



Spay and neuter: We recommend having your puppy spayed or neutered if you're not planning on breeding. Although there are risks inherent with general **anesthesia** and surgery, there are many benefits to your puppy's health and well-being. Having your female puppy spayed eliminates the risk of ovarian or uterine cancer and greatly decreases the risk of mammary cancer. Your puppy also will not have heat cycles or unexpected puppies. Having your male puppy neutered eliminates the risk of testicular cancer and reduces the risk of prostatitis. Neutered males tend to be less territorial than intact males and male aggression is greatly decreased. Before your puppy undergoes surgery, he/she will be examined thoroughly by your doctor. We will also run blood work in order to make sure your puppy is a good candidate for anesthesia (i.e. all major organs are functioning properly).

Microchipping: A microchip is a permanent identification device that can be implanted under your puppy's skin. We will register your information with the microchip company initially. All you need to do is confirm your registration. If at any time you change your address or phone number, be sure to inform the microchip company so they can keep your information current. Microchip implantation can be done at the time of spay/neuter surgery, and your puppy won't feel a thing.

Dental care: Your puppy will benefit greatly from good dental care. You can start now by brushing your puppy's teeth daily. Even though your puppy still has baby teeth, it's good to get him/her accustomed to tooth brushing.

Hip radiographs: While your puppy is under general anesthesia we can take radiographs to assess the condition of your puppy's hips. For large or medium sized dogs, radiographs taken while a pet is under anesthesia can be helpful to identify any developmental abnormalities. At this point, we may be able to identify individuals who will be prone to hip dysplasia or arthritis.

Preventatives: Please remember to refill your puppy's **heartworm and flea preventatives**. Here in the Southeast we recommend giving heartworm preventatives all year. Remember, too, that your puppy needs protection from pesky fleas and ticks. Because of our warm climate, we recommend flea prevention year round. We will help you choose the preventatives that work best for you and your puppy.