



LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW PUPPY

Getting a new puppy is an exciting time but there are some important issues to think about to ensure your puppy is kept happy and healthy.

WORMING

Puppies should be wormed from 2 weeks of age, then at 5 and 8 weeks, and every 2-4 weeks until 6 months of age. From 6 months onwards they should be wormed every 3 months. It is important to know the weight of the puppy to give a correct dose. We can weigh the puppy for you and give you the correct dose if needed.

VACCINATIONS

A vaccination course should be started once the puppy is 8 weeks of age. This will give protection against distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and parvo virus. These are all potentially fatal diseases which are difficult to treat – prevention is better. A second injection is given 3-4 weeks later and a final one at 16 weeks. The puppy can be allowed to go outside 1 week after the final dose has been given but can mix with other VACCINATED dogs after the first injection. Rabies vaccines can be started from 12 weeks of age and are especially important if you are going to be transporting the dog abroad. All vaccines need an annual booster injection. You will get a certificate showing the dates of vaccination after this has been done.

FEEDING

Puppies should be fed a good quality puppy food such as Royal Canin or Eukanuba. There are feeding guides on the packets which should be followed taking into account their age and weight. Normally we suggest feeding a puppy 4 times a day until about 6 months of age, then reducing gradually to 2 meals as you feel ready. It is important to feed the right food for the size of the dog – there are mini and maxi varieties depending on the estimated adult size. Ask us for advice if you need it.

NEUTERING

We recommend that all dogs are neutered. This can be done from 6 months of age. For both males and females this will require a general anaesthetic and surgery. They will be in the clinic just for the day. The dogs will need to be kept indoors for 10 days post operatively and may need an E collar to stop them licking at their sutures. They will come for a post op check 2 days after the procedure. If a bitch has had a season you need to wait until 2 months after the season before spaying.

MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is the best way to identify the puppy as your own, and gives us a quick and easy way to contact you if the dog has been found eg after an accident. Please remember to update the microchip company if you move house or change your phone number. The easiest way to place a microchip is when the dog is in for neutering, but if this is not possible we can place the microchip at any time.

TRAINING AND SOCIALISATION

Good socialisation of a puppy is of utmost importance and should be started at a young age to ensure good interaction with other people and dogs. They should be introduced to friends, children and situations in a way that is not fearful to them. They can meet other vaccinated dogs after their first vaccination. Puppy training classes are an excellent way to start both training and socialization – ask at reception if you would like details of classes in this area.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to ask!

Please call GVC 02 556 2024