

Your New Puppy – FAQ

What Vaccinations are needed?

Malvern Vet Hospital recommends that puppies receive three vaccinations spaced one month apart: at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks, and 14-16 weeks. This vaccination schedule helps ensure that your puppy builds a strong immunity to common canine diseases, giving them the best protection as they grow and explore the world. Booster injections will not be required until they are over 14 months old. This vaccination covers distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, bordetella bronchoseptica, and parainfluenza 2 – canine cough/kennel cough. The vaccines used at Malvern vet provide a superior coverage - in most cases allowing for the pups to begin socialising early (often as early as 10 weeks!). Early socialisation reduces the chance of behavioural issues developing later in life. Ask your vet for a recommendation for your pup.

What heartworm Prevention do you recommend?

Heartworm is a parasite which is spread by mosquitoes and lives in the chambers and large vessels of the heart, causing clots and obstructing flow. Puppies should start on life long heartworm prevention at **12 weeks** of age. We recommend PROHEART INJECTION as this will have a 3 month reach-back ability to take care of any potential unknown infection from birth onward. Proheart will need to be given again at **9 months** and then **annually** (together with the annual vaccinations).

What intestinal worming do I need to do?

Worms can cause problems such as vomiting, diarrhoea and malnutrition. They can also be present with no visible signs. We recommend MILBEMAX monthly in puppies 4 months and under. It is important to weigh your pup before each treatment as dosing is based on bodyweight and it changes a lot when they are growing. We recommend the following regime:

- every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age.
- then monthly until 6 months.
- then every 3 months ongoing for life.

What flea prevention should I use?

Fleas are the single largest cause of dermatitis in dogs.. The most ideal conditions for fleas are warm, dry environments (inside the house). The adult fleas we see only make up 5% of the total flea population in the house. We primarily recommend BRAVECTO which is a tasty chew or a small dropper of liquid placed on the skin of the back of the neck once a month . The chew protects against fleas for 3 months, and paralysis ticks for 4 months, as well as controlling mites (mange). The liquid controls fleas and paralysis ticks for 6 month, as well as brown dog ticks for 12 weeks. We recommend paralysis tick prevention for any dog who may occasionally go into tick areas (East Victoria, Northern Australia). Preventing flea infestations is much cheaper than treating them. If your puppy currently has fleas – treat with bravecto immediately and also treat any other pets you have. There will be fleas in the environment (eggs/larvae etc) so you will need to keep up the treatments on all pets for at least a year to prevent re-infestation.

When do I get my dog de-sexed?

There has been significant research done on the impact of desexing at different ages and different breeds. In some breeds there is a correlation between the age of desexing and the incidence of subsequent joint disorders, cancers and urinary incontinence. For a specific medical recommendation on what is the ideal age to desex your dog please contact us at askthevet@malvernvet.com.au . Advise us of your dogs age and breed (or mix of breeds if known) and we will get back to you with a recommendation of what age is best to desex. All dogs are placed on IV fluids containing ketamine to further improve the safety of the procedure, also receive opiate pain relief medication before and during the procedure and are also dispensed further pain medication to go home with. Dogs can be taken home on the same day. The pup needs to be kept rested for the next 7- 10 days (no walks or baths). Intradermal sutures are used which are dissolvable with no ties visible for pets to pull at and no need to be removed.

If your pet is a short-faced breed (brachycephalic) we highly recommend extra precautions to improve your pets safety during their general anaesthesia. Short nosed breeds have a higher risk of regurgitating while under anaesthetic as a result of their altered anatomy. While under anaesthesia, regurgitation can lead to burning the lining of the oesophagus. Inhalation of the regurgitated contents may also cause aspiration pneumonia (infection in the lungs). To avoid this, we use medication to prevent vomiting, as well as antacids, before and after the procedure.

The Best Diet for a Growing Dog

Puppies have incredible growth rates, often doubling in size between 12 and 16 weeks of age. It is best to feed small meals often: 3-4 meals up to 4 months of age; 2-3 meals up to 6 months of age. Veterinary commercial diets such as "Science Diet Puppy" have the correct balance of protein, fats, vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates meaning no supplements are necessary. Hills Science Diet, for example has developed many vital health systems in their food:

- * DHA fish oil – for healthy brain development. Clinically proven to improve a puppies trainability.
- * Antioxidants– Clinically proven to improve immune function and development-crucial in puppies.
- * Good quality protein – which is more digestible and leads to less waste to clean up in the yard!
- * Moderately fermentable fibre – which reduces the production of gas in the intestine
- * The right omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acid ratio – which promotes healthy skin and a shiny coat.
- * Calorie dense food – a lower volume is fed resulting in a competitive cost per feed.
- * Balanced Calcium for larger breeds– to prevent dysplasia and promote healthy bone growth.

What is Microchip Identification?

Microchip identification involves the placement of a small microchip under the skin at the back of the neck. It is coded with a reference number which is linked to your details at a centralized national data base. Your information can be obtained within minutes once your dog (if lost) is presented to a veterinary clinic or pound. The needle used to insert the microchip is a large gauge needle, so we

recommend doing this at the same time they are desexed (6 months of age). Although most puppies will already come microchipped from the breeder, you just need to ensure it has been transferred into your name.