



THE BARRACKS
VET SURGERY
MOSMAN

YOUR NEW PUPPY

Congratulations on acquiring your newest family member and welcome to The Barracks Vet Surgery. We hope the following information assists you in raising a happy and healthy dog.

Nutrition

The type of food chosen for your puppy is vital to their development. A premium quality food serves as complete nutrition - without excesses or deficiencies - and will give your puppy the best possible start in life. A premium diet should be maintained throughout their adulthood as it will help prevent adult diseases and problems such as obesity, diabetes, heart, kidney or dental disease. Remember to gradually introduce new food types to prevent stomach upsets. Avoid foods which are toxic to dogs including chocolate, onions, grapes, sultanas, avocados and macadamias.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations protect puppies against infectious diseases such as Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and Canine Cough. Puppies are temporarily protected against these diseases from antibodies received through their mother's milk. Once a puppy is weaned they no longer have this protection and therefore, require a course of vaccinations. These are needed at:

- 6 - 8 weeks of age
- 10 - 12 weeks of age
- 14 - 16 weeks of age

A booster vaccination is then required 12 months later, at around 16 months of age. Ongoing vaccinations will be tailored to your dog's needs.

Worming

Intestinal parasites such as Roundworm, Whipworm, Hookworm and Tapeworm are a common problem in puppies. They can be exposed to these parasites through their environment, their mother's milk or even before they are born. Effective treatment is available in the form of a tablet or tasty chew and should be administered as follows:

- Every 2 weeks until 3 months of age, then
- Once a month using *Interceptor* until 6 months of age, then
- Every 3 months for the duration of your dog's life if having the annual heartworm injection, or otherwise just continue the monthly *Interceptor* treatment.

Heartworm

Heartworm parasites pose a life threatening risk. Dogs must be protected using a monthly chew such as *Interceptor* (also does intestinal worms) or with an annual injection from approx 6 months of age. This is given at the time of desexing and then repeated at vaccination time.

Fleas

These external parasites can make life very uncomfortable for your dog causing an unbearable vicious circle of biting and scratching. There are a number of effective flea prevention products to choose from, which will not only kill the adult flea but also interrupt the flea's life cycle. We recommend the oral chew *Nexgard* due to its simple administration, efficacy and yummy taste! Unlike topspots, treatment is required once a month all year round even through the summer months.

Ticks

Paralysis ticks can be fatal. They are found along the east coast of Australia and affect thousands of dogs every year yet are most prevalent during the warmer months between September and March. Symptoms of tick poisoning may include:

- Loss of co-ordination or wobbly hind legs
- Change in bark
- Retching, coughing or vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Difficult or rapid breathing

To help protect your dog from tick poisoning we again recommend the monthly oral chew *Nexgard*. Alternatively a top spot such as *Frontline Plus* or *Advantix* can be applied to the back of your dog's neck every 2 weeks during the warmer months. Please talk to your veterinarian for other options.

Microchipping and Council Registration

By law, animals must be microchipped and registered under the New South Wales Animal Act. A microchip acts as a permanent tracking device should your dog ever get lost as it enables permanent id. Implantation occurs between your dog's shoulder blades and a copy of the details will be given to you (usually a pink form) and recorded on a database. Take this pink form to Council when you register your dog after desexing. Remember to update your contact details at your Vet if you ever change address or get a new mobile phone number.

Desexing

We recommend that you have your puppy desexed prior to them becoming sexually mature between 5 - 7 months of age. Desexing will assist in avoiding the development of undesirable behaviour and most importantly reduce the risk of particular health problems occurring during their adult life. It also makes Council registration cheaper.

Puppy training

Training sessions are highly recommended, ideally between 8 – 12 weeks of age to ensure your puppy develops into a well adjusted, socially interactive dog.

Pet Insurance

Modern veterinary care is on par with treatment available to humans but unfortunately there is no government subsidy available to help us look after our pets. The Barracks Vet Surgery recommends starting pet insurance when your pet is young. If you are interested please ask one of the Nurses on duty.