

## **Towcester Vets - Puppy Information**

Congratulations on your new puppy! Welcoming a puppy to your family is an exciting time but there is lots to learn. Our practice offers clients a Puppy Package which includes all the essentials your puppy may need. We hope that this page will help to answer some of your questions, but if you are unsure about any aspect of your puppy's care, please do not hesitate to contact us on **01327 350239**.

### **Vaccinations**

Vaccinations are given to prevent Canine Distemper Virus, Canine Infectious Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Leptospirosis. Puppies require two vaccinations initially. The first vaccine is generally given between 6-8 weeks of age; the second is given 2-4 weeks later when puppy is at least 10 weeks old.

Puppies can be walked outside a week after their second vaccination when their levels of immunity should be high enough to protect them from disease.

Prior to their second vaccination puppies can mix with other dogs as long as they are vaccinated, healthy and in a safe area, such as your own garden.

### **Worming**

Roundworms are very common in puppies and can be passed to the puppy before birth or in the mother's milk. Puppies are often wormed with the breeder but still generally require further treatment on arrival to their new home.

It is especially important to worm puppies that are in contact with young children or vulnerable people as certain types of roundworm are zoonotic, meaning that they can cause disease in humans.

We recommend using Stronghold at the time of your puppy's first vaccination. This is a spot-on treatment which treats roundworm as well as a selection of skin parasites and ear mites.

Puppies may also carry tapeworms. These are most commonly picked up through ingestion of fleas. At the time of the second vaccination we recommend the use of Milbemax, a combined wormer that treats both roundworm and tapeworm infestations.

Provided there are no problems noted, we recommend worming with Milbemax every month to every three months. If your puppy has not been wormed by the breeder we recommend more frequent worming, usually monthly, until the puppy is 6 months old.

If your puppy eats slugs and snails we would recommend a different parasite control regime which includes Advocate to protect against lungworm, fleas and other parasites and Drontal as a multi-wormer (Milbemax can not be used with Advocate). This behaviour should be discouraged.

### **Other parasites**

Puppies can be infected with other parasites such as fleas and mites (particularly ear mites) and Stronghold (see above) can be used to treat these infestations.

## **Microchipping**

We can microchip your puppy at any time, although we tend to advocate doing so at the second vaccination or when your puppy is anaesthetised for neutering. **Click here** to find out more about microchipping. Please note that it is a legal requirement for any dog to wear identification of some description (generally a tag attached to the collar).

## **Diet**

It is important to feed your puppy a good quality, balanced and complete diet. There are extensive puppy feeding options available although dry foods are generally recommended. Feeding guidelines provided on the packet vary between individual brands. Speak to your veterinarian regarding feeding advice and remember to avoid human food as your puppy may start to refuse their own dog food.

## **Socialisation**

The important socialisation period for dogs is between four and 12 weeks of age. During this period a puppy will tend to accept new experiences and therefore not be fearful of them later in life. Allowing your puppy to have good experiences whilst meeting a range of people and other dogs is key in their development. Our practice hosts regular puppy parties which all new puppy patients will be invited to.

## **Training**

It is generally a good idea to enrol your puppy in training classes. A few tips to remember when training include:

- Be consistent to avoid confusing your puppy
- Train for short spells, regularly
- Use cheerful voice tones
- Gentle play with your puppy will encourage trust and create a strong bond
- Be patient

Toilet training is an essential part of your puppy's development but can require a lot of patience. Puppies tend to need to urinate every 1-2 hours and so should be taken into the garden regularly, particularly as soon as they wake up and after food. Rewards can be given as the puppy begins to learn to toilet outside.

Chewing can be a problem in puppies, especially when they are teething. Providing plenty of suitable toys for chewing may help. Make sure that your puppy is not left in a place where they could damage items or themselves. It is also sensible to get your puppy used to wearing a collar and lead as soon as you get them home.

## **Neutering**

Neutering is generally performed from six months of age and can be discussed in detail at your first consult.

## Timings

### *6 – 8 weeks*

- First vaccination and full check over with a vet
- Free insurance for four weeks with Petplan offered
- Discuss microchipping, neutering and any additional concerns
- Weighing and stronghold application

### *10 weeks*

- Second vaccination and check up with a vet
- Weighing and worming
- Microchip

### *6 months*

- Free check up with the nurse where diet, training and neutering can be discussed and teeth checked
- Book in for neutering

We hope that you have found this information useful, but remember, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to **contact us for advice.**