



# CONGRATS, NEW PUPPY!

We would like to welcome your new puppy to the  
Friendship Animal Hospital Family!  
Here at Friendship Animal Hospital, we're dedicated  
to nurturing the special bond between people and  
their pets by providing compassionate, modern  
medical care tailored to each patient's needs.

Our goal is to support you in being the best pet  
parent you can be—keeping your furry family  
members healthy, happy, and thriving every step of  
the way. When pets feel their best, their people do too  
—and that's what we're here for.

Thank you for bringing your new puppy to join the  
Friendship Animal Hospital Family.

Sincerely,  
The Friendship Animal Hospital Team

## HOW DO VACCINES WORK?

Vaccines are like boot camp for the immune system: They train your pet's body to fight off infectious disease. They don't cause an infection, but the immune system still sees them as an invader and makes antibodies in response. The body retains a memory of these antibodies, and if your pet is ever exposed to the same disease again, the immune system can respond lightning fast.



## ARE VACCINES SAFE?

Vaccines have been accused of being dangerous. There is no scientific evidence to support these claims for dogs. Vaccination has saved innumerable lives, both human and animal. There are isolated cases of allergic reactions, but these are rarely life-threatening when treated appropriately. However, vaccines must be given according to researched guidelines.

## CORE VS. NON-CORE VACCINES

You may have heard our veterinary team mention core versus non-core vaccines. Core vaccines are needed for all pets to keep them and their human friends healthy and safe. Non-core vaccines are recommended based on the risk of exposure to certain diseases. Not all pets need every non-core vaccine. Vaccines are not one-size-fits-all and should be tailored to the individual puppy.

## WHAT IF MY PET HAS A VACCINE REACTION?

Just like when humans are vaccinated, vaccinations can make pets out of sorts for a day or two. Expected responses to vaccines include:

- Mild fever (your pet feels warm)
- Mild loss of appetite
- Mild swelling at the injection site
- Mild lethargy.
- Soreness at the injection site

If your pet's response is more than mild or lasts longer than a day or two, call your veterinarian- they may prescribe medicine to make your pet feel better. Let us know if your pet has had felt unwell after vaccines in the past. Reactions are rare as vaccines today are safer than ever and are highly regulated to maintain purity and effectiveness.

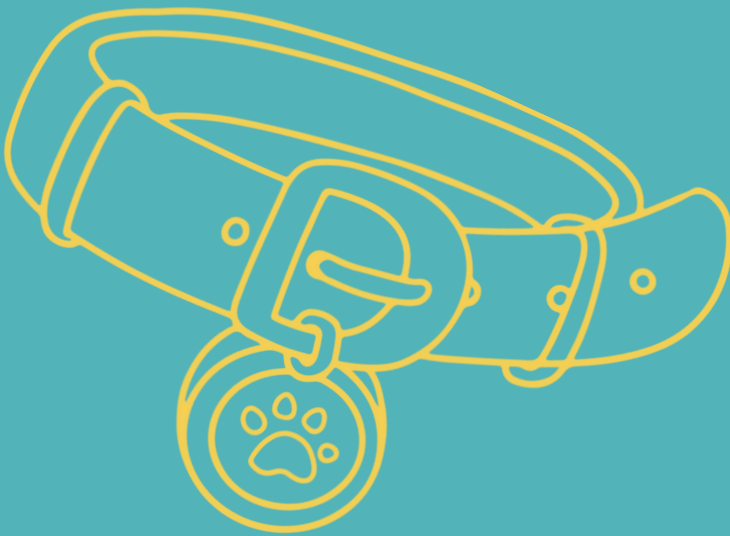
**If your pet is vomiting or develops hives after vaccines, this indicates a more serious reaction. Call your veterinarian immediately. Some dogs and cats can have a rare but serious adverse reaction to any type of vaccination.**

## WHAT ABOUT DEWORMING ?

Intestinal parasites are commonly found in puppies, which is why we routinely deworm for the most common types. To ensure your puppy receives the most complete care, we also request a small, fresh stool sample to test for less common parasites that may not be addressed by standard deworming.

## WHY DOES MY PUPPY NEED REPEAT VACCINES “BOOSTERS”?

We know that an immune system “remembers” diseases from vaccines, but we don’t know how long the memory is for each individual animal. Puppies receive temporary immune protection from their mother after they’re born, maternal immunity can interfere with the effectiveness of vaccines, so we repeat them to make sure they’re present when the puppy’s own immune system takes over. Eventually, puppies need to develop their own protection, and that’s where vaccines come in. This timeline varies between individual dogs, so we follow guidelines to protect as many puppies as possible.



## Rabies

Rabies is an incurable and fatal viral disease, Rabies is transmitted through saliva and targets the central nervous system. Because it is spread from animals to people, public health agencies require all cats and dogs to be vaccinated against Rabies.

## CORE VACCINES

## Leptospirosis

This bacterial infection affects the kidneys and liver, and is transmitted through the urine of other animals. Dogs that swim, play in water, drink out of puddles, or live in cities are at the highest risk. This can be fatal and is contagious to humans.

## Bordetella

Sometimes called kennel cough, this is a highly contagious bacterium transmitted through respiratory secretions. It causes inflammation of large airways, causing a honking cough; in the young or immune-compromised, it can become pneumonia.

## DA2PP

Often called simply the Distemper vaccine, DA2PP covers the canine diseases: Distemper/Adenovirus 1&2/Parainfluenza/Parvovirus. Distemper virus is highly infectious and spreads by respiratory droplets, impacting lungs, brain, and GI tract. Adenovirus is transmitted through bodily secretions and causes respiratory symptoms, liver damage, and ocular damage. Parainfluenza is a respiratory virus transmitted via respiratory secretions. Canine Parvovirus is an extremely contagious disease of the gastrointestinal tract. Puppies and unvaccinated dogs are extremely susceptible. All of these diseases can be fatal to your dog.

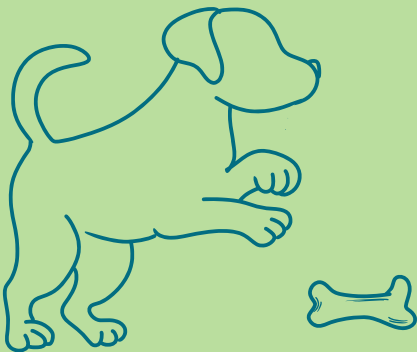
# OUR NON-CORE VACCINES

## Canine Influenza

Transmitted like the human flu virus through contact and respiratory droplets or contaminated surfaces, most cases of this relatively new disease have been reported at shelters, boarding facilities, dog daycares, and similar places. We highly recommend this vaccine if your pet is going to spend time in boarding, grooming facilities, or going to day care. This vaccine is required by our hospital for boarding and grooming, and more and more boarding facilities are requiring this vaccine as well.

## Lyme Disease

This bacterial organism is spread by the deer tick. In dogs, it is most often associated with severe joint pain and fever; a severe, potentially fatal type of kidney disease, or neurological symptoms can also develop. We strongly recommend Lyme vaccines for dogs with families who hike, camp, or travel frequently.



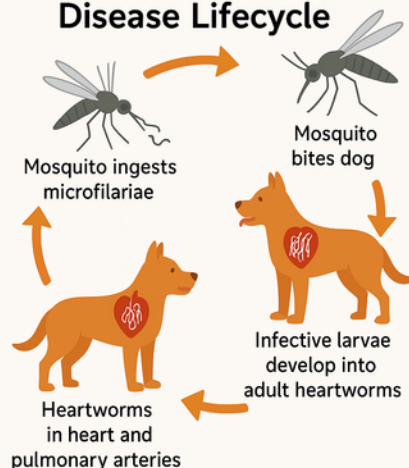
# HEARTWORM DISEASE & PREVENTION FOR YOUR PUP!



Heartworms are foot-long parasitic worms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) that live in the heart, lungs, and blood vessels of dogs and other animals. They are spread only through mosquito bites, so even indoor pets are at risk. Once a dog is infected, it takes about six months for the worms to grow into adults. Heartworm disease can cause serious health issues, including lung damage, heart failure, and even death. Treating it is a long, difficult process that includes multiple medications, injections, and veterinary visits to kill both adult and juvenile worms.

Fortunately, heartworm disease is completely preventable. Monthly heartworm prevention—available as a pill, topical treatment, or injection prescribed by your veterinarian—can protect your dog from this life-threatening condition. Just one infected mosquito bite can change your dog's life, but regular prevention is simple, safe, and effective. Talk to your vet about the best option for your pet.

## Canine Heartworm Disease Lifecycle





# FLEA & TICK PREVENTION FOR YOUR PUP!



What about fleas and ticks? Are you protecting your four-footed friend from fleas and ticks as well as heartworms and intestinal parasites?

## Fleas and Ticks...All Year Round, Really?

<https://www.zoetispetcare.com/blog/article/fullyear-protection>

Need recommendations for flea, tick, intestinal parasite, and heartworm prevention?

We offer a variety of options available for purchase at our hospital or through our online pharmacy! Ask a team member how you can get your pup protected today!





## HELPFUL LINKS!



WANT TO KNOW MORE BUT NOT SURE WHERE  
TO START?

**Back to the Basics...What are Heartworms  
and what does it do to a dog?**

<https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm-basics>

<https://www.zoetispetcare.com/blog/article/take-bite-mosquitoes-heartworms>

**Disease Prevalence Maps**

<https://capcvet.org/maps/#/>

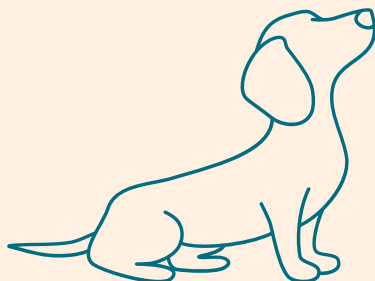
# FEAR FREE FOR PUPPY OWNERS

## What is Fear Free?

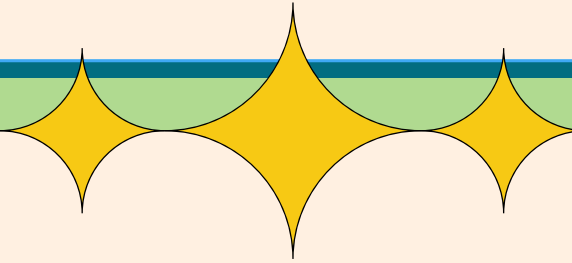
Fear Free is a veterinary approach designed to reduce stress, anxiety, and fear in pets before, during, and after their visits to the clinic. It uses gentle handling techniques, calming environments, and positive reinforcement to create a more comfortable experience for both pets and their owners. By focusing on emotional well-being, Fear Free care helps pets feel safer and more relaxed, making vet visits less stressful and more effective.

Learn more about Fear Free and how get tips on how you can use Fear Free with your pet at:

<https://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com/>



# PUPPY 101



Whether you are an experienced dog owner or this is your first puppy - here are a few resources to help guide you or refresh your memory:

[Purina Guide to Getting a Puppy](#)

[Fear Free Activities & Enrichment](#)

[Sally Said So Trainer](#)

[AKC Puppy Nutrition](#)

[ASPCA Pet Poison Control Household Hazards](#)

