

# **PUPPY PREVENTION PROGRAM**



Spaying your female dog is the first step to preventing unexpected puppy surprises. An unsprayed female dog can have an average of ten (10) puppies each year. If your female dog has presented you with a surprise litter, Walton Animal Guild can help through our Puppy Prevention Program.

The program goal is to make sure EVERY puppy in the litter is spayed or neutered before they go to new homes, and to spay the mother dog to prevent any further litters. When the puppies are old enough, Walton Animal Guild finds them loving, qualified homes.

When an owner enrolls their dog(s) in the Puppy Prevention program, we make sure the puppies stay healthy by vaccinating them against distemper, hepatitis, parvo and parainfluenza. We also give them a dewormer to kill any roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms.

The first vaccine is given at 5 weeks of age. Puppies can be spayed/neutered when they are at least six (6) weeks of age, or weigh at least two pounds. At that point the puppies go to a Walton Animal Guild foster home and begin their search for a new home.

Approximately four to six weeks later when the mother dog's milk has dried up, WAG volunteers will coordinate with the owner and schedule a convenient surgery date to spay the mother dog.

There is NO cost to the owners for any of the vaccines, deworming or spay/neuter costs for the mother dog or puppies. The program is available to residents of Walton County only.

For more information about the Puppy Prevention Program,  
email [wagwalton@yahoo.com](mailto:wagwalton@yahoo.com) or call (770) 207-1896.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **How old do the puppies have to be to enroll in the program?**

Mom and puppies can be enrolled in the program right after birth. Because early vaccinations are important, puppies must be 10 weeks of age or younger to enter the program.

### **Can't I just give the puppies away?**

Yes, it's possible for owners to give away the puppies to new homes, but fifty percent (50%) of "free puppies" never get spayed or neutered. They go on to have puppies of their own, contributing to the pet overpopulation problem. Walton County Animal Control takes in nearly 4,000 animals each year. Spay/Neuter is the most important thing we can do to prevent animals from dying in the shelter.

### **How long will I need to keep the puppies?**

Puppies typically stay with the mother dog until 6 weeks of age. At that point they'll enter our adoption program, go to a WAG foster home and get ready to start their new life!

### **Can I keep one of the puppies, or give one to a friend?**

Our only requirement is that ALL of the puppies be spayed/neutered prior to finding new homes. When they're old enough WAG will schedule spay/neuter surgery for all the puppies. New owners can pick up their puppy after surgery and pay the surgery costs.

### **Can you just vaccinate some of the puppies?**

To keep the whole litter healthy, it's important that ALL the puppies receive vaccinations.

### **How do I know the puppies find good homes?**

WAG, along with other rescues we work with, requires potential adopters to complete an application and pay an adoption fee. We evaluate each applicant to make sure the new pet will be a good fit in their household. Many of our adopters send us photos months or years after the adoption. We love happy endings!



A loving family for one of our  
Puppy Prevention program dogs!