



Valley Veterinary Group Puppy Information Sheet

Vaccinations

Dogs are vaccinated for Distemper, Parvo Virus, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza and Leptovirus. These are potentially life threatening diseases in unvaccinated dogs.

Ideally puppies are vaccinated from **8 weeks** of age, with the second vaccination **3-4 weeks later**. We have researched studies from leading international small animal veterinary organisations and they advise to also give a third vaccination at **16weeks**. You should not consider your puppy fully protected against these diseases until after the 3rd vaccination. He/she will have a reasonable amount of immunity 7 days after the second vaccination and can go out and about, but we still advise you to be careful about contact with unvaccinated dogs until after the third vaccination.

Kennel cough is another vaccination which we give to dogs. Kennel cough is a very infectious cough, that any dog can get through contact with an infected dog (or places where an infected dog has been) which can be in boarding kennels, but also when outside in the environment (any where there are other dogs). This vaccination is always required if your dog is going into boarding kennels but you may wish to protect your dog even if not going into kennels. Kennel cough is a dry hacking cough, a bit like a child's whooping cough, that can go on for 3 weeks! If this vaccination is required then it must be done one week (ideally two) before the dog must go into kennels.

Worming and Fleas

All puppies are born with worms as they are exposed in the uterus before they are born. After birth they are also passed through the milk from their mother. Due to this they should be wormed regularly. It is recommended that they are wormed **every 2 weeks** until they are **12 weeks old** then after this **every 3 months** as an adult dog. (or more frequently in certain circumstances). The most important reason for worming your dog is for **PUBLIC HEALTH!** Some of the worms that dogs pass are a potential risk to human health especially children's.

The two main worm classes that dogs get are round worm and tape worm. Most veterinary prescribed wormers are active against both of these - check with your vet if you are unsure.

You should be cautious when buying wormers and flea treatment from places other than a veterinary practice. Most products bought from a veterinary practice are prescription medication which means they are regulated, have stringent safety tests and have proven to be extremely effective. Some shop bought products are a lot less effective and contain compounds and chemicals used many, many years ago by vets.

We also advise that you apply a flea protection every month. Dogs can pick up fleas from the environment (e.g. grass) or other animals. When your dog picks up fleas they lay eggs in the dog's environment (i.e. your house!) and multiply quickly. If your dog does get fleas it is a horrible task to then treat all the animals in the house as well as the house itself! It is therefore important to protect all dogs and cats in the house and avoid this awful problem! We also recommend that you protect against **LUNG WORM**. This is a worm that is new to Scotland. It is spread by **frogs, foxes, snails and frogs**. It is not a threat like the other worms to human health but it *is* a threat to your dog's health. It can produce a great number of symptoms in dogs but most worryingly it can be **fatal**. Vets are extremely concerned regarding the potential threat that this worm poses to dogs, so it is our recommendation that you should PROTECT YOUR DOG AGAINST IT!

Arghhhh...THE COST OF ALL THIS!!!!

Here at Valley Veterinary Group we *do* understand that doing your dog's preventative health care "properly" is a reasonably costly exercise so we have put together our **HEALTHY PET CLUB** that allows you to spread the cost of your dog's yearly vaccinations, their quarterly worming and monthly flea treatment over 12 months. With this plan there is a **HUGE** saving in the cost of all these, and you also get a **free** health check



halfway through the year (normal cost £25). The HPC Plan is a monthly direct debit. The plan also gives you the great benefit of saving **20% off neutering, 10% for all other products and services provided by the practice, includes microchip and free nail clipping.** Please take some time to look at our plan leaflet enclosed as we believe this really benefits our clients and their pets and gives you great peace of mind that your pet is having gold standard preventative health care at a sensible cost.

Neutering

Females - Spaying (Ovariohysterectomy)

This can be done from 6 months of age but we always recommend that you discuss this with the vet as sometimes it is beneficial to leave it until 3 months after their first season.

Reasons to spay:

- No unwanted pregnancy. There are no benefits to your dog by letting her have a litter.
- Reduced risk of mammary tumours. Every season they have increases the risk of mammary tumours developing later on.
- Prevents pyometras which are a potentially fatal infection of the uterus, where they require an emergency ovariohysterectomy.
- Eliminates the risk of tumours of the reproductive tract.
-

Males – Castration

This can be done from 6 months of age. Large breed dogs may benefit from waiting a few months although they can be done from 6 months for behavioural reasons. Again discuss it with the vet.

Reasons to castrate

- No unwanted pregnancies.
- Reduces dominance related aggression towards people/other dogs
- Reduces the risk of wandering away from home/sexual behaviour
- Reduces/prevents the risk of prostate problems (e.g. prostatic hyperplasia which is an enlarged prostate)
- Vastly reduces the risk of anal adenomas (tumours around the anus which can occur later in life)
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer which we commonly see in older dogs

Microchipping

The microchip is a tiny chip with a number that is unique to your dog. It is implanted under the skin. When the animal is scanned this number comes up on the scanner. The owner's name and contact details are stored on a national database. Whenever any vet/rescue centre/police station etc. is presented with a stray animal, the first thing that happens is that it is scanned for a microchip. The database is contacted and the owners can be located.

Insurance

It is recommended that you insure your pet as sometimes an illness or injury can be very expensive to treat and if your pet is insured it takes the worry of cost out of the choice of treatment. When considering insurance, important points to consider are:

- The level of "excess", i.e. how much you have to pay for any claim, before the insurance company starts to contribute.
- How long each condition is covered for. This is either for one year or lifelong. For example a dog with an allergy will require life long treatment and if the policy only covers each condition for 1 year then this



condition will only be covered during the 1st year and then after this although your pet is still insured for other conditions, you will need to pay ongoing costs for the allergy.

- Does the policy cover the animal throughout its life or just up to a certain age?
- Know what is covered and what is not covered. E.g. lab fees as they can end up being a substantial part of the cost.
- We recommend **MiPetCover** insurance as we feel they provide a good service to the owner and their pet at a reasonable cost.
- We can provide your puppy with **4 WEEKS FREE** insurance.

Diet

Puppies should be fed good quality puppy food that is appropriate for the breed/size of dog, as it is specially formulated for the growing dog. This encourages growth at the correct rate (growth that is too rapid can cause bone and joint problems). Valley Veterinary Group recommend the MiPet food range because it is scientifically formulated for small, medium and large breeds, it has nutrients that protect and support their digestive tract, vitamins to support the skin and nutrients that promote oral health by minimising tartar formation on teeth.

Teeth

You can brush your pets teeth!

Animals' teeth over time build up plaque and tartar which give rise to gum disease, the same as in people. As they get older this increases and they often require a dental procedure. This involves a general anaesthetic when the teeth are then scaled and polished (or extracted if they are very bad). To maintain healthier teeth for longer it is recommended to brush teeth daily using a dog toothpaste (you can't use human toothpaste as they can't spit out the foam). Start using a finger brush and work up to a tooth brush. Dogs are tolerant of this if you start at a young age.

Toilet Training

Every time your puppy eats, sleeps or plays they should be taken outside as soon as they are finished. This is because this is the most likely time that they will need to go to the toilet. Also take them out regularly throughout the day.

Reward them with praise every time that they go outside. There is no point telling them off if they have gone to the toilet inappropriately a while after the event, as they will not associate the punishment with going to the toilet inside. Positive praise is much better than negative!

It is useful to have a word that you use as praise every time that they go to the toilet appropriately. They will start to associate this word with going to the toilet, and so when you use this word they know what you want them to do! (Pick what you use carefully as you will probably need to use it in public!).

A cage can be a big help in toilet training and also to prevent chewing, as long as it is used correctly. Have the cage as their bed. Feed and play with them in it to help them get used to it. (They may cry the first couple of nights). Once they are used to it, they will think of it as their bed and a safe place and a nice place to be (their bedroom!). Do **not** use it as a place to go as a punishment. They prefer not to go to the toilet in their bed, so it encourages them to wait. Also when you go out you do not need to worry about them chewing the house contents!

Behaviour

Puppy classes are an excellent way to socialise your puppy with other dogs and people, as well as giving you different approaches for training them.

It is important to expose your puppy to lots of different experiences in the first four months of life, as they will tolerate it better when they are older. For example, other dogs, other people, children, car journeys, loud noises, being left alone etc. However *do* keep in mind the advice regarding vaccinations and protection.