

# THE ESSENTIAL CANINE GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BE A PAWFECT PARENT



FIRST STEPS

SETTLING IN

FEEDING

VACCINATIONS

PARASITES

DENTAL CARE

TRAINING

DESEXING



**whitehorsevet**  
veterinary hospital of excellence



We would like to congratulate you on the arrival of your new puppy. Owning a dog can be an extremely rewarding experience, but it also carries with it some responsibility. We hope these notes will give you some help. If you have any questions concerning your puppy's health, do not hesitate to telephone us. These notes cover many of the topics discussed by our vets during your Puppy's initial 'vaccination visits' to our hospital.

We hope this information booklet will help keep your new "pawfect" family member all the health & happiness it deserves.



 **Whitehorse Vet**

# YOUR PUPPY'S DEVELOPMENT



## 12-18 months

They are no longer a puppy, where has the time gone? Now is the time to make the switch from puppy food to adult food.



## 4-5 months

This Critical Impression Stage is finished. This is a time they are more responsive to training & feeding is reduced to twice daily. PLUS now is the time to book your pup in for desexing.

## 6 months

Your pup will now have their adult teeth & should be neutered as they are becoming sexually mature.

## 8-10 weeks

Puppies arrive at their new home! This is when they start learning toilet training, puppy pre-school & receive a health check to clarify their preventative care plan.

## 2-3 months

Your puppy is going through their 'Critical Impression Stage'. This is also a time for lots of chewing due to teething.

## 2 - 7 weeks

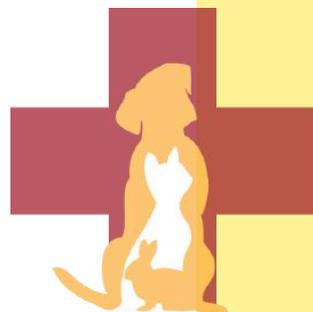
Their eyes & ears open and they start to walk and bark. At five to seven weeks, their brain reaches physical maturity.

## 6 weeks

They start to eat firm foods and begin to feed three times daily.

## Newborn

Puppy's solely rely on their mother until they are 3-4 weeks old



# Puppy Proof your home..



## Safety Check!



**The kitchen** contains drawers and cabinets with interesting smells and tastes. It's likely that your puppy will want to explore everything, just remember there are dangers. Make sure your cabinet doors are well secured.



**The bathroom**, with razors, cotton buds, or even soap left on the floor (easily ingested by your curious puppy), is a danger zone. Be sure you keep the toilet lid down, too.



**The bedroom** will certainly interest your new puppy as they get to know your scent. Shoes, clothing, hair ties, toys and other small chewable items should be secured for safety.



**The living area** has electronic gadgets and loose cords that your puppy might chew. Don't leave phones, remotes, kids' toys and magazines (or really anything of value) lying around, as there's a risk of them being chewed and swallowed.



**The backyard** has obvious dangers, including chemicals, like paint and cleaners. Some plants can be toxic to pets, too. You should also check that your puppy can't escape the yard through gaps in the fence.

## PUPPY CHECKLIST

Collar, ID tag & lead

Grooming brush

Flea & intestinal worming treatment

Chew toys:

To help with teething

A range of toys that can be rotated

so your pup does not get bored

Treat/feeding ball (KONG)

Water & food bowl

Super premium puppy food

Treats for training

Poo bags

Bag holder

Flat collar/harness & lead

A comfy bed

Car harness

Crate

Odour/stain neutraliser

Grass toilet mat

# EXERCISING YOUR PUPPY



## VACCINATIONS

It is important that your pup is fully vaccinated before getting "out & about". We recommend you enroll into a puppy school to provide your puppy with crucial socialisation.



## OFF-LEAD

Dogs love the freedom to run & roam. Dog parks are a great opportunity to allow this, but keep your eyes peeled for potential dangers.



## HYDRATION

Be sure to pack a collapsible water bowl OR drink bottle while taking your pup out for a walk - especially during the warmer months.



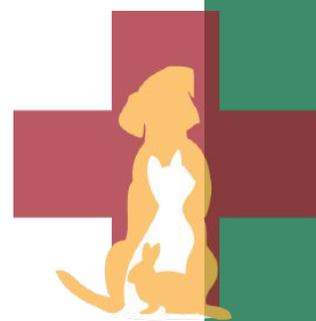
## SOCIALISING

Walks are a great way to let your puppy socialise with a range of people and other pets. Be sure that you ask the owner if their dog is happy to meet your pup before introducing them!



## PLAY

Keep your pup entertained for longer by playing a game of fetch with a ball launcher or have a game of tug-a-war.



# WHAT SHOULD I FEED MY PUPPY?



## RECOMMENDED BRANDS

- ✓ Hills Science Diet
- ✓ Royal Canin
- ✓ Eukanuba

It is important not to change a puppies diet rapidly. Follow the guideline on the left to transition your pup onto a premium food source.

## HEALTH BENEFITS OF A PREMIUM DIET

- ✓ Less amount of food, fuller for longer
- ✓ Enhanced brain, vision, joint & muscle development!
- ✓ Shiny, healthy coat
- ✓ Poos: reduced quantity, less odor & firmer

**25%**

Day 1-3

**50%**

Day 4-6

**75%**

Day 7-9

**100%**

Day 10



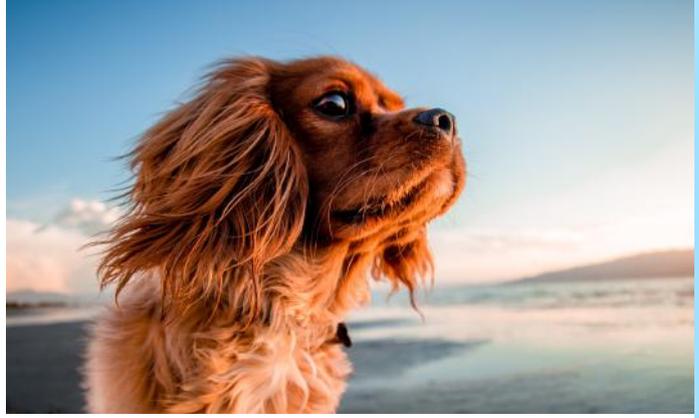
## HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU FEED YOUR DOG?

8-12 weeks = 3-4 meals daily

3-6 months = 2-3 meals daily

6 months and over = 1-2 meals daily





# VACCINATIONS = PROTECTION

There are many diseases that are fatal to dogs. Fortunately, we have the ability to prevent many of the infectious diseases by the use of safe and effective vaccines. In order to be effective, these vaccines must be given as a series of injections. It takes 2 to 3 vaccines given 4 weeks apart to mount an effective immune response in any puppy under 16 to 18 weeks of age. Some vaccines require annual administration to maintain effective immunity and some can be given less frequently (e.g. triennially).

**Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus & infections respiratory disease (Parainfluenza, Bordetella) = C5 protection**

**Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus = C3 protection**

## Why yearly health checks?

The main purpose of each Health Check visit is to examine and check the health of your puppy (ears, eyes, mouth, teeth, skin/coat, lump check, paws/claws, tummy palpation etc), and, over the three visits, to discuss preventative health care issues (insurance, desexing, dental health, basic training and socialisation, parasite control, feeding, coat care, etc.)

## WHEN?



8 Weeks of age  
C3



12 Weeks of age  
C5 + Heartworm Injection



16 Weeks of age  
C3

**\*\* 6 months old Heartworm Injection \*\***



15 months old, then annually  
C5 + Heartworm Injection



# "CREEPY CRAWLIES"

## Is Heartworm Disease a problem?

Heartworm is a worm that lives inside the heart of dogs and over a period of years causes heart and lung failure. Dogs catch it from a mosquito bite. All pups should begin heartworm prevention by 12 weeks of age. We recommend a yearly injection to prevent this disease. Alternatively, there are monthly medications that, if continually given, control heartworm, intestinal worms and prevent fleas!! Our trained staff can advise you on the right product for your dog's needs.

## What worms should I be concerned about?

Intestinal worms are common in puppies. Puppies can become infected with worms before they are born or later through their mother's milk. Worms can seriously affect your pup's health and some are potentially dangerous to people. Thus it is important to worm all puppies on a regular basis. Intestinal worms we advise treating against include Hook, Round, Whipe & Tape worm.

## What about fleas?

We advise treating for fleas in the warmer months (Spring-Summer). Although, gold standard protection is all year round. Most flea preventatives are dosed monthly, with newer products allowing up to 3 months of protection per dose!



**How often to worm your dog?**  
2-12 weeks old = Every 2 weeks  
3-6 months old = Every month  
From 6 months old = Every 3 months

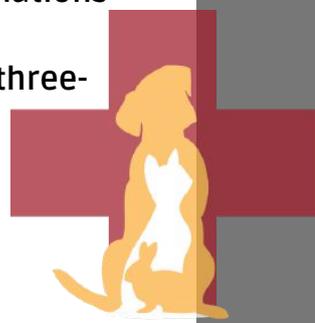


**Ultimate parasite prevention plan:**

**Intestinal wormer every 3 months**

**Heartworm Injection at 12 weeks, 6 months & yearly with vaccinations**

**Flea treatment monthly or three-monthly pending product**



# ORAL HEALTH



Just like humans, dogs require regular attention to their teeth and gums to prevent calculus and dental disease. Developing good dental habits will help your dog live a long and happy life. Good dental care is best started before puppies get their adult teeth to help prevent juvenile gingivitis. Puppies begin losing their deciduous(baby) teeth at around 18weeks of age and have a full set of permanent teeth (42 of them!) by age 26weeks. This rapid change means puppies LOVE to chew and we need to ensure they chew the right things to promote excellent oral health!



Learn how to brush your puppy's teeth! (brushing is the gold standard of dental care and if done well promotes a healthy mouth and a good owner-pet bond!)

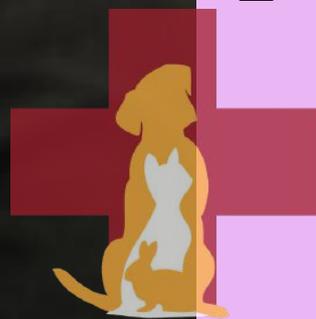
Supplement the diet with soft, raw bones together with attached meaty tissue. Feed bones at least 3 times a week.

Add large pieces of raw fibrous vegetables to further encourage chewing e.g. carrot.

Provide rawhide chew toys, ropes, or rubber balls and toys such as a Kong toy

Some diets such as eukanuba diets, have a special formula that reduces plaque and tartar build up..

Avoid tennis balls!! (these cause excessive wear of teeth)





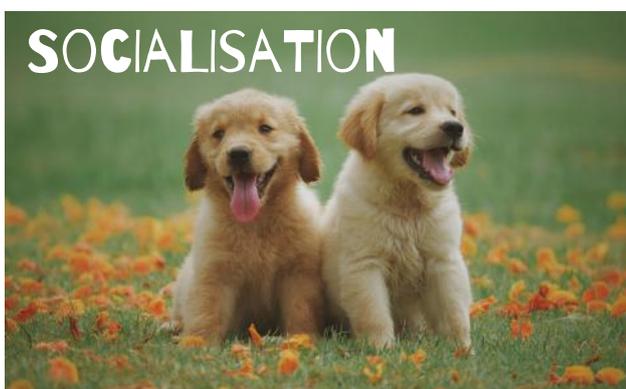
# SOCIALISATION IS KEY

Puppies have a sensitive period of development called the socialisation period. This occurs between 6 and 16 weeks of age and it is at this time that the young puppy will accept almost anything, provided it is a positive experience. Once a puppy is “used to” something he is very unlikely to be afraid of it in the future.

During this critical socialisation period even a small amount of experience can have long lasting effect on the dog’s behaviour and social development. It has been demonstrated that dogs who have been isolated during the sensitive socialisation period are more likely to be hyperactive, aggressive, difficult to train, antisocial and fearful.

## PURPOSE OF PUPPY PRE-SCHOOL

Puppy Pre-School is essential for developing your puppy into a happy and well adjusted member of the family



# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH!



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

We recommend desexing between 5 & 6 months of age.

As with most members of the veterinary profession we offer heavy discounts off desexing procedures providing the procedure is done prior to 6 months of age.

At the WVH we still do these procedures to our ASAVA accredited hospital standard and so our discounts are effectively representing more than 50% off the realistic price for the standard of care that we offer. This large discount is offered to help reward responsible pet ownership.



## FEMALE DOGS

Female dogs heat period results in 2-3 weeks of vulval bleeding.

During this period they attract neighbourhood dogs.

Desexing female dogs can avoid mammary cancer & uterine infections.



## MALE DOGS

Male dogs will go to great lengths to find a female companion, they can become very skilled escape artists! Entire males tend to lean toward more dominant behaviours that can lead to aggression.

Desexing male dogs prevents prostate cancer.



DESEXING