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To the new Pet Owner: Below is the East Side Animal Hospital's basic list of recommendations in order to follow to ensure your dog lives a healthy and happy life. By no means is this list meant to be comprehensive – it is only meant as a general guideline. Please feel free to contact us if you need elaboration or have a more specific concern.

1. **Heartworm and Flea.** We recommend monthly treatment with a heartworm preventive year-round. If you miss his/her monthly treatment, do not give the medication; your pet will require a blood test to insure that he/she has not become infected.
2. **Feed.** Please feed your pet 2 – 3 times daily over the next few months. Use a measuring cup – this will enable you to observe his/her routine eating habits, as well as detect any fluctuations that might occur. If he/she has a decrease in appetite (which can hint at other problems), or develops a weight problem, you will be able to tell because you have been keeping track of her daily food intake. Once your pet reaches 4 months of age, you can switch him/her to twice daily.
3. **Brush Teeth. (1-2 week).** Use a soft child's toothbrush or one specifically designed for dogs; there is an angled- and finger-puppet toothbrush made by CET. Additionally, CET makes toothpaste in a variety of flavors.
4. **Contact with other dogs.** In the beginning, a dog's contact with others should be limited. **** Please note:* This is particularly important leading up to/during the period of his/her first rounds of vaccinations.
5. **Vaccinations: Rabies & Distemper.** (This series should begin at 3 months of age). It is important to stay on top of these; after the initial series given during her puppy years, Bordetella vaccines are meant to be administered bi-annually (every 6 months). If you plan to board or groom your dog, these service businesses will require updated distemper vaccinations. Rabies will be given every year, then triennially thereafter – will need an updated vacc. only every 3 years.

Additional vaccines to consider would be Leptosporis (dogs who swim or spend time in free bodies of water – such as puddles – are most at risk) and Lymes disease.

6. **House Training.** Take your dog outside every 2 – 4 hours. Reward urinating and defecating in the appropriate place and manner.
7. **Parasites.** It is recommended that all dogs are checked for intestinal parasites.
8. **Be careful of typical puppy behavior!** Young dogs tend to get into things. Be extra cautious about putting things away around the household – this is for your own safety (he/she might take a liking to your new shoes) as well as your dog's! (common objects in your home can be very harmful to dogs, especially things inside pocketbooks and purses – like chocolate or gum, which can be lethal!)

Please remember we are always available if you have any further questions and do not hesitate to call, even if you notice something seemingly minor – you never know!

Sincerely,
East Side Animal Hospital

www.eastsideanimalhospital.com

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