

PET

We Know Pets

NEW PUP

Congratulations on your new pup! The following are some basic steps to get you & your pup started & is by no means comprehensive. Remember, if you have any questions regarding your pup, please contact us.

Feeding -To avoid stomach upsets initially, we recommend that you continue to feed your pup what they have been fed. Any changes to their diet need to be made gradually by mixing some of the new food with the old.

Puppies should be weaned when you buy them & will require 2 meals per day, reducing to 1-2 meals per day as an adult dog. Feed a balanced diet such as a premium food. We recommend that 95% of your dogs diet is a premium dry food.

This is a complete diet designed specifically for your dogs nutritional requirements whatever life stage they are at. Dry dog food is also of benefit to your dogs teeth & gums. The other 5% of your dogs diet may be supplemented with raw fresh bones & occasional treats. Don't feed cooked bones, fatty foods or corn cobs to your dog, these can become lodged in your pet! Always have a supply of fresh water for your pup.

Housing-Your dog will need a strong, safe shelter to keep out wind & rain, keep warm in winter & sheltered in summer. Place the kennel facing north (to keep the southerlies out) & out of the sun if possible, in a sheltered place (perhaps against a wall). Alternatively, if you wish to keep your dog inside the house, ensure that they have a basket that allows them to curl up in comfortably with a mattress or cushion for support.

We have a huge range of dog beds & can advise you on the most suitable one for your pup.

Safety - Protect your dog from danger (& you the cost & heartache of searching) with a strong fence & gates, a collar ID tag as well as the microchip. Some plants are toxic, & puppies get into everything – inspect your house & garden & remove any dangers.

Sleeping & settling in - Your pup may be a little quiet when you get home. Give them the opportunity to settle in & familiarise themselves with their new home. Try not to overwhelm them in the first few days.

You may experience howling, whimpering & barking from your pup on the first night home. Check that the pup has food, has been to the toilet & re-settle them into their bed. This is normal behaviour for a pup as they settle into a night time routine without the company of their litter mates! We recommend a warm heat pack, a cuddle toy to curl up with & sometimes even a radio playing quietly as background noise. Hard as it may be, ignoring this behaviour is the most effective way in helping the dog establish a night time routine. Taking the dog into your bed, or picking it up, simply reinforces to your pup that whining & whimpering at night is okay.

Puppies & dogs are active & playful animals. They will “play fight”, run, jump, dig, bite & chew. This is essential for their development & by playing with your pup you are able to reinforce a strong bond with them.

Just like babies & toddlers, your pup will burn up energy quickly & will require rest times. Let your pup sleep when he or she is ready as often as needed.

Toilet training-We always recommend taking your pup outside to the same spot at key times such as; after they have eaten; when they wake up & when they start to wander after a play. Look for cues your pup may display such as sniffing the ground or circling around. Always reward your pup when they go, positive reinforcement goes a long way! Puppy training pads can assist if you are toilet training an indoor pup.



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There will be accidents early on & it is essential that you use an enzyme based pet cleaning product to completely remove any trace of urine or faeces as your pup will be attracted back to this area to toilet if any traces remain.

Socialisation-Your pup is a social animal & will thrive with regular contact with people & other dogs. It is important to socialise your pup as much as possible in a variety of situations!

Once your pup has completed their vaccinations, we recommend taking them to puppy preschool, there are also dog trainers, & behaviour books that will guide you too.

Exercise-Your pup should be exercised at least daily & the amount of exercise will depend on the breed, age & the individual. Go for a walk together, attend obedience classes, throw the ball, run on a beach, play with other dogs – all of these activities will keep both you & your pet naturally healthy. Prevent boredom & minimise destructive behaviour with bones, toys, sand pits & “treasure hunts”.

We have a great range of toys & can demonstrate to you how these can be effective in preventing boredom in your pet while you are away from them.

Life span - With good care, small dogs can live up to around 18 years of age, with a shorter lifespan for larger dogs (to about 10 years for giant breeds). There is no guarantee that your pet will live this long. It depends on individual genetics, health, exercise & just plain statistics.

Managing parasites -

Intestinal Worms: Use a recommended intestinal worming treatment;

*every 2 weeks from 6 to 12 weeks of age, then

* every month from 3 to 6 months old, then



* every 3 months for the rest of the dog's life.

Weigh your dog so you use the correct dose. Dogs who have access to offal from farm animals or kangaroos may also require hydatid tapeworm treatment.

Heartworm: This is relevant to dogs in all states of Australia. Prevention may be monthly or yearly. We can advise you on the most suitable prevention medication so it is easy for you to buy & use.

Fleas & other external parasites: Use a recommended flea treatment according to directions to ensure that your dog has no fleas. Remember that juvenile fleas live off the dog, so don't forget to treat the environment. Our knowledgeable staff can recommend the best products to help you manage fleas.

Managing common diseases - Your puppy should be vaccinated as follows:

- 6 to 8 weeks of age (C-4: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo, Parainfluenza)
- 12 to 14 weeks of age (C-5: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Parainfluenza & Bordetella)
- 16 to 18 weeks of age (C-5: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Parainfluenza & Bordetella).

Then annually or according to the advice of your veterinarian. C-3 is also used by some veterinarians.

De-sexing - De-sexing makes for a better family pet, particularly for males. We suggest you de-sex both dogs & bitches. Talk to your vet about early de-sexing.

What to do next -

*Council will require you to register your pup. You should do this as soon as possible.

*Make an appointment to see the vet for your pups next vaccination & check-up.

*Make a note of when to worm your pup next & when to apply flea & tick preventer.

