

Puppy info sheet

Vaccination

Puppies need a vaccination at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks and 16 weeks.

Your puppy should have received a C3 vaccination at 6-8 weeks before they came into your care by the breeder or rescue group. A C3 vaccination protects your pup from distemper, hepatitis, and parvovirus.

At 10-12 weeks your pup will receive a C5 vaccination with us. This is a C3 vaccination PLUS a squirt up the nose protecting them against canine cough. The C3 then needs to be boosted again at 16 weeks.

Socialisation between the ages of 6-16 weeks is extremely important however we do recommend keeping your pup away from high dog traffic areas where lots of dogs visit (taking particular care to avoid other dog's faeces as parvovirus is spread through faecal matter) until after the final vaccination.

After the first adult vaccination of a C5 at 15 months, our vaccines are registered for a 3-yearly C3 dose and a yearly kennel cough dose.

We also recommend considering vaccinating your pup for leptospirosis (a serious illness that can also affect people) particularly if there are rodents around your property or your pup swims regularly (other than at the beach) or drinks from puddles.

Ticks and Fleas

On the beautiful Central Coast, where we all love to live, unfortunately so do fleas and paralysis ticks. Fleas can become an ongoing irritation, at worst causing anaemia, transmission of other diseases and resulting in severe self-trauma and skin infection. Paralysis ticks are killers of dogs and cats and good prevention is essential for all our Beach and Bay pets.

Fleas and ticks have traditionally been a seasonal concern, however in the past few years we are seeing these become year-round parasites. Puppies are particularly susceptible to the effects of paralysis ticks and may also become very ill with severe flea infestations.

We advise year-round control for ticks and fleas using one of the many products available, via an oral or back-of-the-neck treatment.

Intestinal worms

Puppies need de-worming with an oral broad-spectrum intestinal wormer every fortnight until 12 weeks old, every month until 6 months old and every 3 months for the rest of their life.

We are happy to discuss products that will suit you and your family.

Heartworm

Heartworm is a mosquito-borne parasite that can cause heart failure and death in young, adult and geriatric dogs. It is important to provide good protection against this difficult to treat disease. Protection comes in either oral tablet form or as a yearly injection. At Beach and Bay Vet, we offer both options. An injection at 3 months old and a 6 month booster will provide consistent protection which is then continued as a yearly injection, usually given at the same time as the yearly vaccinations.

Microchipping

It is a legal requirement to register your pet with the council before 6 months of age. Microchipping may be done by the rescue group or breeder before you take home your new puppy, and transfer of ownership papers may need to be completed. We are happy to provide assistance with this at Beach and Bay Vet, or to insert microchips and provide the ownership paperwork if not already completed.

Desexing

At Beach and Bay Vet we are always happy to discuss the desexing procedure and its timing. Desexing can reduce the likelihood of certain medical conditions, reduce indiscriminate breeding and can help reduce the development of certain undesirable behaviours. We routinely desex between 5-6 months old, however recent studies have shown there may be some benefit on joint health in certain breeds if desexing is delayed until skeletal maturity (10-18 months old). Later desexing though does mean allowing female dogs to have one 'season' and male dogs to produce higher levels of testosterone (and associated behaviours) which may not be manageable for every household. We are always happy to discuss this in more detail with you to help you decide what the best option may be for your pet. *Please note if you decide to desex after 6 months of age, council charges a higher fee for registration. In discussion with your veterinarian you may be eligible for a formal letter to council from the clinic to reduced late desexing registration fees. This letter needs to be written before your pet reaches 6 months of age.*

Diet

To ensure the safety and health of growing puppy bones, the correct calcium and phosphate ratio must be provided in their diet. The simplest way to ensure this is happening for your pup is to feed a good quality commercial food that is identified as being for puppies.

If you wish to feed a home-cooked diet the correct balance of nutrients and minerals required for growing puppies must be strictly adhered to so to avoid any deficiencies and potential bone malformations or fractures.

Socialisation

Perhaps the most important part of owning a puppy is providing appropriate socialisation. For your new pup to grow into a comfortable, confident and happy dog, their early experiences with other dogs, other animals, children and adults need to be safe and positive.

Puppy school is an excellent way to give your pup the best start in this area, creating a safe and structured environment with a trained professional to intervene where necessary. Puppy school is the best way of ensuring your pup is not exposed to any diseases while they are still susceptible while familiarising them with interacting with different dogs and humans. Beach and Bay Vet offers a great 4-week puppy school, or we are happy to discuss other local options if our class times don't work for you.

Pet Insurance

Pet insurance can help provide your pet with gold-standard care while reducing the costs associated. It may also mean you have the option to access specialist care for complicated accidents, illnesses or injuries and/or provide treatments for chronic illnesses such as skin disease, ear infections, hormonal or metabolic diseases that can be long-term high costs which are essential for keeping your pet healthy. A thorough investigation of which insurance options suit you and your family is advisable as many different levels are available through different providers.

Keep in touch with our team at Beach and Bay Vet by finding and liking/following us on **FACEBOOK** or **INSTAGRAM**
#beachandbayvet