



## THE “PUPPY PROGRAM”

At Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital we recommend monthly visits for puppies until they reach 6 months of age. During each visit they will receive an examination to monitor health and development. Vaccinations will be administered as needed. Nail trims will be demonstrated. Nutritional and behavioral counseling will be offered. We will strive to make each visit a positive experience for you and your puppy.

Puppies, because of their immature immune system and lingering disease protection received from their mother, need to receive a series of inoculations against infectious diseases. During the first puppy visit a vaccination schedule will be determined by your veterinarian based on a risk assessment of the individual puppy. The following is a brief description of the vaccines offered:

“Distemper”: Also called DHPP, this core vaccine is a multivalent or combination vaccine which includes canine distemper virus (D), canine hepatitis virus (H), parainfluenza (P) and canine parvovirus (P). This is the distemper vaccine that we use as the puppy’s initial vaccination. To booster the distemper vaccination, we use Continuum DAP - which is a distemper vaccination licensed for three year duration when it is administered to puppies over 12 weeks of age.

Rabies: Another core vaccine given to all puppies between the ages of 16 and 20 weeks. The first rabies vaccination lasts one year and the following boosters are given every three years.

Bordetella: Also known as “kennel cough”, bordetella vaccine helps protect against contagious canine upper respiratory disease. The first vaccination is given as drops in the nose, and a booster injection is given at six months of age. Boosters will occur every six months for “high risk exposure” and annually for “low risk exposure” dogs.

Lyme: Helps protect against disease caused by the organism *Borrelia burgdorferi* which is carried by ticks. Administration of this vaccination will be based on the risk assessment of your puppy.

Lepto: Helps protect against disease caused by the spirochete *Leptospira*. This disease is carried in the urine of wild and domestic animals. Vaccination against the four available serovars of *Leptospira* will be based on individual risk assessment.

Puppies also need to have their feces checked microscopically for the presence of intestinal parasites. Some of these parasites are passed to the puppy before birth; other parasites are passed through the mother’s milk. There are many other parasites in the environment that the puppy could ingest. These parasite eggs are very small and may not be passed in every bowel movement. Therefore, the veterinarians at Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital recommend that at least two microscopic fecal examinations be performed in order to address intestinal parasitism. Some of the parasites are potentially transmitted to people. There is a public health concern particularly with children and immune-compromised people.

Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital offers its “Puppy Program” as an alternative to the pay- as-you-go, “a la carte” charges for service. The Puppy Program includes the wellness examinations, fecal exams, nail trims, vaccines initial monthly heartworm preventive and flea/tick prevention (when deemed necessary) through six months of age. It **does not** include any additional medications dispensed, diagnostic tests (other than 2 fecal exams) or office visits/examinations for sick visits. The Puppy Program is offered at approximately a 20% savings over the individual charges. In addition, **participants are eligible for a 20% savings on the spay or neuter procedure.** In order to qualify for the Puppy Program discount, the entire program must be paid in advance.

We thank you for choosing Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital for your puppy’s care.