



ESTD 2021

# Guide to Caring for Your New Puppy



## Vaccination Schedule:

Your puppy has already received their 1st DHPP (distemper/parvo) vaccine and their Bordetella vaccine. Their health certificate will have the date of administration for those 2 vaccines. The following is a recommended vaccine schedule for your puppy:

12 weeks of age: 2nd DHPP

16 weeks of age: 3rd DHPP and rabies

\*if you live in an area with a large population of wildlife (deer, raccoons, squirrels, etc), then I highly recommend the Leptospirosis vaccine. This vaccine can be combined into one vaccine with the DHPP vaccine. If you plan on vaccinating for Leptospirosis, here is the recommended vaccine schedule:

12 weeks of age: 1st DHPPL

16 weeks of age: 2nd DHPPL and rabies

### LEPTO FACTS FOR DOG OWNERS

**Leptospirosis (also called Lepto) is a disease** that can affect humans and animals, including your pets.

**Dogs become infected through** Contact with infected urine or with water contaminated with infected urine

**90%** Develop kidney failure

**10-20 %** Develop liver failure

**Recovered animals** can be contagious for months

**Clinical signs of leptospirosis include** fever, lethargy, weakness, loss of appetite, excessive thirst or urination, and jaundice (yellow gums).

**Urine contamination usually comes from wildlife** especially rats and raccoons

**People are also at risk for lepto** and usually become infected by swimming in contaminated lakes or rivers

**Best protection is vaccination**

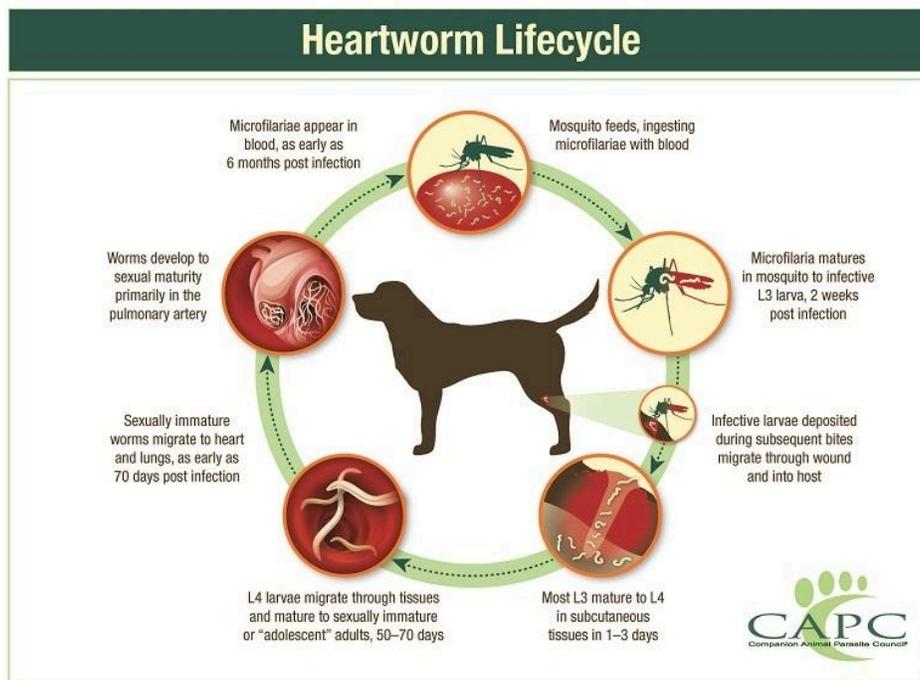
Vet Candy For more tips, check the CDC website © 2019, Vet Candy, LLC.

## Preventatives:

**Heartworms-** I highly recommend keeping your puppy on a heartworm preventative (such as Heartgard) monthly. Most veterinarians will require a heartworm test around 8-10mths. Heartworm are spread through mosquitos. Once inside your pup, heartworm will migrate through their blood to the heart. The worms will live in the heart and can lead to heart failure and death. This is why it is imperative to keep your pup on a preventative and get your pup tested yearly.

The other benefit of most heartworm preventatives is they prevent intestinal parasites (roundworms and hookworms) that can cause diarrhea and malnurishment.

Please talk with your veterinarian on what preventatives they carry and their recommendations.



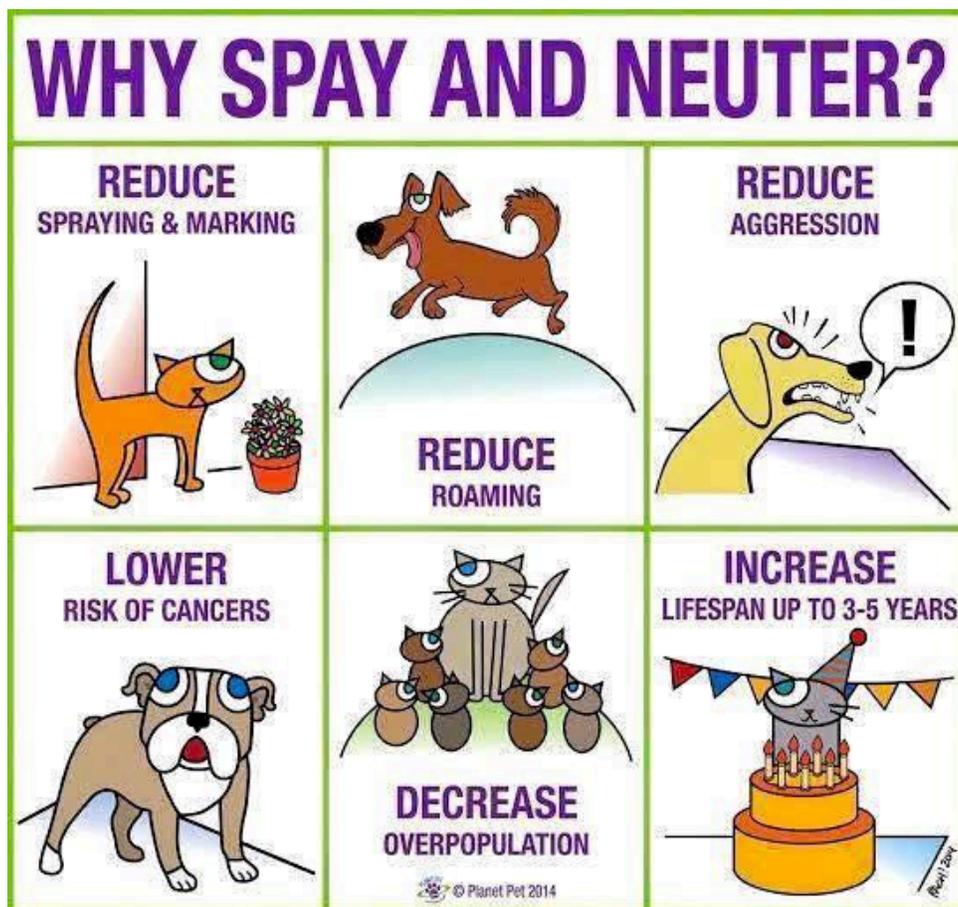
**Flea and tick-** I highly recommend flea and tick preventative (such as Nexgard), especially if your pup will have high exposure. If you plan on taking your pup on walks, to dog parks, hiking or other parks, then it is highly advisable to keep them on a flea and tick preventative.

## Spay/Neuter:

We require spaying/neutering around 6-8months of age. Spaying/neutering younger has been shown to affect joint formation. For this reason 6-8 months is a preferred age. For females, it is recommend spaying prior to the first heat to prevent cancers in the future. Every heat cycle that a female goes through greatly increase their risk for cancer. Most females will have their 1st heat around 8-12 months of age.

Neutering males is also important. Unaltered males are also at risk for cancers and prostatic enlargement and infections.

For these reasons, our contract requires that our puppies are spayed/neutered. Once spayed/neutered we ask that you send us proof of surgery. We will provide AKC paperwork as soon as these records are provided.



## **Grooming:**

Pomeranians have a thick, dense coat that can easily get matted. It is very important to brush your puppy daily. Pomeranian puppies have a single coat. At around 4 months old they will start to loose their fur and go through the "Pomeranian uglies". Puppies will look very scraggly during this stage, but it is normal. This process is necessary for pomeranians to grow their thick double layer coat. By around 1 year most pomeranians will have their full coat.

**Please do not shave your pomeranian.** Their coat will not grow back well due to their double coat. Their fur will permanently be damaged from shaving. Sanitary clipping with scissors can be used to help prevent fecal matter from getting stuck in fur.

For more information on the adverse effects of shaving your pom check out the following link: [https://pomeranian.org/blog/2022/02/21/black-skin-disease-pomeranian/#google\\_vignette](https://pomeranian.org/blog/2022/02/21/black-skin-disease-pomeranian/#google_vignette)

Here are some steps and tips for grooming your pom. Pictures are from petpom.com

Tools needed:



1. Two level steel comb
2. Leave in conditioner. My favorite is Isle of Dogs conditioning spray.
3. Small bubble tipped or polished tipped slicker brush
4. Mat remover
5. Nonrotating undercoat rake. Make sure it is nonrotating to prevent damage to your pups coat.
6. Small bubble tipped pin brush

Steps to grooming:

1. Spritz steel comb with leave in conditioner. Use large end of comb for larger areas, like chest. Use small end of comb for small areas like around ears. Spritz comb every 4-5 strokes
2. If a mat is found, spray the knot and use your fingers and comb to pull the fur apart. Go slow and be gentle so your pom is not hurt. If unable to remove the knot, use the mat remover tool to remove the knot. Make sure you isolate the knot before using the mat remover tool.
3. Next use slicker brush. Use leave in spray as you brush. Make sure you get deep into the undercoat. For puppies you can use pin brush. If your pom is shedding you can use the rake tool.
4. For a final touch in adult poms, use the pin brush.

For pictures and more details, petpom has a detailed guide with pictures on grooming your pom <http://www.petpom.com/how-to-brush-pomeranian>

**Bathing-** bathe your pom no more than once a month to avoid drying the fur and skin out. Make sure to use a conditioner. My favorite is Isle of Dogs Keratin Volumizing Shampoo and Conditioner or Isle of Dogs Tear Free Puppy Shampoo.

**Teeth-** it is important to brush your puppy's teeth daily to prevent dental disease. Pomeranians are highly prone to dental disease which can lead to tooth loss. I recommend Virbac C.E.T. dental chews and toothpaste or Yummy Combs. There are standard toothbrushes and fingers toothbrushes. Experiment with your pup to see which one they prefer.

## **Diet and Supplements**

### **Feeding:**

Your puppy is currently being fed **Hill's Science Diet Puppy Small Breed and Mini Breed** dry and wet food. We have provided you with a bag to get your puppy started. If you plan on transitioning your puppy to a new food, do so over a week by slowly adding the new diet to the current one.

You should feed your puppy at least 3 times a day. Free feeding (putting a set amount out) and letting your puppy graze is also a good idea. Small puppies, like pomeranians, can have hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Leaving food out can help prevent hypoglycemia in small, young puppies.

**\*\*Hypoglycemia** typically occurs when puppies are too active or have not eaten. Symptoms of hypoglycemia include lethargy, inappetance, and weakness. Contact your veterinarian if your puppy has any of these symptoms. You can give your puppy Nutrical, Corn Syrup or honey to help with hypoglycemia. Give about 1 tablespoon. Always contact your veterinarian if your puppy is experiencing symptoms of hypoglycemia.

### **Supplements:**

Supplements are a great way to improve the overall health of your pup. We recommend Curaflex Glucosamine supplements. Glucosamine supplements help support the cartilage of your pup as they grow and help prevent arthritis in the future. Even with the best breeding, pomeranians are prone to patellar luxation, where the knee pops out of the groove it lays in. This constant motion can wear down the cartilage of the knee joint. Glucosamine can help prevent or lessen the effects of patellar luxation and support the knee.

Fish oil supplements are also a great supplement to support the skin, soften the fur and help joints. We recommend Grizzly Omega Health or Welactin Fish Oil

## **Training:**

Training your puppy is an important step in raising a well socialized pom. Training should be started early. Make sure to train your pup the basics (sit, down, stay, leave it, etc) early on and make sure to take your pup out as soon as they are fully vaccinated. Socializing your pup early will help avoid any aggression issues. Training is a great way to build a strong bond between you and your pup. There are lots of training resources online. Our favorite online trainer is Zak George. He provides a free 30day training course for your pup. The link to this training course is provided below: <https://pupford.com/30-day-perfect-pup-with-zak-george/>

You can also consider training your pup for the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. More information can be found at: <https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/>

## **What does my puppy already know?**

- **Yes:** Your puppy has already learned the word “yes”. Anytime your puppy does something good, say “yes”. To find out more about training and how to use yes, check out Zak George's 30 day Perfect Pup free training course at the link above.
- **Manding:** Your puppy has also been taught manding. Manding means your puppy has been taught to sit and look at you when they want attention. When your puppy sits and looks at you, this is their way of politely trying to get your attention instead of jumping on you. They have not learned the command “sit” yet. Manding is different from the command “sit”. Manding is the way your puppy has been taught to communicate and get your attention. To learn more about manding, check out the Puppy Culture website: <https://shoppuppyculture.com/blogs/blog-posts/manding-failure-and-emotional-learning#:~:text=Manding%20is%20a%20concept%2C%20not,MUST%20mand%20before%20receiving%20resources.>

## **Biting:**

It is very normal for puppies to bite. Biting is their way of communicating with each other and playing. Your puppy has started training to not bite by using manding. Whenever your puppy chooses to sit and look at you instead of bite you for attention, say yes and highly reward them with pets or treats. Puppies do not get their adult teeth until around 6 months old. While we have set a foundation to encourage your puppy to not bite, you must follow through with training to encourage your pom not to bite. The following video has great advice on training your pup not to bite:

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CjA7BRplXIs&list=PLU\\_4yMUBFvZ2NrfjTCdN3SBWA-2oiwQU P&index=7&pp=iAQBsAgC](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CjA7BRplXIs&list=PLU_4yMUBFvZ2NrfjTCdN3SBWA-2oiwQU P&index=7&pp=iAQBsAgC)

## **Walking:**

Walking your pup is a great way to socialize your pom and exercise them. We highly recommend using a harness to avoid putting pressure on your pom's trachea. Poms are prone to tracheal collapse, where the cartilage that makes up the trachea is too weak and it falls inward causing coughing. We have provided you with your pom's first harness and leash. We highly recommend continuing to use a harness as your pom grows.

## **Introducing Your Puppy to Your Older Dog**

You always want to go slow when introducing a new puppy to your older dog. Start by introducing them between a barrier such as a crate or Playpen. Place your puppy in a crate or playpen that they are comfortable in and then allow your older dog to explore your new puppy through the barrier. They can sniff and lick each other through this barrier without the chance for any injuries. Once both your puppy and older dog seem calm when meeting between the barrier, you can try removing the crate or Playpen. If your older dog is bigger, consider using a basket muzzle to avoid any bites. Always supervise interactions between your older dog and your new puppy to avoid any aggression. Reward your older dog anytime they approach your new puppy calmly. For more information on introducing your puppy to your older dog check out the video below:

<https://youtu.be/plUIMx84iZc?si=kGKD1fAVkxvBZ67nh>

Remember that it will take time for your new puppy to be fully adjusted and comfortable in their new home. Use the 3-3-3 rule to help you understand where your puppy is at when adjusting to their new home.

### **First 3 day:**

- **Expect:** Your puppy may be overwhelmed or uncertain during this time period. They will be learning their new environment and may be more reserved.
- **Tips:** Be patient and calm during this adjustment period. Try to give your puppy some space, but also set boundaries and start a routine. Don't force any interaction and don't introduce your puppy to other new people or places during the first 3 days.

### **After 3 weeks:**

- **Expect:** Your puppy will start to settle in during this period and become more comfortable with their new home. They will be starting to learn their new routine. As they become more comfortable, new behaviors may also arise.
- **Tips:** Start to work on basic skills (sit, down, come) during this time. Always positively reinforce any good behavior. Use treats and toys as rewards. Stay consistent during this period. If introducing another dog or person or environment, go slow and follow the tips above. Socializing your puppy is very important to avoid fear in new environments.

### **After 3 months:**

- **Expect:** After 3 months your puppy will start to develop a bond with you and trust you. Your puppy will feel more secure now and understand your routine and boundaries. Habits will start to be established at this point.
- **Tips:** Continue training and, if needed, consider adding a professional trainer for advancement in training. Continue introducing your puppy to new people, dogs and environments.

**\*\*Reminder\*\*:**

If at any time you cannot keep your pom, please contact us. We are always willing to take our pups back for any reason. Our poms are our family and mean so much to us. We never want them to end up in a shelter or with a family that does not care for them. We are here to support you in every way.

If you have any questions about returning your pom, please reference our contract.

**Thank you for joining the Serena's Poms  
Family!**

**If you ever have questions, don't  
hesitate to contact us!**

**407-324-6317**

**[Azconavelasquez@outlook.com](mailto:Azconavelasquez@outlook.com)**

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/serenaspoms>

Or our website

[Serenaspoms.com](http://Serenaspoms.com)