

Pawsitive Press

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Did you get a new family member this holiday?

By: Emma Olson, D.V.M.

So you brought your new best friend home, congratulations!

One of the first things you should do with your new puppy or kitten is have them seen by your veterinarian. This is to establish a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR), repeated yearly to keep this relationship valid. At this visit they may need vaccinations, deworming, or testing for diseases. Additional topics like flea/tick and heartworm prevention will be discussed. This is also a good time to ask your veterinarian for tips and tricks for raising your new kitten or puppy.



One important thing to remember is that what is cute from your little puppy or kitten will likely not be cute from your adult dog or cat.



Socialization early on is important whether this means going to puppy classes or getting a trainer. A trainer can help with housetraining for your puppy. For your kitten they will need to have a litter box from day one. **Tip:** The litter box rule is one litter box per cat in the house plus one. **Tip:** Positive reinforcement is the best way to help housetrain your dog! Negative reinforcement teaches your dog fear and ends up training them slower.

So what supplies do you need for day one? You will need water and food bowls (stainless steel or ceramic are best), food, litter box (kitten), litter (kitten), food, crate, collar and harness, leash and toys. Some things you can get later on are ID tags, poop bags, enrichment items (scratching posts and mats, food puzzles or

treat toys ie. kongs).



Tip: While retractable leashes in theory sound like a good idea, they are dangerous. A leash is there to help protect your dog. If they are 10+ feet away this makes it harder to protect them if in a dangerous situation.

One last tip is pet insurance; get it! This is a great way to ensure your new puppy/kitten is covered for unexpected accidents or illnesses. It allows owners to provide the care animals need without worrying about the cost.

As always, we are here to assist you in taking the very best care of your fur babies, young or old. Please feel free to reach out if you have any concerns or questions. We are here to help!



January is National Train your Dog Month*



Dogs come trained in loyalty, unconditional love, and friendship. It's only the easy stuff that they need to learn. True, teaching all the other stuff can be daunting but all we need is the right advice at the right time. How does the beginning of the year sound? January is National Train Your Dog Month. It's a time when trainers, dog owners, and canine experts come together to celebrate their love for their furry friends by sharing what they know. The internet and social media become a treasure trove of information, tips, and advice. All due to a movement started by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers many years ago.

NATIONAL TRAIN YOUR DOG MONTH ACTIVITIES

Teach a new trick or two

A new year calls for a new bag of tricks! Think of a simple and fun trick like rolling over, playing dead, or fetch.

Enjoy Furry Fridays

In January, reserve Friday evenings for your dog. Go for a walk, to a dog museum, or watch a dog movie with buttered popcorn and a special treat for your best pal!

Take to social media

Share your dog training accomplishments and challenges with other dog lovers through pictures and videos. Have fun and build a better dog training community.

WHY WE LOVE NATIONAL TRAIN YOUR DOG MONTH

A little help goes a long way

Yes, a long way to keeping a dog inside a loving home. Hundreds of dogs are given away each year because their owners couldn't train them and found them difficult to live with. A celebration like this one can help train and save dogs.

Trained dogs are healthy dogs

Experts say training a dog is not a luxury but imperative to his well-being and health.

It takes a village

It always helps to hear you're not alone. This month-long celebration connects you to others like you. Share their experiences, laughs, watch experts', webinars or silly bloopers.

* <https://nationaltoday.com/national-train-dog-month/>

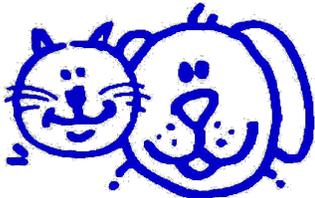
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\$1

First Exam - New Patient

(\$54 - \$80 Savings)

***FOR NEW PATIENT WELLNESS EXAMS ONLY.** Includes physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine, Integrative Medicine, or new patient sick appointments. Must be presented at the time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer. NL



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-\$40

\$40 off Complete Canine and Feline Wellness Screens

Wellness Screen includes the following: Chemistry, CBC, Heartworm Test, Thyroid Level, Urinalysis, and Microalbuminuria (for cats a Leukemia and FIV tests are also included). Call the office to schedule your pets visit today! May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time for purchase.

Expires 2.28.22 NL



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-10%

10% Off Dental Cleaning

(Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 2.28.22 NL