with **vaccinated** animals should be encouraged. Puppy training classes at facilities that require all puppies to be healthy and vaccinated are encouraged.

