



Welcome to Covenant Veterinary Care

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Hours: Monday through Thursday 8am-6pm & Fridays 8am-Noon

Dear New Client & Patient,

Thank you for choosing Covenant Veterinary Care for your pet care needs. The folder we have provided contains lots of useful information on such topics as heartworms and intestinal parasites, flea & tick control, microchip identification, spay and neutering care.

We strive to always make each and every visit a great experience for you and your pet!

Our Mission:

To support healthy human-animal bonds by providing our clients with veterinary care that is competent, kindhearted and personalized.

Our Philosophy:

Healthy, well-adjusted pets are enjoyable and forge strong bonds with their owners that are of great benefit to both. The bond that you share with your pet is unique and important, and we consider it a privilege to serve you by providing for your pet's healthcare needs. With that in mind, we will purpose to:

Always treat our clients respectfully, have kind regard for our patients, and strive for good communication – this is foundational to an effective relationship and the practice of good medicine.

Partner with our clients to advise, educate and guide them as they make informed decisions about their pet’s healthcare – view them as responsible owners who want to do what is in their companion’s best interest.

Use our skills and experience wisely – know when it’s appropriate to diagnose and treat an illness conservatively; when it’s necessary to engage in more intensive measures, and when it’s time to refer; being mindful that we may advocate, but our clients decide based on their situation.

Make the delivery of animal healthcare as accessible and enjoyable as possible – keep costs reasonable; be pleasant and courteous with you, and always do our best.

Continually improve our professional knowledge and competence, and use them for the benefit of society by protecting animal health and welfare; preventing and relieving suffering; promoting public health, and advancing medical knowledge.*

Seek to become “Partners for Health. Partners for Life.”*from the Veterinarian’s Oath

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

Wellness visits, Preventative care, and Medical visits:

The cornerstone of maintaining good health and longevity is a complete physical exam done on a yearly basis. This allows us to evaluate your pet’s general health, and to detect potential problems before they become serious. Based on our evaluation of your pet’s condition and their environment, we can individualize their vaccination and parasite prevention programs. We try to make the most of our visits by educating you on

important topics, so you can make knowledgeable decisions about your pet's healthcare.

Many medical complaints can be handled effectively on an outpatient basis. For more in-depth medical or surgical cases, we may recommend referral to a local emergency center or specialist.

Diagnostic testing: Our laboratory and digital X-ray capabilities allow us to diagnose and initiate treatment in a timely manner. For more in-depth medical or surgical cases, we may recommend a referral to the local emergency center or a specialist.

Surgery: Includes procedures such as ovariohysterectomy (spay), castration (neuter) and tumor/mass removal.

Parasite Prevention

The most effective way to use these products is to begin using them **BEFORE** a problem exists. And to continue using them all year-round. Below is a listing of the preventatives we provide at our clinic.

- **Bravecto:** This product is an oral chewable for dogs that is given every month for puppies, and every three months for dogs over six months in age. Bravecto starts killing fleas/ticks within 2 hours after initial dosing and kills more than 98% of fleas within 12 hours.
- **Provecta Advanced:** This product is for dogs. It is a monthly topical preventative for fleas, ticks, mosquitos, biting flies and lice.
- **Revolt:** This product is for cats and kittens. It is a monthly topical preventative for fleas, heartworm disease, hookworms, roundworms, and ear mites.
- **Provecta II:** This product is for cats and kittens. It is a monthly topical preventative for fleas and flea eggs.

- **Milbeguard:** This product is for dogs and puppies. It is a flavored chewable tablet that is given monthly for the prevention of heartworm disease, hookworms, roundworms and whipworms.
- **Sentinel:** This product is for dogs and puppies. It is a flavored chewable tablet that is to be given monthly for the prevention of heartworm disease, hookworms, roundworms and whipworms, and helps control flea populations by breaking the flea cycle at the egg stage.

Intestinal Parasites

A fecal (stool) sample is used to diagnose the presence of intestinal parasites in your pet. Parasite eggs are detected by looking at the processed sample under a microscope. Although a pet may be infected, eggs may not be readily identified in every sample. Therefore, in some cases, requests may be made for additional fecal samples. Puppies and kittens have a high incidence of parasites and will in most instances be de-wormed routinely.

Types of Common Intestinal Parasites

- **Roundworms:** are the most common intestinal parasite found in dogs and cats. They are large worms, which look much like spaghetti. Mothers can pass roundworms to their unborn litters through the placenta. Puppies and kittens can also acquire roundworms from their mother's milk. The immature (larva) form of roundworms can also infect people. It is for this reason that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that all puppies and kittens be routinely de-wormed at 2-3 week intervals between 6 and 16 weeks of age.
- **Hookworms:** are small, bloodsucking parasites. They can cause severe anemia and possible death in young puppies and kittens. Due to the small size of this worm, you will not readily notice hookworms in your pet's stool. Mothers can pass hookworms to their unborn litters, or to their nursing youngster's through their milk. Hookworm eggs are also passed in the stool. Other pets that share those environments can become infected by licking their paws or eating tainted grass from the contaminated

environment. Walking barefoot on contaminated ground may also infect people. The worm is capable of burrowing into the skin, causing a local skin irritation.

- **Whipworms:** are intestinal parasites found in dogs. They are very small, slender worms, which are difficult to see. Whipworms do not produce large quantities of eggs. Therefore, they can be difficult to diagnose even by microscopic exam of the stool.
- **Tapeworms:** are often recognized by owners as small, rice-like segments noted in their pet's stool, or clinging to the hair around the anus. Eggs from this parasite are rarely seen in the stool. Diagnosis is often made by the owners who visualize the tapeworm segment on the pet's stool. Ingesting an infected flea is usually how dogs and cats become infected. Other types of tapeworms may be acquired through hunting and ingestion of rodents or rabbits.
- **Coccidia:** are single-cell, protozoan parasites that may cause severe diarrhea in puppies and kittens. The diarrhea may result in extreme dehydration and possible death.
- **Giardia:** is another single-cell protozoan parasite that has two forms. A fragile feeding form that exists in the gut of infected animals and a hardy cystic form that is shed through feces. The parasite is spread by your pet ingesting or sniffing contaminated feces, soil, water, food or objects. Symptoms include: Diarrhea that is very foul smelling and greasy, vomiting, weight loss and lethargy. Diagnosis is determined with a fecal sample that is tested for Giardia-specific antigens.

Heartworm Disease: Heartworms are parasites that live within the heart and lungs of infected dogs, and occasionally cats. Immature heartworms are transmitted through a bite from an infected mosquito. The larva then migrates through the body and eventually finds its way to the heart where it matures into the adult form. It is within the heart that this parasite reproduces. Diagnosis is determined through a blood test which detects foreign proteins produced by the adult female heartworm. It is much better to detect worms BEFORE clinical signs of heartworm disease are present. This can be done at wellness visits with a very small amount of blood taken from your pet. Clinical signs of heartworm disease may include loss of appetite, weight loss, exercise intolerance, and coughing. In

cats, sometimes the only sign is sudden death. Once clinical signs develop, heartworm disease may become life threatening and treatment becomes more difficult. **PREVENTION** is the most important aspect of heartworm management. The doctor can discuss the different preventatives with you and help you choose the one that is best for you. Presently we recommend Milbeguard, a flavored tablet that is given monthly, year-round.

Microchipping

Most lost family pets that are found or rescued are unidentifiable and the majority **NEVER** return home. A microchip is your pet's silent but effective voice. Pets that have the microchip and current information are up to 20 times more likely to be reunited with their families.

- The microchip is inserted with a needle and syringe and the procedure is similar to receiving a vaccination. Once implanted, the microchip is absolutely painless. After being implanted your pet is registered in the national database.
- The chip can be placed during a routine office visit, or while your pet is seen for a surgical procedure such as a spay or neuter.
- The microchip system provides a reliable network of veterinary professionals, animal shelters, and animal control agencies with the capability to scan all lost and stray animals for the microchip identification number. By scanning for the microchip number a lost pet can be returned sometimes even before the loss is reported. Petlink is the manufacturer we use and is an international 24/7/365 pet reunification service dedicated to returning pets to their owners.

Vaccination - Importance, Common Side Effects & Adverse Reactions

Vaccinations are essential tools for disease prevention. Use of vaccines has helped to minimize and in some cases eliminate disease in both human

and veterinary medicine. Vaccinations are a mainstay of preventative medicine to keep your pet healthy.

Puppies should begin their series of immunizations at 6-8 weeks of age. Vaccinations are boosted every 3 - 4 weeks (between the ages of 6 weeks until 18 - 20 weeks of age). Once the initial vaccination series has been completed then booster vaccinations will be recommended every 1 to 3 years based upon your dog's assessed disease risk. "Core" vaccinations that are currently recommended for ALL DOGS include: canine distemper (which includes parvovirus, hepatitis and parainfluenza) and rabies. Other vaccinations that are recommended based on your dog's lifestyle are Leptospirosis, Lyme, Bordetella (Kennel Cough) and influenza.

Kittens should begin their immunization series at 9 weeks of age. Vaccinations are boosted every 3-4 weeks until 16 - 18 weeks of age. "Core" vaccinations for ALL CATS include: feline distemper (which includes FVRCP) and rabies. Leukemia is an optional vaccination that is given in a two part series and then given yearly to bi-yearly.

Vaccinations are not given without some risk of side effects or reaction. The vast majority of pets have no obvious ill effects. Others may exhibit what is considered a "normal" reaction such as lethargy, mild fever, and soreness at the injection site. These side effects normally resolve in a 24-48 hour period.

There is a possibility of a more significant allergic type of reactions which may include:

- Facial swelling around the eyes and muzzle (Treatment consists of an injectable antihistamine and/or steroids).
- Hives - red, raised, and itchy plaques on the skin.
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea. (Treatment would be the same as above).

Anaphylaxis is the most rare allergic reaction and it can be life threatening. Animals that exhibit this usually will exhibit signs of SHOCK (listlessness, pale gums, depression, or coma). Immediate emergency care is needed. This type of reaction usually occurs within several minutes to 1-2 hours after a vaccine is

given. For this reason, it is always a good idea to plan to be with your pet for a few hours after being vaccinated. If your pet exhibits these symptoms immediately contact Pet Emergency Treatment Services at 717-295-7387 (PETS). Bring your receipt with you so the emergency doctor will know what vaccine your pet received.

Surviving Puppyhood

Surviving puppyhood is not hard. Puppies are predictable. They chew everything, urinate and defecate everywhere and get into trouble every time they are out of sight. This is normal! Here are some recommendations that will help make the transition easier:

- **Supervise:** When your puppy is loose, keep them in your sight. Treat your puppy like a human toddler. You would never leave your toddler unsupervised. Put things away and close doors.
- **Educate:** Your pup is learning every time they are with you. Start teaching your pup manners right away. Use short sessions with lots of praise and food rewards (small pieces of their puppy food works great). Even seven-week old puppies can learn to sit, stay and come. Educate yourself as well. There are many books and videos available to help you successfully raise a puppy.
- **Entertain:** Puppies have active minds as well as active bodies. Get several safe toys and rotate them so your puppy doesn't get bored. Don't give them all the toys at once. Variety helps to keep them interested.
- **Confine:** Parents use cribs and playpens for their children; Puppy owners use crates and kennels. A small room with a baby gate can be used but remember; a puppy can strip wallpaper, chew the ends of cabinets, or bite holes in drywall. Therefore, our preference is to always use a crate or kennel.

Proper use of a crate or kennel for housebreaking your puppy will help housebreak your puppy more quickly.

Think of your puppy's kennel as their “room” within your home. Crates are the cribs and playpens of dog training. It must be a good place for your puppy, not a place that they associate with punishment. Dogs are den animals; in the wild, dens are used to deliver and raise puppies. Puppies generally do not like to soil their “den” or kennel. As a result they are more likely to try and hold their urine or stool until they can be let out to relieve themselves in a more appropriate place.

The correct size for a crate or kennel is only big enough for your puppy to comfortably lay down and turn around in it. If it is too big, the puppy can urinate and defecate at one end and sleep at the other. To avoid the problem of purchasing a kennel that a large breed puppy might soon outgrow, you may use a larger kennel but block part of the kennel off by filling part of the kennel with a cardboard box until the puppy begins to grow. Some kennels also have a movable partition that will allow it to “grow” with your puppy.

Puppies generally should not be crated during the day for more hours than they are months old plus one. This means a three month old pup should not be crated for more than 4 hours. Pups can usually “hold it” overnight by four months of age if a consistent feeding and watering schedule is followed. Never put papers in the kennel. You're training your pup to not potty in there. If your pup dirties his bedding, don't put any in with them.

Start your puppy in a kennel as soon as possible: the younger the better. Get your puppy used to going inside the crate by making them chase toys and food reward into the crate. Once your pup is going into the crate without hesitation, close the door for a short period of time. Start by closing the door for only a few seconds, then a few minutes, and so on. Once you feel comfortable with closing your puppy in their kennel, you MUST ignore their cries and fussing to be let out. If you let them out every time they cry, the puppy wins! You now have a puppy that is training you, and they will never accept confinement. If your puppy resists confinement initially, you may cover the kennel with a towel to make it dark inside. Place a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel inside with the puppy. This will simulate the warmth of his/her littermates and will be comforting. Also, try placing a clock radio on top of the kennel with soft, soothing music

playing. Once your puppy becomes used to staying and sleeping in their kennel, you notice that they will voluntarily seek the kennel to rest or nap.

Your puppy should sleep in its kennel every night. (not in your bed) until they are completely housebroken. Completely housebroken means no “accidents” in the house for about 4 weeks! Intermediately your puppy should also spend time in their kennel during the day, even if you are at home with them. After all, most puppies have the majority of their “accidents” in the house during the day not at night. Immediately after urinating and defecating in a designated spot outside, your puppy should be rewarded with praise and treats. Then they should be allowed freedom in the house in a designated area like the kitchen for 1-2 hours. After playing for this length of time your puppy will be ready for a nap in the kennel for about an hour. Always take your puppy out of the kennel directly to the designated potty area outside. Frequently, puppies are so stimulated by all the activity outside that they forget to potty the first time outside. If your puppy does not relieve themselves, place them back in their kennel for 5-10 minutes, then repeat the process by taking them back outside until they urinate and/or defecate. Rewarding them right after they've eliminated/gone outside.

By 4 months old your puppy should be well on their way to becoming a well-mannered member of the family. To help them reach this goal, we have listed some major training milestones you should attempt to achieve.

Your pup should:

- Urinate and defecate consistently in the appropriate area.
- Sit on command
- Come on command
- Stay on command
- Hold still for “exam” of eyes, ears, mouth, and feet
- Allow brushing of their coat, teeth and trimming of their nails.
- Allow you to easily remove food and toys from their mouth (“drop” command)
- Respond to “off” command when jumping up
- Respond to “no bite” command when chewing at hands or objects
- Walk along on leash without pulling (Gentle leader head halters are great for dogs that pull a lot or are too strong for kids or adults to control)

The Benefits of Spaying/Neutering

Our clinic offers spay and neutering services for cat/kittens starting at 6 months of age. Dogs/puppies depend on the specific breed guidelines recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

By having your pet spayed or neutered, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted animals. Additionally, you could be setting your pet up for a longer life, as studies have repeatedly shown that spayed or neutered dogs and cats live longer, on average, than other dogs and cats. This advantage is likely due to the health and behavioral benefits.

Health benefits:

Established health benefits include protection against some potentially serious diseases. Spaying female dogs and cats can prevent uterine infection and reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Neutering males can eliminate their risk of testicular cancer and reduce their risk of developing enlarged prostate glands (known as benign prostatic hyperplasia).

Behavioral benefits:

Behavioral benefits relate directly to the decreases in certain sex hormones that occur after spaying or neutering.

Removing a female dog or cat's ovaries eliminates their heat cycles and generally reduces mating-related behaviors that may frustrate owners. Removing a male dog or cat's testicles reduces their breeding instinct, resulting in less roaming and fewer urine-marking behaviors.

