

During your visit today, your puppy has had a thorough health check & we would have discussed any health problems with you. We look forward to continuing to assist you in the upbringing of your pet & are always, only too pleased to help with any queries, either in person or over the phone.

To help, we have enclosed a number of brochures with useful information & below is a short summary of the most important points to ensure a healthy & happy puppy.

VACCINATIONS - Your puppy has probably already had its first vaccination. It is important that the booster vaccine is given 3-4 weeks later, otherwise full protection may not be achieved & the course may need to start again. Annual booster vaccinations are recommended to ensure optimum protection. The clinic will send you out a reminder for this. The vaccination schedule is listed below:



	Parvo	Distemper	Hepatitis	Respiratory disease	Kennel cough*	Leptospirosis
6 weeks	x	x	x	x		
9 weeks	x	x	x	x		x
12 weeks	x	x	x	x	x	x
Every year	x	x	x	x	x	x

If you need to go away & board your dog in kennels, they will need to see an up to date vaccination certificate. *Most kennels require your dog to be vaccinated for kennel cough within 6 months of boarding.

Please remember, that until a week after the final vaccination is given at 12 weeks of age, your puppy is still potentially susceptible to contracting diseases such as parvovirus. For this reason it is important to keep your puppy away from public places such as beaches & parks until the vaccination schedule is complete.

As socialisation is important at this young age, if you have friends with vaccinated dogs get them to bring their dog over so the two can interact.

LEADS & COLLARS

As many public areas require dogs to be on leads, get them used to wearing a collar from a young age. Also put a phone number on it. That way should your puppy go missing you have a much greater chance of finding them again.



FLEAS - There are a large number of flea treatments available. We have found **FRONTLINE PLUS** & **ADVANTAGE** to be far superior to products such as flea collars & flea powders etc. Both of these products can be easily applied with just a few drops on the back of the neck & are safe to use from a very young age. The flea season can last from September to May in Auckland. As a single female flea can lay up to 1,000 eggs in 3 weeks, you can see how easily a flea problem can develop. We also have **Advantage Multi** available, this is applied the same as advantage, but will also treat your dog for roundworm. For more details on flea control, see the enclosed brochures or ask our staff.

FOOD - The choice of dog food can be somewhat bewildering with the huge range available. We feel it is important to feed your dog a high quality food. A puppy formula should be fed to start with, changing to an adult formula at around one year of age. We tend to recommend biscuits as the basis of the diet as this provides a significant benefit for dental health. It can be fed as the sole diet. However there is nothing wrong with adding some tinned food or fresh meat or left overs for variety.



We have enclosed a sample of **ADVANCE GROWTH FORMULA** for you to try. This is an example of one of pedigree's premium range of pet foods. For further advice on feeding, our staff will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

DESEXING - While this is a personal decision, most people will have their dog neutered. For females it avoids having to manage them coming into season every 6 months & prevents unwanted pregnancy. While for males it can help to reduce aggression, roaming & other antisocial behaviour. This surgery is usually performed at around 6 months of age & only requires a day stay in the hospital.

Microchipping - From the 1st July 2006 all newly registered dogs will be required to be microchipped. A small microchip the size of a grain of rice is inserted under the skin where it can be read by a reader. This is generally a painless procedure and can be performed at the time of vaccination. This identification means should your dog go missing and is found, there is a foolproof way of reuniting them with you.



WORMING – We recommend that all puppies are wormed every 3-4 weeks until 6 months of age, then every 3-4 months as an adult. There are many different worming products on the market. When purchasing worming products, ensure that you use one that provides broad spectrum cover including round worm & tape worm.



We recommend **CANEX CHEWABLE** or **DRONTAL DOG WORMER** as the most effective. These are both available from the clinic without a consultation. If you already have an adult pet at home, now is a good time to bring them up to date with their worming.

GROOMING – It is a good idea to start grooming your puppy from the time you bring it home, particularly if it is long haired. This will get it used to it at a young age. Our staff would be happy to advise on the right sort of comb or brush for your puppy.

SHAMPOOS – How often should I shampoo my dog? With modern shampoos it is very hard to over wash your dog, so the answer is as often as necessary. Once a month may be fine for an adult dog, puppies however seem to get dirty quicker (I wonder why?) & can be washed as necessary to keep them smelling nice. Remember to use a good quality dog shampoo, as canine skin is different to human skin in a number of respects. We often recommend a good quality general purpose shampoo such as **DERMALEEN** or **DERMCARE NATURAL** to start with.

INSURANCE – With the advances in modern veterinary medicine & surgery available to help your pet in a crisis, we are recommending pet insurance as an excellent way of allowing you to make decisions for your pets health based on medical reasons rather than financial ones. Please see the enclosed brochure or ask the staff for more information on this subject.



UNITEC VETERINARY HOSPITAL has been operating as a full time veterinary hospital since 1995. Established as part of the veterinary nursing course at UNITEC it provides a high quality teaching environment for students as well as top quality medical & surgical facilities to the general public.

All veterinary procedures are carried out by experienced veterinarians. The presence of students means we can provide a higher level of “hands on care”. As part of our commitment to you, UNITEC Veterinary Hospital is one of only a handful of New Zealand Veterinary Association accredited clinics in Auckland.

Our opening hours are
8:00am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 12:00pm Saturday

For consultation or advice
please phone
849-2045



BESTPRACTICE™
New Zealand Veterinary Association

UNITEC VETERINARY HOSPITAL



**CONGRATULATIONS
ON GETTING
YOUR NEW PUPPY!**

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