# HOUSTON PETSALVE!

# New Puppy Parent Checklist: What to Do After Adoption

# 1. Buy the Basics:

- Collar & ID tag (with your name and number)
- Leash & harness
- Puppy food
- □ Food & water bowls
- Crate
- Puppy-safe toys & chews
- Puppy pads or cleanup supplies
- □ Enzymatic cleaner for accidents

# 2. Make a Vet Appointment:

- Schedule an **intake exam** within the first week.
- Bring vaccine records and adoption paperwork.

#### 3. Continue Vaccines & Dewormers:

- ☐ Most puppies need **boosters every 2–4 weeks** until about 16 weeks of age.
- Ask your vet about when to finish **deworming** and begin **heartworm prevention**.
- Begin topical or oral **flea prevention**.

# 4. Register Microchip:

☐ Make sure your contact info is updated in the microchip registry.

# 5. Start Crate & Potty Training Immediately

Routine, patience, and consistency are key. See your "Bringing Home Your New Puppy" guide.

# 6. Begin Basic Training & Socialization:

- □ Look for a **positive reinforcement puppy class**.
- Gently introduce them to new environments, sounds, people, and other dogs.

# 7. Consider Pet Insurance or a Savings Plan:

□ Puppies = surprises! Be ready for emergencies or unexpected costs.

# H&UST&N PETS ALIVE!

# Puppy Medical FAQ: What Every New Dog Owner Should Know

# WORMS / PARASITES

# ➡ What is it?

Puppies are often born with or acquire intestinal parasites like roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, and whipworms.

# Symptoms:

- Diarrhea
- Bloated belly
- Scooting
- Visible worms in stool or vomit
- Weight loss or poor growth

# Treatment & Prevention:

- Deworming medications given in a series (starting at 2–4 weeks old)
- Regular monthly preventives

# **\*** Extra Notes:

Continue dewormers as recommended by your vet — even if you don't *see* worms, they may still be present.

# VACCINES: HOW MANY & WHY?

# 🔁 What is it?

Vaccines protect puppies from deadly diseases like parvo, distemper, and rabies.

# Core Vaccines Include:

• DA2PP (Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus)

- Rabies
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough optional but recommended)
- Leptospirosis (depends on region)

# Schedule:

- Given every 2–4 weeks, starting around 6–8 weeks of age
- Completed around 16 weeks of age
- Rabies is usually given at 12–16 weeks (depending on state law)

# **\*** Extra Notes:

Puppies are not fully protected until they complete their full vaccine series. Avoid dog parks, grooming, or pet stores until then.

# WHY SCHEDULE AN INITIAL VET VISIT?

#### What is it?

An intake exam checks your puppy's overall health and ensures their vaccines and dewormers are on track.

#### What the vet checks for:

- Heart, lungs, eyes, ears, teeth
- Parasites (fecal test)
- Vaccine and deworming history

# Prevention:

- Early detection of issues means better outcomes
- Establishes care with a vet who will know your puppy long-term

# Extra Notes:

Bring any shelter records with you. Schedule this visit within 7 days of adoption.

# **UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION (URI)**

# ➡ What is it?

A cold-like illness common in shelter puppies due to stress and close quarters.

# 🐾 Symptoms:

- Sneezing
- Clear or green nasal discharge
- Coughing
- Watery eyes
- Lethargy or decreased appetite

# Treatment:

- Supportive care (rest, fluids, warmth)
- Antibiotics for secondary infections if prescribed

# Extra Notes:

URI is contagious to other dogs. Isolate your puppy if symptoms appear and contact your vet.

# KENNEL COUGH (Bordetella bronchiseptica)

# What is it?

A highly contagious respiratory illness spread through coughing and shared air.

# Symptoms:

- Persistent, honking cough
- Gagging or retching
- Runny nose
- Low fever or mild lethargy

# Treatment:

- Often self-limiting in healthy pups
- Cough suppressants or antibiotics may be prescribed

# 📌 Extra Notes:

Bordetella vaccine helps prevent this — especially important if your puppy will be in daycare or around other dogs.

# **FLEAS: PREVENTION & TREATMENT**

# 🔁 What is it?

Fleas cause itching, anemia, and can transmit tapeworms.

# 🐾 Symptoms:

- Scratching or biting skin
- Flea dirt (black specs)
- Hair loss or red bumps

Treatment Options:

**Topical:** 

- Frontline Plus (fipronil)
- Advantage II (imidacloprid)
- Revolution (selamectin also protects against some worms)

# Oral:

- NexGard (afoxolaner)
- Simparica (sarolaner)
- Capstar (nitenpyram short-term only)

# **\*** Extra Notes:

Not all flea meds are safe for young puppies. Ask your vet before using anything under 8 weeks of age.

# **HEARTWORMS**

# ➡ What is it?

Parasitic worms spread by mosquitoes that live in the heart and lungs.

# Symptoms (in advanced cases):

- Coughing
- Fatigue
- Labored breathing
- Sudden collapse

# Prevention:

- Monthly preventives (oral or topical), e.g., Heartgard, Interceptor, Revolution
- Start at 6–8 weeks old, even if puppies are indoors

# **\*** Extra Notes:

Heartworm disease is expensive and risky to treat — prevention is MUCH safer and cheaper.

# 👗 WHEN TO ACT FAST

# If your puppy shows any of these signs, call your vet immediately:

- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours
- Refusing to eat or drink
- Labored breathing
- Swollen belly
- Pale gums
- Lethargy or collapse