

Puppy Healthcare



The first few months of a puppy's life are very important for pup and owner. As well as learning how to behave and socialise, there are some important healthcare needs to attend to.

This Fact Sheet is to help you to get your puppy accustomed to its new home and to help you to care for it. We will be looking at matters such as fleas, parasites and worming, microchipping, neutering, nutrition, socialisation and vaccination.

Fleas and other parasites

Flea and ectoparasite (external parasites) control is important from a young age as they can pose much more serious health issues in young animals. Please ask which treatment is best for your puppies as not all treatments are effective or safe to use for young puppies.

For more information on fleas, parasites and worms, please consult the Adult Dog Healthcare Fact Sheet.

Worming

Most puppies are born with worms already in their stomach and they are also infected through their mother's milk. So, it is best to 'presume guilty' when it comes to worms.

We advise worming every two weeks until 3 months of age and then monthly until 6 months old, after which at 3 monthly intervals.

Please make sure to pick up your puppy's faeces regularly, as puppies love to eat their poo, which can cause reinfestation with worms.

Roundworms also pose a health risk to humans, especially children. Worming is essential to prevent and reduce this risk.

Microchipping

Microchipping is a permanent and reliable means of identification for your puppy. Tags and collars may be lost but a microchip won't!

The microchip is the size of a grain of rice which is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. The microchip remains there for life and once scanned produces a unique identification number, which relates to the owner's details registered with the number. It is a bit like a barcode reader that scans your shopping. Do not forget to have your details updated when you move! This means that if

you pet turns up as a stray at a vet or a pound, you shall be notified promptly of their wanderings!

Neutering

Neutering (male) and speying (female) have lots of advantages and can be done as early as 5½ months of age, before they hit puberty. It has many benefits of being carried out early.

For more information on neutering, please consult the Adult Dog Healthcare Fact Sheet.

Nutrition

Good quality nutrition is vital for a growing puppy. A puppy diet is formulated specifically to contain the essential requirements for growth in the right amounts.

There are many different brands and types available. Dry food is better than tinned food for your puppy in the long term, so start as you intend to continue! A good quality brand is best and we recommend Hills and Royal Canin diets. For large breed puppies a large breed specific diet is recommended because of the specific dietary requirements. Try to get your puppy into the habit of dry food at an early age to help maintain dental health in future. Dry food is also easier on the pocket in the long run as it is more concentrated.

Socialisation

This is a vital part of the development of your puppy's future behaviour. They learn at an early age what is good and appropriate behaviour and what is bad by training and the ways others react to them, dogs and humans alike. Remember – teaching a pup what is normal at a young age by exposing it to loud noises, children, cats etc. will mean it regards these things as part of its life.

Vaccination

We recommend a course of 2-3 vaccinations, two weeks apart, starting from 6-8 weeks of age. This means that your pet will start to become protected from infections, diseases as early and as effectively as possible.

Remember, a pup is not fully vaccinated until it is two weeks after its last puppy vaccination and should not be walked until this stage. Some puppy viruses can cause death if not vaccinated against appropriately.

Please contact us for more information.

For further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact us.

Barna, Co. Galway

PHONE - **091 867008**

FAX - **091 592085**

EMAIL - **info@barnavetclinic.ie**

WEB - **barnavetclinic.ie**

Leanne Evertsen
MVB MRCVS

opening hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8.30am–6.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday
8.30am–7.00pm

Saturday
10.00am–12.00 noon

clinic hours

Monday–Friday
9.00–11.00am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
3.00–6.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday
4.00–7.00pm

Saturday
10.00am–12.00 noon

Consultation by appointment only



barna
veterinary clinic