

SOUTH COUNTRY VETERINARY P.C. INC.

Animal Hospital of Assiniboia & Borderland Veterinary Clinic

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Congratulations you just welcomed a new puppy or kitten into your life! What a wonderful time. We have a few suggestions and tips to help you make the best out of this exciting time in your lives, and to help set your young animal up for a lifetime of health and happiness.

- **Vaccinations**

- Your puppy or kitten needs to have at least three Distemper Series vaccinations. These vaccinations need to be administered 3 to 4 weeks apart, with the first one given at about 8 weeks of age. There are certain breeds of puppies and certain circumstances that may mean we will recommend that the puppy have four vaccinations in order to give them the best protection.
- At 12 weeks of age your puppy or kitten will be given a Rabies vaccination along with their Distemper Series. We recommend that the Rabies vaccination be boosted once a year. We will send out a reminder card to help you remember this annual appointment.
- Along with your vaccinations we will be sure to give dewormer, flea/tick medication, ear mite medication or any other anti-parasitic that might be necessary.

- **Socialization**

- We want your pet to be happy and comfortable coming in to see us – we really like animals and we don't want them to be scared to see us. We encourage you to stop in at either office to just get a treat and to say "Hi".
- Socialization means introducing your young pet to different people, animals and situations in order to allow them to build confidence. Be sure to closely monitor any introductions and to do your best to keep everyone safe. It is also important to ensure that you know the vaccination status of any new animal your pet is meeting, especially until your young pet has had its complete series of vaccinations.
- It is easier for your pet to learn new things when they are young – it is also easier for you to teach them. So, we encourage you to leash train your puppy and to teach basic obedience like "sit". This will set them up for a lifetime of success.
- While your animal is little, we encourage you to teach them to be held still. In order for us to safely give your pet its injections we have to gently restrain them – this is tolerated much better by animals that have been held before they come to see us. You can also look in their ears and mouth and hold their feet. If they are used to being handled it makes the veterinary examination less scary and much easier for us to do.

- **Spaying or Neutering**

- If you are not planning on breeding your animal, we strongly suggest that you spay or neuter them at 6 months of age. It is better for their health and allows for more consistent behavior. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know and we would be happy to discuss them with you.

We are so happy to be a part of your pet's life and we want the best for them and for you. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have and we are willing to do whatever we can to make coming to see us a positive experience.



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