
Preparing for a Healthy, Happy Pet



Thank you for adopting from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. The health and well-being of your pet is so important to us, and while your dog was in our care, they have been

- ♥ Tested for heartworm and other tick-borne diseases (*dogs 6 months and older*)
- ♥ Made current on basic, age-appropriate vaccinations, based on length of time stayed at the AWLA
- ♥ Microchipped
- ♥ Spayed/Neutered

Senior dogs have also undergone a senior bloodwork examination, and the results of those and any other medical tests or procedures will be given to you as part of your adoption packet to share with your pet's future veterinarian.

Veterinary costs in the Northern Virginia metropolitan area can vary drastically depending on providers and care needed. Here are some costs to anticipate as you are planning for health care costs for your pet:

- ♥ Annual vet "wellness" visit
- ♥ Preventatives for fleas, ticks and heartworm
- ♥ Fecal testing
- ♥ Vaccinations for rabies*, distemper, parvovirus and other vaccines based on your new pet's anticipated lifestyle with you (*required every 1 to 3 years, dependent on vaccine*)
- ♥ Occasional illness, like upset stomach lasting for several days
- ♥ Potential injury or emergency, including broken bones or ingestion of something dangerous
- ♥ Chronic conditions, like allergies or kidney disease
- ♥ Specialty food to manage weight or health conditions
- ♥ Puppy vaccinations (*for dogs between 3 months and 1 year of age*)
- ♥ Dental cleanings as recommended by your veterinarian
- ♥ Blood testing as recommended by your veterinarian (*may be as frequent as once per year*)

* Once vaccinated for rabies, your dog will be required to be licensed in the jurisdiction in which you reside.

While our staff cannot make recommendations on veterinary care providers, we are happy to answer any questions you might have about potential care that might be needed. And don't forget that your dog's first "wellness visit" to one of many local veterinary providers is complementary if it occurs in the first 7 to 10 days after adopting (find the list online at AlexandriaAnimals.org/New-Dog). It's so important for your vet to meet your dog early to establish a health baseline and be able to best care for them throughout their life, so we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity!



As a reminder, the Animal Welfare League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and once a dog is adopted from us, we can no longer be responsible for the costs of their medical care. If you have any questions about pre-existing conditions or veterinary care provided to your dog while at the AWLA, please let us know while we are reviewing it with you during your adoption consultation.