

## PUPPY CARE



Well done !!! Now that you have a new member of the family you need to know some important things to make sure that they will live a long, happy and contented life.

### 1. Vaccinations

We vaccinate dogs against the following disease: parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis and kennel cough. All of these diseases have debilitating effects on dogs and in severe cases can cause death. Vaccinations are the best protection we can offer your pet against these diseases. Our vaccination protocol is as follows:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 6-8 weeks:   | Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus (called a C3)      |
| 12-14 weeks: | Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Kennel cough (C5) |
| 16-18 weeks: | Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Kennel cough (C5) |

After these three puppy vaccinations your pet then requires annual vaccinations.

Puppies should be isolated from other dogs of unknown health status until 7 days after their 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination. However your pup can play with other dogs that are fully vaccinated and healthy, provided they stay in the backyard and do not go to public places.

Dogs rarely have a reaction to vaccinations. Some may show signs of tenderness at the site of the injections or are a little tired from their trip to the vet other pups have more severe reactions where you may see a swelling of the face. If you have any concerns after their shots please do not hesitate to call us.

### 2. Microchip

Microchip implants are now compulsory in all cats and dogs born after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000 and all adult dogs must be chipped by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.

Microchips are an essential way of identifying lost dogs and it is important that new pups be chipped before going to their new owners. If you are not sure about the status of your pup we can scan it for you.

### 3. Worming

Intestinal worms are a common problem seen in young pups as they can be transferred from their mothers or they can be obtained from the environment. We give prevention for the following worms: Roundworm, Hookworm, Whipworm and Tapeworm.

Our worming protocol is listed below:

Every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age,

Then monthly until 6 months,

Then every 3 months for life.

The ideal worming for young pups under 3 months is CANINE PUPPY SYRUP. After this time we recommend using POPANTEL ALL WORMER FOR DOGS or CANEX CUBES.

#### **4. Heartworm**

Heartworm is one of the biggest threats to the health of your animal. It is spread by a mosquito biting an infected dog and then biting your pup and passing the disease on. We strongly recommend using preventative measures in the form of tablets, chewables, topical applicators or an injection.

Your prevention programme should start at 12 weeks of age. If you begin treatment later in your dog's life (i.e. over 6 months) or if you have forgotten to give your dog heartworm prevention for more than 3 months, then there is a chance that your pet already has heartworm, and will need a blood test before beginning (or recommencing) prevention.

HEARTGARD chewables and tablets can be started at 12 weeks and are then to be given monthly.

ADVANTAGE DUO and REVOLUTION topical applicators, applied as a liquid to the back of the neck, can be also started at this young age and then continued monthly.

PROHEART is an injection that will last for 1 whole year. This can be commenced when your dog is one year of age.

#### **5. Desexing**

If you are not interested in breeding your dog then we advise you have him or her desexed. We recommend that this surgery be done at 6 months of age for both sexes. Desexing will prevent any problems in the future such as unwanted pregnancies, infection, undesirable hormonal problems, and greatly reduces the risk of mammary, testicular, and prostatic cancers.

**For all these reasons, we strongly recommend desexing your dog.**

#### **6. Diet**

Dogs are very similar to humans in that they require a well balanced diet. This can be easily achieved by feeding commercial dry food (such as Science Diet).

The best way to maintain healthy teeth and gums is to offer RAW chicken wings or RAW chicken necks given four times weekly or large slices of raw meat. Once your puppy is larger you can offer them lamb shanks instead of chicken wings.

**Do NOT give your dog cooked bones EVER!!!!!!**

If you are changing your puppy's diet or introducing a new food it is crucial that you do it gradually, combining it with the old food over a couple of days otherwise they can develop a 'tummy upset' and sometimes diarrhoea.

#### **7. Fleas and Ticks**

Fleas are a very frustrating problem for dogs AND owners, but can be easily prevented with topical applicators or sprays. For each flea you see on your dog, there will be 50-100 of them in the environment (in the bedding, carpet and on the grass). To achieve effective flea control we recommend all year round flea control.

Ticks are also becoming more apparent particularly after trips to coastal areas. Certain ticks cause paralysis and death so it is important to check your animal regularly and use prevention.

We recommend FRONTLINE top-spot as the best option for flea and tick prevention.

## **8. Insurance**

Ever thought of how good it would be to have Medicare for your pet? Well, now it exists. There are a few pet health insurance schemes available but the one we recommend is from AFS PetMed. It provides lifetime cover and also covers, for the first time, maintenance costs such as vaccination, flea and worm treatments, desexing and microchipping. A flyer is enclosed to give you a brief overview.

## **9. Training**

We recommend puppies enrol in puppy preschool. Please ask one of the vets if you are interested in participating.

## **10. Grooming**

It is vital that you start grooming your dog from an early age.

From three months of age your dog can visit our professional groomer, who will examine your dog's eyes, ears, nails and check any abnormalities with the vet on duty. You can also have your vaccination, heartworm injection etc., performed at the same time. Your pet will come home looking good and smelling great.

Breeds such as Poodles, Maltese terriers and Shih tzus will need regular professional clipping and grooming every six to eight weeks. Regular grooming not only maintains a well-kept appearance, but also lessens the amount of hair shedding on the floor. It also prevents the coat from matting, which can become very uncomfortable for your pet.

Grooming doesn't only take place at the professional groomer. There are some small, easy steps that you can take at home to keep your canine friend looking great in between grooming sessions.

The first rule of thumb of good grooming is to teach your dog to stand and sit. A well-trained dog that will stand still and allow itself to be handled will find both grooming and visiting the vet a pleasant experience.

Next, brush your dog regularly with a soft brush. Be sure to be gentle and only brush in short, but frequent sessions, say once a week. This simple ritual is a great way to spend some quality time together while at the same time achieving a healthy coat.

**A clean, shiny coat is not only an indication of your dog's health but also your pride in your best friend's appearance.**

**We wish you the best of luck with your new puppy and we hope that you share many happy and healthy years ahead.**