
De-sexing

It's recommended to de-sex all puppies that are not intended for breeding. De-sexing prevents some diseases including prostatic enlargement, perineal hernias, mammary gland cancer & uterine infections. De-sexing means that female dogs are less likely to want to roam around in search of male dogs & male dogs have less undesirable behaviours. A good age to de-sex your puppy is between 4 and 6 months of age.



Microchipping

It's the law for all puppies to be microchipped. This procedure is carried out by your veterinarian and can be done at the time of vaccination or de-sexing. It involves a needle that injects a microchip in between the shoulder blades under the skin of your puppy. In NSW the compulsory register is called the Companion Animal Register. At Orange Vet Hospital, animals are also registered with the Australian Animal Register. Having your puppy microchipped means they can be easily identified by a veterinary hospital or a pound should your puppy accidentally go missing. It is important that your contact details always be up-to-date so you can be contacted immediately. Once your pet has been microchipped they then must be registered with your local council by six months of age. Lifetime registration is available and is cheaper once your puppy has been de-sexed. All working dogs, by law must be microchipped & registered, although with proof of the dog being a working dog, the registration fee at the Orange City Council is free.

Puppy Preschool

The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are critical in terms of discouraging unwanted behaviours, teaching good behaviours and interacting with humans and other dogs. At Orange Vet Hospital we recommend puppy preschool for puppies under 4 months of age. There are four classes where they learn to socialise with other dogs which help to avoid anti-social behaviour in the future. Puppy preschool also teaches you, the owner, basic training techniques that will help your puppy fit into your household. Puppy classes are currently being run by Debbie Coleman, The Dog Lady at our hospital. Please enquire at reception or give us a call.



OPENING HOURS AT ORANGE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

MONDAY—FRIDAY

8.30AM-5.30PM

SATURDAY:

8.30AM-12PM

EMERGENCY HOURS 24/7 ON:
63618388



Caring For Your New Puppy



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www.facebook.com/orangevethospital



Congratulations!

Your new pup will be a lot of fun & will become an important member of your household. With this comes a big responsibility for their health & wellbeing. Good housing, lots of affection & plenty of appropriate play & attention are vital for the pup's progression to a healthy & enjoyable family pet. Here's some basic tips for helping with your puppy's health.

Vaccinations

Dogs require vaccination against a number of infectious diseases which can be fatal if contracted. Routine vaccinations include Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Kennel cough. Puppies need three vaccinations:

- First @ six weeks of age
- Second @ nine weeks of age
- Third @ 12 weeks of age

After these primary vaccinations, your pet will require an annual booster & health check. The first annual booster is 12 months after their final puppy vaccination.

Vaccinations are generally safe but occasionally dogs may react with a rise in temperature, soreness or depression within 24 hrs. With kennel cough vaccine, they may show some snuffling, sneezing or coughing for a few days. Notify your vet if your pup shows any reaction to the vaccine though usually no treatment is needed.



Intestinal Worming

A large number of puppies are born with intestinal worms that they get from their mother. So it is important they are wormed when young. You should worm your puppy every two weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until 6 months & then every 3 months for the rest of their life.



An exception is for dogs in rural or semi-rural areas that may have access to dead animals or are fed offal. These should be wormed every six weeks to prevent Hydatid tapeworm infection which causes no problem in dogs but is a serious health problem in people who pick up worm eggs from the dog.

Heartworm

Heartworm is not a problem in the immediate Orange area but dogs travelling out of the region, even for short periods, should be protected.

Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes & does not require dog-to-dog contact. A number of oral treatments & yearly injections for heartworm prevention are available & you should discuss these with your vet.



Fleas

Dogs are a natural host of fleas. Almost every untreated dog will have fleas. As well as being a nuisance & uncomfortable for your dog, young puppies can become anaemic from blood loss. Some dogs can have quite severe allergic reactions. In flea allergic dogs, even one flea bite can cause incessant scratching & biting at themselves & even hair loss. Several different products are available including washes, sprays & monthly spot-on formulations. Regular flea control is also important in preventing tapeworm infestations.



Diet

For optimum growth, your puppy's diet must be balanced with the right amount of energy &



nutrients. Premium diets are nutritionally balanced, come in different formulations for different sized dogs & make life a lot easier!



The most important thing is the total amount of food they are receiving each day, rather than the number of times they are fed. Feeding guidelines are found on the packaging of the food you buy. It's important to realise these are only guidelines & you may need to modify the amount of food your adult dog gets to maintain correct weight. Small to medium sized dogs should be fed a puppy food until they are around 12 months of age, while larger breed dogs should be fed a puppy formulation until they are 18 months & giant breeds until they are 2 years of age. It's a good idea to provide your puppy with whole raw bones such as shank or beef femurs to help clean their teeth. Your puppy will get the most benefit out of bones that they can't actually eat, like the ones they spend a lot of time gnawing at.

Your dog's physiology is much different to ours and many foods cannot be shared. These include chocolate, onion, garlic, grapes and cooked meat bones.

Socialising

Socialising your puppy with other dogs when they're young is an important part of their learning and behavioural skills. You can let your puppy socialise with other dogs that are healthy & fully vaccinated but they are only fully protected against infectious disease two weeks after their final vaccination. So it's best not to have your puppy be in contact with unknown dogs until then.

