



NEW DOG/PUPPY CARE

Congratulations on the arrival of your new pup! During our first consultation there is so much to discuss and for you to remember so hopefully this sheet will answer most of your questions.

Vaccination

The first vaccine is given at 6-10 weeks, with the second vaccine 2-4 weeks later (nb the pup needs to be at least 10 weeks of age) and protects against viruses that cause distemper, parvovirus, canine hepatitis, leptospira and parainfluenza. These viruses can cause serious and fatal diseases, so it is essential to protect your pet. Most kennels and some insurance policies will require that you pet is vaccinated properly.

There is an option to vaccinate against kennel cough (at a reduced rate when given with the routine vaccination) at the second vaccination. Protection against this virus is required by most kennels and this disease, though not usually that serious is very contagious so can be easily spread between affected dogs through direct contact or indirect contact (e.g. sniffing somewhere a dog has recently coughed).

Your pet will be protected from these diseases 2 weeks after the second vaccination. It is at this point that you can take your pet to public areas. In the mean time you can let him meet other fully vaccinated healthy dogs in your home/private garden or at your friends house.

Vaccinations are continued annually throughout life though we routinely vaccinate for parvovirus and letpo every 12 months and parvo, distemper and hepatitis every 3 years. It is important to continue vaccinating your pet as they will not be covered for these serious diseases if you don't. The vaccine dosing interval is based on studies showing the duration of immunity in dogs. As with any vaccine side effects can occasionally occur but

the benefits of vaccination will always far out way the risks, these diseases really are unpleasant and can be life-threatening.

Worming

Intestinal worms can cause weight loss and diarrhoea which can sometimes be severe, they can also be involved in the transmission of fleas and can be hazardous to human health with children and immuno-suppressed individuals being particularly vulnerable.

0-6 months

Your pet should be wormed every 4 weeks until 6 months of age.

Milbemax puppy tablets, 1 tablet for dogs up to 5kg, two tablets for dogs less than 10kg

Milbemax dog, 1 tablet for dogs between 10 and 25kg, two if they are over 25kg.

Please feel free to come in with your dog to weigh him/her every month – someone is always available to help you. The tablet can be hidden in food or put directly into your pets mouth, they are flavoured so some dogs will take it as a treat. We do offer free nurse clinics where we can administer the tablet if you are struggling!

6 months onwards

We recommend worming every 3 months but in some cases more frequent worming may be appropriate. Please ask us if you are not sure how often you should be worming your pet.

This practice runs a scheme whereby for every 3 milbemax wormers you purchase per animal you will get one dose for free. You can purchase tablets as needed or 4 at a time to benefit from this offer. We can also organize for you to have a free text or e-mail reminder sent to you when the next dose is due if this is helpful to you.



Flea prevention (and treatment!)

Fleas can cause intense skin irritation to dogs, are commonly involved in skin allergies, and can be involved in the transmission of intestinal worms so treatment and prevention should be taken seriously. All pets in the house should be treated regularly as flea eggs can fall off your pet and hatch throughout the whole year which is not very nice for us humans!

Frontline

This comes as a 'spot-on' preparation or a spray. The spray can be used from 2 days of age and should be repeated every 3 months. The number of sprays depends on the body weight and if you are unsure or have not used this product before please ask the vet for advice.

The spot-on preparation: frontline combo, is administered between the shoulder blades and can be used from 8 weeks old (min weight 2kg). This needs to be used every 2 months (or monthly to also kill ticks) and will treat and prevent fleas and stop any eggs falling off the animal from hatching in the environment.

Other Parasites

Ticks

Diet

We recommend feeding a properly formulated puppy diet and for larger breed puppies (anything bigger than a spaniel) a large breed specific diet is essential. There are a number of excellent manufacturers which do a lot of work on nutrition and we are happy to advise you of a good quality food. Young puppies should be fed 3-4 times a day and roughly according to the guidelines for the weight of the pup, the frequency may be reduced gradually with age to suit your routine. Avoid exercise immediately after food especially with deep chested giant breeds.

Dental care

A large proportion of the dogs we see over the age of 4 or 5 years have some signs of dental disease. Certain breeds and individuals seem to be more prone to disease than others. This may reflect their diets and chewing habits also. Some hard feed diets are specially formulated for dental health, and there are some excellent chews and toys which will help massage the gums and clean off the surface of the teeth as the animal chews. Contrary to what you might think bones do not help with oral hygiene as they are rigid and can actually result in wearing the teeth down. The best way to look after your pets teeth is by daily tooth brushing just like us! A dog toothpaste should be used as these are flavoured (to aid cooperation!) and human toothpaste is too abrasive.

You can start early by getting your dog used to you lifting the lips to look at the teeth, moving onto applying tooth paste with your finger and later a medium texture adult brush. To be worthwhile tooth cleaning needs to be performed daily and include all teeth right round to the back. We stock toothpaste and

brushes and can recommend treats and toys beneficial to dental health (and as an alternative to your living room furniture!)

Neutering

Bitches

We recommend spaying female dogs if you are not planning on breeding. If you do intend to breed from your bitch they should be at least 2 years old and there are screening tests recommended prior to breeding for some pedigrees. Please be sure it is really something you want to do because there are a lot of unwanted puppies out there and it can be rather stressful and expensive when things don't go according to plan. The reasons for recommending spaying are medical, entire bitches are susceptible to life-threatening infections of the womb and to mammary cancers which are largely preventable if spayed before the second season.

We can spay from 5-6 months of age but it should be before or between seasons as there is a risk of bleeding during a heat. Our preference is before or after the first season to maximise health benefits. The procedure involves leaving your pet with us for the day and then keeping her to lead exercise for 10 days until the stitches come out.

Dogs

Castration is essential for those dogs that do not have both testicles in the scrotum but also carries some health benefits for normal dogs. Prostate disease is common in the older dog and is unusual in neutered animals. It can also be helpful for behavioural reasons such as dogs that run off in search of the ladies and if there are some signs of aggression...Again your pet will need to stay with us for the day and will need 10 days rest after the procedure, this can be performed from 5 months.

Identichips

These are very small implants that are 'injected' beneath the skin and when scanned will enable vets to identify a lost pet and return him/her to the owners. They can not be removed, and will last a lifetime. They are put in very much like when we administer a jab but involve a slightly bigger needle. They are a permanent means of identification and last a life time.

Insurance

As a result of huge advancements in the field of veterinary medicine we are able to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions caused by ill-health or accidents. Unfortunately treatment comes with a cost attached and pet insurance gives you the peace of mind to know you can treat your pet without worrying too much about cost. There are many insurance companies out there but make sure your pet will be covered for life, look at the excess you will have to pay for a condition and the maximum pay out for a single condition. Also check insurance will continue to provide cover for an ongoing condition for life.

Training

Going to puppy training classes is an excellent way for your pet to meet other dogs and start learning some basic training tips. This will reinforce your relationship with your pet, engage their brains by providing some mental stimulation and obedience/public/recall.

Websites

good websites to look at (that give you reliable information!)

www.wormfree.co.uk

for information on worms

Every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication. Information in relation to pet care in this publication is of a general nature and does not constitute veterinary advice. Any liability arising from your use or reliance on the information contained in this publication is excluded.

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www.stationhousevets.com

Station House Vets

Teal House, Welburn, YORK YO60 7EP • Tel: 01653 618303