



## Preventative Health Program for Your New Puppy

Congratulations on the new addition to your family. We hope these notes will answer most of the questions you may have about the care of your new puppy.

### Vaccinations

The following program is recommended to give your dog the best possible protection against the common infectious diseases Canine Distemper, Infectious Hepatitis, Parvovirus, viral and bacterial Infectious Tracheobronchitis (Kennel Cough). If you would like more information on these diseases, please feel free to ask one of the team for a pamphlet. A series of vaccinations is required as some antibodies from the mother may be in the pup's blood stream when born, and may interfere with the vaccines effectiveness in some young pups.

Young dogs require 3 vaccinations;

- 6-8 weeks: C3 (distemper, parvovirus, hepatitis)
- 12 weeks: C5 (P3 + bacterial and viral Kennel Cough)
- 16 weeks: C5 (P3 + bacterial and viral Kennel Cough)

Thereafter annual health checks and booster C5 vaccinations are required to maintain immunity (at least 2 weeks before going into a kennel)

Your pup should be quarantined (that is, no contact with unvaccinated dogs) until 10 days after the 16 week vaccination.

### Intestinal worms

The intestinal worms of dogs are roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm. These worms can cause diarrhoea, vomiting, poor condition, ill-thrift and death in dogs. It is also important to keep your pet and your home worm free as these worms can cause disease in humans, particularly children (ask the vet for more details). Drontal all wormer will treat your puppy for all of these worms.

To control all intestinal worms:

- a) Ensure you use Drontal All Wormer
  - every 2 weeks between the ages of 2-12 weeks

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- every month between the ages of 3- 6 months
  - every 3 months from 6 months of age onwards
- b) Decrease the chances of re-infection by cleaning your yard regularly.

## Flea control

There are many different products available for flea control, but the important thing to remember is to use safe, effective, residual products that will take care of the environmental flea problem as well as that on your dog.

Your options are;

- Nexgard: Monthly chew tablet for the prevention of fleas and ticks
- Nexgard Spectra: Monthly chew tablet for the prevention of fleas, ticks, worms and heartworm.
- Frontline – kills adult fleas for a month (topspot) or 2 months (spray), also helps prevent ticks Advantage – kills adult fleas on the dog and the juvenile fleas in the environment (topspot)
- Advocate – kills adult fleas, environmental fleas, gut worms and prevents Heartworm (topspot)
- Comfortis – kills adult fleas extremely quickly (monthly tablet) Sentinel – sterilises adult fleas and prevents Heartworm (monthly tablet)
- Serestro Flea and Tick Collar: Kills fleas for up to 8 months

## 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, and then is a yearly injection to continue protection.
- Nexgard Spectra: Monthly heartworm chew that also covers fleas, ticks and intestinal worms.
- Heartgard™ – tablets or meat-flavoured chews (monthly)

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- 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™ or Royal Canin 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 meantime Oravet 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 2 months of age are;

- Nexgard: Monthly chew for the prevention of ticks and fleas

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- Nexgard Spectra: Monthly chew for the prevention of ticks, fleas, intestinal worms and heartworm.
- Frontline™ Spray - must spray onto the entire body every 3 weeks (for dogs 2 days and upward)
- Frontline Topspot - every 2 weeks (not as effective as the spray for tick prevention).
- Serestro™ 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 recognized in a court of law) is by use of a microchip. All dogs must be microchipped before they are sold or given away. Under the [Animal Management \(Cats and Dogs\) Act 2008](#), you must ensure your dog is implanted with a chip before it is twelve (12) weeks of age.

***Once again, congratulations on your new addition and please feel free to call our hospitals should you require additional information, guidance or advice about raising your puppy.***

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