



# Puppy information pack

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## Diet

Puppies need to be fed a good complete diet to keep them healthy and help them to grow well. We recommend feeding a complete dry diet for your puppy which is suitable for their age and breed.

We do not recommend feeding raw meat diets, as this is not a balanced diet for a growing animal (resulting in health issues in later life), and puts you, your family and your pet at risk of serious diseases from Salmonella, Campylobacter, E.coli, Listeria and types of worms.

Instead cooked meats like chicken can be a good choice of treat.

## Health check

It is important to ensure your puppy has had a health check as soon as they join your family, again at 6 months, and at least once annually throughout their life.

Vaccinations are recommended and can be given from 8 weeks old, with the second one being given at 10 weeks old as this is when your puppy loses protection from their mother. Vaccinations are to protect them against parvovirus, parainfluenza, canine distemper and leptospirosis. We would also recommend a kennel cough vaccine if they are likely to be kennelled.

Routine flea and wormers are advised to also keep them protected. Monthly until they are 6 months for wormer then every 3-6 months. Flea treatment is recommended monthly. We can help to administer treatments if preferred once dispensed by your Vet. It is advisable to purchase prescription medication to ensure they are adequately and safely covered.

## Neutering

Neutering is known as spaying in females and is the removal of the ovaries and uterus. In males it is called castration, and is the removal of the testicles.

We would recommend neutering from 6 months old (although this can vary depending on the breed and size of your dog) for various health reasons



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- Prevention of disease, especially pyometra (uterus infection) and several types of cancer in both sexes
- Prevention of pregnancy in females And generally making them happier pets with less behavioural problems.
- There is a lot to be considered when breeding from an animal and definitely not one to be taken lightly. It can be very costly and stressful if all doesn't quite go to plan.

Feel free to contact us for any advice on this.

## Poisoning

Dogs tend to eat things that they shouldn't and what is poisonous is not always obvious, and may not show problems straight away. Some common toxins include

- Chocolate (*all types*)
- Onions
- Grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas
- Wild mushrooms
- Xylitol - an artificial sweetener found in many products (*e.g. chewing gum*) but also things like peanut butter
- Ibuprofen, naproxen and other human pain killers
- Rat poison
- Slug pellets
- Benzalkonium chloride (*found in many household cleaners*)

*Please note this is not an exhaustive list*

If you are concerned your dog may have consumed something poisonous then please contact your vets as a matter of urgency. You can also contact the Animal Poison Line on 01202 509000 for advice if you are uncertain (there is a charge for this service).



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## Microchipping

Microchipping is compulsory by law for all dogs over 8 weeks of age. It will be done at first vaccination at 8 weeks if your puppy comes to you before that age, or should be done by your breeder if the puppy is over 8 weeks when they arrive home.

It is your responsibility to make sure the details are up to date; please let your vet know if you need any help with this.

Microchipping can be done in a vet or nurse consultation, although they often will do it under GA at the same time as neutering.

## Insurance

We would highly recommend you look into an insurance policy for your puppy, so that any treatment decisions can be made based on what is best for them rather than cost. There are many competitive companies out there, you just need to decide on the right policy for you and your pet.

MyVetNurse can help you with this decision as we have undertaken specific insurance training, although cannot provide insurance ourselves.

We can discuss any of this information with you further by telephone consult, home visit or our messaging service. Feel free to get in touch.