



Collaroy Veterinary Services

Complete and total pet care · open 7 days · 24hr emergency service · boarding · grooming · fully equipped · modern facilities

Information sheet

Caring for your new Puppy

Congratulations on the addition of a new member to your family!

This information sheet is to help you keep track of all the special needs of your new pup. Here is a summary of what your puppy will need in the first 6 months.

Microchipping

A microchip is a small object about the size of a grain of rice that is injected under the skin. Each chip has a unique number that can be read by a scanner. Your puppy will need to be microchipped and the details entered into the Companion Animal Registry (CAR). It is most important that if you move house or change phone numbers you update your details on the CAR – we have too many dogs brought in who are microchipped but the owners cannot be found as their contact details are out of date.

The microchip will also be used when you register your dog with the council. This must be done by the age of 6 months. There is a considerable discount for de-sexed dogs, so most people register with council after their dog is de-sexed.

Vaccination

The diseases that we vaccinate against in dogs include:

- Distemper – a usually fatal viral disease causing fever, upper respiratory tract problems, vomiting and diarrhoea and then severe neurological problems.
- Parvovirus – a highly contagious and usually fatal disease causing severe gastrointestinal signs by destroying the lining of the gastrointestinal tract.
- Canine Adenovirus – this has a detrimental effect on the dog's liver
- Parainfluenza virus and Bordetella bacteria – cause highly contagious kennel cough which normally will resolve in 2 weeks but can cause a lot of discomfort to your pet.

We recommend a series of 3 puppy vaccinations one month apart, generally given to the following schedule:

- 6-8 weeks – Distemper, Hepatitis & Parvovirus protection
- 10-12 weeks – Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza & Bordetella protection
- 14-16 weeks – Distemper, Hepatitis & Parvovirus protection.



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It takes one week after the vaccine for the puppy's immune system to have responded to the vaccine, and it is safest for your puppy not to mix with other dogs until a week after it has had its last vaccination. However, if your pup is going to attend puppy class, it is generally considered safe to allow them to attend after just one vaccination.

Your dog will need annual boosters. Rarely, a dog may have an adverse reaction to a vaccine, your vet will be able to advise you about this if necessary.

Heartworm Disease

Heartworm is a parasite that is spread by mosquitoes. The mosquito injects larvae that grow into worms that lodge in the heart, ultimately causing heart failure and death. Heartworm disease is easily prevented with either an annual injection (for adult dogs) or a monthly tablet. As pups are growing rapidly, we generally recommend using monthly tablets from the age of 3 months until they are 6 months old. Then at the time of de-sexing (usually around 6 months of age) the first injection is given. The next injection will be due when your pup is 15 months old by which time the first adult vaccination can be given. From then on your dog will just need an annual check-up, vaccination and heartworm injection all at the same time.

Intestinal worms

Young pups are very susceptible to intestinal worms. A heavy burden of worms can make a small puppy feel quite unwell, and some worms can be transmitted between humans and dogs. Worms can easily be controlled with a tablet, but make sure you are using an "all wormer" as some tablets don't treat all worms. We recommend:

- 1-12 weeks of age worm every 2 weeks
- 12 weeks to 6 months of age worm every month
- Adults worm every 3 months

Fleas and Ticks

There are a number of flea products available, in a range of forms – washes, powders, sprays, spot-ons, tablets etc. We generally find some spot-on and tablet forms the most effective for flea control, please speak to any of our staff for more advice.

The Northern Beaches is a high risk tick area, and tick poisoning is a deadly condition. During the tick season use spot-on tick products fortnightly, tick collars are also available and you should also search your pet every day for ticks, as no product is 100% effective in stopping tick attachment. If you notice your pup has trouble breathing, is coughing, has a change of voice, is 'wobbly' on his legs or is in any way unwell, please call the clinic as it is possible that he or she has a tick.



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De-sexing

We recommend having your pup de-sexed at approximately 6 months of age. Your pup will stay for the day and in most cases will be fine to go home the same evening. Please ask our staff for more information.

Pet Insurance

Worth considering! Talk to our vets about it, but consider covering not just accident but also illness for the whole of your dog's life.

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