



New Puppy and Dog Care

Taking care of a new puppy or dog can be little daunting. We have compiled the most common requirements for the basic care and wellbeing of your beloved new friend.

Vaccinations

Puppies gain passive immunity against disease from their mother's first milk (Colostrum) but this only lasts a few weeks. Vaccination ensures that permanent active immunity develops, which can then be maintained by yearly boosters.

All puppies should be vaccinated to give protection against four infectious diseases DISTEMPER/HEPATITIS/PARVO VIRUS & KENNEL COUGH.

Vaccinations should be given as follows:

- PUPS:**
- 6 - 8 weeks - Temporary Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvo Virus (C3)
 - 12-14 weeks - Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvo Virus/Kennel Cough (C4 or C5)
 - 16-18 weeks - Distemper/ Hepatitis/Parvo Virus/Kennel cough (C4 or C5)

A complete physical examination is made at each vaccination. Vaccination for kennel cough (a highly contagious upper respiratory disease) is especially worthwhile if your dog is likely to be placed in kennels regularly or taken to shows, obedience classes etc.

ADULT DOGS: Annual booster for Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvo Virus & Kennel cough together with a full physical examination.

Worming

All puppies carry worms in their intestines & should be dewormed regularly and their droppings disposed of. Worms are a possible human health hazard. Children should wash their hands after handling puppies.

Deworm puppies fortnightly from 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until 6 months of age. We recommend either Canex or Paratak All Wormer. It is important that the puppy is weighed to ensure the correct dose is given.



Adult dogs should be dewormed every 3 - 4 months with a broad spectrum worming preparation. We recommend Paratak, Canex All Wormer or Popantel tablets.

Beware of supermarket brands of worming preparations, many of these do not kill all worms. Please seek our advice.

Heartworm

Heartworm is a blood parasite of dogs transmitted by mosquitoes. This disease, once confined to the warm northern areas of Australia, is now present in parts of Melbourne. Heartworm disease is potentially fatal, and is very difficult to treat. However it can be easily prevented. Heartworm prevention involves monthly medication with INTERCEPTOR, SENTINEL, HEARTGARD OR PROHEART tablets.

Daily HW prevention is also available, however dogs must be given this form everyday, which can be difficult. We highly recommend INTERCEPTOR or SENTINEL as this once a month product kills 3 of the 4 types of intestinal worms as well as heartworm.

Ideally medication should begin at 6 -12 weeks of age. It is important to increase the dosage as the puppy gains weight.

DOGS OVER 6 MONTHS OF AGE MUST BE BLOOD TESTED & FOUND TO BE NEGATIVE FOR HEARTWORM BEFORE BEING STARTED ON HEARTWORM TABLETS.

Feeding

PUPS:	6-12 weeks old	3 - 4 meals daily.
	3 - 6 months old	2 - 3 meals daily
	Over 6 months old	1 - 2 meals daily

We highly recommend Hills Science Diet, as it is a premium pet food which caters for different life stages of your pet, Growth, Maintenance, Senior . Hills is nutritionally balanced and highly palatable dry food it comes in many varieties to suit your dog's breed. Other commercially prepared puppy food canned or dry may be suitable for your puppy. Check that this food is a complete and balanced diet and that it meets the standards demanded by the AAFCO. Read the package label.

If you plan to feed your puppy food you have prepared yourself be sure to supplement it with the correct amount of calcium and other nutrients. The amount fed should be constantly monitored and adjusted according to the dog's body condition, and age.



TIPS.

- Avoid sudden changes in diet as this may cause diarrhoea. Some canned foods & full cream milk may also cause diarrhoea.
- Always provide plenty of fresh drinking water.
- Do not feed more than 1/4 of the diet as raw meat.
- Provide raw bones for your puppy to exercise and clean his teeth but never give cooked bones.

ADULT DOGS: Should receive one or two meals daily of good quality dry dog food. Dogs do not require variety in their diet however they must also receive lots of raw bones to promote healthy teeth & gums. Quantities fed need to be adjusted to the dog's body condition and exercise level.

Training

A well trained dog is a real pleasure to own.

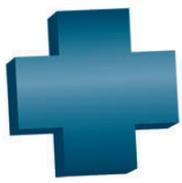
1. Settling In - Before trying to teach your new puppy anything, you must gain his confidence and respect. Make a special place for him to sleep in and to eat/drink. Feed him yourself, talk to him and pat him.

2. House Training - This may take several weeks - BE PATIENT and VIGILANT! He will begin to sniff around and circle when he needs to urinate or defecate. Take your puppy outside every 2 hours or so but especially after feeding or sleeping. Always take him to the same place outside in order to form the habit of going outside. When he goes to the toilet, praise him. Be aware that scolding your puppy or rubbing his nose in it may frighten him so that he will not defecate or urinate in front of you even when outside.

With time, you should find that the pup will voluntarily go to the door to be let out to the toilet. If you are having problems house training your puppy, please seek our advise.

3. Obedience Training - Basic training can begin as early as 2 - 3 months of age, when your pup should be taught to walk on a leash and obey basic commands such as sit, come, stay and heel. Two or three 5 - 10 minute training sessions daily with plenty of praise, pats and food rewards are recommended.

Puppy Preschool held here at the clinic is highly recommended. Please ask us for details.



Flea Control - Bathing & Grooming

Fleas are the most common cause of skin irritation in dogs. They also aid in the transmission of tapeworm from one animal to another. Fleas are most prevalent in the summer months however if your pets come into the house they can be a problem all through the year. It is essential to understand that only a small part of the flea life cycle is actually spent on the dog. All animals living on a property should be treated with one of the flea preventatives we recommend.

One of the simplest and most effective methods of flea control is SENTINEL - a tablet which is administered orally to your dog each month. SENTINEL acts by stopping fleas from breeding and is also an all in one intestinal and heartworm medication.

Regular use of SENTINEL will eliminate the need for flea rinses, sprays and foggers.

FRONTLINE and ADVANTAGE are also terrific products that kill fleas within 24 hours, with a simple application on the back of the neck.

OUTSIDE:

Use of SENTINEL or FRONTLINE/ADVANTAGE should eliminate the need for spraying or dusting with insecticide. However your dog's bedding should be washed regularly.

INSIDE:

If your dog spends considerable time indoors SENTINEL or FRONTLINE/ADVANTAGE should eliminate the need for spraying. However regular vacuuming is still important.

GROOMING:

Dogs should be groomed regularly. All long-haired breeds should be brushed with a slicker brush to remove dead hair. Short-haired breed need a brush/glove which helps the coat keep its shine.

Desexing Of Dogs

Should your dog be desexed? There are many advantages to owning a desexed dog.

Here are the facts:

FEMALES:

Should be desexed at 5 - 7 months of age. This involves surgical removal of the uterus & ovaries under a general anaesthetic. It is not necessary or beneficial to allow your bitch to have a heat (season) or a litter of pups before being desexed. Desexing does not affect the bitch's



temperament or personality & will not lead to obesity. Only overfed & under-exercised dogs become fat.

- Advantages - No unwanted pregnancies or puppies contributing to the already serious stray dog problem in Melbourne.
- Cheaper Council registration rates.
 - No hassles with the bitch coming on heat every 5 - 6 months.
 - Eliminates the risk of pyometra (life threatening infection of the uterus)
 - Eliminates risk of uterine & ovarian cancer.
 - Reduced risk of mammary (breast) cancer.

MALES:

Should be desexed (castrated) at 6 - 9 months of age. This involves surgical removal of both testicles under a general anaesthetic.

- Advantages - Less aggressive, easier to control & train.
- Less likely to roam, reducing the risk of being impounded or hit by a car.
 - Cheaper Council registration fees
 - Reduced risk of prostatic disease
 - Eliminates risk of testicular cancer.

Desexing your male dog will not alter his personality or character. It will not cause him to become fat. Once again, only over fed & under-exercised dogs become fat.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR PET, PLEASE PHONE US ON 9799 1479, WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU.

Enjoy your New Puppy or Dog!

Remember your Dog will be your most loyal friend!