



# Some HELPFUL Hints Towards A Healthy Puppy

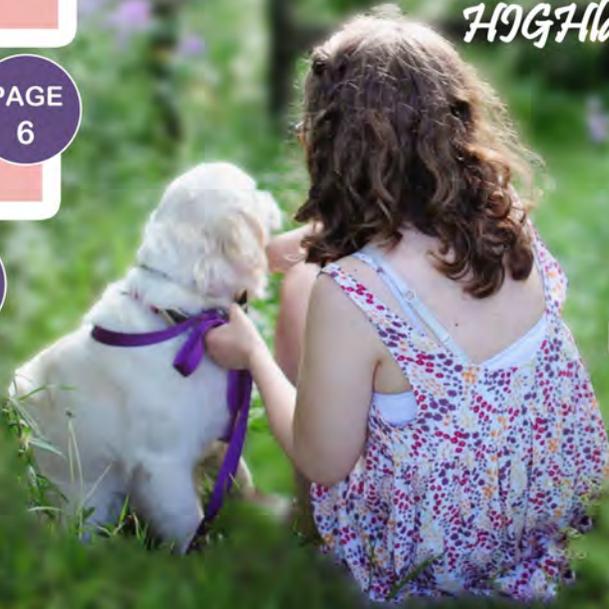
From  
*HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital*

Everything your puppy needs from worming, to flea/tick control, heartworm and desexing in a simple, affordable monthly budget - ask about our **Puppy Value Plans.**

**GROOMING**  **PAGE 2**

**EXERCISE**  **PAGE 6**

**DIET**  **PAGE 4**



## INTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL (Bowel Worms)

Worm all puppies at 1, 2, 3,4,6,8 and 10 weeks with *Wormban* or *Canex Puppy Syrup*.

Then worm again at 12, 16 and 20 weeks using *Drontal* or *Canex Multi*.

It is important to worm puppies to keep them healthy and also to prevent transmission of worms to members of the family.

Adult dogs must be wormed every 3 months (with the change of the season). Pregnant bitches need doing every three weeks during pregnancy and lactation.

## EXTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL

Use only *Epi-soothe*, or a specialised *Puppy Shampoo*, on puppies under 12 weeks of age. Many preparations which are fine to use on adult dogs, can be very harsh

on a puppy's delicate skin, so are best avoided. It is best not to use 'Wool Wash' or human shampoo on a dog of any age, as this can cause undue drying and irritation of the skin, and provides no flea protection at all.

If you wish to wash your puppy regularly, then convert to an adult dog preparation at 12 weeks of age and use it every one to two weeks. Remember, with shampoos you pay for what you get. The more expensive the product, generally the better it is and the better it will be for your pup's skin and coat. During summer you may find that bathing your pet in a flea control shampoo will not control fleas adequately. You will need to use another product in combination with your shampoo.

Longer acting flea preventatives such as '*Advantage*' (lasts up to 4 weeks), '*Bravecto*' (lasts 3 months) are easy to use and very effective. They are guaranteed products, so they will work! Alternatively you can use monthly '*Interceptor*' or '*Sentinel*' tablets. '*Nexgard*' is another great monthly choice.

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## GROOMING

Different breeds of dog have different coat types and hence, differing requirements for coat care, so generalization is difficult. Some important guidelines include:

- Frequency of care – It is better to spend a few minutes regularly than many hours sporadically grooming your dog. To keep yourself motivated ensure you have some suitable grooming tools and choose a time you can assign to the regular care of your dog's coat
- Train your pup from an early age with regular grooming for short periods followed by a reward. This will usually result in complete cooperation and real enjoyment of grooming throughout your dog's life. It is also a good idea to handle your pup's feet, ears, and mouth at this time so he will more readily accept nail clipping, ear cleaning and plucking, or having his teeth brushed if this becomes necessary at a future time.
- Before acquiring a new dog, contemplate grooming requirements of that breed and the time demands placed on you.

## HEARTWORM

A very dangerous and potentially fatal disease which is carried from dog to dog by mosquitoes. It is very easy to prevent this horrible problem by the use of monthly 'Heartgard' (a scrumptious 'chewable' treat), 'Sentinel', or 'Interceptor' tablets. My personal recommendation though is Once-A-Year 'ProHeart SR 12' injection to prevent Heartworm. This product is excellent, and is just like a yearly vaccination against Heartworm. The investment is much the same as for 12 months of preventative tablets.

Please ensure that your pet's preventative program is commenced before six months of age.

If your puppy is over six months of age, then please consult with us before commencing any form of heartworm prevention. A simple blood test will be necessary first.

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## COUNCIL REGISTRATION

All dogs must be registered with the local council by 6 months of age. Registration needs to be performed once only, as the NSW Companion animals act has introduced 'lifetime' registration. This registration will travel with your dog, even if you move to another area of NSW! Your puppy must be micro-chipped before being registered. Most breeders will organize this for you, prior to delivery of your puppy. If not- this must be done right away. If your pet is desexed, registration is much cheaper than for a non-desexed pet.

## DESEXING

DOGS - desexed dogs are more docile, easier to train and make better family pets. Remember, all 'Guide Dogs' are desexed. Desexing also prevents prostate disease – a common problem in males. Have your pet desexed before 6 months of age and before any unwanted bad behaviour commences.

BITCHES - unless you are intent on breeding, there is no valid reason not to desex your bitch at about 6 months of age. Unwanted puppies can be difficult to sell and pregnancies can be a costly exercise. Having a bitch 'on heat' can be quite testing too, with plenty of unwanted visitors. Desexing also eliminates the risk of uterine infections (pyometra) and decreases the risk of 'breast cancer.'

Statistically desexed male and female dogs live one to two years longer than undesexed pets.

Council makes it cheaper to register sterilized dogs and bitches- do it now.

**Recent studies have shown that it is quite safe to desex both males and females from as early as SIX (6) weeks of age. We commonly perform this procedure at this age and find that these young puppies recover much more quickly post-surgically than their older counterparts.**



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## DIET - WATER

It is essential that all dogs be fed a balanced diet (see us for more details). Puppies should be fed a specified puppy preparation. Do not feed dogs raw offal - (except those listed below). Do not feed any cooked bones or fish bones. Any other raw bone is great. Feeding raw chicken wings, drumsticks or necks is a great way for puppies (and adult dogs) to 'floss' their teeth.

It is important that raw bones and raw, chewy meat is fed from a very early age, so that puppies 'learn' how to chew, rip and tear their food. Trying to teach a three year old dog how to eat raw meat can be very difficult. Suggestions include beef and lamb heart, ox cheeks and tongue.

Calcium supplements are only necessary in the large and giant breeds or in dogs that are fed a lot of meat or an unbalanced diet.

Remember to always provide your puppy plenty of fresh clean water, and change its supply each day. After your pup is weaned from its mother, it is unnecessary to give it milk. Cow's milk should be avoided.

## MICROCHIPPING

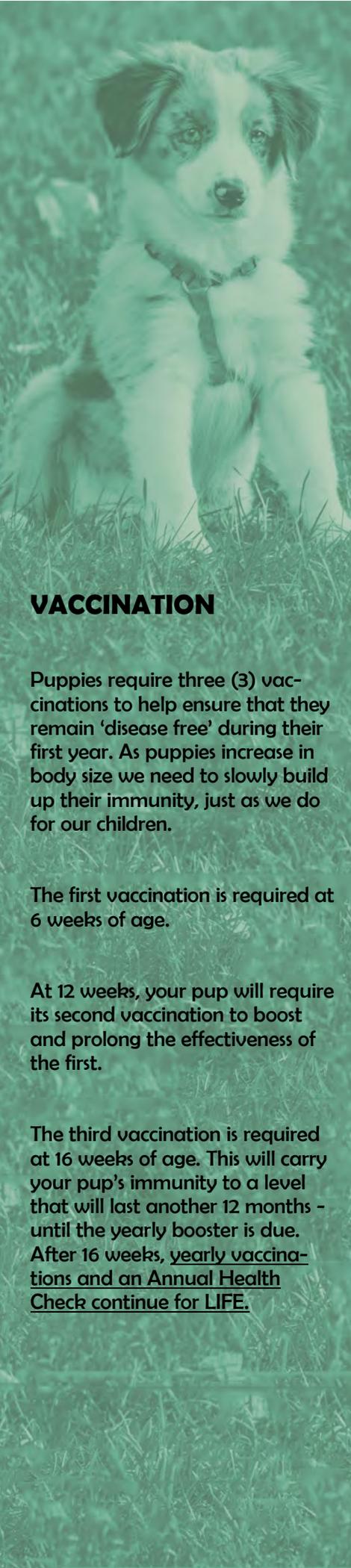
Time and again pets are lost from home never to be recovered because they can't be adequately identified. The use of a 'Microchip' (as small as a grain of rice) which is injected under the skin and acts as a permanent record of identification, makes it possible for all lost or stolen pets to be returned to their owner. Registration is on a state-by-state basis and can't be altered or removed. The once off cost is less than that of yearly vaccination.

In NSW, microchipping is compulsory for all cats and dogs (at 1<sup>st</sup> change of ownership).

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## VACCINATION

Puppies require three (3) vaccinations to help ensure that they remain 'disease free' during their first year. As puppies increase in body size we need to slowly build up their immunity, just as we do for our children.

The first vaccination is required at 6 weeks of age.

At 12 weeks, your pup will require its second vaccination to boost and prolong the effectiveness of the first.

The third vaccination is required at 16 weeks of age. This will carry your pup's immunity to a level that will last another 12 months - until the yearly booster is due. After 16 weeks, yearly vaccinations and an Annual Health Check continue for LIFE.



## TRAINING AND PUPPY PARTIES

Our kids go to pre-school and kindergarten for early socialization and learning. We need to do the same for our puppies. The first 16 weeks of life is crucial in determining a dog's future personality and behaviour. Puppy Pre-School typically runs for an hour and a quarter, once a week for four weeks between the ages of 6 and 16 weeks. It's an absolutely brilliant way to start off on the right paw for your PUPPY.

Studies have shown that on average, puppies that have been through some form of Puppy Pre-School are 'better' family pets than those that do not attend such classes.

These classes are also great in teaching kids and the new pet owner just how to best look after and train their new pet.

For the more dedicated, there are also on-going obedience classes. Adolescent adventures, Canine Good Citizen, Nose-Work and Clicker Training.

We recommend Carmeline Scheenen (0403019747) or Totally Pawsable 0403770177



## EXERCISE

Like all of us, your puppy requires regular daily exercise, not too much at first, gradually building up to unlimited exercise by 12 months of age. Both too little and too much exercise can be harmful.

## DENTISTRY

Although rare in wild dogs, gum disease associated with the buildup of plaque on teeth is one of the most common complaints seen in domestic dogs and cats.

If your dog is over 18 months of age then there is an 8 in 10 chance that YOUR pet will have gum and teeth disease. This can lead to subsequent heart, lung and kidney damage.

It is very important to look after your dog's teeth throughout his/her lifetime. Dogs can develop exactly the same dental problems that we do. So, regular dental exercise and the use of cleaning bones, rawhide strips, beef or lamb heart, ox-cheeks, brisket are a great aid in preventing this problem. In some dogs weekly brushing (with a special doggy toothbrush) may be necessary. There are some fantastic preventative dental diets made by 'Hills' and 'Royal Canin'.

Unless puppies are taught how to chew, rip and tear, and how to 'FLOSS' their teeth at an early age, they never learn how to do this properly. So it is important to introduce cubed raw meat, chew toys and other similar objects from a very early age. I'm sure that you would prefer 'Fido' to 'brush' his/her own teeth – rather than you having to do this on a daily basis for your pet!

**The single most common reason for pets not living to their full life expectancy is because of dental disease. And this problem is easily preventable with a minimal of care and attention when using the correct strategies.**

We are PASSIONATE about dental care – if you have any questions or queries – just holler!

BTW - Puppies have baby teeth just like kids do - so don't panic whilst these teeth are falling out between 8 weeks and 7 months of age.

## PEDICURE

If your puppy does not exercise regularly on hard surfaces, then nail trimming will be necessary. If you make a small donation to 'The Guide Dogs' or 'Bali Pet Crusaders', then we are only too happy to do this for you for FREE.

We have various types of nail trimmers available and can show you how you can easily perform this procedure yourself at home.



## HOUSING

Young pups cannot maintain body temperature as well as adult dogs do. Housing should be clean, dry and warm.

It should also be draft free yet allow for adequate ventilation. Bedding should be changed daily, or immediately if dirty.

A pup should be housed in a place that allows for frequent interaction with the human members of the household.

Also remember to start as you intend to finish. In other words outside dogs should become outside dogs as soon as you get them home – whilst pets that are going to be inside dogs should immediately have the run of the house.



**Remember your pet is a luxury so look after him/her to the best of your ability and you will be repaid in kind.**

**If you have any questions (no matter how slight they may seem), we are only a phone call away and always happy to be of service.**

At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, we know that your greatest concern is "Am I doing everything possible to assure my Pet's best opportunity for Good Health and Long Life?" At HIGHlands we have written policies, procedures and standards in place to ensure that the answer to this question is "Yes!" It's all part of Our Team Commitment To You.

JOIN THE FAMILY: ENJOY THE FREEDOM

