



Beech House Veterinary Surgery

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Welcome to Beech House Vets! This leaflet will give you some information about care of your puppy to help you through the first few months of ownership.

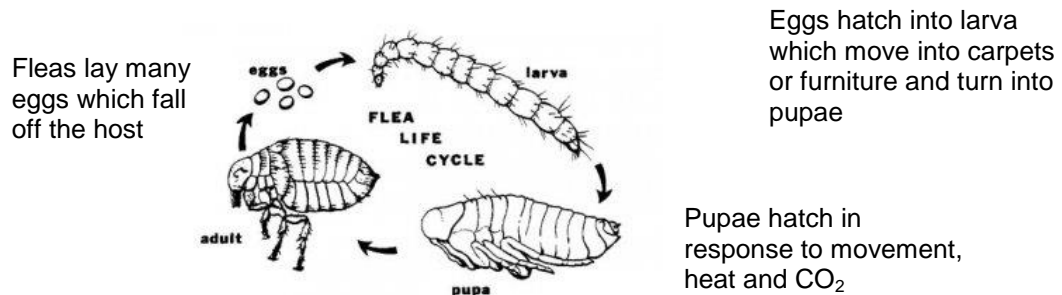
Your puppy is having his/her first vaccination today against the following diseases

- Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Parvovirus
- Parainfluenza
- Leptospirosis

He or she will then need a second vaccine in 3-4 weeks' time and will be protected one week after that. Booster vaccinations will be needed every year for life to maintain full immunity from these serious diseases. Our routine boosters do not include the Kennel Cough vaccine. Kennel cough is caught very easily from other dogs in any social situation, not just in kennels, and causes a mild to severe cough lasting 1-3 weeks. We recommend yearly vaccination against this disease, which we will be happy to do on request.

Fleas

Fleas are external parasites which live in the fur of animals and bite to feed on their blood. They are around 2mm long and can sometimes (but not always) be seen running through an animal's coat. They leave dark red, pinprick-sized droppings in the coat which can be detected by brushing through the fur with a flea comb onto a damp piece of white paper. Their life cycle is as follows:



This is important as it means that only 5% of any flea infestation is actually on your pet! Regular flea treatment ensures that any fleas which hatch in your pet's environment are killed before they can lay eggs. If flea treatment is missed or delayed then your dog will not be protected and the whole cycle can start again.

The movement and feeding of fleas can cause itching which ranges from mild to very severe. An affected animal will typically scratch or chew at the back of its neck and around the base of its tail. Severely itchy animals may have bald patches, scabs or scratches which can become infected and cause discomfort. Some animals can develop allergies to flea saliva so that only a few flea bites can set off severe itching.

Products we recommend for flea treatment include **STRONGHOLD**, **ADVOCATE** or **FRONTLINE**

Worms

There are different types of worms your puppy can get. Roundworms are the most common intestinal worms and are present in most puppies. They may cause weight loss, diarrhoea and lethargy. Tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms are less common and can also cause weight loss, diarrhoea, lethargy and anaemia. Treatment regimens vary depending on your dog's lifestyle but we usually recommend giving a wormer monthly until your puppy is 6 months old, then every 3-6 months afterwards. We recommend a product such as **MILBEMAX, DRONTAL** or **PANACUR**.

Insurance

We strongly recommend getting your dog insured. With advances in veterinary medicine we are able to provide higher quality medical care than ever before. Unfortunately there is no animal NHS and so all treatment has its costs.

There are a few different types of insurance available for pets so you can look around and find one which is right for you. We recommend getting your puppy insured with lifetime cover as many diseases (allergic skin disease, diabetes and hormonal diseases) will be for life. Be aware that any condition which is present before you take out insurance will not be covered for.

Diet

Puppies have small stomachs and need to eat little and often. They need a lot of energy for growing (and playing!). Your pet should be fed a good quality food made specifically for puppies, as these have the correct balance of minerals and energy levels that growing puppies need. A suggested feeding regime is:

6 - 12 weeks old – 4 meals a day
12 - 24 weeks old – 3 meals a day
24 weeks and older – 2 meals a day

Neutering

Male dogs

Neutering in male dogs is called castration, which is the surgical removal of both testicles. This is performed under a general anaesthetic, usually when the dog is over six months old. This is done to prevent or control behaviour such as aggression towards other male dogs, unwanted sexual behaviour such as roaming after females or 'humping', to prevent breeding, testicular tumours (which are very common in dogs) and some prostate conditions.

Female dogs (bitches)

Neutering in bitches is called spaying and is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus under a general anaesthetic. This is usually performed from six months old or 2-3 months after a season. The main reasons for spaying are as follows:

- Preventing unwanted litters
- Preventing uterus infections, known as pyometras – these are very common in unspeyed bitches, are very serious and often fatal if not treated.
- Reducing the likelihood of mammary tumours – the fewer seasons a bitch has, the less likely she is to develop tumours of the breast tissue.
- Preventing phantom pregnancies which can cause behavioural changes.

Microchip

The microchip is about 5mm long and is implanted under the skin by injection through a large needle. It contains a unique barcode which is registered in your name with the manufacturer. Should your dog become lost or stolen is scanned then the microchip will identify you as the owner.

Implantation of the microchip can be done at any age but is most commonly done at the second vaccination or at neutering. Microchipping at the second vaccination provides identification before your puppy starts going outside, but can be painful and may cause him or her to be scared of the vets. Waiting until neutering increases the risk of your pet not being returned to you should they become lost, but it is then performed under anaesthetic and so is painless.

Dental care

Dogs don't brush their own teeth like humans and so are very prone to the build-up of bacteria and tartar. This can lead to severe dental disease later in life, causing pain and halitosis. There are various treats and chews available to help prevent this but the best prevention is tooth brushing.

Step 1: Start by using a small amount of dog toothpaste and rubbing it on your dog's teeth to get him or her used to the feeling.

Step 2: Slowly and gently introduce a soft small toothbrush, lifting the lips and touching the back teeth with the toothbrush

Step 3: Once your dog is used to this, start gently brushing the teeth regularly.

Finally, here is a suggested timetable for your new puppy:

Age of puppy in weeks	Suggested event
8	1 st vaccination Flea + worm treatment
10	2 nd vaccination Microchip
12	Flea + worm treatment
14	
16	Flea + worm treatment
18	
20	Flea + worm treatment
22	
24	Neutering Microchip Flea + worm treatment