



THE
COACHHOUSE
VETERINARY SURGEONS

PUPPY INFORMATION PACK

Ask us about
our
**Coach House
Care
Plan!**

A warm welcome to your new puppy!

At Coach House Vets, we are committed to help your puppy develop into a fit, healthy and well-rounded member of your family. This pack is filled with useful information and tips.



Puppy's Details

Puppy's Name:

Date of Birth:

Breed:

Sex:

Vaccinations

Routine puppy vaccinations will protect your puppy against: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Leptospirosis. These diseases can prove fatal or leave your dog with serious health complications. Your puppy should not visit public places until 1 week after their second vaccination. The exception to this rule is for puppy socialisation or training classes.

From 6 weeks of age:
Your puppy can be given their first vaccination. At this time, they will also receive a health check.

The Second Vaccination:
Is given 4 weeks after the first vaccination.

Booster vaccinations:
Are given annually. Your dog will receive a full health examination when

they visit for their annual booster vaccination.

Kennel Cough:
Can be given from 6 weeks of age and is administered into the dog's nostril. Dogs will need this done if they are entering a boarding facility, although any sociable dog should also receive this.

Rabies Vaccinations:
Are given to dogs that are travelling outside the UK for holidays. Please ask a member of staff for details or please visit this website for more information
www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview

Worming

Puppies can be born with roundworms (passed via the placenta) and can be further infected via their mother's milk. The larvae of the roundworm can cause health problems in humans and children. It is important that you worm your puppy regularly, both for their own health and yours. Puppies should be wormed with a veterinary wormer specifically designed for their age group:

Under 12 weeks: Should be given every 2 weeks with prescribed product. We usually recommend Panacur.

12 weeks – 6 months: Should be given every month with prescribed product. We stock a range of spot-on and tablet wormers. We usually opt

for a tablet wormer.

6 months onwards: every 3 months routinely with a prescribed adult wormer.

Please ask your vet if you are concerned that your dog may be at risk and a suitable treatment will be prescribed.

You can treat your dog more regularly with wormer if your dog eats slugs or scavenges, as their likelihood of developing lungworm is slightly increased.



Fleas and Ticks

Fleas and ticks are irritating and stubborn parasites that can cause considerable discomfort to our pets. Regular use of a preventative flea product is especially important, as once they have established themselves in a home they can be very difficult to eliminate. It also prevents opportunity of spreading diseases. Our vets will be able to provide you with guidance on the most appropriate flea and tick treatment.

We always advise that you use our prescription treatments rather than shop bought products. You can start using flea and tick treatment from 8 weeks of age.

We advise the use of Bravecto, a tablet that targets fleas and ticks for three months; so ties in with your wormer.

We also stock some spot-on treatments if you would prefer to use these, even though the application is more frequent, at once per month.

We may advise you to use a household flea spray to ensure that all stages of the flea lifecycle are eliminated.

Much of the lifecycle of the flea is not only on your dog but within your house as well (i.e. your carpets!)



Diet and Feeding

It is important not to make any sudden changes to your puppy's diet, especially during the settling in period. Any changes should be made gradually to avoid upsetting their digestion. You may be surprised at how little or how much your puppy can eat.

Meals should be split into 3-4 meals fed throughout the day.

8-12 weeks: 4x a day

12-24 weeks: 3x a day

24 weeks onwards:

Feeds can gradually be reduced to 2 meals a day.

How much to feed:

Guidance is usually given on each brand packaging, but this is guidance only.

Certain breeds require a more specialised diet- ask your vet for advice.



Housetraining

Don't expect your puppy to be fully housetrained until they are around 6 months of age. They should have a good grasp of the basics by 16 weeks. It is common to do well early on and to then have a set back out of the blue. Don't panic, this is normal, just go back to basics for a while!

Housetraining basics:

Establish a routine: Take outdoors upon waking, after food, just after a play session or approximately every 2 hours. Stay with the puppy whilst outside. Direct them to the area that you want them to use and use a command like 'be quick' or similar. Your puppy will soon associate the command with what is expected.

Remember to praise them when there is a success.

Look out for changes in posture, a keen eye can spot the tell-tale signs of a puppy that needs the toilet. Expect mistakes, especially overnight or if you go out. Newspaper can be used for potential accidents during these times. The area covered by paper can be reduced

as the puppy becomes more trustworthy.

Don't reprimand for mistakes. Try not to change your puppy's diet until they have settled in as a change of diet can cause digestive upset that will hinder housetraining.

Don't give your puppy free run of the house when it is not able to be

observed or supervised. Never 'rub a puppy's nose in it', this is a very outdated practice and has no place in puppy training. Some people use dog crates to house train puppies.

Excitement Urination:

This happens when a puppy becomes so excited that it leaves a puddle at your feet. This is common and reduces as a puppy's bladder becomes stronger. Many puppies get excited when you return home or when a visitor arrives, so try not to encourage excitement at these times.

Ignore the puppy for the first few minutes, don't make eye contact and then gently praise them when they are settled and calm. Do not scold your puppy as this could result in submissive urination (see next).

Submissive Urination:

This is when a dog crouches and leaves a puddle at your feet. This often happens when the owner returns home or when they are told off. This is a sign of submission and puppies usually grow out of this once they have mastered the rules of social engagement. Do not

scold your puppy as this will only make it more submissive. If praised they become confused and may even think they are being praised for urinating. As with excitement urination, it is best to ignore the puppy until they are settled and calm.



Socialisation

Until your puppy is fully vaccinated, it can be challenging to socialise them. We suggest they can meet healthy vaccinated dogs on private property, but your puppy should not visit public places until 1 week after their 2nd vaccination.

The exception to this rule is for puppy socialisation or training classes.

Puppies and Children

You may have to train your young children how to behave around your puppy! It is important that puppies are allowed

some quiet time where they can rest.

Children should not encourage jumping up, rough games and play biting. Children should wash their hands after playing with the puppy. It is a good idea to involve

children in training. Your puppy should walk nicely on the lead for them and obey commands, take treats gently and allow them to groom him/her.



Neutering – Female (Spay)

There are no health benefits in allowing your dog to have a litter of puppies before having them spayed.

We are happy to spay dogs before their first season and this option is best discussed with our vets.

We would always advise spaying as it not only prevents seasons, pregnancy and womb infections but if spayed early in life it will also significantly reduce the risk of mammary (breast) cancer. Your dog will require an anaesthetic and will spend the day at the surgery.

She will require approximately 10 days rest after the operation. Please ask for more information on this procedure.

Neutering – Male (Castration)

Entire or un-castrated dogs are more likely to be aggressive, sexually motivated and difficult to control during their adult life. This is primarily due to the hormone 'testosterone' released from the testes.

It is generally advised to castrate a male dog from 6 months of age, unless he is particularly submissive.

Castration will reduce the occurrence of testicular cancer and prostate infections.

Your dog will require an anaesthetic and will spend the day at the surgery.

He will require 10 days rest after the operation.

Routine Home Health Checks

Performing routine regular health checks on your dog at home will alert you to any health issues quickly. In addition, a dog that is used to being examined should find trips to the vets less stressful.

Home checks:

Ears – Your dog's ears should be clean and odour free. Lift the ear flap and check a minimum of once a month, more often if your dog has heavy floppy ears (e.g. Spaniels).

Teeth – Regular brushing with veterinary toothpaste will, along with a good diet, help keep your dog's teeth clean and their breath fresh. Whilst your puppy doesn't necessarily need its teeth cleaning from a young age, familiarising your new puppy with a

toothbrush and paste will make tooth brushing much easier when they are adults.

Eyes – Eyes should be clear, bright and free from discharge, redness, watering and squinting.

Nose – It is quite normal for noses to drip clear liquid, providing there is no discharge or excessive sneezing. A dry nose providing it is not cracked is quite normal too.

Nails, Paws & Tail – Checks can pick up overgrown, split or torn nails. A dog should be

gently taught to be comfortable having their paws checked. Spaniels are prone to picking up grass seeds in their fur between their toes so check here too!

Grooming – Puppies should be groomed from an early age, particularly if long haired. Grooming keeps the coat tangle free, removes excess hair and also gives you a chance to keep a close eye on your dog's general health and body condition and check for parasites such as fleas and ticks.

Pet Insurance

Pet insurance can help towards the cost of your veterinary bills, providing peace of mind for you and ensuring the best veterinary care for your pet when the need arises.

The same rules apply to buying a pet policy as your own health insurance policy - buy it when your pet is young and healthy and there are no existing conditions to report. Read the small print carefully and take particular notice of the terms and conditions that will explain what is and what is not covered together with the excess

payments that are required.

In general, diagnosis and treatment for any accident, injury, or illness, will be covered by the policy.

Pre-existing conditions (conditions that existed before insurance was taken out) will almost certainly be excluded. Routine and preventive care will also be excluded.

Some policies include Third Party Liability; this is an important benefit to protect pet owners against legal action if

their pet causes damage or injury.

We strongly advise that you choose a Lifetime or 'Covered for Life' policy, this means that your pet will be covered for an ongoing condition for its entire life providing that you renew your policy each year without any break in cover.



Coach House Vets

Opening Hours:
Monday – Friday:
08.30 – 18:00

24 hour callout

01635 254544

