



Care of a New Puppy

Small Animal Vet in Limerick

Limerick Vet
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- Toilet training causes the biggest problem for owners of a new puppy.
- Treat with an effective wormer every 2 weeks until 6 months of age, and every 3 months for life.
- A good quality balanced diet is important to develop a strong and healthy body.
- Vaccination is done at 10 weeks or older. Annual boosters are necessary.
- Male and female dogs not intended for breeding should be neutered.
- Pet health insurance is now available to cover the cost of treatment.
- Your puppy needs a Dog Licence available from the Post Office
- Never buy a puppy from a "Puppy Farm" always insist on seeing the mother and its bed.
- Buy a new puppy subject a satisfactory veterinary examination
- A microchip placed under your puppy's skin helps it to be returned to you if it strays or is stolen.

Congratulations on the arrival of your new puppy. Owning a puppy is a wonderful experience and should be a happy one for you, your family and your puppy. A new puppy quickly becomes a family member, and most owners want to ensure that it is healthy, and that the best is done to ensure it stays healthy.

Vaccinations

Puppies may be given their first vaccinations at as early as 6 weeks of age. If vaccination is done before 10 weeks old it is essential that it is repeated at 10 weeks or older.

Another vaccination is required 2 to 3 weeks later. It is also important to give a booster vaccination

every year to ensure continual protection. This is especially important in dogs over 7 years of age as their aging immune system is less well able to protect them from disease.



Toilet Training

Toilet training causes the greatest problem for owners. It is best to train the puppy to go to the toilet outside. Bring it outside first thing every morning, within 20 minutes of eating and hourly throughout the day until it learns to ask to go outside. This may take some time initially, but be patient. Once the puppy has gone to the toilet

praise it. **Do not** punish a puppy when it goes in the wrong place, this is cruel, confuses the puppy and is not helpful. Taking food and water away from 6 pm and confining the puppy in a small space, such as a pet carrier, overnight will reduce soiling inside and make toilet training very much easier. Please ask for our *Toilet Training* advice sheet.

Puppies are what they eat!

Your puppy gets only one chance to develop a strong healthy body. It has a rapid rate of growth especially if it is a large breed puppy. It is essential to feed a properly balanced diet that meets all nutritional requirements. Feed only good dog food and no left-over human food.

We recommend and supply *Science Plan Puppy* because it is best and most suitable diet for your puppy.



Dental Care

Pets need their teeth cleaned daily to prevent plaque, tartar, gum disease and tooth loss. Feed dry food, and avoid bones and hard nylon chews which may damage teeth or gums. Brush your pet's teeth daily with special pet toothpaste only.

Fleas

Fleas are small brown insects that live on pets. They spread disease, infest humans and cause skin diseases. Fleas can be a problem all year round and treatment should be given continually. Most available flea treatments are ineffective; therefore use only **safe** and **effective** products as recommended by your Veterinary Surgeon.

**“Neutered
is
best!”**

Neutering

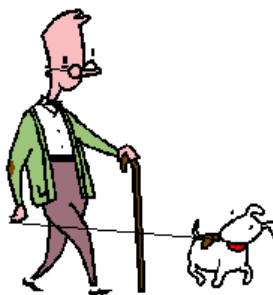
Female dogs not intended for breeding should be spayed once vaccination is complete. This stops them coming into season, the birth of unwanted puppies, prevents womb infections, reduces the risk of cancer by 50%, and the risk of diabetes. Castration of male dogs reduces the risk of cancer and other diseases, the tendency to roam, to fight and urination in the house. Neutered dogs also live longer.

Dog Licence

You must get a licence for your puppy and keep it under control at all times. This means confining it on your property, or on a leash in public. Certain breeds of dogs must also be muzzled in public. Your dog should have a collar on with your name and phone number on a disc or tag if it gets lost.

Grooming

Long or rough-coated dogs need to be brushed daily. Grooming can be done at home, or by a trained groomer. Some dogs have hair growing in their ears that should be removed regularly. Check toenails, including the dewclaws, and trim them carefully as required.



Exercise

Once vaccination is complete your puppy can be exercised. Keep it on a leash in public to prevent injury from traffic, fights and general nuisance. Ensure your dog does not soil in public places and if it does you must clean it up.