

Pet Health Is A Factor In Your Family's Health

(NAPS)—For many parents, a puppy can be a great addition to a family. Puppies often present an opportunity for children to learn how to show love and respect and to take responsibility for another “family member.”

Part of taking responsibility for a pet means maintaining its health. For instance, if you adopt a puppy at the 10th week, take him to the veterinarian immediately. The veterinarian will check the dog's health status and recommend when he should be vaccinated and wormed.

Puppies should be vaccinated with a combination vaccine at 2, 3 and 4 months of age, and then once annually. This vaccine protects puppies from distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus and parainfluenza.

As your puppy ages you will still need to protect it—and other family members—from internal parasites, or IP. One of the most effective ways to protect your pet is to use a parasite prevention product. There are safe parasite preventives available through all veterinary clinics. But they must be used consistently.

Year-round treatment with a broad spectrum parasite product is key. That's because a significant portion of the U.S. experiences transmission during most of the year.

For instance, the presence of mosquitoes and their ability to transmit heartworm is unpredictable. Pets can also be exposed to and become infected with roundworms and hookworms throughout the year. Owners may find that adult dogs develop out-



Experts say using an internal parasite medication is important in households with infants and small children.

wardly visible infections, leading to environmental contamination.

Experts say using an internal parasite medication is even more important in households with infants and small children. Internal parasites can be transmitted to infants and children if they rub their hands on the pet's fur. The risk of parasitic infection in pets and zoonotic parasite transmission increases in the absence of year-round internal parasite prevention. Zoonotic diseases are caused by infectious agents that can be transmitted between animals and humans.

Parents who are looking for more information on this and other aspects of making pets part of the family, can visit the Web site at www.growingupwithpets.com, which is sponsored by Novartis Animal Health. The site offers tips on selecting the dog that's right for your family, training the dog and keeping it healthy.

Did You Know?

As your puppy ages you will still need to protect it—and other family members—from internal parasites. One of the most effective ways is to use a parasite prevention product. There are safe ones available through all veterinary clinics. To learn more, visit www.growingupwithpets.com.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10