

CARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

Hooray! You have that new puppy you always wanted. There are a few areas to consider when looking after the health of your new puppy.



1) INTESTINAL WORMS.

Pups can be infected with worms whilst in the mother's womb or via her milk.

- Hookworm can kill young pups by blood loss causing anaemia
- Roundworm can cause vomiting, coughing, pot-belly and intestinal blockages.
- Whipworm can cause abdominal pain, fever, and diarrhoea.
- Tapeworm (called "flea tapeworm") are carried by fleas and cause an itchy bottom.

THE BEST WORMING SCHEDULE IS:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Frequency of worming</u>
1 – 6 weeks	every week (the breeder will do this part)
6 – 12 weeks	every two weeks
3 – 6 months	every month
After 6 months	every three months

We recommend that you use an "Allwormer" tablet. Be aware that the term 'allwormer' implies 'all *intestinal* parasites' and does not include heartworm treatment. Avoid cheap supermarket preparations as these are often ineffective, treating only some worms. Always weigh your puppy before worming so that you are sure of the correct dose.

Some intestinal parasite larvae are transmissible to you and your children (rarely):

- *Hookworm larvae can cause a condition called cutaneous larval migrans.
 - *Roundworm larvae can infect people and migrate to the eye, brain, or other organs.
- To eliminate the rare risk of infection by worm larvae, always use an allwormer, every three months in adult dogs, and always clean up the faeces immediately when your dog goes to the toilet.

2) HEARTWORM

Heartworm is transmitted from dog to dog by mosquitoes. The mosquito injects microscopic larvae into the blood of the dog. These larvae settle in the heart and grow into worms up to 30cm long. The worms cause irritation, causing inflammation of the pulmonary blood vessels and coughing.

Although we can treat this disease the treatment is risky so prevention is better than cure.

Prevention is easy and should be started in your puppy from six weeks of age.

Preventative medication in the form of tablets, chews, or a spot-on formula, need to be given EVERY month, all year round, for the rest of your dog's life.

When your dog has reached its mature body weight (at 6-12 months of age), there is a once-a-year injection available for heartworm prevention. The cost is about the same or slightly less than the tablet formulation, and the benefit is the security of knowing your dog is protected from heartworm infection all year 'round.

3) VACCINATIONS

Temporary vaccinations against highly contagious and potentially fatal diseases of dogs can be given from 6 weeks of age, and booster vaccinations must be given for immunity to last.

The recommended vaccination schedule is:

6 – 8 weeks: - Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis vaccine (C3)

10–12 weeks: - Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis, Para-influenza virus* and Bordetella bacteria* (C5).

14–16 weeks: - Parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis (final C3)

*note that these two components protect against canine (kennel) cough

A PUPPY IS NOT FULLY PROTECTED UNTIL ALL VACCINATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN. It is, however, important to socialize your dog prior to the full vaccination series. Speak to your vet about the risks and benefits associated.

4) SKIN AND COAT CARE

Young animals have very sensitive skin. In addition, pets do not have sweat glands like humans. Normal soaps and shampoos will strip the coat and skin of important oils. Therefore the use of human shampoos can cause dry, dull coats and itchy flaky skin.

We recommend washing your puppy with a soap free shampoo (such as ALOVEEN) such shampoos will not remove vital coat oils but will still lift dust and debris away to clean the coat.

5) NUTRITION

It is very important to have excellent nutrition for your young pup. Over the next few months, adequate energy, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals will be required to ensure that it grows well.

The easiest way to give your puppy all the necessary nutrients is to use a high quality complete and balanced puppy food. Complete diets are ones that provide everything that is needed for optimal growth. We use and recommend a super-premium brand, *Royal Canin* in hospital. We recommend you also use a super-premium food such as *Royal Canin & Hill's Science Diet*. Although these diets seem to cost more than supermarket brands, the amount that you have to feed your pet is approximately half, so in the end you will save (and you will pick up less waste every day as these foods are highly concentrated nutrition, rather than being mostly filler and fibre)

You may also give your dog-home prepared foods, however, making this a complete and balanced diet can be difficult. Be aware that you may teach your dog bad manners if you feed it human food, from human plates, the refrigerator or the kitchen bench. Try to always only feed your dog from his or her own bowl.

Dogs need to chew on raw, meaty bones regularly (eg 3 times a week) to help keep the teeth clean. A raw chicken wing is a suitable soft bone for puppies and small dogs, while larger older dogs may enjoy a turkey wing or a baby lamb shank.

Avoid cooked bones of any kind – there is a danger of bones being caught in the mouth, oesophagus or intestines as they are indigestible once they are cooked.

6) FLEAS

Whilst a flea is just a tiny insect, it has an Olympic standard high jump and an ability to drive pets and owners crazy. To get the best results with any flea control product, all dogs and cats on your property need to be treated.

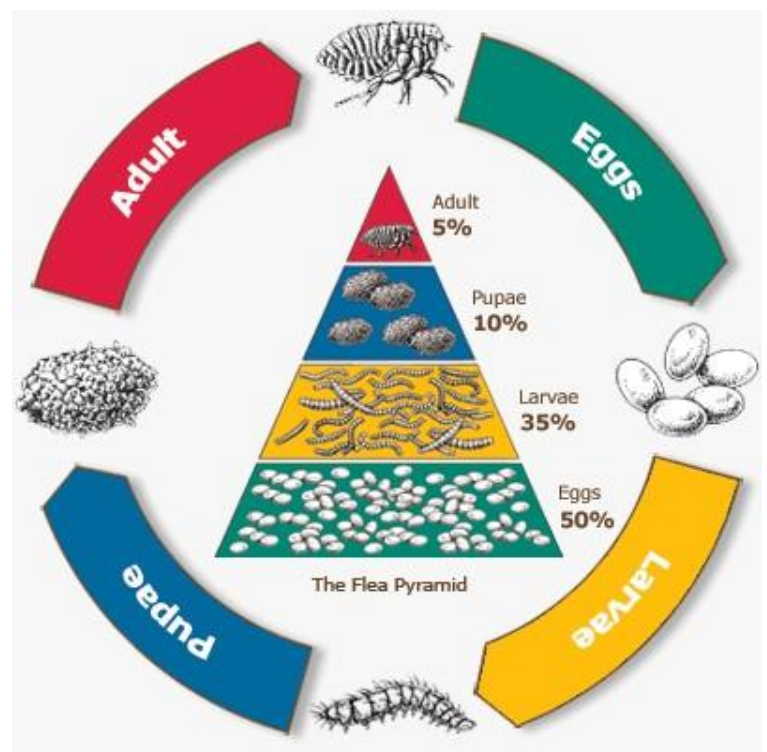
The fleas that you notice on your puppy are adult fleas. These adults live and reproduce on the dog and can easily produce up to 20,000 flea eggs in their lifetime. The flea eggs fall to the ground (and carpet, kennels, bedding, etc) and develop via larvae (grub) and pupa (cocoon) stages, into new adult fleas which will then jump onto your pet in order to continue the cycle.

The best way to approach a complete flea control program is to treat both your pet and the environment (house and yard).

STEP 1 – Kill adult fleas on your puppy. The most effective means of killing the adult fleas on your dog is to use a good flea product such as *Bravecto* or *Nexgard*.

STEP 2 – Stop all adult fleas from reproducing. Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs) are effectively birth control pills for fleas – preventing flea eggs from hatching. Used monthly they will stop all fleas from reproducing and will eventually result in virtually zero flea numbers on your property and pet as long as all animals in the household are treated.

As the diagram shows, the adult fleas are only 5% of the actual flea population in your house at any time.



7) DESEXING

If you do not intend to breed then you should have your pet de-sexed. We all need to do as much as possible to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.

In females note that:

- ❖ De-sexing will prevent pregnancy through the removal of the ovaries and uterus.
- ❖ De-sexing substantially reduces the risk of breast cancer if done before the first heat cycle at approximately six months of age. Uterine infections, a common occurrence in intact females, can also be prevented.
- ❖ Overfeeding and lack of exercise are major causes of obesity in de-sexed animals, not de-sexing itself. To help you prevent obesity *Royal Canin* make a specific (low calorie) food for animals that are neutered
- ❖ A litter before de-sexing will not improve an animal's character.

In males note that:

- ❖ De-sexing reduces the risk of prostate disease and testicular cancer.
- ❖ De-sexing can reduce aggression and makes the pet easier to handle.
- ❖ De-sexing decreases the desire to roam and hence reduces the risk of car accidents and dog fights.
- ❖ De-sexing reduces the chance of unwanted litters.

8) COUNCIL REGISTRATION

Under the NSW law, dogs must be registered annually with the local council and microchipped. The rate is reduced to a single lifetime fee if your pet is de-sexed. If dogs are found without registration a fine may be issued.

9) MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is required by law in Australia. It involves implanting an electronic marker under the skin between the shoulder blades. The chip causes no harm to the animal and the implanting can be done while you wait. If your pet is microchipped at Potts Point Veterinary Hospital your pet is registered both on the Government Register and on the Australian and New Zealand Animal Registry. If your dog does stray, authorities such as the Potts Point Veterinary Hospital have scanners which will identify your pet's microchip number and you will be contacted immediately.