



Ark House Vets

'we care like you care'

Your new puppy– a checklist:

Vaccination: Vaccinations protect your dog against parvovirus, distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis and parainfluenza. These potentially fatal diseases are present in this area so vaccination is vital. Puppies need 2 vaccinations, the first usually at 8 weeks, and the second at 12 weeks. (Depending on how old your puppy is when collected, the timing may vary a little from this.) Annual booster vaccinations are needed to maintain good levels of immunity.

Worming: Your puppy's breeder may well have already given several worming treatments. Generally puppies are wormed every 2 – 3 weeks until they are 12 weeks old, then monthly until they are 6 months old. Thereafter dogs should be wormed regularly. We advise monthly worming if you have young children or anyone in the family has poor immunity, otherwise worm every 3 months.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that your dog has not got worms because you haven't seen any – the worm eggs in the faeces are too small to see with the naked eye, the dog usually doesn't pass any worms, and unless the infestation is severe you will not have noticed your dog being unwell. However it is important to worm regularly to prevent worm levels building up, to protect both your dog and the people in contact with them.

Microchip: A microchip is a way of permanently identifying your dog, so that you can be reunited if they get handed in as a stray or after being injured. A microchip tag on the collar deters dog thieves. Unlike a collar, the microchip cannot be lost or removed. Implanting a microchip can be done in a normal appointment, without the need for an anaesthetic and is not expensive. Please ask a member of staff for more details.

Flea treatment: Fleas are small blood sucking insects that use puppies for a good meal. They also bite people. Fleas can cause severe anaemia in puppies and skin disease. Some puppies will already have fleas when they are re-homed and there are safe products available from the Veterinary Surgery to treat puppies from 2 days old if required. Be careful with products from elsewhere, as they may be unsafe or ineffective. Please ask a member of staff for further information.

Diet: To meet the special nutrient requirements of a growing puppy, they should be fed a complete, balanced puppy food appropriate to their age. For large and giant breeds, it is also important to choose a diet designed for large puppies to reduce the chance of joint disease. Please ask for more information or see our information sheet on hip dysplasia in this pack.

Socialising: Puppies learn most easily when they are very young. It is important to socialise them with a range of dogs, other animals, people and situations when they are very young. This makes them much less likely to have any behavioural problems when they get older. Puppy socialisation classes are available at the surgery – please ask for the next start date.

Neutering: Unless you are planning to breed from your dog, neutering is generally recommended. This is usually carried out 3 months after the first season for bitches. In males, around 8 months old is the commonest time for castration, but timing depends on the individual and can be discussed with a vet.

Insurance: Insurance will give you peace of mind, and enable your pet to have the highest level of care in the event of an accident, injury or illness. The best policies tend to offer 'lifetime health cover', but there are many policies available giving different levels of cover. Whilst you choose the best policy for you and your pet, we can offer 4 weeks free insurance with Pet Plan for new puppies and kittens. Please ask at reception for details.

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