



We are so excited to welcome you and your new pet to Providence Veterinary Clinic! At Providence Veterinary Clinic, we understand that pets are part of the family. We take pride in nurturing the bond between you and your pet through exceptional veterinary care.

HOURS AND DIRECTIONS

1100 Mount Bethel Drive

Marietta, GA 30068

(770)-565-7175

Monday -Friday 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Saturday 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Dr. Taylor Welborn, DVM

Dr. Caroline Horne, DVM

Dr. Haley Dromsky, DVM

Dr. Blakelee Price, DVM



EXAMINATIONS

Physical exams are as important as any vaccines we give!

Every new puppy should have a full physical examination after adoption. This is to ensure your pet does not have any congenital disorders and to answer any questions you may have in raising your new puppy. Thereafter your pet will need an annual visit to the vet for their exam and vaccinations.

VACCINES

Puppies require a variety of vaccines in their early months to protect them from serious disease. We recommend starting to vaccinate puppies between 8 and 10 weeks of age. After puppies reach adulthood, their vaccines are updated at intervals to ensure continued protection.

Puppies receive two primary vaccines: the rabies vaccine and the distemper vaccine, protecting against a variety of dangerous viruses (distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, and parvovirus). It is also updated at intervals throughout a dog's life. There are several other vaccines which may be appropriate for your puppy depending on her environment and degree of interaction with other dogs: Bordetella ("kennel cough"), Leptospirosis, and Influenza. We can discuss these vaccines during your initial visits.

FECAL EXAMINATION

This test is a check for various intestinal parasites, and is recommended for all puppies, and then every 6-12 months for older dogs. These parasites can be harmful to puppies, and sometimes people, so it is important to bring in samples regularly and give any deworming medication as directed.

A small, fresh stool sample can be brought in a plastic bag or other container. It is checked for various intestinal parasites. Tapeworms and roundworms may also be seen in the stool or on the puppy's anal area. Because some intestinal parasites can cause serious disease in humans, please test regularly, and give deworming medicine and regular monthly heartworm pills as directed.

Also, encourage children to wash their hands, keep them away from areas that may be contaminated by feces, and clean up feces in the yard to avoid environmental contamination and reinfection of dogs.

HEARTWORM AND INTESTINAL PARASITE PREVENTION

Heartworms are blood parasites that are carried by mosquitos from dog to dog. They literally live in the heart and can cause heart failure and death. Intestinal parasites are very common in dogs, especially puppies, who get them from their mothers.

Monthly pills are recommended year-round to prevent heartworm infection and to protect against common intestinal parasites. They need to be started at 6 to 8 weeks of age.

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION

Georgia is unfortunately home to a thriving population of fleas and ticks. We have several monthly products that are very effective in killing them, usually before they can transmit diseases to your dog.

NEUTERING/SPAYING

We recommend this procedure for our patients for health and behavioral reasons as well as population control.

It is often done when a dog is 6 months old. Spaying female dogs before their first heat cycle prevents pregnancy and uterine infection and minimizes the risk of future mammary (breast) cancer, which is common in dogs. Please discuss these procedures and the best time for your dog with the veterinarian.

DIET

Puppies should be fed 2 to 3 times a day until they are 6 months old, and then twice a day thereafter. Larger breed puppies should not be allowed to get overweight, as this can predispose them to joint problems such as hip dysplasia.

You can switch to adult dog food at 1 year of age. Vitamin supplements are NOT necessary if you are using a commercial dog food is used. Most fruits and vegetables are great snacks; however, *never give dogs grapes, raisins, chocolate, macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, or any artificially sweetened foods (xylitol)*.

If your puppy eats any of these, call the clinic immediately! Treats are generally recommended, for training, enrichment, and bonding with your dog,



but they should not constitute a large percentage of the diet, as they may be high in fat, nutritionally deficient and may upset the balance of a good diet. We recommend the following dog food companies because of their understanding of pet nutrition and their quality control: Science Diet, Royal Canin, and Purina (their Proplan line, specifically).

OBEDIENCE

All puppies and all puppy owners can benefit from dog obedience training, either private or in classes. We consider the training and education of puppies and their owners to be vital to their ultimate health and wellbeing.

Please feel free to discuss any behavior issues, including house training and separation anxiety, with the veterinarian. Many dogs become fearful and anxious at the animal hospital. We encourage you to drop in with your dog any time you are nearby, for us to give your dog a treat!

When you are away from home or unable to watch your puppy

Confine them to a “safe” room which you can easily clean if there are accidents (a room without carpeting or rugs.) Provide a comfortable bed in one corner, paper in the opposite corner, toys, and water. If they are crate-trained (see below), they can stay in a crate for up to 4 hours at a time. While you sleep at night, they can be put in a crate in your bedroom (we recommend this), in a crate in another room, or they can stay in their “safe” room. Many puppies can make it through the night without walks, but some must be taken out 1 or 2 times during the night.

When you are at home AND can watch him/her:

1. Keep your puppy with you and confined to a small area. You can use:
 - A crate (for no more than 4 hours at a time)
 - A leash attached to them and tied to your belt.
 - A leash tied next to a dog bed (but you must supervise all tied dogs!)
2. Select a spot outside where you wish him to eliminate. This should be close to your door, to be convenient in the pouring rain or the dead of winter.
3. Every hour (to start) and 10 minutes after every meal, run them outside to the spot you have chosen and stand still for several minutes.

4. If he eliminates, say a phrase you'd like them to eventually learn ("go potty!", etc.), then praise them heartily and give them three small treats that they really like, and then play with them or go for a walk. (Try to avoid ending the fun as soon as the dog eliminates; he may learn to hold it to make the fun last longer.) If he produces nothing after 5 minutes, go for a walk if it's due, or return to the house if he has been walked recently. Try again in an hour.
5. When they have accidents in the house and you catch him in the act, immediately clap your hands or make just enough noise to startle him and take him immediately outside to the appropriate spot (no treats or praise unless he eliminates outside as well.) DO NOT yell at him or rub his nose in the mess, or he may become anxious, afraid of you, and afraid to eliminate in your presence! DO clean up the mess thoroughly, and apply an odor neutralizer, available at pet stores, to the spot. You can put some soiled paper towel outside in the appropriate spot, to give him a reminder of what you want him to do.
6. If you're making progress, gradually increase the amount of time between trips outside. A 6- to 8-week-old puppy may need to urinate every two hours. A 3-month-old may need to go every three hours. (Many puppies can make it through the night without eliminating though, if they are sleeping.)
7. When your dog is eliminating outside reliably, gradually increase his freedom within the house. If he backslides, go back to step one. Gradually replace the food rewards with praise.

Please note: Dogs absolutely do not eliminate inappropriately out of spite!!! Try to use as much positive reinforcement as you can (treats, praise, walks, play and affection). House-training a puppy or an older dog can be very time-consuming and frustrating. These instructions are intended for the "average" dog, but every dog is unique! Please call us if you need further help.

Introducing your dog to a crate

Dogs are naturally inclined to nest in dens, so spending a few hours in a comfortable crate is not unnatural or cruel. The crate should be high enough for your dog to sit up straight and still have another 6 inches above her head. It should be wide and deep enough for her to turn around

comfortably. If it is much bigger than this, she may have accidents in it. Most dogs prefer that their crate have solid sides, or be covered with a blanket, if it has wire sides.

1. At first, the puppy should be lured into the crate by food, treats, toys, and soft surfaces, and she should be able to go in and leave freely.
2. After she has become used to being in the crate, the door can be shut for brief periods; only a few seconds, to start with. Gradually increase the time she is kept in the crate and stay in the room with her at first.
3. Work up to longer and longer periods. She should never be left in a crate longer than about 4 hours at a time.
4. If she becomes panicky, can't calm down, tries to bite the walls or bars of the crate, or is repeatedly having accidents in the crate, it isn't appropriate to continue crating her.

MICROCHIP

We strongly recommend this safe, permanent means of identification for your dog. We inject a tiny transponder under the skin and register your dog for life with a 24-hour hotline. You must keep the registry informed if your phone number changes! If your dog is lost and is taken to a shelter, she will automatically be checked for a microchip, and if she has one, you will be called.

OTHER CONCERNS

A doctor or technician can discuss routine homecare of nails, teeth, and ears. Please call us if you have any further questions!