



PUPPY INFORMATION GUIDE

Brennan's family raises beautiful, spirited, pedigreed hunting dogs - the very best of the Brittany breed. At their kennel just north of Springfield, they treat every puppy like a champion. And for more than a decade, they've treated all their puppies at Deerfield.

- DVH Client since 1999

Please call us at **417-889-2727** with any concerns you may have or visit **deerfieldvet.com** for more information.

IMPORTANT PUPPY INFORMATION

VACCINATIONS

Deerfield Veterinary Hospital follows the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) vaccination guidelines.

Dhpp vaccinates for Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, & Parvovirus. Distemper is a neurological virus that can cause meningitis, seizures and possibly death. Hepatitis is a virus that can cause liver disease. Parainfluenza is an upper respiratory virus. Parvovirus is an intestinal virus that can cause severe bloody diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, septicemia and possibly death. Keep your puppy isolated from unfamiliar dogs until it has received two Dhpp boosters to minimize the risk of contracting these serious, highly contagious diseases. The first Dhpp vaccination is given at 6 to 8 weeks of age and then every 3 to 4 weeks thereafter until your puppy is a minimum of 16 weeks old.

Rabies is a neurological virus that causes seizures and death. An initial, single vaccination is given to your puppy at 3 to 4 months of age. The immunity from this first Rabies vaccination lasts one year. The city of Springfield requires dogs be vaccinated against Rabies because it poses a serious health threat to humans.

Bordetella Bronchiseptica is a bacteria which causes tracheobronchitis - kennel cough. An initial booster is given at 6 weeks of age or older and a follow up booster is administered in 3 to 4 weeks. We recommend Bordetella vaccinations for puppies that will be attending puppy classes, will be visiting a groomer or staying at a lodging facility.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that is caused by a family of rod shaped bacteria. Clinical signs of the disease include anorexia, lethargy, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. Leptospirosis can cause kidney and liver failure. Raccoons, skunks, opossums, rats, cattle, pigs and dogs can contract and harbor the organism. It is transmitted in the urine of infected animals. This disease can cause serious illness in humans. If your puppy's life style will potentially expose them to this disease we recommend starting a vaccination series at 12 to 16 weeks of age.

FECAL EXAMINATION

Puppies should have a fecal exam performed to check for intestinal parasites such as roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, coccidia, and tapeworms. Deworming and therapy will be done accordingly. Routine prophylactic dewormings are recommended for puppies to ensure their health and to prevent transmission of canine intestinal parasites to humans especially to children.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION

Heartworm larvae are transmitted to dogs by mosquito bites. Immature larvae migrate to the heart where they mature into adult worms that reside in the heart and pulmonary vasculature. Heartworms can cause permanent damage to the heart, lungs, and kidneys. Monthly preventatives stop the maturation of heartworms and additionally control intestinal parasites. Puppies under 6 months of age can start a heartworm prevention program without an initial blood test.

FLEA & TICK PREVENTION

There are many new generation monthly flea preventives. Some are applied topically and some are given orally. A few flea preventives are also combined with a monthly heartworm preventative. The key to flea prevention is to start using a preventive early, use it monthly and use it year-round. Since there are safer, more effective products available, we do not recommend using flea sprays, flea collars or dips to control fleas. All tick control products are topical. Tick control is important because ticks can carry diseases that can affect both dogs and humans.

HOUSE TRAINING

We recommend using a pet crate to potty train your puppy. Please talk with a doctor or a team member, ask for a crate training handout or visit our website for detailed information concerning this very important topic. House training can be difficult in the beginning, but most puppies catch on by 5 months of age and many learn much sooner.

Always remember to positively praise your puppy when they do well. A small treat given in association with elimination reinforces wanted behavior.

SPAYING & NEUTERING

We strongly recommend that your puppy be spayed (female) or neutered (male). We recommend spaying or neutering your puppy at 4 to 6 months of age. A spay procedure involves removal of both ovaries and the uterus from the abdominal cavity. A neuter procedure removes the testicles from the scrotum. Spaying or neutering your pet at a young age significantly decreases health and behavior problems.

BRUSHING TEETH

To acclimate your puppy to dental care, we recommend owners begin brushing their puppy's teeth at an early age. Puppies begin losing their deciduous (puppy) teeth around 4 months of age and have their permanent set of teeth at about 7 months of age. Early in a dog's life routine brushing becomes important. Brushing your pet's teeth regularly will decrease tartar build-up and prevent gum disease. Periodontal disease can lead to other health problems and it is the number one cause of tooth loss.

CHEW TOYS

Puppies enjoy chewing. It is a natural process of exploring their environment and chewing aids in teething. Provide toys for your puppy to chew so that your puppy has constructive rather than destructive chewing habits. Rawhide is not recommended for young puppies since it is not digestible and can possibly lead to gastrointestinal upset and blockage if swallowed. Ask any questions you have concerning chew toy safety.

NUTRITION

We recommend feeding a high-quality diet. Your puppy will digest premium food more completely and therefore will have less frequent, firmer stools which helps with potty training. You will waste less food and ultimately save money feeding premium food. Feed your puppy 2 to 3 times a day depending on the age, breed, and size of your puppy. Consult the package for a feeding guide and discuss with the doctor the specific nutritional needs of your puppy. Food refusal can be a sign of illness so please contact us if this occurs.

TRAINING & SOCIALIZATION

We recommend all puppies go to puppy class so that they are appropriately trained and socialized to other dogs and people. Proper training can prevent behavior problems and ultimately help your puppy become a well-mannered, enjoyable family member. Training is definitely worth the time, effort, and investment. We can recommend a program for you.

PUPPY PLAYDATES

Our hospital offers puppy playdays to allow your puppy to socialize with other puppies. It is a low stress, fun visit to our hospital and it is a great opportunity for us to bond with your puppy. Your puppy will learn appropriate canine manners from other dogs, puppies and our team. We require that all playing puppies be current on vaccinations, dewormings, and preventives.

GROOMING

Routine bathing is an excellent way for you and your puppy to become acquainted. Bathe your puppy with a mild hypoallergenic shampoo for their sensitive skin. Do not use people shampoo on your puppy. Some dog breeds need regular grooming. Schedule that first puppy groom early to help your puppy adjust to the grooming process more easily. Routine bathing and grooming helps prevent skin and ear infections, torn nails, and anal gland issues. Regular grooming is important to your pet's health.