



Radstock House, 21 Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2AH
01273 473232

New Puppy Check List

Vaccination protocol - We recommend you regularly vaccinate your dog to protect against the major serious canine diseases. This commences with a **primary course at 8 and 10 weeks of age**, followed by a yearly (12 monthly) boosters against some diseases and three yearly booster against others. Reminder cards will be sent.



Worming

- The problems associated with a heavy worm burden can be very serious in younger animals, including vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures and even death so we do recommend worming puppies regularly.
- Some worms can also be passed on to young children and cause serious diseases, including blindness.
- We have given a first **free Drontal** worming treatment to your puppy today. This needs to be continued:
 - every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks old
 - then monthly until they are 6 months old
 - then every 3 to 4 months for rest of their life.

Flea treatment

- Fleas are a year round problem. Our central heating which keeps us comfortable over winter also allows flea eggs to develop into adults and re-infest our pets.
- We do therefore advise year round prevention with a spot-on application. This offers much longer term, more effective prevention than other forms of treatment.
- We have applied your puppy's first **free Advantage spot-on** treatment today also.

Microchips

- Microchips are the ideal way to permanently identify our animals against loss, straying or theft. They are also compulsory for the pet passport scheme. There are no long term side effects and no long term costs.
- We advise microchipping either **at the second vaccination**, or at neutering.

Neutering

- We always advise neutering of male and female puppies. We firmly believe that the medical and behavioural benefits far outweigh any potential side effects or risks. Please ask us if you have any questions or queries regarding neutering and we will be happy to discuss the pros and cons. There are many pros but it is worth remembering that many dogs and bitches can be prone to obesity after neutering. This means that the amount of food you offer does need to be cut down, normally by at least 1/3, to keep them at their ideal weight.
- We advise, with some exceptions in the females of certain breeds:
 - **castrating males at 6 months of age.**
 - **spaying females at 6 months of age.**

Food

- Puppies cannot manage to digest and absorb all of the food and nutrition they need in one meal, they need at least **3-4 smaller meals a day** for the first 4-6 months of their life to ensure they grow at a good rate and can absorb all the nutrients they need from their food.
- We strongly advise **complete puppy foods** as they have been carefully formulated to have the best possible balance of carbohydrates and proteins and all the minerals and vitamins a growing puppy needs. Most puppies will need to stay on a puppy diet for at least 6-8 months.
- **Dry food** is much better in the long term for dogs' teeth as they have to use their teeth more to crunch through the hard biscuits. Some wet food is also quite acceptable, but if possible try to ensure that dry food accounts for over 50% of the intake.
- Treats are great as training aids – but don't get too reliant on them, and don't use them to distract from bad behaviour – they are the first thing to go should your puppy become an overweight dog!

Dental protection

- **NO BONES!!!** We see a large number of dogs coming in with bones damaging mouths as they have shattered, or bones getting stuck and blocking the intestines – this will often result in a major operation, and a very large veterinary bill, and can be life threatening. If you must give bones, ensure they are raw and large beef marrow bones. **NEVER** give cooked or chicken bones.
- The best way to ensure your puppy keeps its beautiful clean teeth and sociable breath is to brush them, ideally everyday, or every other day. We can advise you on special dog toothbrushes and toothpastes.
- Second best are dental chews and dental diets, they really do help to keep teeth cleaner.
- As a rule the smaller the dog breed, the worse their dental health is, but all dogs benefit from a little dental care.



Socialisation/ Puppy Parties

- Nicola, one of our qualified veterinary nurses runs our **free puppy playschool**. This is a perfect opportunity to ensure your puppy gets the best start in life, learning about socialising with other dogs and people.
- Nicola can talk through and help you to eliminate many of the behavioural problems you may have with your new puppy, such as play biting, crying at night, separation anxiety and toilet training.
- She can also answer any questions you may have about any of the information in this handout.

Mock examinations

- To make our and your lives easier it is a good idea to get your puppy used to being handled, restrained and examined. Should you need to administer any ear or eye medication in the future a little preparation now will make it an awful lot easier in the future!

9 Month juvenile check

- When your puppy reaches 9 months of age you should receive a card from us inviting you back for a **free juvenile health check** with one of our nurses to ensure you are happy with all of the routine health care and preventative medicines you can use to help keep your puppy fit and well throughout its life.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.



Small Animal Department

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