

# Puppy Information

**Congratulations on the arrival of your new puppy! Puppies are lots of fun and rewarding but also a lot of work. Puppies grow up fast and it is important for you to know how to care for them, so they grow up healthy and be well behaved pets. If you have any questions about how to care for your new puppy after reading this article, please feel free to contact our clinic, and our highly trained staff will be more than happy to assist you.**



## Feeding

It is recommended to feed your new puppy a premium food to support their development in the first 12 months of their life. Premium foods are complete and balanced, and the best way to ensure your puppy is getting the best nutrition. Premium diets recommended by our veterinarians include Hills Science Diet Puppy, VetONE Puppy and ADVANCE Puppy.

Your puppy should be offered 2-3 meals per day when between 8-16 weeks of age, after which we recommend feeding your puppy twice daily. In addition to meals, it's important for your pet to have access to fresh clean water at all times. Be consistent with feeding times as it helps develop a routine for your puppy and assists in toilet training. Depending on the food chosen will depend on how much to feed your puppy, always refer to the feeding guide on the bag. Our friendly staff are always happy to help with feeding guides should you have any questions with diet and feeding amounts.

Your puppy's primary diet should be dry puppy food, although some people choose to also feed a small portion of wet food in addition to biscuits. Wet food should not be left to sit out at room temperature for longer than an hour. If it is not eaten during that time then the leftovers should be discarded.

## Vaccinations

It is very important to contact your veterinarian to set up your puppy's vaccinations as soon as you get your puppy. When you call your veterinarian's office the helpful staff will help you determine what vaccinations your puppy require and set a schedule for your pet. Vaccinations are required to protect against contagious diseases. Our vaccinations protect your puppy against 5 common diseases including parvovirus, hepatitis, distemper and kennel cough (parainfluenza + bordetella). Vaccinations start at 6-8 weeks of age, and involve a course of 3 injections, each 4 weeks apart. It is necessary to keep your puppy restricted to only your yard until the full vaccination series has been completed. Vaccinations are considered fully protective one week after the last vaccine and therefore you should not take your puppy anywhere off your property until this time. Your veterinarian will discuss your puppy's risks and set up a schedule for their immunization. Ensure all other dogs in the household are up to date with their vaccinations.



## Microchipping

It is required by Queensland law that all puppies and kittens be microchipped. A microchip is a permanent identification device approximately the size of a grain of rice, that is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades by an injection. If a pet is found, it is immediately scanned for a microchip and once found, owner details can be located so that we can reunite your family with your lost pet.

It is also required by Queensland law that all pets be registered with the council. Please contact your local council immediately after getting a new pet and they will inform you how to get registered. Most councils typically offer discounted registration for desexed and microchipped pets.

## Deworming

Puppies are commonly are infected with intestinal parasites or 'worms'. They often become infected from their mother during their early days of life. Puppies need to be dewormed every two weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until six months of age, then once every three months from then on.



## Heartworm Prevention

Heartworm is a deadly parasitic worm that affects your puppy's health and can cause irreversible damage to organs. Heartworm disease is transmitted by infected mosquito's, the culprit of transporting this deadly worm dog to dog. When bitten by an infected mosquito, the microfilaria (larvae) travel in the blood stream and over approximately 6 months, mature into adult worms as they migrate to the heart. We strongly recommend all puppies be on heartworm prevention. Preventative options include an annual injection or a monthly tablet.

## Ticks + Fleas



External parasites include ticks, fleas and mites and they can be found year-round. These pesky parasites can carry potentially life-threatening disease so it's important to protect your pet.

There are numerous different products available to protect your puppy against these parasites. We recommend prescription strength products that are available through veterinary clinics such as Nexgard, Bravecto and Simparica Trio.

## Toilet Training

Toilet training can be very frustrating and a time-consuming venture with your new puppy. It is important to be consistent and patient with your new puppy as you embark on this task. Some puppies learn quicker than others but the more you focus on your efforts the better success you will have. When training a puppy to go to the toilet outside, make sure you supervise to avoid an accident. Puppies usually need to go to the toilet after a nap, after eating and after playing! Always use positive reinforcement and never punish them for an accident. Your puppy should be taken outside on a lead so they know where to toilet and it is best to reward them within 3-5 seconds of toileting for positive reinforcement.

## Desexing

All puppies should be desexed at six months of age. Desexed pets have less health problems than undesexed pets and are proven to live significantly longer. Desexing female dogs helps prevent unwanted pregnancies, significantly decreases the risk of mammary, ovarian and cervical cancer, prevents in-season bleeding which can last up to 3 weeks and occur up to 3 times yearly, and helps prevent wandering behavior, which can result in serious accidents and loss of pets. Desexing male dogs helps prevent unwanted pregnancies, significantly decreases risk of testicular, prostate and perianal cancers, and help prevent wandering behaviors which can result in serious accidents and loss of pet.

## Puppy Preschool

Socialization of your puppy is an essential part of emotional and behavioral development. This is most successfully done by exposure to many different positive experiences. The optimal age for socialization is 10-16 weeks of age. Waiting past this socialization period can make training your puppy very difficult as after this age behaviour becomes hard to unlearn. Puppies that are not properly socialized may develop aggressive, anti-social, fearful and anxious behaviors. Puppy Preschool is an excellent way to socialize your puppy in a safe environment, resulting in a well-adjusted puppy. In order to enroll into Puppy preschool, your puppy must have had a minimum of two puppy vaccinations and be between 10-16 weeks of age.

**Please contact the clinic if you have any questions regarding your new puppy or any questions you may have from this handout. Our friendly staff are always happy to help!**