



### **Heartworm**

Heartworm is a prevalent disease in the warmer areas of Australia and is spread by infective mosquitos. These internal parasites cause serious damage to the heart and lungs of infected dogs which leads to exercise intolerance, difficult breathing, coughing, collapse and death. The good news is that easy, effective prevention is available to ensure your pup does not contract this dangerous disease.

We recommend starting prevention at 3 months of age. The best options are;

Heartworm Injection – will protect against Heartworm until 6 months of age

Heartgard™ – tablets or meat-flavoured chews (monthly)

Sentinel™ – tablets which also control the environmental flea problem and intestinal worms (monthly)

Revolution™ – topspot which also kills adult and environmental fleas (monthly)

Advocate™ – combines flea, gut worm and Heartworm control in a topspot (monthly)

### **Diet and Dental care**

Your young dog has special nutritional requirements to support healthy growth and reduce the risk of serious health problems later in life. We recommend Hill's Science Diet™ as being the best, and most economical, diets for your puppy. Large, lean shank bones are an ideal weekly treat and help to keep teeth clean but should be avoided until your dog is at least 6 months of age. In the mean-time CET chews or regular brushing are the best methods of reducing plaque build-up. Once they are 12 months old, special preventative diets can also be used. Despite all this, some dogs will still require periodic teeth scales under a general anaesthetic despite your best efforts to keep their teeth clean.

### **Desexing**

We recommend desexing your dog at around 6 months of age. This corresponds to the average onset of puberty for both male and female dogs. Delaying desexing will result in a higher risk of mammary tumours and uterine infections (not to mention unwanted pregnancies) in females and prostate problems and unwelcome wandering in males.

### **Ticks**

Paralysis ticks are a natural parasite of some of our native wildlife and cause them no harm. They become a health risk when they attach themselves to dogs and cats and secrete a toxin which causes weakness, a drunken gait, difficult breathing, vocalisation changes, collapse and then death. Luckily we do have an effective treatment but it is expensive and not without its risks.

Prevention is better than cure. Daily checking of your dog's entire body surface is still the best way of controlling tick paralysis. All of the anti-tick products available should be considered as 'insurance' against the odd tick missed or the odd day that the checking routine is missed.

The products available to aid in the control of tick paralysis from 3 months of age are;

Frontline™; spray - must spray onto the entire body every 3 weeks (for dogs 2 days and upward)

topspot - every 2 weeks (not as effective as the spray for tick prevention).

Preventic™ collar; will give 95% kill rates over the entire body surface for 2 months

### **Council requirements**

The Ipswich City Council requires not only registration of all domestic dogs but also requires that they be clearly identified with a collar and tag. These identifying markers can be lost or removed however, and the only way of permanently identifying your dog (*and the only way recognised in a court of law*) is by use of a **microchip**. We strongly recommend the use of microchipping as being the most reliable method of identifying your dog if it becomes lost or stolen.

***"Caring for the pets of Ipswich since 1967"***

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