

New Puppy

Congratulations on your new addition to the family. This handout will go through some basic information to make the transition as smooth as possible for your new member of the family.

Vaccinations

We vaccinate our puppies to protect them from diseases which can have detrimental effects on their health. Also when getting a vaccination the vet will give your pet a full check-up and may pick up on some issues previously unnoticed. The core vaccine, called the C3, protects against Distemper, Canine Infectious Hepatitis and Parvovirus. We also routinely vaccinate against kennel cough, which is caused by Bordatella bronchiseptica and Parainfluenza. These two components together make up the C5. This vaccine is essential for dogs that go to the park, kennels or just socialise with other dogs. Puppies receive antibodies from their mother through the milk, this protects them early in life, but will eventually reduce and vaccines are aimed to increase the immunity again.



Vaccination Schedule:

- C3 vaccine - 6-8 weeks old
- C5 vaccine – 10-12 weeks old
- Then every year for an annual booster.

The most important disease to vaccinate puppies against is Parvovirus. This disease is



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often fatal to puppies. The main signs seen are severe bloody diarrhoea and vomiting. This then leads to inappetence, dehydration, lethargy and often death. Intensive medical treatment often is not enough to save the life of these puppies. As it is a virus that causes the disease, the vets can only give supportive treatment to hopefully get the puppy through. Vaccinations, keeping your puppy away from unvaccinated dogs that may carry the disease and from areas where unvaccinated dogs may have been are the main methods to reduce the risk of contracting this virus. The virus can be shed by unvaccinated dogs and live in the environment for extended periods of time.

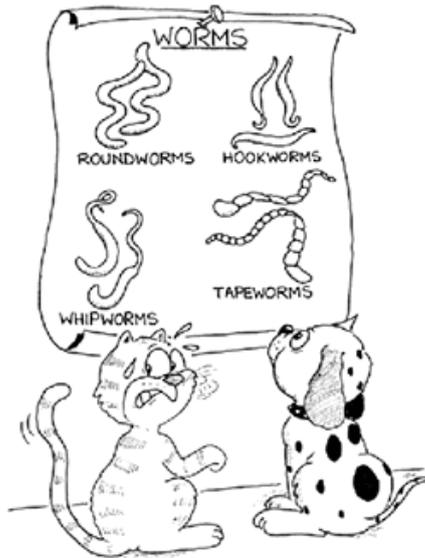
Kennel Cough is a very contagious, usually self-limiting disease in healthy dogs. The vaccine for this is not 100% but does help lessen the severity of the disease if contracted.

Distemper and Canine Infectious Hepatitis, although uncommon now due to vaccinations, is fatal if your pet did manage to be infected.

Intestinal Worming

Worming is important in all our dogs but especially important in puppies. Puppies can pick up worms from their mother through the milk and also in the environment. They can become severely affected with a heavy worm burden. They can get a pot belly due to a lot of roundworms, bloody diarrhoea and

anaemia due to hookworms, and even blockages and vomiting. As puppies are more susceptible to worms we deworm very regularly while still young. It is important to keep up to date with worming for your health and the health of your family also as many of these worms can pass to people.



Worming schedule:

0-12 weeks:	worm every 2 weeks
12 weeks – 6 months:	monthly worming
>6months:	every 3 months.

Other parasites

- Heartworm: this worm is passed to your dog by mosquitoes. The larvae then swim to the heart and surrounding vessels. As they grow they eventually cause heart failure. Treatment at this point has a lot of risks attached to it. Many products are available to prevent the larvae growing to adults and thus causing an issue. Some options include all in one monthly spot-ons (e.g Advocate), monthly chews (e.g Panoramis, Sentinel) or an annual injection. Speak to your vet to see which will suit your lifestyle best.

- Fleas: Your dog may pick up fleas from other dogs or from the environment. This will often lead to itching and some dogs may develop an allergy to fleas. There are many options including monthly all in one spot-ons (Advocate) and chews (Panormis) or 3 monthly chews (Bravecto) also.
- Ticks: Paralysis ticks are uncommon in Melbourne but there have been a few cases. The new products Nexgard and Bravecto are chews which can be used to prevent ticks from attaching and thus causing a problem.
- Tapeworm: Although another intestinal worm, it is often not included in the all in one monthly treatments so will need to be covered with separate worming tablets. This is recommended every 3 months or every 6 weeks if your pet spends time on a farm regularly. This will prevent us contracting the tapeworm from our pet.

Call in and speak to a staff member or book in for your puppy's vaccine and we can go through what may be suitable for your puppy and lifestyle.

Desexing

Desexing is recommended for your dog between 4-6 months old. For females we aim to desex them before their first season. Desexing before her first cycle will reduce the risk of mammary tumours and other nasty reproductive related cancers to almost 0% in later life.

In males, desexing young will reduce the chance of aggressive and some other behavioural issues. It will also greatly reduce the chance of prostate issues including cancers, abscesses, constipation and hernias due to an enlarged prostate.

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Speak to your vet if you have any questions regarding the procedure.

Food



For your puppies growing needs he/she will need a completely balanced diet specifically for puppies. As they are growing rapidly they will need an increased amount of energy and other vitamins and minerals to ensure their body can grow appropriately. Large breed dogs will need a specific diet for large/giant breeds, this will help reduce the risk of dietary related joint and bone issues. Your puppy will need to be on a premium brand puppy food until 12 months old. Some of the brands we recommend and trust are Hill's and Royal Canin. When on a complete and balanced premium diet, your dog does not need anything extra. A completely dry food diet is perfect, they do not need wet food, but can have some incorporated into their diet. Dry food will be good to help keep their teeth clean and healthy.

Each food is different and thus to figure out how much food your puppy will need, you will need to check what is recommended for each weight of that specific food. As your puppy grows, this amount will also increase as per the recommendations. Weighing your puppy regularly to ensure he/she is gaining weight and that you are feeding enough food is crucial.

When puppies are quite young their stomachs are quite small and should be fed 3 times daily. The total amount recommended for the puppy food for your puppy's weight should be split evenly between these meals. As he/she starts to grow you can gradually reduce the

meal in the middle of the day and increase the morning and evening meals until the middle meal is cut out. If your pet is not finishing the two meals he/she may need to have small more frequent meals for longer.

After 12 months your dog can move onto a general adult food unless otherwise recommended by your vet.

Microchipping

Normally, before being sold to you, your puppy should have a microchip placed under the skin. If the breeder had your details when microchipping it may be registered with your details. If not you will need to change the registration to you. We can scan your pet to get the number for you and see with which company he/she is registered. If your pet goes missing this will be how they will get returned to you. Many pets go stray without up to date details. These dogs often never get reunited with their owners. It is crucial to keep your details current.

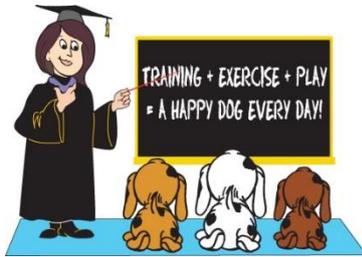
Council Registration

This is not the same as microchip registration. Your pet is legally



required to be registered with your local council by 12 weeks of age. Your pet does need to be microchipped to register with the council. This registration helps pay for parks and other facilities for your dog. You will receive a tag to place on your pet's collar to show that you are registered. The council will often check to ensure animals are registered. If found to not have your animal currently registered you may be fined. There is an annual fee to maintain registration.

Training and Socialisation



Early socialisation and training will benefit your pet greatly. Good early

socialisation and getting your pet used to all sorts of people and environments can prevent some anxiety issues. Your dog will be more confident, less stressed and enjoy going to new places and meeting new dogs and people.

Training is a vast area and we recommend enrolling in a puppy class. Puppy classes are great for both socialisation and teaching. They are also good to reinforce basic care and answer questions you may have about basic best care.

If looking for further training we recommend Delta Dog accredited trainers. These trainers only use positive reinforcement techniques which reward your pet for being good rather than punishing them when they do something wrong. This works well as your pet really wants to please you, so ongoing he/she will be happy when you are happy with them.

Insurance

Pet insurance is highly recommended for your dog as a safety net. If something unfortunately does happen your dog, insurance can reduce worries about treatment costs during a very stressful time. To ensure the best coverage, insurance should be started from a young age to any conditions being classed as 'pre-existing'. For example if your dog had diarrhoea before he/she was insured the insurance company may not cover any gastro intestinal issues in the future.

There are many options for pet insurance so we recommend comparing each plan to figure out what will suit you personally. We do not endorse or recommend any company in particular.



Feel free to call in and have a chat regarding any concerns you may have for your new puppy, or just to ensure everything is up to date. Best of luck with your new addition and we look forward to seeing you for annual check-ups for years to come!