

## PUPPY GUIDE

### Age:

Usually puppies go to their new home around 8 to 10 weeks of age. Puppies that are exposed to a wide variety of people and experiences between 8 to 18 weeks of age tend to have less behavioural issues as adult dogs.

These experiences may include:

- Different animals
- Men, women and children of different ages
- Household sounds such as a vacuum cleaner
- Traffic noises
- Different smells

When introducing new experiences to your puppy the introduction should be positive and gradual. Do not expect too much from them or overwhelm them. Puppy classes are a great way to help your puppy socialise and become exposed to many experiences.

### Feeding:

- Puppies should have been introduced to solid foods well before being weaned and passed on to their new owners. Sudden changes to new food types will result in digestive problems, so be sure to find what has previously been fed. Change feed types by slow transition.
- 6-8 week old puppies will need 3 to 4 small meals daily. The number of meals daily may be steadily reduced until they reach adulthood, then only once daily feed is required, although the feed can be spilt into two meals if preferred.
- Meal size should be determined by assessing the puppy's body condition, energy requirements and the feeding guide on the side of the bag.
- Each meal may be identical, as long as it is balanced in its nutrients.
- Home prepared foods are not properly balanced no matter how wholesome they may appear to you. Quality puppy food is the best option for your growing dog.
- Premium diets available at our clinic are based on the highest quality and consistent protein sources rather than the cheapest meat available on the day, which is common to supermarket brands. All pups should be fed only on a puppy diet until 10-12 months old, or 18-24 months old in a large breed.

Please ask our staff to recommend a diet suitable to the needs of your new pup.

### Housing:

Housing for your puppy should be warm and secure. Remember that the puppy has probably come from a litter, with plenty of company. A puppy cannot be expected to settle by itself for some days. Crate training allows your puppy to settle into their new home quicker by providing a safe 'den' space which gives the puppy comfort and routine.

## Training / Discipline:

Puppies require training from a young age. A common misunderstanding of owners relates to dominance. Dominance describes a relationship, not an individual. One is not a dominant dog or person, but is relatively more dominant in specific relationships or situations. The most successful way of training a puppy is to use positive reinforcement, and rewarding them for their good behaviour, while ignoring the bad behaviour. Puppies are like young children, they have short attention spans. Therefore, training must be done for no longer than 5-10 minute sessions at a time. Puppy training should cover basic manners including sit, come, stay, drop, look, walking on a lead and settle. While also overcoming puppy behaviour issues including jumping, mouthing, barking, toilet training and digging. Providing training and socialisation will help reduce problem behaviours created from boredom.

Puppy preschool is held at our Naracoorte clinic if you wish to make a booking. Classes are suitable for puppies aged 8-12 weeks, and cover basic manners and training. It is especially useful for socialising your puppy and making new friends.

## Health Matters:

**BASIC HYGIENE** Put very simply, dogs have terrible hygiene. After handling any dog, wash your hands. Never let dogs lick your face. All manners of bacteria, protozoa, fungi and certain worms may cross infect to humans.

**WORMS:** The common puppy roundworm Toxocara canis is capable of crossing the placenta into the unborn puppy. This means that most puppies are born with roundworm. Puppies should be wormed with a reliable puppy wormer every two weeks until twelve weeks of age. At twelve weeks of age an 'allwormer', capable of killing round and tapeworms should be given every month until 6 months old. After 6 months, all dogs should be wormed every 3 months for life, with an allwormer to treat all intestinal and tapeworms.

The hydatid tapeworm will only be carried by dogs exposed to raw offal or sheep carcasses. If your dog has such exposure, treatment for hydatids must be carefully carried out every six weeks. Note that some roundworms and the hydatid tapeworm are extremely dangerous to humans – permanent damage can result from cross infection especially in children.

**What to use:-** **Puppies:** We recommend using a puppy wormer such as Drontal Puppy wormer every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age. From then on an allwormer such as Endogard, Popantal or Pyraquantal can be used every 3 months.

**Adults:** We recommend using an allwormer such as Endogard, Popantal or Pyraquantal with a dose rate based on the weight of the adult.

## Viral Disease & Vaccination

Dogs are susceptible to a number of preventable viral diseases, some of them both common and deadly, all of them extremely contagious. The terrible hygiene of dogs assures all viruses are spread rapidly.

- **Parvovirus** – common and deadly, especially in old dogs and puppies. “Parvo” kills by attacking the bowel, the dog dying of shock through blood loss and diarrhoea. Treatment is possible if detected early, but is VERY expensive and not always successful. Vaccination is almost totally effective in prevention.

- **Distemper** – quite rare nowadays due to high rates of vaccination, but still lurking. Distemper initially causes fever and pneumonia, leaving patients with a lifelong nerve defect from brain damage.
- **Canine Viral Hepatitis** – common, occasionally serious (puppies or very old dogs), but usually mild or no signs at all.
- **Kennel Cough** – There are different strains of kennel cough caused by bacteria and viruses. Kennel cough is usually a nuisance disease only, but is frustrating to treat, as it is both persistent (around 6 weeks) and contagious. We recommend vaccination for two strains of Kennel Cough, Bordatella & Parainfluenza Virus. This vaccination is required if your dog will be in boarding kennels

## Vaccinations:

Provide protection to the various diseases by 'teaching' the dog's body (immune system) to be able to 'recognise' the virus. In future, the immune system is able to attack that virus before it can cause disease. This 'teaching' takes some time so at least 10 days must pass before the vaccine takes any effect. In the first year, the 'teaching' must be repeated to ensure 'recognition' ie multiple vaccinations are required in the first year.

### Our recommendations

- At 6-8 weeks – Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis (C3)
- At 10-12 weeks – C3 and 2 strains of Kennel Cough (C5)
- At 14-16 weeks - (4 weeks after the second vaccination) DHP + KC (C5)
- Annual vaccination after the 3<sup>rd</sup> puppy vaccination (C5)

If an older dog commences its vaccinations for the first time, two DHP (plus KC if required) shots 4 weeks apart are necessary.

Then repeat DHP (plus KC) annually.

**Heartworm** Heartworm is a disease of dogs and occasionally cats, spread by mosquitoes. Immature worms live in the bloodstream where they are picked up by mosquito and moved to a new host. The worm grows into an adult that lives in the chambers of the heart and blood vessels to the lungs. Not surprisingly, signs of heart failure follow. Treatment is difficult and expensive. Heartworm was traditionally a disease of the tropics and subtropics, but it is now common in Melbourne and Adelaide, it WILL reach this district sometime. If you are travelling at all, especially near watercourses, it is wise to treat your dog for heartworm to prevent the risk of infection.

Two forms of prevention are available:

1. Monthly – chewable tablet
2. Yearly – injection

Heartworm prevention may be commenced from 3 months of age. If injectable prevention is commenced after 6 months of age a Heartworm test must be run prior to commencement.

## **Fleas**

There are many different flea treatments available on the market, however not all are reliable or effective. **\*\*Note that there are no effective shampoo, rinse, collar, or powder flea treatments available\*\***. These products at best only treat for the adult fleas on the dog at the time of washing, they provide no ongoing treatment or environmental treatment. Only 5% of the flea population are adults, so treating the larval stages of fleas is necessary in effectively treating the flea population. We recommend using "Bravecto" (3 monthly), "Simparica" (monthly) or "Revolution/Evicto"

(monthly) to treat the adult fleas on the animal, and kill the eggs in the environment. Vacuuming the floors and washing bedding are necessary to treat the environment.

### **Bathing**

There are many different bathing products available on the market. We recommend using a natural shampoo such as "Aloveen Natural Shampoo" or a soothing shampoo such as "Aloveen Oatmeal Shampoo". There is no set frequency to bathe dogs, but note that weekly is too often. It is best to keep washing to a minimum to prevent disrupting the natural oils in the skin. Bathing, if required, should be done no more than 1-2 times a month.

### **The Puppy Timetable**

Age in weeks

2	Puppy wormer
3	Commence supplementary feeding puppies eg. Advance Growth Rehydratable
4	Puppy wormer
6	Puppy wormer and consider first vaccination
8	Puppy wormer and first vaccine, off to new home
10	Puppy wormer
12	Allwormer, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vaccination, Commence Heartworm prevention
16-18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vaccination

Thereafter:

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Procedure</b>
Monthly	Heartworm treatment if used
Every 3 months	Allwormer
Every 6 Weeks	Hydatid treatment if exposed to offal or carcasses
Annually	Vaccination

## YOUR PUPPYS FIRST 15 MONTHS

PUPPYS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	AGE	INTESTINAL WORMING	HEARTWORM PREVENTION	VACCINATION	PUPPY PRESCHOOL	MICROCHIPPING & DESEXING
	6wks					Microchipping may be done at any stage
	8wks					
	10wks					
	12wks					
	4mths					
	5mths					
	6mths		 6,7,8 months			
	9mths		 9,10,11 months			
	12mths		 12,13,14 months			
	15mths		 Consider injection			