

# Canine Health Guide



## Vaccinations

We routinely vaccinate against the following diseases.

- Canine Distemper
- Infectious Hepatitis
- Canine Parvovirus
- Leptospirosis (The full 4 strain vaccine)

Distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus (DHP) is given to puppies from 6 weeks of age. Due to maternal antibodies if this vaccine is given at less than 10 weeks of age, a second dose is needed after they turn 10 weeks old. This vaccine can be given as a single vaccine if the puppy is 10 weeks of age or older. Puppies can socialise and be walked one week after the post-10 week old dose.

Leptospirosis (L4) is given from 6 weeks of age and must be given in two doses 4-6 weeks apart. Full protection from this vaccine is present three weeks after the second dose. As long as puppies are kept away from dirty water (ponds and puddles), then socialisation and walking can start before their second L4 dose.

Yearly vaccination is required to keep immunity up to date.

**Kennel cough** - recommended optional vaccination

Kennel Cough is a virus that causes a hacking cough. It is highly contagious and can make your dog feel unwell. Your dog can pick up Kennel Cough by visiting areas other dogs have been or by coming into direct contact with an unwell animal. This vaccination can be done at the same time as their routine vaccinations and is given as a squirt of liquid up the nose. This will take 3 weeks after the vaccination to be fully effective. Immunity from this vaccine lasts a year and so yearly booster vaccinations are required.

**If you plan to take your pet abroad they also require a separate vaccination for Rabies.**

## Microchip

A microchip is the size of a large grain of rice. It has a unique number attached to it, which shows when scanned. This number is then registered to the national microchip database with your contact details so your pet can be reunited with you if they are lost or stolen.

It is required by law in the UK that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it.

By law, dogs must also be microchipped from 8 weeks of age.

## **Flea & Worming**

We recommend puppies are wormed every month until they are six months old. After this all dogs are recommended to be de-wormed every three months.

Puppies are flea treated monthly, the same as adult dogs.

Shop bought products are less effective than veterinary prescription products. The main products we use in dogs are Advocate and Nexgard Spectra.

Fleas are very difficult to get rid of once they are on your pet, as they also live in the environment – so if you see one flea on your dog there will be many more in your house.

## **Lungworm**

Lungworm is a parasite that your pet can pick up from ingesting slugs and snails or their slime (e.g. from playing with toys that have been out in the garden overnight).

Signs of lungworm can vary greatly but include serious issues including increased tendency to bleed, which can be a particular problem for animals undergoing surgery.

## **Neutering**

### **Male Dogs**

We recommend castrating male dogs from 6 months of age. For large breeds we recommend neutering from 12 months of age and for giant breeds from 18 months of age. Dachshunds should be over 12 months of age.

Castration can help prevent unwanted behaviour such as mounting, humping, straying and inter-dog aggression, and also helps stop unwanted puppies.

### **Female Dogs**

We recommend spaying female dogs at six months old, before they have their first season. For large/giant breeds we recommend waiting until they have their first season, and then spaying three months after this time. Timing of spay following a season is important as too soon after a season or too close to the next season will increase the risk of bleeding during the surgery – the blood supply to the uterus is increased during this time.

Dachshunds should be over 12 months of age, as neutering before this time has been associated with increased risk of spinal problems.

Spaying females stops unwanted puppies, reduces the chance of your dog developing mammary cancers and stops potentially fatal womb infections.

# Nutrition Guide for Dogs



## Puppies

Puppies have very specific nutritional needs to make sure they grow and develop properly.

We recommend **Purina Pro Plan Expert Care Puppy**. This is a balanced, complete food with many scientifically proven key benefits such as pre-biotic and colostrum for better gut microflora balance and good faecal quality with added DHA for essential brain and vision development.



## Adult and senior dogs

After neutering, dogs should be changed onto a sterilised adult food such as **Purina Pro Plan Expert Care Light / Sterilised** as they will be more likely to gain weight.

As they grow older their needs will continue to change and feeding a diet appropriate for their age will maximise their health in their later years. **Purina Pro Plan Expert Care Adult 7+** is appropriate for any breed of dog over 7 years old.

Purina offer a money back guarantee if your pet doesn't like the food.

Please ask us for a **PURINA REWARD CARD** to get a free bag on your 7<sup>th</sup> purchase. This promotion is ongoing.

**25% OFF EACH PURCHASE FOR PAW PRINT CLUB MEMBERS**



# Pet Insurance Advice

## 4 weeks free insurance with Petplan

We can sign you up to 4 weeks free insurance with Petplan if your dog is under 18 months old and not already insured.

One in three pets require unexpected veterinary treatment each year.

With developments in veterinary science vets now have lots of different diagnostic techniques available. However, advanced methods can come at a cost and just diagnosing a condition can quickly run into many hundreds of pounds.

Whether you've just introduced your pet into the family home, or they're a few months into finding their feet, an insurance policy can help cover the cost of veterinary treatment when things go wrong.

## **THERE ARE SEVERAL TYPES OF INSURANCE POLICIES AVAILABLE**

### **12 MONTH COVER**

These policies will only cover a condition for one year, after this time that condition will be **EXCLUDED** and you will be unable to claim for that condition again

### **COVER PER CONDITION**

These policies allow a certain amount of money per condition. Once you have used your 'pot' of money you cannot claim any more for that condition.

### **LIFETIME COVER**

Covers illness and injury **FOR LIFE**  
Many conditions go on longer than one year and costs can quickly add up over the life of your pet.

If you make a claim you will pay an excess for the cost of treating each illness or injury with most policies.



## Tooth brushing

### Brushing your pet's teeth

Tooth brushing is the most effective method of oral health care. Routinely brushing your pet's teeth on a daily basis is the best way to prevent dental problems.

Starting as a puppy is the best way to get your dog used to having their teeth brushed, but a dog of any age can adapt to accept tooth brushing.

The most important thing to remember is to take things **SLOWLY**.

**Please watch the video below for directions on how to brush your pet's teeth:**

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/how-to-brush-your-dogs-teeth>

### Top Tips For Tooth Brushing!

- 1. After each step treat and praise your pet**
- 2. Each step should be repeated for at least a couple of weeks to make sure your pet is happy with what you are doing before you proceed to the next step**
- 3. When you and your pet are comfortable, tooth brushing should be done daily. Establish a routine choosing a convenient time that this can be done.**

There are other products available to help with dental care in addition to tooth brushing

#### **Plaque Off**

A food supplement that contains natural seaweed to reduce plaque and bad breath. Plaque off changes the texture and tenacity of plaque, making it easier to remove. Results are normally seen between 3 - 8 weeks.



#### **Royal Canin Dental diet and Purina Acti-Protect**

These diets are specially designed not to crumble immediately when chewed. The fibres in the diet allow the kibble to maintain contact with the surface of the tooth until reaching the gum line as so it removes plaque through abrasion.

# Socialisation



## Puppy socialisation

The world can be a big scary place to a puppy.

Exposure to the world is essential to help your puppy grow into a happy friendly adult dog.

It is important not to overwhelm your puppy and make sure these experiences are positive.

Under-socialised puppies or puppies that become stressed during first encounters are more likely to develop anxiety related problems later in life. If your puppy becomes nervous during an encounter remain calm, if you act as if the encounter is normal and not stressful your puppy will soon learn not to be afraid. Positive reinforcement with praise is the key to success!

## **Dog Training**

Basic puppy advice and training tips:

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/puppy-advice>

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/dog-training-advice>

The Dog's Trust has a wealth of information and advice on how to train your dog.

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/training/>

Seeking professional advice?

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/behaviour/finding-behaviour-and-training-support>