

New Puppy

How to give your puppy the best start

When you acquire a new puppy we advise you to let it settle in for a few days and use this time to familiarize yourself with your puppy's health. After 3 – 5 days you should have your puppy checked by the Vet. The Vet will advise you at that stage on all aspects of puppy care and answer any queries you might have. It is very important to get the right advice from the outset to avoid unnecessary problems later.

Always bear in mind that **pet insurance** is available for pups from 8 weeks old.

Check if your pup is **microchipped** already when you buy it, if so ensure to register the chip number to your details, coordinating with the breeder if necessary. If your new puppy is not micro chipped consider getting this done when you visit the vet.

How to keep your new puppy healthy

- 1. Worming** – most puppies carry roundworms. The eggs of these worms are not visible and are **harmful to children**. They can be eliminated by using *Milbemax* or *Drontal* worm medicine.
 - a. Worming should be carried out every 2 weeks from 2 weeks of age until 12 weeks old, then monthly until the pup is 6 months old, then every 3 months for life.
- 2. Vaccinations** – puppies should not be allowed access to public places until they are fully vaccinated. This involves a series on injections beginning from 8 weeks of age and finishing at between 10 and 12 weeks. They are vaccinated for **Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and Leptospirosis**.
 - a. All the above are potentially fatal diseases and can be prevented provided effective vaccination is carried out by a veterinary surgeon and immunity levels are maintained with annual boosters.
- 3. Feeding** – It is vital to get your puppy started on a food that is right for him/her from an early stage. There is a bewildering choice of foodstuffs both tinned and dry (nuts). The dry diets are very popular but they vary a lot in quality.
 - a. We recommend you start your puppy on Hills Science Plan. The quality of the food you feed your puppy from day 1 will reflect its overall development. Sticking with a good diet from the beginning will minimise “fussy eaters” and “upset tummies”.
- 4. Neutering** – there is a lot of miss-information about neutering. We advise you to discuss this procedure with a member of staff. It is important to be fully and correctly informed as to the effects of neutering.
 - a. We advise that if you have a female dog (bitch) and do not intend on breeding that you should get her neutered either just before her first season or two to three months after it. The age of the first season is usually six months in most dogs but it can be as late as nine or ten months in larger breeds.

Neutering will not make bitches snappy. (All guide dogs are neutered at six months). Neutering your bitch will reduce by 90% the risk of breast cancer (a common cancer in older bitches), eliminate the risk of womb infections, false pregnancies, heats and unwanted pregnancies.

Male dogs – castration of male dogs also decrease the risk of testicular and prostate problems later in life and can decrease wandering, aggression, mounting and urine marking.

If you have any further queries about your new puppy, please get in touch by phone **(021) 489 3033** or email contact@animalcarehospital.ie