
Desexing

It is recommended to desex puppies that are not intended for breeding. Desexing reduces health issues such as testicular infections, perineal hernias, pyometra, mammary gland cancer & uterine infections later in life. Desexing means that dogs are less likely to want to roam around in search of partners, & run into trouble. A good age to desex most puppies is between 4 and 6 months of age. You can discuss your individual puppies needs with your veterinarian.



Microchipping

By law, puppies must be microchipped before changing owners. This procedure is carried out by your veterinarian or our qualified nurses, 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 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 all puppies under 4 months of age. There are five lessons where puppies + people 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 qualified veterinary nurse, Bridget, 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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ORANGE NSW 2800

Phone: 02 63618388

Email: orangevet@orangevet.com.au

Website: www.orangevet.com.au

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 @ 6-8 weeks of age
- * Second vaccination 3 weeks later

* Final vaccination after 13 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 the kennel cough vaccine, they may show some snuffling, sneezing or coughing for a few days. Notify your vet if your pup shows any vomiting, diarrhoea, or other concerns for a reaction to the vaccine although usually no treatment is needed.



Intestinal Worming



Many puppies are born with intestinal worms from their mother, so worming is important especially when pups are 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 minimal problem in dogs but is a serious health problem in people who pick up worm eggs via the dog.

Heartworm + Paralysis Ticks

Heartworm and ticks are not known to be a problem in the immediate Orange area but dogs travelling out of the region like to the coast or Sydney, 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 to check your pet is protected.



Fleas

Dogs are a natural host of fleas. Many untreated dogs 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 chews, tablets, & 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 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 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.



Did you know? If you desex your dog, it will then need only 3/4 of its food as it did before desexing— to prevent excess weight gain.

Your dog's physiology is different to ours and some foods can't be shared, including chocolate, onion, garlic, grapes & 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 partially vaccinated 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 or dog parks until then.

