



### **First Visit to the Veterinarian**

During the nursing period, a puppy receives protective antibodies from the mother's milk. This natural immunity will begin to disappear with time, and may be gone soon after weaning. Consequently, by around 8 to 10 weeks of age, a puppy is susceptible to a number of health conditions. That's why it is so vital to take your puppy to a veterinarian as soon as possible for a check-up and vaccinations, regardless of where you bought your puppy.

Your veterinarian can assess the general health of the puppy and point out any problems. If you bought your puppy from a breeder, the breeder may have given the puppy his first vaccination.

All puppies should be vaccinated against canine infectious diseases, checked periodically for worms and other parasites, and given an annual medical examination. Perhaps the most loving, responsible thing you can do for your dog is to see that he receives timely health care from a veterinarian. His life depends on it.