

Castle Hill Veterinary Hospital's comprehensive guide to health and ultimate well-being for your new puppy.



- Vaccination
- Parasite Control
- Microchip Registration
- Desexing
- Training & Socialising

- Diet & Dental Care
- Insurance
- Annual Health Checks
- Puppy Checklist



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Puppy Health Care Information

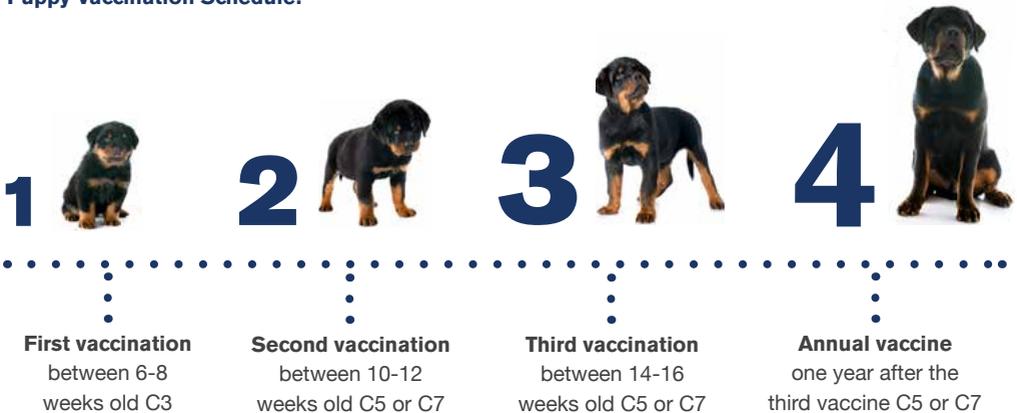
As pet lovers ourselves, we are very excited to meet your new puppy and welcome them to our family at Castle Hill Veterinary Hospital. We believe every visit to the vet should be an enjoyable experience for you and your furry friend.

This booklet provides you with important information and a checklist guide of recommended veterinary care.

Vaccinations

Dogs need to be vaccinated at every age. Vaccines help prevent animals from contracting life-threatening diseases by stimulating your pet's immune system. At Castle Hill Veterinary Hospital, a C5 vaccine is administered, which consists of a C3 and KC vaccine. C3 is a group of vaccines combined in one injection and protects dogs against distemper, parvovirus and infectious hepatitis. The KC component will protect puppies against respiratory diseases and kennel cough, commonly caused by the parainfluenza virus and bordetella. We may also suggest a C2i vaccine to cover your dog against leptospirosis.

Puppy Vaccination Schedule:



Your puppy will not be fully protected from disease until 10-14 days after the final booster.

Annual health checks

Pets age much more quickly than we do. After one year, your pet will be equivalent to 5-10 years older, and a lot of changes can occur in their bodies over this time. Minor problems can often go unnoticed at home until they become more serious. Most problems can be successfully treated if they are recognised early. With every vaccination, a full examination is provided, which allows you to discuss any concerns you may have with the vet.

Puppy Health Care Information

Parasite control

Heartworm is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. It causes damage to a dog's heart and lungs and can be fatal. We recommend protection via a once a year injection called Pro-Heart. Its sustained-release formula ensures a full 12-month protection for adult dogs. It is an injection administered by your vet and eliminates the need to remember monthly heartworm tablets.

In growing puppies, an injection at 12 weeks of age and a second at six months of age is required. After the second injection, it is a yearly booster that can be combined with their annual vaccination and check-up. There are monthly preventatives available if preferred. Please discuss with the veterinary staff, and they can work out the best protocol for you.



Intestinal worms

Hookworm, roundworm and tapeworms are one of the most common causes of serious illness in puppies. Intestinal worms are spread via dog faeces and can be picked up anywhere from the backyard to the dog park. Regularly worming your dog is advised, not just for the health of your pet, but to help protect you and your family from the potentially harmful effects of parasites. Intestinal worms are zoonotic so can be transmitted to people either through eggs found in soil or dogs' faeces.



Fleas

Fleas are one of the most problematic parasites in the world, with the ability to cause skin disease and allergic reactions.

Flea treatments must be used all year round to effectively prevent and control flea infestations. Please check the label carefully when you buy a new flea treatment or prevention product. Some products are safe for dogs but are toxic to cats. If in doubt, please consult with one of our team who will be happy to advise you.

Ticks

Ticks are small, blood-sucking insects related to spiders. Whilst only tiny, they are one of the most dangerous parasites affecting domestic pets. Ticks are more prevalent in Spring and Summer, but they are an all year round risks for your pet.

There are many species of the tick, but the one of most concern is the paralysis tick. The paralysis tick is generally grey in colour and will cause severe illness and often death if not treated.

Ticks normally attach themselves to our native animals like possums and reptiles with no ill effects on them, so if you have any of this wildlife living in your area, chances are there will be ticks.

A tick can attach to your dog whilst going on a walk or snooping through the garden. Once attached to your pet, the tick will produce a potent toxin that affects the animal's nervous system and causes progressive paralysis that starts with the hind legs that, if untreated, will lead to death.

Always check for ticks on your dog and make sure they are on year-round prevention for ticks such as Bravecto.

Puppy Health Care Information

Registration and Microchip

Your new puppy must be registered on the NSW Pet Registry by the time it is six months old. Registration is valid for the lifetime of the pet. You can register your pet and pay the one-off fee online through your MyServiceNSW account. Discounted registration fees apply to desexed dogs.

Your dog needs to be microchipped for it to be registered. Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted beneath the animal's skin between the shoulders. The microchip contains a unique number that helps in identification if the animal is lost or stolen. In NSW, all cats and dogs must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away, whichever happens first.

Desexing

There are many health and behavioural benefits to desexing dogs. Spaying a female dog will stop periodic cycles and bleeding. It will also reduce the risk of pyometra (infection of the uterus) and mammary and ovarian cancer. The earlier they are spayed, the less the risk, especially if before the first cycle. Castrating a male dog will reduce the risk of testicular and prostate cancer. It may also reduce the chance to learn behaviours that are related to adult sexual behaviour, such as being territorial, roaming and excessive urine marking.

Council regulations require puppies to be desexed by six months of age unless the veterinarian deems otherwise. If desexed after six months, you will incur a yearly fee from the council.

Diet

The basis of your puppy's diet should be a high-quality premium commercial puppy food that provides the correct amount of nutrients that is appropriate for their life stage and health status.

You should provide your puppy with three small meals per day up until desexing. From then we recommend feeding twice daily so your dog can use the energy throughout the day to help reduce the potential of weight gain after desexing.

Premium foods like Royal Canin and Hills have appropriate dry foods for every breed. Select the correct feeding guideline on the package and come in for regular weight checks to maintain the health of your pet.

Dental care

Dental disease is the most common health condition affecting pets, with 80% of dogs experiencing some level of dental disease by the age of three.

We recommend a diet of dry food in combination with brushing teeth and oravet dental chews (from 6 months) from a young age that can delay the signs of dental disease.

It is essential that good dental care for your pet is made a priority, as tartar, plaque, and gingivitis can cause health issues in an aging pet.



Puppy Health Care Information

Training and socialising

Puppies go through a critical socialisation period from 6 to 16 weeks of age.

Puppy preschool is an ideal way to socialise puppies at this age because all the pups attending classes have started their vaccination program, and the sessions are moderated by a dog trainer who ensures the puppies not only learn obedience but also how to play with others. Ask our friendly team at reception for more information about our puppy school and our doggy daycare.

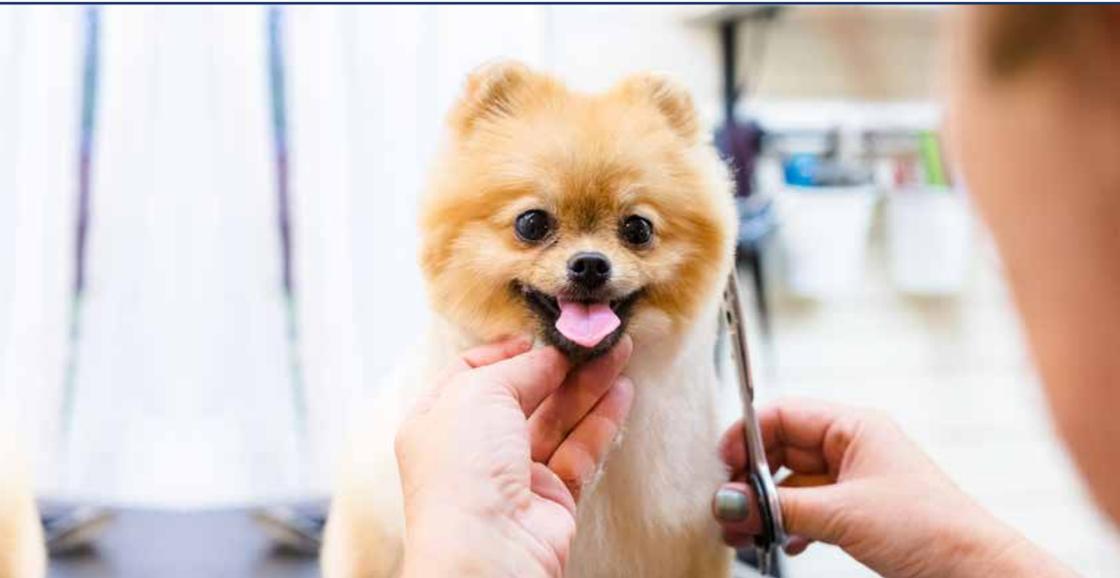
Grooming

During the puppy stage, regular touching of their face, ears and feet will help your puppy get used to general exams, grooming and nail clipping. Grooming your pet every 8-12 weeks to maintain their hair (for long-haired dogs) helps them become accustomed to the grooming process. Brushing often in between grooming appointments to keep their hair knot-free is also required for short-haired dogs to maintain their coat for shedding.

Insurance

Unlike the human healthcare system, there is no government funding available for veterinary treatment. We recommend taking up pet insurance as it can help to cover the costs if your dog becomes seriously ill or has an accident. There are many different policies available to suit your needs, including cover for illness and injury, routine care and emergencies.

Starting your pet insurance whilst your pup is young will help cover them before any ailments are considered pre-existing.



Puppy Health Care Information

8 Weeks Old

- 1st Puppy Vaccination
- Intestinal Worming
- Enrol in Puppy School
- Start Pet Insurance

10 Weeks Old

- Intestinal Worming

12 Weeks Old

- 2nd Puppy Vaccine
- Intestinal Worming
- 1st Pro-heart injection
- Bravecto 3 month chewable

16 Weeks Old

- 3rd Puppy Vaccine
- Intestinal Worming

18 Weeks Old

- Intestinal Worming
- Book for Desexing

6 Months Old

- Intestinal Worming
- Bravecto chewable
- 2nd Pro-heart injection
- Health check

9 Months Old

- Intestinal Worming
- Bravecto chewable

1 Year Old

- Intestinal Worming
- Bravecto chewable

16 Months Old

- Annual Check Up
- Annual Vaccination
- Annual Pro-heart injection
- Intestinal Worming
- Bravecto chewable

Bravecto and Intestinal worming are required every three months for life.

The other suitable regimen for parasite control is giving Nexgard spectra monthly plus an additional tapeworm tablet.



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