

**CARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY**

**VACCINATION**

What should your dog be vaccinated against?

- We routinely vaccinate against Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and Canine Cough (both Bordetella and Parainfluenza).

When should the vaccinations be given?

- 1st DHP (Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvovirus) ..... **6-8 weeks of age**
- 2nd DHP + KC (As above + Canine Cough) ..... **10-12 weeks of age**
- 3rd DHP + KC ..... **14-16 weeks of age**

A YEARLY BOOSTER is required to maintain immunity.

- Please remember your puppy is not fully covered by vaccinations until 2 weeks after the final vaccination. It is important to restrict contact with other dogs and public places during this time.

**INTESTINAL WORMING**

Intestinal worms can cause serious problems, and puppies are especially at risk. When worm burdens become high we can see problems such as diarrhoea, vomiting, pot-belly, weight loss, anaemia, scooting and even more serious intestinal complications.

- What should your pup be wormed against?
  - Roundworm, Hookworm, Tapeworm (including hydatids) and Whipworm.
- These can all be spread to people especially children so it is very important to prevent infestation.
- When?
  - Worm every fortnight from 2 to 12 weeks of age, then monthly up to 6 months of age, then every three months for life. If there are any children in the family it may be advisable to worm the dog monthly for life. We recommend Drontal Allwormer.
- Please note that intestinal wormers do not cover heartworm.

**FLEAS**

1. '**COMFORTIS**' – tablet used once every month for flea control; safe from 14 weeks of age.
  2. '**ADVANTAGE**' – safe from birth; can be used on nursing bitches; apply as a spot of fluid to the back of the neck once every month. Provides a rapid flea kill.
  3. '**ADVOCATE**' – covers fleas and heartworm and intestinal worms. Apply as a spot-on once every month for life.
- Remember – all animals in the household must be treated for control to be effective!! (All dogs and all cats!)

## HEARTWORM PREVENTION

- Heartworm is a parasite that is transmitted to dogs by mosquitoes and then moves to the chambers of the dog's heart, eventually causing death by heart failure.
- All pups should start prevention at 6-12 weeks of age, and remain on prevention for life. Our most recommended ones are:
  - **PROHEART injection** – Covers heartworm only. Given once per year for life.
  - **ADVOCATE**– A spot-on that covers heartworm and fleas and intestinal worms. Apply monthly for life.
  - **HEARTGARD** – A beef chew or tablet for control of heartworm. Given monthly for life.

## DESEXING

- This can be done at 4-6 months of age and involves a day visit with us. De-sexing will help control problems such as roaming, aggression, inappropriate mounting, mammary and prostatic disease. Your council registration will also be much cheaper.
- There is no advantage for your female dog to have a season or a litter first before de-sexing!!

## FEEDING

- Use a commercial puppy (not adult) food as these are balanced in all the vitamins, minerals and dietary requirements your growing pup needs. How often should puppies be fed?
  - Up to 3 months old .....3 meals/day
  - From 3-6 months old .....2 meals/day
  - Over 6 months old .....1-2 meals/day
- We recommend premium quality foods such as Eukanuba and Hills.
- For healthy teeth and gums, large raw leg marrow bones and brisket bones are great. In smaller breeds, raw chicken wings or necks may be more appropriate.
- NB. NEVER FEED COOKED BONES OR THOSE WITH SHARP POINTS eg. T & chop bones

## MICROCHIP IMPLANTS

- One aspect of responsible dog ownership is the identification of your pet. A MICROCHIP IMPLANT is the only way to achieve lifetime identification and is required by law. At approx 1cm long, insertion is by simple injection that can be done at vaccination or de-sexing times or any other convenient time by appointment. A collar and tag can be lost, but a microchip is there for life.

## PUPPY SOCIALISATION

- Our pups must be well adjusted in many different environments from a very young age – expose your pup to people and other animals – a good obedience school can make the difference between a beloved family member and a public nuisance!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR NEW PUPPY, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO GIVE US A CALL.**