

TO YOUR *Pet's* Health

A New Pet **IN** THE New Year



Dr. Nicole Porter, DVM

A new pet is a very common and welcome addition to many households this time of year. The joy of a new companion is always exciting. It is important to be aware of a few health and training tips that your veterinarian can help you with.

Depending on the age of your new pet, there are different vaccination requirements to keep them healthy. It is always a good idea to take your new pet in to be examined by the family veterinarian within a couple of weeks of acquiring them. Always bring any paperwork that you received with the adoption or purchase of your new pet. This will allow your vet to look through it and determine what they have had for vaccinations and parasite control. Even if your new pet is current on these things, it gives your veterinarian a chance to look your new pet over and become acquainted.

If the pet is under 4 months of age, there is a good chance that it still needs some vaccinations, which are given as a series when they are young. Depending on species, breed and eventual lifestyle your pet will have, there will be different options of vaccinations and parasite control to consider. Internal parasites, such as round and hookworms, are very common in young puppies and kittens. These can also be a health concern for

young children. It is important to make sure your new pet has been treated and cleared of these parasites, as well as prevent them from acquiring them in the future. Your vet will also talk to you about heartworms, fleas and ticks, and the options available for preventing and treating them.

This initial exam is a time for you to ask any questions you may have, and a time for your vet to give you some suggestions to think about and work on with your new pet. Your vet will talk about some basic obedience and training tips. They may give you tips on potty training, crate training, grooming, dental care, ideas for healthy food and ways to keep your pet a healthy weight throughout its lifetime.

By being informed early and having ideas of things to work on, your experience with your new pet will be that much more enjoyable. Never hesitate to talk to vet about any concerns or questions you might have. The sooner something is addressed, the easier it will be to correct or prevent.

Congratulations on your new pet!

The Staff at Blue River Veterinary Clinic, PA wishes you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



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Small Animal Veterinary Clinic

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