



Southside Animal Hospital

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Top 9 Things To Do To Prepare For Your New Pet

1. Know the Medical Needs of Your Pet What examinations or vaccines has your pet had or will need? Do they have any special needs? Have they had any prior medical problems? Have they been taking any medication or showed reaction to any prior medication? If your pet is a puppy or kitten, they will need a series of vaccinations and other measures to keep them healthy. Adult animals need annual examinations, vaccinations, and tests to ensure they are healthy. Make sure you obtain a record of prior treatments or a name of a veterinarian the pet had visited. We can examine those records, answer any questions, and help you determine the needs of your pet.

2. Have Some Means To Confine Your Pet It is your responsibility to keep your pet safe. Animals that run free eventually are hit by cars, poisoned, suffer gunshot wounds, or are in fights. If an animal is confined they are much less likely to suffer these injuries. You may be able to confine your pet by putting up a fence, using underground radio fences, or always having your pet on a leash when it is outside.

3. Have a Pet Emergency Fund You never know when something may medically happen to your pet. Some things are easy and inexpensive to fix. Some things can become expensive. A pet emergency fund will provide you with the means to treat your pet if an unexpected event happens. We recommend you place at least \$500 dollars aside to handle an emergency for your pet. If you chose not to confine your pet, I would increase this amount to \$1000, because of the increased risk for major events.

4. Know the Signs of Disease Catching problems early increases the chance your pet will live through an illness. In puppies watch for any vomiting, diarrhea, not playing, or not eating. In kittens watch for sneezing, coughing, diarrhea, and not eating. In adult animals monitor them for lack of appetite, lack of activity, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, and seizures.

5. Socialize Your New Puppy or Kitten At some point in your pet's life you will need to treat your pet's eye, ears, or give oral medication. There are things you can do when they are young to socialize your pet that will make these easier when they become older. The exercises will only take a few minutes a day for a couple weeks, but will pay dividends for a lifetime. We will provide you handouts on these techniques.



6. Know How To Housebreak Your Pet As kittens, cats are generally easy housebreak. As adults this can be a more difficult task. Dogs of all ages take more time and effort. You must be willing to dedicate the time and effort to this task. We will provide you with handouts on methods of housetraining.

7. Pet-Proof Your House Dogs and cats are very curious animals. They can find any number of ways to get in trouble, from eating coins to chewing up the most expensive shoes in the house. You need to keep things out of their reach and off the floor.

8. Provide Quality Nutrition Food provides all the essential elements for growth, activity, fighting off illness, and numerous other body functions. Having appropriate nutrition is essential for a healthy life. There are many choices of foods for your pet.

You should pick a high quality food. We will provide you a handout on choosing an appropriate food.

9. Prevent Hypoglycemia in Small Puppies In small breed dogs, they can often get low blood sugar levels. This causes puppies to become weak, stumble, comatose, or have seizures. Adding a small amount of honey to the drinking water and feeding small puppies three times a day can help prevent this life-threatening condition. If an episode does occur, squirt a small amount of honey in the puppy's mouth and then seek veterinary attention for the puppy.

