



Hamilton Vet Puppy Care

Hamilton Veterinary Clinic

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PUPPY!!!

A new puppy can bring lots of fun and happiness to your family, but there's a lot to remember to provide the best of care for your new family member. We hope that this information sheet helps, and remember we are always here to help if you have any questions.

INTESTINAL WORMING

Dogs can be infected with roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm, humans can also be infected with some of these so it's important that both your family and your puppy have a strict worming schedule.

We recommend the following worming schedule for your puppy:

- *Worm every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age (start at 2 weeks old) then,**
- *Worm monthly until 6 months old with an all wormer then,**
- *Worm every 3 months for life with an all wormer.**

Please ask us about the worming products available

FLEAS

Large flea burdens can cause serious problems to your puppy such as fatal anemia (blood loss) so it is very important to treat your puppy against them.

There are a number of products available such as frontline spray, Frontline top-spot, Revolution, Advocate, Advantage and many more so to find out which product best suits you please ask us we are only too happy to help.

It is very important to remember that 90% of fleas live in the environment so it is essential to treat the environment and any other pets in the household to effectively control their population.

TICKS

Ticks are a serious problem especially in this area, therefore it is important to protect your puppy against these deadly parasites.

Frontline spray applied every 2-3weeks, Advantix or frontline top-spot applied every 2weeks, Tick collars, proban tablets administered every second day can be used to help protect your puppy. However none of these products are 100% effective so regular tick searches should be performed to help minimise the risk of tick paralysis.

Symptoms of tick paralysis include: Wobbliness starting in back legs, breathing difficulties, change in 'voice', loss of appetite, vomiting and general distress. If any of the symptoms are present seek veterinary assistance immediately.

VACCINATION

Vaccinations can provide protection against a number of serious diseases such as Canine Parvovirus, Canine Distemper, Canine Hepatitis (c3) as well as Canine Parainfluenza and Bordetella (C5)

- ❖ Your puppy is not fully protected until 1 week after the final vaccination. It is very important that they not be walked in public places and limit contact with other dogs during this stage.

Puppy vaccinations should be give at:

*6-8 weeks	&	*12-14 weeks	&	*16-18 weeks
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- [Canine Parvovirus](#)

Puppies are the most susceptible to this virus but adult dogs can also be affected. It causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea, depression, abdominal pain, heart failure and death. This virus is highly contagious and can live with in the environment for over 12 months.

- [Canine Distemper](#)

This virus causes fever, breathing problems, vomiting, diarrhoea, discharge from eyes and nose and convulsions. It is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system.

- [Canine Hepatitis](#)

This virus causes fever, eye lesions, jaundice, brain damage, depression, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea. It is a virus that attacks the liver

- [Canine Parainfluenza and Bordetella](#)

This infection also referred to as 'Kennel Cough', causes a dry hacking cough, lethargy and inappetence.

Although this infection is rarely fatal, it can cause secondary pneumonia.

HEARTWORM

Heartworm disease that is spread by mosquitos, which eventually results in heart failure.

There are a number of preventative medications from monthly tablets chews and top spots to yearly injections. So to find out which product best suits you please ask us we are only to happy to help.

- ❖ Dogs over 6 months of age require a blood test, to rule out existing Heartworm infection, before commencing a prevention schedule.

FEEDING

- ❖ It is very important to feed your puppy a healthy balanced diet that is especially made for growth. Puppies shouldn't be fed adult diets as they contain different nutrients and energy levels to what a growing puppy requires.
- ❖ There are plenty of commercial diets available we recommend Hills science diet puppy growth.
- ❖ It is important to remember never to change your puppies diet suddenly as this may cause stomach upset; instead change is gradually over a period of a week.
- ❖ Raw bones are good for puppy's teeth and gums, (especially when teething).

NEVER FEED COOKED BONES

Puppies should be fed 3 meals daily until 6 months of age when meals should be reduced to 2 per day.

- ❖ Many puppies are lactose intolerant so they should not be fed dairy products. Puppy milk (which is lactose free) is available from pet stores and supermarkets.

DESEXING

De sexing is highly recommended to eliminate the risk of unwanted pregnancies and behaviors. It can also reduce the risk of mammary cancer, testicular and prostate cancer later in life.

- ❖ De sexing is routinely performed on puppies from 6 months of age.

MICROCHIPPING

Micro chipping is compulsory for all puppies; it could reunite you with your puppies if it becomes lost. They also need to be registered with the council, if you need any more information just ask us.

PUPPY PRESCHOOL / SOCIALISING

Puppy preschool is a great way to start socialising your puppy, as it is done in a safe disease free environment. It allows puppies to interact with other puppies of a similar age and develop the social skills needed to help prevent aggression towards other dogs.

It also allows puppies to see the veterinary clinic as a fun; positive place that aims to prevent fearful behavior should your dog need veterinary care later in life.

- ❖ Puppy preschool will also give you the puppy's owner training tips and advice to cope with puppy hood.
- ❖ We hope you will consider preschool for your puppy, please ask us about our class dates and times.

For more information click on to www.hamiltonvet.com.au for our puppy preschool dates.

TOYS

Puppies love to play so it is a great idea to provide them with plenty of toys and teddies, this will also help in eliminating boredom and destructive behaviors.



PUPPY CHECK LIST

- ✓ *Intestinal wormed - 2 wks, 4wks, 6 wks, 8wks, 10wks, 12wks, 16wks, 20wks, and 24wks then every 3 months.*
- ✓ *Vaccinated 6-8wks, 12-14wks, and 16-18wks.*
- ✓ *De sexing to be done at 6 months of age*
- ✓ *Microchipped and council registered*
- ✓ *Diet- Puppy growth food plus raw bones for teeth.*
- ✓ *Fleas&Ticks- Treat environment as well as puppy*
- ✓ *Toys!*
- ✓ *Puppy preschool*

Written by Jayde Grace 2009