



# NEW PUPPY INFORMATION

## VACCINATION

Your puppy requires a series of vaccinations to ensure that they are protected against parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and kennel cough. These vaccinations can begin at 6 weeks of age, with boosters being administered 3 – 4 weeks apart. The last booster must be given at or over 14 weeks of age to ensure it is effective. It is important to ensure that your puppy is fully vaccinated before they are allowed to venture outside. We recommend that you **do not let you puppy outside of your property sooner than 10 days after their final vaccination.**

Kennel cough vaccines may not offer 100% protection against kennel cough, but they do dramatically reduce the severity of illness if they are exposed to it and this vaccine is required when entering a kennel or day care facility.

Vaccinations rely on your pet's immune system responding to the vaccine. They work best when your puppy is healthy. Every vaccination we do a full veterinary health check to ensure that your pet is fighting fit prior to vaccination!

After the initial puppy course of vaccinations, a booster vaccination is given 12 months later and then annually thereafter.

## DESEXING

We recommend that all dogs are de-sexed as soon as they are old enough; normally when they are 5-6 months of age. The benefits of desexing are to prevent unwanted litters, and to ensure that your animal will not develop reproductive diseases when they are older. There is no proven advantage to allowing your dog one litter or one season before desexing. Please see attached information about desexing.

## MICROCHIPPING

By law since 2006, all newly registered dogs must be microchipped. Puppies must be registered with their local council by 3 months of age. Microchips are inserted by a simple injection. This guarantees the identification of your pet if they are lost and end up at a vet clinic, shelter, or SPCA. We can microchip on the same day as vaccination.

## DENTAL HEALTH

Dogs have teeth just like ours! They will lose their baby teeth and grow adult ones – which need to be taken care of. The best prevention of dental disease is by regularly brushing their teeth once daily. If you are interested in this, it is best to start acclimatising them to this when they are young. Our staff can advise you on various products and techniques to help keep your dog's teeth clean. Dog

toothpastes are flavoured for their tastes, as they don't like bubblegum or mint flavour. All consultations with a veterinarian include an evaluation of your dog's dental health.

## **PUPPY PRESCHOOL**

8-16 weeks is an important time in your puppy's development. This is the socialisation window where exposing your puppy to new things is vital to achieve a well-adjusted dog in adulthood. During most of this time, your puppy is not fully vaccinated and cannot go out to socialise with dogs at the park.

Puppy pre-school is a low risk environment for your puppy to continue his/her development and creates an environment for fun and learning that puppies really love! Please see enclosed Puppy Preschool pamphlet for more information.

## **INSURANCE**

Pet insurance is becoming more and more recognised as a must-have if you are a pet owner. We have information on a few different pet insurance companies that list their plans and premiums. There are more companies available if you search online. As with all insurance it is important to read the fine print and ensure the plan you choose is right for you. We recommend a combined medical and surgical plan to cover all eventualities.

### **Some pet insurance tips:**

Remember, insurance companies will not cover pre-existing conditions mentioned in your pet's notes and they usually won't start insurance for a pet over 8-10 years of age.

When looking into pet insurance, there are a few important questions you should think about first.

- Do you want the insurance company to contribute to routine vaccinations?
- Do you want your insurance company to help pay for consultations for tummy upsets and ear infections (i.e. medical cover)?
- Do you only want to use it for the big bills – like if your pet is hit by a car?

Your premiums and excess payments will differ depending on how you answer these questions.

Then you need to check the following information in the policy you are interested in:

- Do they cover breed related conditions?
- What is the premium and excess per condition?
- For each condition diagnosed – is there a limit per condition or per year? And, will this value reset to zero next year?

For example; Diabetes is a condition that requires life-long treatment. If the policy limit says \$5000. Does it mean \$5000 for the life of the pet for this condition, \$5000 to spend in the first 12 months since diagnosis of this condition, or \$5000 per year for this condition with it resetting to zero every year?

- Remember that large breed dogs should have higher cover than small breed dogs as their treatments and surgeries are generally more expensive. This is because of the extra time of surgery and extra medication that they need. **Make sure that you choose an insurance policy that has the highest cover for large dogs.**

