

— YOUR —

# PUPPY

STARTER GUIDE



# Welcome to the exciting world of puppy ownership!

This guide gives you tips to get your new bundle of joy off to the right start in life to ensure they can grow into a happy and healthy dog.

Introducing your new pup to their forever home is such a wonderful time, and you'll want to make sure they have everything they need. This starts with providing them the proper nutrition, vaccinations, and parasite protection, as well as providing them with plenty of mental and physical stimulation to help establish a strong bond between you and your pet.

## Guide highlights:

Vaccinations

Intestinal worms

Fleas

Dental health

Microchipping

Weight & nutrition

Behaviour

Pet insurance

Desexing

And, if you need any more advice or information, we're here to help at every step of the way.



# Vaccinations

It's essential to vaccinate your puppy at the correct times to allow the greatest protection from a variety of serious and potentially fatal diseases, including canine parvovirus, canine distemper virus, infectious canine hepatitis, and infectious canine tracheobronchitis (kennel cough). In some regions, it's also recommended to vaccinate against Leptospirosis (please check with your vet).

It's important to keep up with the recommended vaccination schedule for puppies as they grow to provide your pup with the best disease protection.



If you're not sure when your puppy is due for their next vaccination, talk to our team to make sure your puppy is up to date.

## Typical puppy vaccination schedule\*:



**First vaccination**  
between  
6-8 weeks old



**Second vaccination**  
between  
10-12 weeks old



**Third booster**  
between  
14-16 weeks old

\* Check with your vet for the recommended vaccination schedule for your puppy



Talk to your vet about deworming for your puppy.

# Intestinal worms

Another parasite you need to protect your new pup from are intestinal worms. Intestinal worms live in the intestines and feed off the nutrients that the puppy consumes. If left untreated, they can cause a wide range of health problems, from malnutrition to anaemia and even death. The most common way puppies become infected is by ingesting the eggs of the parasites, which can be found in contaminated soil, faeces, and other sources.

To protect your puppy from these parasites, regular deworming treatments should be provided.

## You should deworm your puppy regularly:

- every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age
- then once a month until 6 months of age,
- And every 3-6 months for life (more often when they're around young children)

# Fleas

Fleas commonly cause itching, skin disease and allergic reactions in pups. What's more, they can be challenging to diagnose, as a puppy with flea allergy dermatitis may never actually be seen with fleas! That's why flea treatments should be given every month of the year to prevent and control flea infestations effectively.

Ask our team about recommended flea prevention products for your pup!



# Dental health



Good dental health is essential for pets, just like it is for humans! Puppies can be prone to dental health problems, so it's good to start caring for their teeth from a young age. Proper dental care can help prevent the build-up of plaque and tartar, which can lead to gum disease and tooth decay, not to mention smelly breath. Regular brushing and professional dental cleanings can help remove any built-up debris and help keep your pup's teeth and gums healthy as they get older.



Ask our team for tips on dental care for puppies.

# Microchipping

Microchipping your puppy helps ensure they are easily identified and is a requirement for all dogs to be registered in New Zealand for the first time (excluding working farm dogs). A tiny chip is placed under the skin of the neck, between your puppy's shoulder blades. If your puppy is found and taken to a vet or animal shelter, staff will use a scanner to retrieve the unique identifying code on your puppy's microchip, which is stored in nationwide registry databases. Therefore, it's important to keep these details up to date. If you're unsure of your puppy's microchip status, we can use our clinic scanner to check this.



Talk to our team if your pet needs a microchip or to confirm your details registered on the chip.



# Weight & Nutrition



## Weight



Maintaining a healthy weight for your puppy is extremely important for their overall health and well-being. Keeping your puppy at their ideal weight helps to keep their bones, joints, and muscles strong and healthy. In addition, keeping your puppy at their ideal weight can help reduce the risk of serious health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and types of cancer.

Monitor your puppy's weight regularly and work with your veterinary healthcare team to make adjustments to ensure they stay at their ideal weight. By doing so, you can help your puppy stay healthy and happy.



A trip to the vet for a weight check can be a perfect opportunity to keep track of your puppy's weight whilst also ensuring a positive vet experience with lots of treats and cuddles from our team.

## Nutrition



Proper nutrition is another part of helping your puppy get the best start in life. Puppies need a balanced diet that includes all the essential nutrients for growth and development. Proper nutrition is vital for puppies because it helps them to grow strong bones and muscles and provides the energy necessary for play and learning.

There are many premium-grade commercial foods that meet the exact nutritional requirements of growing puppies. Although brands vary in quality, premium brands generally provide higher-quality ingredients. Therefore, we recommend you feed your puppy premium-grade puppy food.



Talk to our veterinary team for advice on the appropriate nutrition for your puppy.



## Did you know?

Small breed puppies usually reach their adult bodyweight at 10 months of age, where giant breeds can grow for up to two years!

# Behaviour



The experiences your puppy has during their first 16 weeks of life will significantly influence the sort of adult dog they grow into. It's very important that your puppy has positive interactions with other people and puppies during this crucial period to help them grow into a confident and well-behaved member of the family.

Puppy Preschool is a wonderful opportunity for you and your pet to learn basic obedience skills, loose-lead walking, toilet training, positive reinforcement techniques and more. The classes also allow your puppy to socialise safely with vaccinated puppies of a similar age, and a wide variety of people.



Puppy Preschool is an excellent way to help your pup grow into a well-behaved dog. **Talk to our team about puppy classes today!**

# Pet insurance



While not essential, pet insurance is a serious consideration for new pet owners. It provides financial protection in the event of unexpected veterinary bills arising from accidents or illnesses. In addition, pet insurance lets pet owners enjoy peace of mind knowing that, should the worst happen, their pets will be taken care of.

**Pet insurance doesn't often cover routine care, such as vaccinations, dental cleaning, and flea and worm treatments, which is where a pet wellness program can be a great complementary option!**



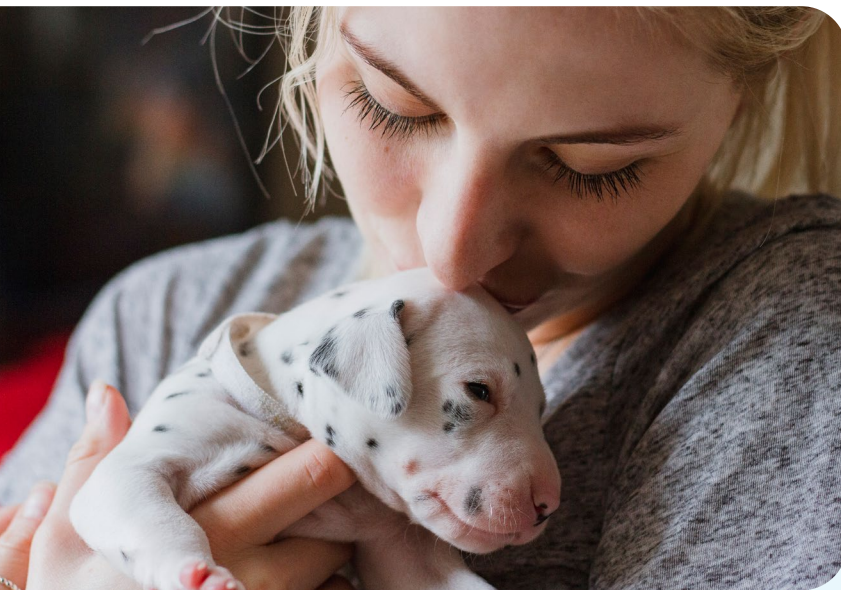
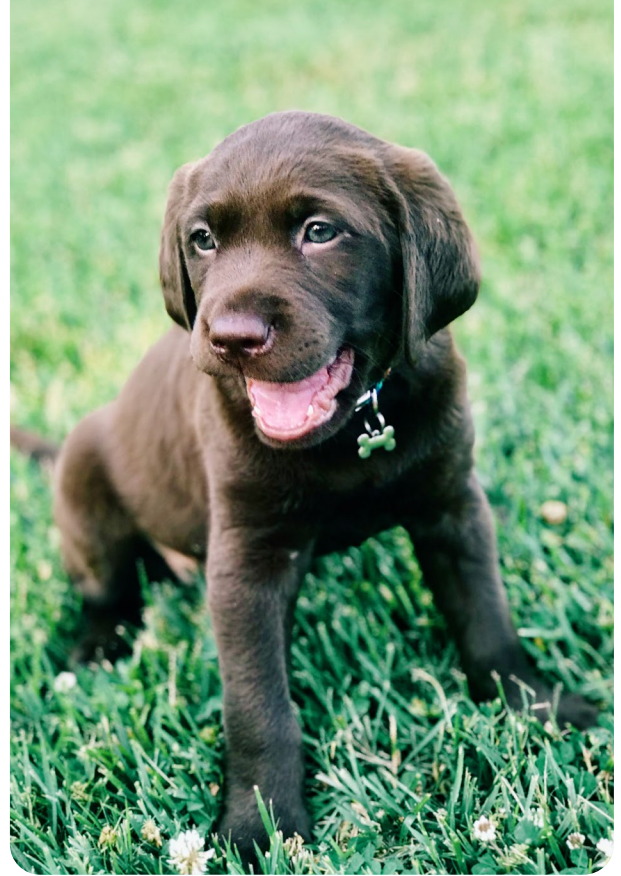
Talk to our healthcare team about how pet insurance and wellness programs can save you money and give you peace of mind for the care of your precious new puppy.

# Desexing

Desexing your puppy doesn't just prevent them from having unwanted litters; it also reduces the risk of certain diseases and cancers, such as prostate and mammary gland tumours and pyometra (an infection of the uterus). Additionally, desexing can help to reduce the urge to roam, which can result in accidents and injuries, and reduce urine marking and aggressive behaviours.



Desexing is recommended between 6 and 12 months of age. **Talk to your veterinarian about when they recommend your dog should be desexed.**



Our veterinary team are here to help you get your puppy off to the best start.

By visiting our clinic, your puppy can get a thorough nose-to-tail health check, vaccinations, parasite protection and proper nutrition - all of which are essential for their health and well-being.

**So give your new furry friend the best care possible by booking an appointment with us today!**