



LITTLE SENECA
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Congratulations on your new puppy!

Whether you are a new dog owner or experienced dog owner, congratulations on your new companion. Everyone at *Little Seneca Animal Hospital* wants to meet your new puppy to welcome him or her into our family. We promise that we will be here to support and provide you with all of the puppy care, guidance, and information you will need to ensure that your new puppy grows up strong, healthy and happy.

It is important to your new puppy's long term health that we examine your puppy as soon as possible to identify any potential health issues early on. We will answer your questions on caring for your puppy long-term, including food and nutrition questions, vaccinations, other health topics and behavioral issues. Before you decide on a food, please talk to us. There are so many choices available and we want you to be able to choose the right food for your puppy, but be sure to feed him or her the same food supplied to you when you got your puppy until your first visit with us.



Your Puppy's First Wellness Exam

The first step in keeping your puppy healthy is visiting us for a puppy wellness exam. This initial visit includes a thorough physical exam, which allows us the opportunity to establish a relationship with you and your puppy as well as to fully understand your expectations as pet owner. We will also spend time with you answering all of your questions about puppy care. Your puppy's exam will also include:

- 🐾 Flea/tick control. We will discuss the best product for your puppy's lifestyle
- 🐾 Heartworm preventative as needed
- 🐾 Fecal examination for intestinal parasites and appropriate deworming
- 🐾 Establishing a vaccine schedule for your puppy's breed and anticipated lifestyle
- 🐾 Necessary vaccines or vaccine boosters

When visiting with your new puppy, please bring:

- 🐾 Your puppy on a leash
- 🐾 Any prior health information provided to you by the breeder, shelter or previous owner provided you such as a history of vaccines or worming
- 🐾 A fresh stool sample
- 🐾 All vaccination and health records you may have

Vaccination/Wellness Schedule

Wellness Visit 1 8-10 weeks of age	Wellness Visit 2 11-13 weeks of age	Wellness Visit 3 14-16 weeks of age
Wellness Exam	Wellness Exam	Wellness Exam
DHPP # 1	DHPP # 2	DHPP # 3
Bordetella	Lymes #1	Lymes # 2
Fecal Flotation		Rabies
Dewormer		
Heartworm Prevention		
Flea/Tick Prevention		

(The final step of spaying/neutering your puppy should take place at 6 months of age.)

After your puppy's third round of vaccinations, he/she will be up to date for one year. You will need to continue heartworm prevention and flea/tick prevention once monthly for the extent of your dog's life.

Most puppy contract intestinal parasites from their mothers, therefore, a dewormer will be recommended for your puppy regardless if we find parasites on their first visit or not; the first round is to be given the day of the first appointment, then the second round two weeks later. If intestinal parasites are found, a different course of dewormer will be recommended. Instructions will be provided.

Why Vaccinate?

Vaccinations have become commonplace for dogs today, as they can effectively prevent potentially serious canine diseases like distemper, rabies and hepatitis. Not only can regular vaccinations protect your pet's health, they can also keep the human members of your family healthy as well; some canine illnesses can be transferred to humans. Below are the vaccines we offer and recommend at Little Seneca Animal Hospital.

DHPP: Commonly called the canine distemper vaccine, this is the most common combination vaccine given to dogs. The initials DHPP refer to the diseases included in the vaccine.

Distemper :

- **Contagious and serious viral illness with no known cure**
- Young, unvaccinated puppies tend to be more susceptible to the disease
- Spread through the air and by direct or indirect (i.e. utensils, bedding) contact with an infected animal
- Major symptoms include high fever, reddened eyes, and a watery discharge from the nose and eyes. Also dogs become lethargic and tired, and will stop eating. Persistent coughing, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur.
- In the later stages of the disease, the virus starts attacking the other systems of the dog's body, particularly the nervous system. The brain and spinal cord are affected and the dog may start having fits, seizures, paralysis, and attacks of hysteria.

Hepatitis:

- Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Your pet's liver is a very complex organ that processes nutrients soon after they are absorbed through its intestines.
- The liver plays a major role in metabolism, detoxification, energy storage, and blood protein synthesis. It also produces bile, which aids in digestion.
- Dogs catch this disease by inhaling or eating the virus that is present in the urine, nasal and eye secretions of other infected dogs. Dogs can carry and pass on the virus for up to a year after recovering

Parvo:

- **Highly contagious** and is spread from dog to dog by direct or indirect contact with their feces
- Mortality can reach 91% in untreated cases
- Symptoms include lethargy, vomiting, fever, and diarrhea (usually bloody). Diarrhea and vomiting result in dehydration and secondary infections can set in.
- Treating Parvo always requires hospitalization and can become quite costly
- **The best prevention for Parvo Virus is routine vaccinations**

Parainfluenza:

- Highly contagious
- Symptoms include dry hacking cough, fever, wheezing, runny nose, sneezing, running eyes, lethargy, depression, loss of appetite

Rabies: Rabies is a severe, and often fatal, that specifically affects the gray matter of the dog's brain and its central nervous system. The primary way the rabies virus is transmitted to dogs in the United States is through a bite from a disease carrier: foxes, raccoons, skunks, and bats. Infectious virus particles are retained in a rabid animal's salivary glands that spread the virus through their saliva. Symptoms include fever, seizures, paralysis, hydrophobia, jaw is dropped, inability to swallow, change in tone of bark, muscular lack of coordination, unusual shyness or aggression, excessive excitability, constant irritability/changes in attitude and behavior, paralysis in the mandible and larynx, and excessive salivation. **Rabies vaccinations are required by Montgomery County law.**

Lyme Disease: Lyme disease is one of the most common tick-transmitted diseases in the world. The most common symptom in dogs is recurrent lameness due to inflammation of the joints. There may also be a lack of appetite and depression. More serious complications include damage to the kidney, and rarely heart or nervous system disease. Unfortunately, symptoms do not always completely resolve in some animals. In fact, long-term joint pain may continue even after the bacteria has been fully eradicated from your dog's system.

Leptospirosis: Leptospirosis is a zoonotic, potentially fatal, bacterial disease that is spread through direct and indirect contact with infected animal's urine. This disease most commonly causes the kidneys to fail, but can also cause liver failure, lung disease, and bleeding disorders. Common symptoms include fever, lethargy, weakness, increased thirst, increased urinations, and lack of appetite. Dogs can be infected with Leptospirosis through any contact with the bacteria. Leptospirosis is a hardy bacterium and can survive for months outside a host, in stagnant water, mud or damp soil. The disease is seen frequently in milder climates with rainy seasons (like the Mid-Atlantic)

Bordetella: Also known as Kennel Cough, is very highly contagious respiratory disease. The main symptom is a persistent dry cough with a "honking" sound. Some dogs may also develop a fever and nasal discharge. Groomers, boarding facilities, and some dog parks require this vaccine. Bordetella is treatable; however, it is easily preventable with vaccinations.

Canine Influenza: The virus causes a contagious respiratory disease in dogs caused by a specific Type A influenza virus that affects dogs and is not transmittable to humans. Symptoms include fever, cough, and runny nose.

Importance of Preventatives

The most common internal parasites of dogs live in the gastrointestinal tract. You may see some of these organisms in your pet's feces, but a fecal analysis by your veterinarian is more reliable. Some parasites live in the bloodstream or other parts of the body. Blood tests may be required to detect these. Most internal parasites can be treated with medication available from your veterinarian.

Heartworm

- 🐾 Heartworms are worms that look very similar to roundworms, but live in the heart. Their microscopic larvae circulate in the blood and are spread by mosquitoes. Heartworms are common in dogs.
- 🐾 Without treatment, heartworm infection causes damage to the heart and lungs and is often fatal. Therefore, prevention is crucial.
- 🐾 Also, treatment for heartworm infection can be risky and expensive.
- 🐾 We strongly recommend that your pet be given Heartgard monthly for the entirety of their lives.
- 🐾 Routine blood tests are recommended annually or more often if preventive treatment has been interrupted.

The preventative we most recommend for heartworms is Heartgard. This beef-flavored, chewable treatment (dogs love it!) should be given monthly year-round. Ask your technician for more details.

Flea/Tick Diseases

- 🐾 Ticks transmit a large number of diseases in North America. These diseases include Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, relapsing fever, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, and tick paralysis. It is important for the health of your pet, as well as the safety of your family, to include ticks in your pet's year-round parasite control program.
- 🐾 Fleas can carry and transmit several potential illnesses of importance to humans, including typhus and plague, and can transmit "cat scratch disease" (infection with Bartonella) among cats that can then spread the disease to humans. Additionally, fleas serve as an intermediate host for tapeworms, which can infect your pet and occasionally humans.
- 🐾 We have several monthly flea/tick preventatives available at Little Seneca Animal Hospital. Please ask your technician which preventative is best for your pet.

Importance of Parasite Testing

Each year for your pet's annual examination, we will ask you to provide a fresh stool sample- preferably, from the same day. By analyzing the sample under a microscope, we are able to look for eggs or cysts of intestinal parasites that live in your pet's digestive system. Many of the internal parasites we see in dogs and cats are zoonotic, meaning people can become infected too. We want both you and your pet to be parasite free!

- 🐾 Almost all puppies acquire **roundworms** from their mothers. The worms look like curly pieces of spaghetti and may be several inches long. Heavy infestation with roundworms may cause a dull hair coat and pot-bellied appearance. Roundworms can also cause disease in children, so all puppies should be routinely tested and treated. The treatment is a simple oral medication, but it must be repeated two or more times.
- 🐾 **Tapeworms** are one type of worm you may very likely see in your pet's stool. The worms are long and flat (like a narrow piece of tape), but you will rarely see the entire worm. Small segments, resembling grains of rice or sesame seeds, break off periodically and appear in the feces or on the hair around your pet's anus. Tapeworms are spread when your pet swallows an infected flea while grooming himself, or when he eats an infected animal, such as a mouse. Tapeworms may cause anal irritation, and some types can cause problems in children. You can prevent your pet from being exposed to tapeworms by controlling fleas and discouraging hunting. Your dog can be treated for tapeworms with an oral or injectable medication.
- 🐾 **Hookworms** look similar to roundworms, but are smaller. Hookworms live in the small intestine where they feed on blood. They can cause severe anemia and even death in puppies. Hookworm larvae live in the soil, especially in warm, humid areas. They can cause skin infections in humans. Hookworms can be treated with an oral medication.
- 🐾 **Whipworms** get their name because part of the worm is short and thick, like the handle of a whip, while the rest is long and slender, like the lash. They are common in dogs. Whipworms can cause diarrhea and colitis. Treatment and prevention are similar to that for roundworms and hookworms.
- 🐾 **Protozoan** parasites of the intestine include Giardia and Coccidia. All are microscopic. Giardia and Coccidia often cause diarrhea in puppies. Giardia can be spread to humans as well. Oral medications are available to treat for these organisms.

Importance of Spaying/Neutering

At Little Seneca Animal Hospital, we recommend spaying/neutering your dog at **6 months of age** to prevent complications later in life. This is the final, very important step of preventative care for your puppy.

Spay Benefits Unspayed female dogs usually go through two heat periods each year. During her heat period, your female dog may drip blood. She will also make every effort to sneak out to find a mate. As a result, she is at high risk for being hit by a car.

Unspayed female dogs suffer from a **high incidence of mammary tumors, false pregnancies, uterine infections, and reproductive cancers.** Breast tumors are the most common type of cancer in dogs. One out of every four unspayed dogs will get breast cancer, and half of the tumors are malignant. Unspayed dogs are also prone to pyometra, a life-threatening infection of the uterus. **Spaying removes the possibility of diseases of the ovaries and uterus, and comes close to eliminating the chance of mammary tumors.**

Neuter Benefits The normal behavior of an un-neutered dog is often incompatible with being a household pet. Intact dogs tend to wander from home, seeking a mate or defending their territory. This puts them at risk for being hit by a car or being injured in a dog fight. **Urine marking and some types of aggression are more pronounced in un-neutered dogs as well.** Although neutering may not entirely eliminate these behaviors, it can diminish them by 50-90%.

Intact male dogs suffer from a **high incidence of inflammation and enlargement of the prostate, as well as testicular tumors.** Older dogs commonly develop swollen and infected prostate glands. **These conditions are painful and can interfere with urination and defecation.** After neutering, the prostate shrinks considerably. Tumors of the testicles, common in older intact male dogs, are eliminated entirely.

The final benefit of spaying/neutering is that it is the best way you can help end pet overpopulation. Every year, 3-4 million cats and dogs are euthanized in U.S. animal shelters. None of us wants to contribute to that sad statistic, but we may do so unwittingly. Puppies adopted to apparently good homes may be given away or lost. Even purebred dogs end up homeless. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 25% of the dogs in U.S. animal shelters are purebred!

Although each of these procedures is very routine, they carry the risks normally associated with general anesthesia and surgery. We take numerous measures to keep your dog safe, such as checking her heart and lungs before administering anesthesia and monitoring her constantly while she is asleep. We also take additional safety precautions, such as pre-anesthetic blood tests and administration of IV fluids during the procedure.

Nutrition Information

Puppies

A puppy requires a great deal of nutrition to get through its first year healthy and happy. In order to get the correct nutrients for growth, such as calcium and phosphorus, it is important to feed a diet specifically for puppies until they have stopped growing.

As a puppy becomes an adult dog, the nutritional and energy needs of the dog change. As a responsible pet owner, we will want to shift to a diet to meet the nutritional requirements of the adult dog. These high quality diets contain carefully balanced ingredients that are vital for preventing disease. Feeding the right diet at the right life stage can have a significant impact on increasing the life span of our pets.

The amount of food needed changes rapidly during a puppy's first year. Most puppies should be fed 3 times a day until they are 6-8 weeks of age. After this age, most dogs are fed one to two times daily. The quantity of food can be determined by reading the suggested feeding volumes listed on the food bag. Regularly scheduled meal times are optimal as opposed to free feeding throughout the day. **Free feeding often leads to obesity.**

Obesity

While gaining a few pounds may not make a lot of difference to your body, for a cat or dog with a comparatively smaller body, a few pounds can add a lot of stress to bones and organs.

Obesity can adversely affect your pet's health by causing lameness and arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, exercise intolerance and overheating, increase anesthetic and surgical risks, and most seriously, **a reduced life span.**

Some causes of obesity are genetics, high-fat diets, over-feeding, lack of exercise, and health problems such as hypothyroidism

How do I know if my pet is overweight?

You can use the "Purina Body Condition Score System" to determine if your pet is overweight. Your pet should have an hour glass shape with minimal fat covering ribs and abdominal tuck evident.

How do I keep my pet at a healthy weight?

- 🐾 Routine visits to your veterinarian- this will help monitor your pet's weight and other health conditions.
- 🐾 Ask your veterinarian to recommend a nutrition plan that will help your pet reach its ideal body condition. An effective diet should also include the right balance of protein, fat and fiber to promote healthy weight loss.
- 🐾 Measure each serving- feed your pet twice a day. Follow the recommended feeding amount given to you by your veterinarian.
- 🐾 Limit treats and avoid people food.



Nestlé PURINA

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN

1 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3 Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

IDEAL

4 Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5 Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

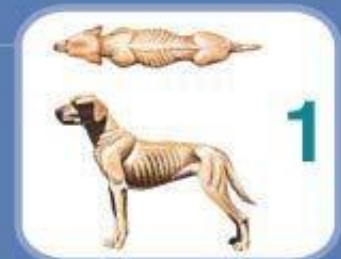
TOO HEAVY

6 Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7 Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.

8 Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9 Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Mawby D, Bariges JW, Moyers T, et. al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs. *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Lafontaine DP. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Keady, et. al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 220:1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT

Nestlé PURINA

Positive Trainers & Behaviorists

Trainers

Right Start Maryland

Michelle Mange

Rockville & Germantown, MD

tmange@msn.com

301-526-6285

Excellent Dog

Margarita Revzin

Gaithersburg, MD

www.excellentdoginc.com

mrevzin@excellentdoginc.com

240-888-8415

Group classes in Gaithersburg, including Puppy K and Utility. Private training in the Gaithersburg area.

Canine Character

Kim Yocklin, CPDT-KA

Frederick, MD

www.caninecharacter.com

info@caninecharacter.com

301-639-6536

Classes, private training, and behavioral consultations at facility in Frederick. Puppy kindergarten; good manners; tricks and games.

WiggleButts Dog Training

Tammy Tucker, CPDT-KA

Laytonsville, MD

www.wigglebuttsdog.com

tammy@wigglebuttsdog.com

410-259-5136

Group classes offered near Laytonsville: puppy, manners, nose work, therapy dog and CGC readiness, games & tricks. Private training and behavior consultations in Carroll, Howard, and parts of Montgomery and Baltimore counties.

Little Seneca Animal Hospital is in no way affiliated with any of the above mentioned trainers

Behaviorists

In some cases new puppies need more than just a trainer; this is where a behaviorist can be helpful. A number of trainers, not on this list, will use the title “behaviorist” without appropriate credentials or experience. Our recommended trainers can all give you advice and guidance on behavior issues. You may want to meet with a trainer first to decide if you need to see one of the behaviorists listed below. Also check our behavior handouts for an overview of many behavior problems.

Dr. Leslie Sinn, CPDT-KA, DVM, ACVB

Behavioral Solutions

P.O. Box 116, Hamilton VA 20159

540-454-9081

www.behaviorsolutions.guru

lsinndvm@gmail.com

Emergency Clinic Information

Little Seneca Animal Hospital is not open 24 hours a day, therefore we recommend taking your pet to one of the following after hours emergency clinics.



OPEN 24 HOURS
1 Taft Ct
Rockville, MD 20850
301-637-3228
301-795-0145 (F)
info.rockville@bluepearlvet.com



OPEN 24 HOURS
500 Perry Parkway
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-926-3300
301-977-1308 (f)
www.vcaspecialtyvets.com