

THE NITTY GRITTY

puppy edition...



vaccinations

The major infectious diseases for dogs are Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, and Canine Cough (also known as Kennel cough). Vaccinating against these diseases will help to prevent or greatly reduce the severity of the disease, should your puppy contract it.

To protect your puppy against these diseases, we advise that puppies must have a course of at least 3 vaccinations, each one month apart.

Your puppy will not be fully protected against these diseases for a further 7-10 days after the second vaccination is given. After the initial vaccination course, an annual booster vaccination and health check will be necessary to continue to protect them against these diseases.

We will send you a reminder for their annual vaccinations, however we do recommend that you record when their vaccinations are due also.

parasite prevention

Dogs of any age are susceptible to parasites such as fleas, and intestinal worms. We have outlined some of the more common preventable parasites, that you should be preventing your puppy against.

We have many products available at our clinic and it is important to beware of supermarket brands as many of them do not provide adequate prevention and treatment. Have a chat with us about our preventative treatments, to find the best options for you and your puppy.

fleas

Fleas can make your dog's life, and your family's life miserable. These small, blood-sucking insects like to feed on your dog and live anywhere your dog does. Not only can flea bites cause discomfort, itchiness, and severe skin reactions, they can potentially transmit tapeworms if ingested by your dog. Fleas can quickly cause a long-lasting, major infestation in your home, as only 5% of the flea population will reside on your dog, leaving the other 95% in your surrounding environment.

intestinal worms

In Australia, dogs can get infected with hookworms, roundworms, whipworm and tapeworm.

It is important to follow a regular worming protocol to ensure the health and wellbeing of your pet.

Puppies are infested with intestinal worms from their mother, either before birth (through the placenta) or after birth (through the mother's milk). Worms from puppies can also present a serious health risk to humans, particularly for children, who love to kiss, cuddle, and play with their new puppies. Therefore it is important to start treatment from 2 weeks of age.

The following regime should be followed: Ages 2-12 weeks: Every fortnight
Ages 12 weeks – 6 months: Every Month
Ages 6 months and over: Every three months for the lifespan of your dog

heartworm

Heartworm is a parasite spread by mosquitos, that lives in the heart and blood vessels of their host and can be lethal to dogs. For prevention against heartworm, we recommend treating your puppy with the Proheart SR-12 injection, which requires a course of 2 injections at separate times. After that your puppy will only require one Proheart SR-12 injection annually for ongoing heartworm prevention, which can generally be timed with your puppy's annual vaccinations. There are also monthly topical or oral heartworm preventatives that we can provide advice for, if you would prefer those options.

desexing

Desexing your puppy is important for their long-term health and longevity. We generally advise the ideal age to desex your puppy is from 4 to 6 months of age, but this can depend on their breed, so please discuss this further with your vet.

Some advantages of desexing your puppy include: Discounted council registration fees, decrease the risk of certain diseases and cancers, no unwanted mating or pregnancy resulting in unwanted litters

microchipping

Microchipping is a quick procedure. The chip is the size of a grain of rice that is injected under the skin between the shoulder blades. It has a unique number that is only detectable with a microchip scanner.

The microchip number is recorded with a database registry with the details about the pet and the owner. Pet owners need to ensure their contact details are recorded correctly on the database for their pet's microchip number, should they stray or become lost, so they can be reunited with you.

In Victoria puppies are legally required to have a microchip before being sold. A microchip is a requirement for your puppy to be registered with your local council. If your puppy is not microchipped, please contact us about having one implanted.

diet

We advise you to feed your puppy a high-quality diet specifically designed for puppies, such as Hills Vet Essentials for Puppies. It is a complete premium diet that doesn't require further supplementation. It's also good for preventing plaque and tartar build up, and keeping their teeth and gums healthy.

Breed is important when determining the best diet for your puppy, as a large breed puppy has different growth rates and dietary needs compared to a smaller breed puppy, so should be fed a Large Breed puppy diet. Feeding the correct diet may help to prevent your puppy developing joint problems such as hip and elbow dysplasia.

Young puppies should receive their daily food allowance split over 3-4 meals per day, and as they get older, this can then be split over 2 meals per day. Also ensure that clean, fresh water is available for your puppy at all times.

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP AND DISCUSS
YOUR PUPPY'S INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, AND
PROVIDE YOU WITH EXPERT ADVICE AS WELL AS
COSTS OR ESTIMATES FOR ANY TREATMENTS &
PROCEDURES.



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