

Puppy Care Guide



At St Ives Veterinary Hospital,
we love being introduced to new
furry members of your family!



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VACCINATIONS



Regular vaccinations are essential to prevent your dog contracting several life-threatening diseases. A C3 vaccination will cover the three core diseases – Parvo, Distemper & Hepatitis.

We also recommend vaccinating your dog against kennel cough (Parainfluenza & Bordetella) as although it is not fatal, it can develop into a chronic and debilitating condition. The kennel cough vaccine with the C3 vaccine is called a C5 vaccine.

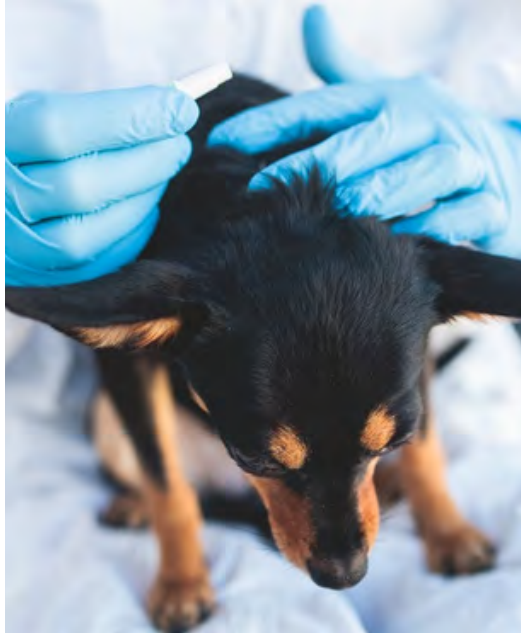
We also offer vaccination against Leptospirosis, which is a potentially fatal disease that is spread by rats and their urine. This vaccination requires two initial vaccines 2-4 weeks apart, then an annual booster. Adding a Leptospirosis vaccine onto a C5 vaccine is called a C7.

Your puppy's initial vaccine schedule should be:

- First vaccine: 6-8 weeks old
- Second vaccine: 10-12 weeks old
- Third vaccine: 14-16 weeks old

After the first three vaccinations, your dog will need a C3 vaccine either every year or every three years, and a Kennel Cough Vaccine and/or a Leptospirosis vaccine every year.





FLEAS & TICKS

90% of fleas live in the environment, not on your dog, so effective flea control involves treating the environment and all your pets!

Regular hot washing of bedding and spraying kennels and bedding with insecticide will help minimize flea infestations. Surface sprays and good vacuuming is the best way to control the fleas in the rest of the environment.

Ticks are one of the most dangerous parasites that can affect your pet. The tick attaches to your pet and whilst sucking blood, secretes toxins which cause signs of poisoning, paralysis and eventually death.

Signs of tick poisoning include wobbly back legs, change in bark, retching/vomiting, difficulty breathing and loss of appetite. Should your pet show any of these signs, you should seek veterinary attention as soon as possible.

We encourage daily searching of your pet's skin and coat for ticks. If you find a tick on your pet, remove it straight away or bring them in if you need help to remove it. If the head of the tick is left in, the tick cannot continue to poison your pet, although it may cause a raised, itchy lump.

These are the flea & tick prevention options we offer:



NexGard & Simparica ranges: for use in puppies over 8 weeks old. Kills fleas, ticks and mites.



Bravecto chews or spot-on: for dogs over 8 weeks old and over 2kg, used for the treatment and prevention of fleas and ticks. Chews last 3 months and spot-on treatment last 6 months. Also helps kill ticks once attached.



Bravecto Quantum: for dogs over 6 months old. Injectable tick prevention, only available at your vet. Takes 3 days to take effect, then lasts for one year.



WORMING

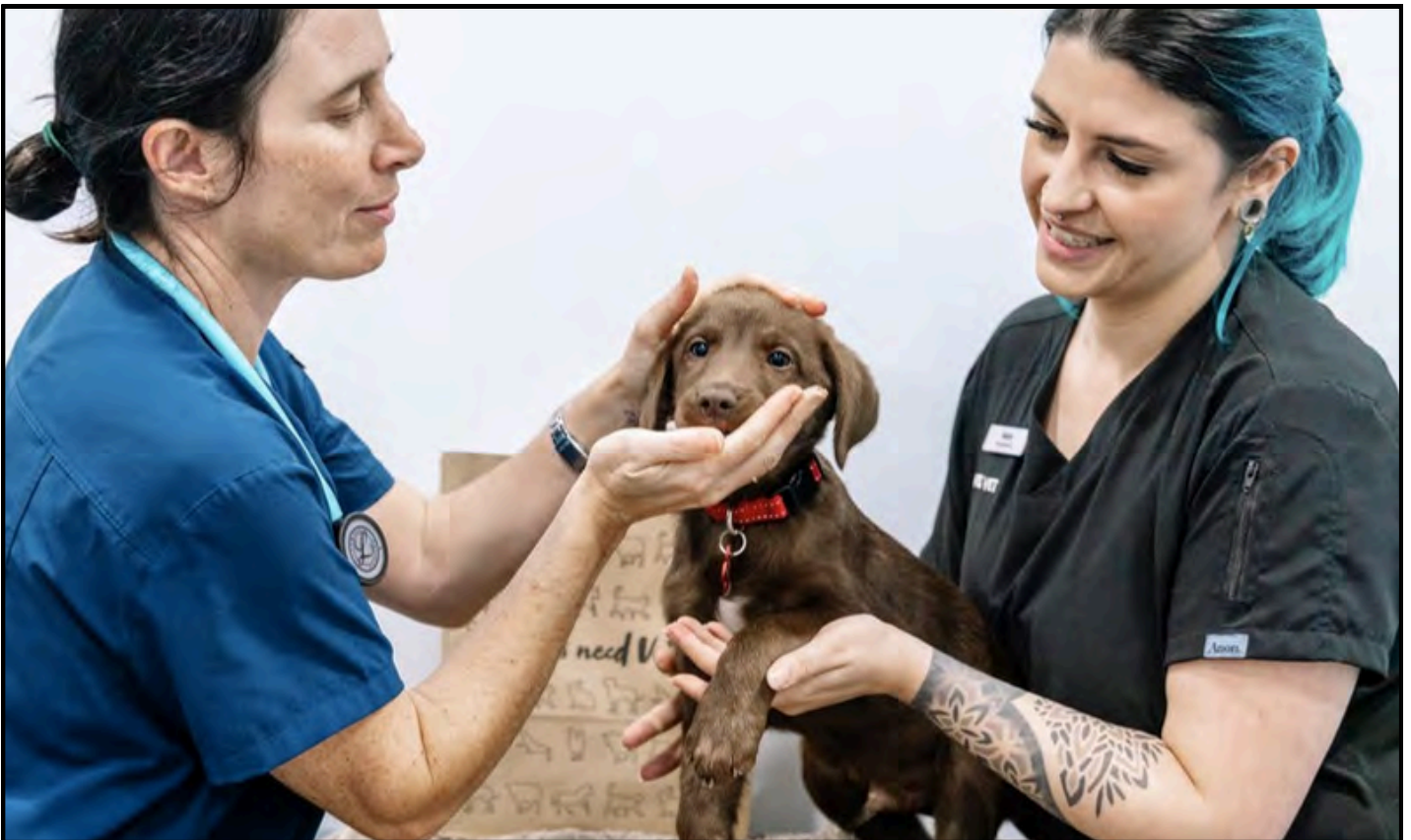


Intestinal worm infestations can cause vomiting & diarrhoea and even death in puppies. Roundworm, hookworm and tapeworm can also infect humans, so regular worming is essential.

Using an all-wormer tablet or chew like Milbemax will kill and prevent intestinal worms in puppies. Milbemax will also cover your puppy for heartworm & tapeworm when given every month.

When you first bring your new puppy home, they should be wormed immediately and then again ONE week later. From then, you should worm your puppy every TWO weeks until they are 12 weeks old.

Once puppies are 12 weeks old, they should be wormed every MONTH until they are 6 months old. After that, your dog will need a worming treatment every 3 months for life!



HEARTWORM

Heartworm is a parasite spread by mosquitoes and can cause death in dogs. Heartworm is difficult to treat but easy to prevent. Your dog should start treatment from 12 weeks of age for the rest of their life.

There are many forms of heartworm prevention available:



Combined monthly heartworm & intestinal worm tablets (e.g. Milbemax)



Combined monthly heartworm, intestinal worm & flea/tick flavoured chews (e.g. Nexgard spectra or Simparica Trio)



Combined monthly heartworm, intestinal worm & flea treatments that are topical applications applied to the skin on the back of the neck (e.g. Advocate) NOTE: these options do not cover your dog for ticks.



Annual heartworm injection for dogs over 6 months old (Proheart – this does not cover intestinal worms, just heartworm)



DOG PARASITE CONTROL

The table below compares the different parasite control options that our vet recommends, what they cover and how frequently you need to administer them

Product	Fleas	Ticks	Intestinal Worms	Heartworm	Tapeworm	Age/weight requirement	Frequency
Name: Simparica Trio Application: Flavoured chew	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	from 8 weeks old (over 1.3 kg)	Once a month
Name: Nexgard BRU Tick Application: Flavoured chew	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	from 8 weeks old (over 1.25 kg)	Once a month
Name: Bravecto Application: Flavoured chew	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	from 8 weeks old (over 2 kg)	Every 3 months
Name: Bravecto Application: spot-on	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	from 8 weeks old (over 2 kg)	Every 6 months
Name: Milbemax Application: Tablet	✗	✗	✓	✓ if given every month ✗ if given every 3 months	✗	from 2 weeks old (over 0.5 kg)	Once a month OR Every 3 months
Name: Proquinaxa (multiple brands available) Application: tablet	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	from 4 weeks old (over 2.5 kg)	Every 3 months
Name: Savesto Application: waterproof collar	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	from 7 weeks old (no minimum weight)	Every 6 months
Name: Bravecto-QUANTRA Application: vet injection	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	from 6 months old	Every 12 months
Name: DI-12 (Proheart) Application: Vet injection	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	from 6 months old	Every 12 months



DESEXING

Desexing removes the sexual urge from male & female dogs. In male dogs, desexing will help prevent your dog wandering, becoming territorial and limit aggressive tendencies (particularly important in a family setting).

Desexing reduces the risk of your male dog urine spraying/ marking. It will also remove the risk of certain medical problems like testicular cancer & benign prostate hyperplasia.

In female dogs it will prevent pregnancy and stop your dog coming into heat. It will also remove the risk of pyometra (a potentially deadly infection of the uterus) and reduce the risk of mammary cancers.

It is a legal requirement to have your dog de-sexed by 6 months old, and this is also the age we recommend de-sexing small – medium breed dogs. However, if you have a medium-large breed dog, waiting until your dog is fully grown (9-15 months of age, depending on the breed) is associated with reduced risk of cruciate disease and less urinary incontinence in females as they get older.

Your vet will need to add a note to the NSW Pet Registry or provide you with a delayed de-sexing certificate if you choose to delay the de-sexing of your dog after 6 months of age in order to avoid a fine.

Another important point to consider is that the length of surgery time and recovery time is longer as dogs get older, the cost is higher and there is a higher incidence of post-operative pain and complications.

Your vet will be more than happy to discuss all these details with you!

MICROCHIPPING & REGISTRATION

Microchipping and registering your pet is not only vital for reuniting lost pets with their owners, it is also a legal requirement in NSW! If a pet is ever lost and is handed in at a veterinary clinic or animal shelter a microchip scanner is passed over the animal to reveal the unique code. The vet or animal shelter can then refer to the database to identify the name, address and phone number of the owner, so they can be reunited.

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is injected under your pet's skin, usually on their back near the shoulders. Often breeders or rescue organizations will have already implanted a microchip in your pet before you take them home, but our vets will always double-check with a scanner if a microchip can be detected. If your pet is not yet microchipped, this can be done during a normal consultation at our clinic.

When a microchip is scanned (completely painless process, just a little beep!) a unique 15-digit number appears. This number should link to the NSW Pet Registry database and contain the owner's contact details. This statewide database is only accessible to vets and animal control council workers and your contact details will not be shared outside of these authorized people.

Often, we find owners have been told by a breeder that their new pet has been microchipped, which is true, but without the crucial step of adding your details to the NSW Pet Registry, that microchip is useless.

There have been many improvements to the NSW Pet Registry over the years to make life easier for pet owners. You can now pay your pet registration fees online and change your address or contact details through the Service NSW website [here!](#)





NUTRITION

When you first take your puppy home, do not be alarmed if they are not eating immediately.

It may take a day or so to settle in with the new surroundings.

If possible, for the first few weeks feed exactly the same food that the puppy was fed by the breeder or as advised by the pet shop.

Use the age and size guides on foods to determine which food is appropriate for your puppy. Puppies have different nutrient and energy requirements to adult dogs so should not be fed adult foods.

We stock Hills Science Diet puppy food - this diet is balanced nutritionally, which means they provide all the nutrition your dog will need. In addition to diet, dental hygiene is just as important for your dog as it is for you!

Talk with your veterinarian about the use of tooth brushing, dental treats, dental diets or dental water additives to keep their teeth and gums healthy.









EXERCISE GUIDELINES



Young dogs have endless energy and it can be tempting to take them out and "exercise it off". This can cause repetitive strain exercises and predispose puppies to orthopaedic conditions later in life.

Find activities that engage their mind more than their body, for example kongs, hide and eat etc.

-  Avoid repetitive strain and high impact exercise: eg jumping in and out of cars or on and off beds/high surfaces.
-  Avoid running on hard surfaces such as pavements/roads.
-  High impact/repetitive exercise should be avoided until your dog's growth plates close. Intact dog growth plates usually close by 14 months, desexed dogs can take up to 18-22months.
-  Avoid stairs.

Ask us about Puppy Schools!

Socialising your puppy at a young age is so important for promoting healthy behaviours around people and other dogs.

The best age to start socializing your dog is 8-12 weeks old.

For more information, give us a call on (02) 9983 9494.

