

PUPPY CARE GUIDE

The addition of a puppy to your family is a very exciting time, however it can be a little frightening for your pup. They will be very dependant on you for feeding, attention, love and care and may be missing the company of their mum, brothers and sisters. So that your puppy settles easily into their new home, you will need to provide a comforting environment.

FEEDING

Young pups should be fed 3 times a day to 16 weeks, then gradually cut down to 2 meals a day up to 6months, then 1 meal a day. Nutrition is very important, ensure that you give your puppy a good start with a healthy diet. Modern day technology and research has ensured that your premium brands of dry food are putting in all the right ingredients to ensure maximum health for your pet. When following the correct feeding guidelines, you will find these foods only marginally dearer than the cheaper food alternatives and the health benefits will far outweigh this. We feed our puppies Hill Science Diet and highly recommend it. Our Pet Guarantee is based on the continued feeding of Hills Science Diet, as a change of diet at this stage of your puppies development, may result in a sick animal. Young puppies may find it easier to eat dry foods if they are soaked in water first - this should not be necessary once your puppy reaches 12 weeks of age. Milk is not necessary and may cause diarrhea - if you would like to give milk it is generally best to obtain a lactose free puppy formula. Fresh water needs to be available at all times.

Most puppies have very sharp teeth and they like to use them - don't be frightened to give your puppy raw bones, raw chicken necks and chicken wings. Chewing is important to maintain healthy teeth and gums and to help loosen those temporary teeth to allow adult teeth to erupt through normally. Apart from raw bone treats, chew toys, lamb and pigs ears, rawhide chews or greenies will all help with the teething process.

SLEEPING

The first few nights are likely to be very hard on your new puppy, he/she will have been sleeping with Brothers and Sisters and will be lonely initially. Be sure that you provide a cosy spot for your puppy to snuggle up in. Unless you want your dog to always sleep in your bed, don't weaken and let your puppy join you. A bed/basket/kennel will make the transition to home life easier as your puppy recognises its own sleeping space.

MEDICATION

There are numerous things you need to be aware of with your new pup when it comes to health. All puppies must be microchipped, wormed and have their 1st vaccination before they are sold. Unfortunately vet expenses do not stop here and this must be considered when purchasing your pup.

VACCINATIONS - Generally 3 vaccines are given at:

1st 6-8 wks

2nd 12-14 wks

3rd 16-18 wks

You will need to consult your veterinarian to establish a vaccination protocol for your puppy. Keep your puppy confined to your yard until fully vaccinated. Many viruses can survive in the soil for months - don't assume your puppy will be safe if it doesn't meet other dogs.

WORMING - Puppies need a lot of worming as it is very easy for them to pick up worms. They have a weak immune system and can easily die from worm infestations. You should worm your puppy as follows:
 up to 12 wks - Every 2 weeks (it is at this age that puppies are most vulnerable to worms)
 from 12 wks - Every month, dependant on worming treatment you select.

Heartworm is a killer disease spread by mosquitoes - and many dogs sadly still die from heartworm and it can be so easily prevented. Every dog must be on heartworm prevention from 8 weeks of age. Again there is a huge range of product to protect your dog from heartworm, all of them work very well when used as instructed. If your dog is ever overdue on heartworm medication, please consult your veterinarian before giving a preventative, some preventative medications can cause a reaction if your dog has already contracted heartworm disease.

FLEAS - are easier and cheaper to control than they are to rid. We advise that a preventative approach is taken before fleas become a problem as opposed to trying to resolve a flea problem once you have it. Frontline, Advantage, Sentinel and Advantix are some of the products that may be used as preventatives but remember they all do other aspects of medication (ie. Ticks, worming, mites etc) so we recommend you speak to a staff member for more advice before purchase, as recommendations will be made depending on other treatments.

NOTE: If you intend to bath your dog first, we advise that all flea treatments should be administered to your dog once he/she is dry for 48 hours, to ensure the best effect.

TICKS - These nasty little critters can kill a dog. Many products are useful for preventing ticks but nothing is 100% effective. Some of the medications recommended above do assist in preventing ticks if given more regularly. However these medications are only there to assist in reducing a tick problem, not solve it, so a regular check over of your pup is advised.

A Quick Summary of Flea & Tick Products:

*SPOT ON'S - these are easily the most popular and by far the most effective of all flea control products. Less than 1 ml of liquid flea control is placed on the back of your dogs neck, this will spread out through the oils in the coat and provide 1 months protection against fleas. There are plenty to choose from but all work very well, choose from Frontline, Advantage, Advantix and Revolution.

*SPRAYS - A spray can be very effective and easy to apply in short coated breeds, if you have chosen a long coated breed then forget about using flea sprays. Frontline produce a very effective flea spray that can be active for up to 3 months.

*SHAMPOOS - Shampoo's are great at killing the fleas on your dog at the time of being washed, but have no residual action, so need to be followed up by a flea or tick treatment when your dog is dry.

* TABLETS - There are some oral medications for fleas & ticks, in particular we have found 'Comfortis' very effective for month long protection. Capstar kills fleas instantly and will need to be re-administered whenever an infestation occurs.

*MIGHTY TICK OFF - hang from collars facing the dog or cat and a range of ultrasonic sounds repel fleas & ticks

* FLEA & TICK COLLARS - Are helpful to control ticks & fleas, but recommended to use in conjunction with a spot on or tablet treatment.

* DON'T IGNORE THE ENVIRONMENT - 90% of fleas will be living in your house and in the yard, you must treat the environment if you have a flea problem. Fido's flea bombs are a very effective environmental flea control. If you don't have a flea problem then make sure you don't get one by keeping up with effective flea control all year round, thus stopping the flea breeding cycle. Coopex is effective for spraying in the environment to aid flea & tick control.

TOILET TRAINING - Always encourage your pup to go to the toilet after food, sleep or playing. Go to the same place each time and praise them when they do the right thing. They will soon connect toileting in the right place, with being praised and be anxious to please you. Never scold or rub their nose in it, positive reinforcement is much more effective.

TOILET TRAINING PADS are scented to entice the puppy to use the pad rather than an inappropriate spot. Reward your puppy when they use the pad. The pads should be moved a little bit at a time every day until you reach the part of the house or out in the garden where you want your puppy to automatically go.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED FOR MY PUPPY?

- * Food Bowls - heavy bowls with a wide base will ensure no bowl being knocked over, and no making a huge mess!
- * Collars and Leads - A light-weight collar is best for a puppy, most puppies will scratch at their new collar for a short time when you first put it on. Retractable Leads are excellent for obedience training and we sell leads with car seat attachments that easily attach to the car seat buckle for transport. Harnesses can offer more gentle control when walking your dog.
- * Brushes and Combs - Start brushing your dog when it's young - make it a routine and it will always be easy. There is a huge variety of brushes and combs suitable for certain coats.
- * Treats & Teethers - To help with puppy chewing while teething
- * Other - Dog Rocks change the acid level in your dogs urine to stop urine marked lawns going yellow. Dog Doors are made for walls, glass and timber doors. Dog Tags are essential and required by law. We sell Bow Wow tags which can be ordered at the store, then posted to you with 2 to 3 days, fully engraved.

TRAINING

Never use your puppies name in an angry voice when reprimanding, so they don't get confused when you call them.

BITING - Puppies have razor sharp teeth and love nothing more than to chew, it is a natural behaviour for them to play bite each other and that includes biting you. Discipline your puppy not to bite your fingers but encourage them to chew on toys or treats. We sell a large range of teether toys appropriate for puppies soft teeth. It is important for puppies to chew to ensure that they have healthy teeth, and to help loosen those temporary baby teeth, allowing the adult teeth to grow through normally.

YAPPING - A yapping puppy will generally grow into a barking dog. This is something your puppy will not grow out of without some firm guidance from yourself. A firm reprimanding voice must be used to quieten your puppy, followed by an encouraging "good dog" a few seconds after your puppy stops yapping.

CRYING - All puppies will cry for attention to some level, try to make your puppy as comfortable as possible and reward your puppy only when she is quiet. DO NOT give in to your puppies cries for attention, or in no time your puppy will have YOU well trained.

PUPPY PRESCHOOL - Socialising your puppy is very important and puppy preschool is all about your puppy getting the chance to socialise with other puppies. Puppies that are not socialised when they are young often become aggressive towards other dogs when they grow up. Puppy preschool is also for the family to learn how to train their pup for good behaviour. We recommend Dog Tech classes at Collaroy Vet. See link on home page of our website.

DESEXING - It is best to get your pet desexed at around 6 months of age. Your dog will be a better pet, much better behaved and have fewer health problems in later life. Councils reward owners who have their dogs desexed with cheaper dog registration.

COUNCIL REGISTRATION

You will receive the microchipping paper with your purchase agreement. This needs to be taken to your local council so you can register your puppy with them. The fee is dependant on whether you plan to desex your dog - please see the great vet deal we have in place for a discount on desexing when your pup is ready.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at Pittwater Pets should you have any questions. We'd love to hear how your pup is going and would like to offer you our continued support. Pittwater Pets Management