



## A NEW PUPPY!

Congratulations on the arrival of your new puppy! The following information is provided to help you with the essential health care for your new family member.

### VACCINATION

Some canine diseases are very serious, and can be fatal, even with treatment. To prevent your dog from getting these diseases, we recommend annual vaccination. The vaccinations we use are highly effective and have a very low rate of side effects.

#### ***When does your dog need to be vaccinated?***

At 6-8 weeks of age puppies should receive their first vaccination. This needs to be followed up with another one at 10-12 weeks, and a third and final puppy booster at 14-16 weeks. After these initial puppy vaccinations, an annual booster is required to maintain immunity.

#### ***What do you need to vaccinate against?***

- **Parvovirus** – a highly contagious viral gastroenteritis. Depression, loss of appetite, severe vomiting and diarrhoea containing blood are some of the symptoms. Death can occur very quickly.
- **Distemper** – a highly contagious disease producing symptoms such as conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, convulsive seizures and spinal cord damage. Treatment is often ineffective.
- **Hepatitis** – in puppies can cause sudden death, whilst adult dogs can experience, weakness, fever, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and bleeding.

*These diseases are covered in the C4 vaccination.*

- **Canine Cough** – a complex, highly contagious disease, caused by a bacterium and a virus. Affected dogs will have a hacking cough persisting for weeks. In puppies and old dogs, the disease can be devastating.

*This, along with the previous 3 diseases, is covered in the C5 vaccination.*

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### **After Vaccination Care**

Fortunately, most pets need no special care following vaccination as they show no obvious response and go about their lives normally. However, a small percentage may show a mild response and look 'off-colour' for a day or two, similar to how we may feel after a vaccination. This is quite normal. Symptoms may include loss of appetite, wanting to rest and tenderness at the injection site. It is best to provide your pet with a warm, cosy place to lie and rest. Make sure they have access to water and food, but don't be alarmed if they are not hungry. If you are concerned, or if your pet has not recovered within 36 hours, please do not hesitate to contact one of our team members for advice.

### **NUTRITION**

Dogs grow and age quickly; therefore a well-balanced diet tailored to your pet's life stage is essential for proper growth and bone and teeth development. There are many choices available, but basically, you get what you pay for. Cheaper, supermarket available formulations are usually cheap because they have cheaper ingredients in them that may be difficult for your pet to digest. We use and recommend Royal Canin, as it has been scientifically formulated and tested, is highly palatable and digestible, and we believe it's the best! The ingredients in Royal Canin are far more superior, which means it tastes better, you feed less, the dog produces smaller stools, and the overall health and wellbeing of your dog will be greatly improved. Talk to one of our staff about what the best Royal Canin food is for your pet.

### **WORMING**

Intestinal worms may pose a danger to your dog, and your family. The most common intestinal worms that affect dogs in Australia are roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm. Loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, anaemia and, in severe cases, death, are just some of the symptoms a dog can experience from a worm infestation.

#### ***How do you protect your dog from worms?***

Common worms are easily controlled with a routine worming treatment. Puppies should be wormed every two weeks until eight weeks of age, then monthly until six months of age. After six months all dogs need to be wormed every three months for effective protection. We recommend dropping in to the clinic with your pet for a regular weigh in and our friendly staff can administer the wormer for you if you prefer.

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### HEARTWORM

Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes and has the potential to cause heart failure and death. Your dog does not have to be in contact with other dogs to develop the disease, and it may only take a single bite from a carrier mosquito to infect your dog. The heartworm larvae are deposited into the dog as the mosquito feeds. These larvae then migrate through your dog's tissues to the heart and blood vessels of the lungs, where they grow into adult worms (up to 30cm in length!)

#### ***How do you protect your dog from Heartworm?***

We recommend a Once-A-Year injection, Proheart SR-12 . Once-A-Year Heartworm Protection is administered by your vet, eliminating the risk of forgetting monthly or daily dosing! Simply arrange to treat your dog as a part of the annual health check and you can forget about heartworm...for a whole year! Puppies should be started on Proheart SR-12 injection at 10-12 weeks of age, with a booster at 6 months of age, then an annual injection with their yearly check-up.

### FLEAS & TICKS

Fleas can be a major problem for dogs and their owners. These blood-sucking parasites cause considerable discomfort for your pet, leading to scratching, chewing, biting and restlessness. Some animals may also be allergic to flea bites, leading to a common skin condition known as Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD). Fleas can also transmit tapeworm to your pet. One female flea can produce up to 50 eggs per day, and almost 2,000 eggs in her lifetime, so even a few fleas can rapidly turn into a major infestation. This is why it is important to use quality flea prevention on all animals in the household.

Paralysis ticks normally live on possums and bandicoots, who have immunity to their toxin. Unfortunately, your dog is not so lucky, and can become very sick from a paralysis tick attaching to them. Signs of paralysis tick toxicity include not wanting to eat, vomiting, a change in bark and weakness in the hind legs which progresses to paralysis all over the body. Paralysis tick toxicity becomes fatal when the animal's chest muscles become paralysed, making the animal unable to breath. Treatment for paralysis tick can be complicated, very expensive, and some animals die despite treatment. So prevention is better than cure! There are excellent flea and tick control products available that are safe, effective and easy to use. They are available in sprays, spot-ons and chewable tablets, some even lasting up to 3 months! Our friendly team can provide you with more detailed information about effective flea and tick control that best suits your pet.

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### DESEXING

Desexing is an integral part of responsible pet ownership. As well as reducing the number of unwanted puppies, desexing prevents pets from roaming, fighting or causing nuisance to neighbours. Health wise, it significantly reduces the risk of uterine infections and mammary cancer in females, and in males, cancer of the prostate gland.

The optimum time for desexing is five to six months of age, when the animal is approaching sexual maturity but before they come on heat. However, it is never too late to desex!

You may also receive a significant discount when registering your dog with your local council if he/she is sterilised. Ask your council for more information.

### MICROCHIPPING & IDENTIFICATION

It is now legislation that all new dogs and cats must be microchipped. This procedure should be performed between the ages of 8-12 weeks. Inserting a microchip is a simple procedure, taking only a few moments. The procedure is very safe and your pet will feel little pain. We even use 'mini' microchips, which are 30% smaller than regular microchips, to further minimise any pain your pet may feel during the implantation process.

The microchips we use have nationwide, lifetime registration. This means if your pet is ever lost, a ranger or veterinarian anywhere in Australia can scan your dog for the microchip and access your contact details by contacting the national database. There are no ongoing charges to keep your pet registered to this database with our microchips.

Your dog must also be registered with your local council. As well as a council provided dog tag, we suggest you also attach a personalised tag including your phone number to your dog's collar. All these methods of identification ensure your pet will have the best chance of being returned to you if they become lost.

### PET INSURANCE

We highly recommend taking out a pet insurance policy for your new member of the family as soon as possible. Accidents and illness can strike even the healthiest of pets without warning. Having your pet covered with insurance means you have the peace of mind they will be able to receive the best treatment, without having to worry about the financial side of things.

There are a large number of insurance companies offering pet insurance nowadays, with different levels of insurance offered. It is advisable to look at all the policies available, before choosing which one is right for you and your pet. Your pet may be eligible for four weeks FREE pet insurance with Pet Plan! Ask one of our friendly team members about this free offer!

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### **SOCIALISATION**

Socialising your puppy is one of the most important building blocks for a friendly, calm adult dog. The best time for socialisation is the first 4 months of your puppy's life. Exposing them to people, animals, foods, plants, objects and natural phenomena they are likely to encounter through their life is all part of socialisation. Bringing them in frequently to our veterinary clinic for a weigh in, a treat and a cuddle will make future visits to the vet an accepted, enjoyable experience.

A great way to socialise your puppy with other dogs and people is through puppy preschool. In addition to your pup making new friends, you can learn about puppy health, behavioural and obedience training methods, as well as how to troubleshoot any existing problems. Ask one of our team members for information on puppy preschool classes in the area.

Be aware that some of your puppy's socialising is going to be happening before they are fully vaccinated. Until they have had all their vaccines, avoid areas like dog parks where they might be at risk of contracting diseases such as canine parvovirus.

**If you have any questions regarding your new puppy, please contact one of our friendly team members.**

**We hope to see you again soon!**