



## Puppy Care

Congratulations on the purchase of your new puppy! We know that caring for your puppy can be fun, but may also be frustrating, worrying and tiring. We hope that this advice sheet may answer some of your questions and concerns. If not, then please contact us at Vermont Value Vet (9873 1113).

### Vaccinations

All puppies require a course of injections. These vaccinations are normally given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age, with an annual booster each year for life. Vermont Value Vet recommends a C5 vaccine to protect your puppy from Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis and Parvovirus. The C5 also provides protection against Para-influenza virus and Bordatella Bronchiseptica which cause Kennel Cough. The vaccinations take approximately 7-10 days to stimulate a protective immune response, so we advise that you wait at least one week after the third vaccination before taking your puppy to the dog park. Some puppies may be sleepy for 24 hours after the vaccination. If you have a concern please contact the surgery.



### Heartworm

Heartworm is a parasite spread by mosquitos, NOT by other dogs. The risk of heartworm exists anywhere there are mosquitos, even during the winter months. The clinical signs of heartworm can take up to two years to present and by then the damage caused by the worm is permanent. Heartworm is easily prevented – but NOT by using routine all-wormer tablets. We recommend that you protect your puppy with a ProHeart Injection at the 12 week vaccination, with a booster ProHeart Injection at 6 months, 15 months and annually thereafter.

### Intestinal worming

Intestinal worms have a different lifecycle to heartworm. Intestinal worming should start at 2 weeks of age, and be performed every 2 weeks until your puppy is 12 weeks of age, then monthly until 6 months of age and then every 3 months thereafter. We recommend a good quality all wormer tablet such as Popantel.

### Flea control

Fleas affect puppies just like they do adult dogs and puppies should be protected from fleas as soon as possible. Fleas are a very important source of intestinal worms, and flea control is required to help prevent intestinal worms. There are excellent monthly topical treatments available which are very effective and completely safe for your puppy. We recommend you treat your puppy every month with Frontline Plus.

### Desexing

We advise the desexing of puppies from 4 – 6 months of age to minimise the risk of unwanted pregnancies, uterine infections and breast cancer in female dogs and aggression, testicular cancer and prostatic disease in male dogs. Desexing is very important for the lifelong health of your puppy.

At Vermont Value Vet we routinely give ALL our surgery patients an injection of pain relief and routinely send surgery patients home with 3 days worth of pain relief. It is our policy to try and ensure our patients have the least amount of discomfort possible.

### Dietary requirements

Puppies have unique dietary requirements, different to adult dogs. We strongly recommend that you feed a complete and balanced puppy diet. Premium puppy foods such as Hills Science diets or Eukanuba Puppy always state on the package that they are complete and balanced. A simple guideline to follow is to feed your puppy three times a day until 12 weeks of age then twice daily until 6 months of age. If you wish to provide your puppy with bones we suggest RAW chicken necks or wings at this young age. NEVER feed your puppy a cooked bone as they can splinter and cause major problems in their mouth and tummy.

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# VERMONT VALUE VET VETERINARY HOSPITAL

*"Affordable premium pet health care"*

## Registration

Registration of your puppy is vitally important. Registration can be arranged by contacting your local council.

Whitehorse Council 9262 6333

Maroondah Council 1300 882233

We advise that you fit your dog with a collar and tag.

If your pup does happen to wander the chance of recovery is much better for puppies registered and identified with a collar and tag.

## Microchipping

Microchipping is now mandatory for all owned dogs in Victoria. You must microchip your puppy in order to register with the local council. Microchipping provides lifetime proof of identification, is protection against theft and is crucial in reuniting you with your puppy if your puppy becomes lost. We register all microchips with [Central Animal Records](#)

## Puppy Pre-School

Your puppy needs a chance to play and learn with other dogs (and people!) between 6 – 16 weeks of age. This socialisation is important in the development of a friendly and social personality. We run puppy preschool here at the clinic on a Wednesday night as a four week course.

## Obedience Training

We recommend the following dog training and obedience clubs:

EASTERN SUBURBS OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB

(03) 9874 1432, (03) 9877 1528

CROYDON AND DISTRICT DOG OBEDICENCE CLUB

(03) 9723 7194

UPPER YARRA DOG TRAINING SCHOOL

(03) 5964 4756, 0407 046 865

IN HOME DOG TRAINING

(03) 9762 0900

BOROONDARA DOG TRAINING

(03) 9876 3361, 0413 230 104

## Grooming

For those puppies with longer coats clipping is recommended to maintain the coat condition. Vermont Value Vet has its own groomer. Melanie is available three days each week by appointment. Melanie is experienced in all dogs' styles and cuts. Booking is essential, and we recommend you call Melanie to discuss to best clip for your pup.

## Boarding

There are times when you may not be able to have your puppy with you, and you require safe, secure and friendly professional care for your pet.

We are pleased to recommend the following boarding facilities, and advise you to plan a visit to familiarise yourself and your puppy or dog before their stay.

PET AMIGOS

(03) 9720 0484

[www.petamigos.com.au](http://www.petamigos.com.au)

HOMESTEAD

(03) 9722 1202

[www.homesteadkennels.com.au](http://www.homesteadkennels.com.au)

WELLINGTON PARK

(03) 9752 7273

[www.wellingtonpark.com.au](http://www.wellingtonpark.com.au)

TOPDOG MINDERS

1800 867 364

[www.topdogminders.com](http://www.topdogminders.com)

Please contact us at Vermont Value Vet (9873 1113) if you have any questions or require further information regarding your puppy.

Vermont Value Vet

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