

New Puppy Info Sheet



Congratulations on the new addition to your family. This information sheet is to guide you in how best to look after your new puppy.

To prevent against five potentially fatal diseases we recommend you get your puppy **VACCINATED**. This generally involves two or three injections up to four weeks apart – depending on the age of the pup when the first vaccine is given. The pup will then be allowed outside as early as 11 weeks of age in some circumstances. Thereafter booster vaccinations are given every year. Each time your pet is vaccinated, they will get a thorough veterinary health check. It is also gives you an opportunity to have any questions or concerns answered.

To prevent your pup developing behavioural problems when they are older, it is very important to **SOCIALISE** them as soon as possible. Even before they have completed their full vaccine course your pup should meet other vaccinated dogs. You can lift your pup in your arms near busy main roads so they get used to loud traffic noises. Putting on the hoover and

washing machine when they are nearby will also get them used to normal household noises. Supervised contact with children is also recommended.

To avoid the vets being a place your pup doesn't like, we advise that you thoroughly **HANDLE** him/her from a young age. Look in their ears, mouths and feel over their body, legs and feet. Then give a treat as a reward for letting you do this. This will also build their confidence if you have to brush their coat and teeth.

It is important you feed your pup a balanced **DIET**. In general we recommend you use a commercially available diet – either a complete dry food or a moist food with mixer biscuits. We do not advise giving your pup milk, as this can cause diarrhoea – dogs are lactose intolerant! Be careful what you give your pup as a treat as certain foods can be toxic for them e.g. chocolate, grapes and onions.

Nearly all puppies are born with roundworms, passed on by their mother. It is



very important to give regular **WORMING** treatments to your pup. We recommend you worm them every month from the ages of two to six months. Thereafter you should worm them every three months, minimum. Our

vets and nursing staff can advise you on the best worming treatment for your pup.

Some pups will unfortunately have FLEAS and EARMITES when they arrive at their new home. Most pet shop or supermarket products are not effective to kill these parasites. Our vets will be able to recommend the best and safest product for your pup.

We recommend that you get your pup INSURED. This gives financial piece of mind if your pup becomes ill. Although we are not allowed to recommend a particular company, please ask our staff who will be able to advise the best type of policy for you and your pup. You must check the policy to ensure it is life- long cover and that there is adequate financial cover for problems your pup may develop.

We recommend that you get your bitch SPAYED (neutered). Brannock's policy on the timing of this operation is to allow her to have her first season, then get her spayed two to three months later. Their first season is usually between six and eighteen months. It is possible in some circumstances to spay your bitch at six months of age before she has had a





season. Spaying your bitch means no unwanted pregnancies, but also stops her getting a serious womb infection and massively reduces the risk of mammary cancer.

We generally recommend your male pup being **CASTRATED** if it is on behavioural or medical grounds. This will rarely be before nine months of age. Please ask one of our vets or nurses for further advice.

We offer a **MICROCHIPPING** service that places a rice sized device under the skin at your pup's neck. It contains information that can be picked up by readers that all vets, dog wardens and rescue centres have. This allows you to be contacted if your pup is lost, injured or stolen and is taken in by one of these people. This currently costs approximately £25.

Brannock Vet Clinic offer a free six month check where they can examine your pup and discuss any problems or concerns you have with them. Please do not hesitate to contact the surgery if you have any queries.