

Puppy Healthcare

The first few months of your puppy's life are very important for both them and you, their owner. It is an ideal time to make sure you will have a happy, healthy dog that settles in well in your family and home for a long time to come.

We discuss general recommendations here; specific recommendations for your puppy will be noted on the report card overleaf with your vet.

Settling into your home

Your puppy may miss their mum for the first few days; giving them a teddy and some blankets can make them feel more secure. We recommend crate training your puppy so they have a safe place to call their own in your home. We find it also helps with toilet training – just ask us for some more information on crate training.

Socialisation is a vital part of the development of your puppy's future behaviour. They learn good and appropriate behaviour at an early age by observing how others (dogs and humans) around them react and through training. Exposing them to lots of different people, places, noises and other pets at a young age will result in a well-rounded and confident adult.

Nutrition

Good quality food is important for all dogs. Excellent nutrition lays the building blocks of good health for later life. Puppy diets are specially formulated to contain correct nutrients in the right balance to promote growth.

There are lots of different brands and types of food available. Dry food is better than tinned food for your puppy in the long term so start as you intend to continue! Dry food helps to maintain healthy teeth and it is more concentrated so it is easier on the pocket in the long run! We recommend feeding a good quality brand such as Specific, Hills, Royal Canin or Propac.

Worming advice

Most puppies are born with worms that they get from their mother before being born and from their mother's milk. We advise regular worming every 2 weeks until the age of 3 months and then every

month until 6 months old. Pups over 6 months old and adults should be wormed at least every 3 months.

Picking up your puppy's poos reduces the amount of worms in the environment. Roundworms also pose a risk to humans, especially children. Regular worming and regular hand-washing are the best ways to reduce this risk.

Flea & tick treatments

Controlling fleas and other ectoparasites (parasites that live on the skin) is important from a young age. Parasites can cause serious disease in dogs, and some of the bugs can also be passed to other animals and even to people. Please ask which treatment is best for your puppies as not all treatments are safe to use in small pups.

Vaccination

We recommend a course of 2 or 3 vaccinations, given 4 weeks apart, starting from 6-8 weeks of age. This means your puppy will be protected from serious diseases such as Parvo, Distemper and Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) as effectively as possible. Remember that your puppy is not fully protected until 2 weeks after his or her last puppy vaccination. Please see the vaccination information leaflet for more details.

Microchipping

Microchipping is a permanent and reliable way of identifying your puppy. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice which is implanted under the skin at the back of the neck. The microchip remains there for life and when scanned it produces a unique identification number. This number, when entered into a secure database, is registered to your phone number and address so you and your puppy can be reunited! Don't forget to update your details if you move house or change phone number. When you get a new puppy make sure to change the ownership with the microchipping company.

Neutering

Neutering of both male and female dogs has lots of advantages and usually can be done from 5 months of age. For more information on neutering please read the Spay Aware Q&A sheet or just ask us!

Opening Hours:

Phone: **(0504) 51165**

Email: **borrisvets@hotmail.com**

Find us on Facebook

9:00 – 6:00 Monday – Friday

9:00 – 1:00 Saturdays

Consultations by appointment

Niamh O'Toole MVB

Kathleen Walsh MVB

Conor Morkan MVB