



**Fleas:** We recommend starting flea prevention as soon as you bring your puppy home. Not only are flea bites very itchy, they also can transmit tapeworms and other parasites to your puppy. We recommend **Parastar**<sup>®</sup> for *topical* flea and tick prevention. Depending on your pet's needs, we may recommend an *oral* flea preventative such as **Capstar**<sup>®</sup> or **Comfortis**<sup>®</sup> or **Trifexis**<sup>®</sup> which combines flea and heartworm prevention in one chewable pill.

**Heartworm disease:** Heartworms are a blood borne parasite transmitted by mosquito bites. Heartworm disease is characterized by coughing, lethargy and weight loss. If left untreated, heartworm disease can result in lung disease, heart failure and sudden death. For this reason, your puppy needs to take a heartworm preventative. Although mosquitoes are considered a summertime pest, in the Southeast they live year round, so we recommend giving heartworm preventatives all year. **Trifexis**<sup>®</sup> is a monthly chewable tablet that prevents heartworms, controls common intestinal parasites and also kills fleas. **Interceptor**<sup>®</sup> is a monthly chewable tablet that prevents heartworms and controls common intestinal parasites. **Heartgard**<sup>®</sup> is a monthly chewable treat that prevents heartworms and controls common intestinal parasites. We'll help you decide which one is right for your puppy.

**Behavior issues:** Certain behaviors that are natural to dogs are not acceptable if your puppy is to become a member of the family. Now is the time to teach your puppy "good manners". We encourage you to use the "learn to earn" method of training in which the puppy is rewarded for good behavior. **Jumping up** on people is a common attention seeking behavior of puppies. Discourage this behavior by turning your back and ignoring the puppy until he/she stops jumping up. While playing, it's common for puppies to bite. Teach your puppy that **biting** people is not acceptable by discontinuing play until the biting stops. **Chewing** is a common puppy behavior. Puppy-proof your home and provide appropriate chew toys.

**Diet:** Good nutrition is important during all phases of life. We recommend you feed your puppy a balanced diet appropriate for his/her age and size. In order to determine how many calories your puppy needs in a day, we can do a "**diet calculation**" and provide you with an accurate measuring cup.