


BELLARINE
VETERINARY PRACTICE
— ANIMAL HOSPITAL —

PUPPY CARE



Taking care of your puppy....

The arrival of a new puppy in a household has been likened to that of a new baby... and in many ways, this is true. This young life is dependent on you for love, food, protection and health care. Nobody should take on ownership of a new dog unless they are prepared to provide these things – and it is not just for the first few months of the pup's life. Getting a new pup is a 10 – 18 years commitment. Provide your dog with these essentials and you will be rewarded with a loyal, loving and healthy companion.

VACCINATIONS

Puppies need to be vaccinated against the following diseases;

1. CANINE PARVOVIRUS - a severe, often fatal, viral disease that causes sudden depression, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea.
2. INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS - a virus which damages the liver and causes a range of signs including depression, abdominal pain, cloudy eyes and death. Dogs that recover can continue to shed the virus for months.
3. CANINE DISTEMPER - another fatal viral disease with a range of symptoms including fever, "cold like" symptoms, conjunctivitis, convulsions and muscle twitching.
4. CANINE COUGH - is a complex disease characterized by a harsh, hacking, continual cough that is highly infectious between dogs. While this vaccine does not provide 100% protection, it certainly decreases the risk of contracting the disease and minimizes the severity of the signs should they occur.
5. (a) CANINE PARAINFLUENZA – is the viral component of canine cough.
(b) CANE BORDETELLA – is the bacterial component of canine cough.

We recommend the following vaccination program for pups;

6 - 8 weeks	C4 vaccination
12 – 14 weeks	C5 vaccination
16 – 18 weeks	C5 vaccination

WORMS

Dogs are prone to two distinct categories of worms:

- 1) HEARTWORM - this worm, as the name describes, lives in the heart of a dog in its adult form. The immature form of the worm is transmitted from dog to dog via mosquitoes. This type of worm has not yet been recognised as a problem in dogs living in Geelong, the Surfcoast and the Bellarine Peninsula. The risk of infection increases as you travel north. Discuss any plans you have to travel with your dog in the future with your vet – even if it is just to Werribee or Melbourne as heartworm has been detected in these places.
Monthly chews/"spot-ons" and annual injections are available at the clinic to protect your dog against heartworm.
- 2) INTESTINAL WORMS - these worms mainly reside in the gastrointestinal tract of dogs. They can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and weight loss. The majority of these worms are transmitted between dogs via dog faeces and all dogs are at risk. They can also cause some effects in humans. The main types of intestinal worms are:
 - ROUNDWORMS – Occur in almost all puppies. These "spaghetti-like" worms live in the small intestine and interfere with digestion.
 - TAPEWORMS – usually don't appear until 4-5 months of age and are often seen as small white segments around the bottom or in the faeces. Fleas can carry tape worm.
 - HOOKWORMS & WHIPWORMS – less common but effects can be quite severe.

RECOMMENDED INTESTINAL WORMING PROGRAM

Worm your pup at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 weeks of age with Drontal

And then at 4, 5 & 6 months of age with Drontal

Then use drontal every 3 months from then on

FEEDING

Feeding a new puppy is as complicated or as easy as you choose to make it. In general, a puppy's diet should;

1. Provide the nutrition for a puppy's special requirements, i.e. rapid growth and limited stomach capacity.
2. Be palatable and digestible
3. Be convenient and inexpensive

Commercial puppy foods i.e. Eukanuba Puppy or Advance Pedigree Growth are ideal as they provide all of the essential vitamins and minerals that your puppy needs.

One of the most common puppy health complaints is diarrhoea caused by sudden changes in diet. Any new component in a pup's diet should be introduced gradually

There is no hard and fast rule on the amount of food to give because each individual pup is different. General guidelines are provided on the packaging of commercial food. On the whole, it's a matter of watching your pup's weight, feeling the general body condition and adjusting the diet accordingly.

Recommended feeding regime:

6 – 12 weeks	feed puppy ration 3-4 times daily
3 – 9 months	feed puppy ration twice daily
9 – 12 months	feed puppy ration once daily
12 months onwards	feed adult food once daily

HOUSING

Puppies just taken from their mothers have to adjust to a new home, new people, new bed, new animals and contend with the loss of their mothers and litter mates. This can cause stress to a puppy and make them susceptible to illness.

To help your puppy make the transition to its new home, be sure to provide them with a warm, clean, comfortable bed and shelter.

BATHING AND FLEA CONTROL

Bath your pup when necessary using shampoo suitable for puppies. Groom puppies regularly and for fleas we recommend Advantage or Frontline. Advantage and Frontline protect your dog from fleas for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for one month after application and are waterproof!

DESEXING

Female dogs are spayed and male dogs are castrated from 5 to 6 months of age, but can be done earlier & later.

REGISTRATION

Dogs over 3 months should be registered with the council. Registration is cheaper if your dog is desexed or microchipped.

MICROCHIPPING

Microchips can be inserted under the skin on your dogs neck. These chips are a permanent identification tool for your dog. All vet clinics, council rangers and lost dog homes have scanners which can detect microchips and hence locate a dogs owner within a few minutes. There is an initial insertion fee which also includes subscription to Central Animal Records for the life of your dog. Microchipping is compulsory for all pets from 3 months old when registration is due. It can be done in a routine consultation.

PET INSURANCE

Having a pet is a wonderful experience but sometimes accidents can occur. For these times it can be useful to have pet insurance. Accidents can be expensive and pet insurance can help to pay for these costs. Some insurance policies also have other things covered such as holiday cancellation, kennel fees and the like. There are many pet insurance agencies and different policies have different benefits. It is a good idea to research them yourself and find one that is suitable for what you want. Be aware of breed exclusions and if you have any questions that we may be able to answer we are happy to help. Don't forget to check your house insurance as they sometimes have a pet insurance option.

Pet Insurance is available through Vet's Own, Pet Plan, Bow Wow Meow, RSPCA, PetCover, Manchester Unity & Oz Pet.

Below is a table of approximate costs of common problems with dogs and cats

Broken leg pinning	\$1500 - \$1800
Lump removal	\$350 - \$700
Snail bait poisoning	\$350 - \$1200
Skin infections	\$90 - \$150
Gastric volvulus (twisted stomach)	\$1800 - \$2300
Abscess	\$250-\$350
Severe gastroenteritis (eg salmonella)	\$600-\$1500
Cruciate ligament rupture	\$900 - \$2500
Bone plating	\$2500 - \$3500

CURRENT AS AT MAY 2008

CARE CREDIT

If you don't have pet insurance but find yourself in a money predicament with a sick pet, then Care Credit may be an option for you. It is financed through GE Money and can offer you short term interest free loans. Application is on-line and processing is quite quick. Applicants need to be working to be approved.

Tails and Whiskas Club

Our Tails and Whiskas Club entitles you to *10%* off all retail merchandise (flea control, worming treatment, cages, collars etc) and; *5%* off all food purchased. It is renewable annually and covers all the pets in your household.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LARGER DOGS

NUTRITION

Large dogs grow quickly and as such have special food and exercise requirements. Many developmental problems in large breed dogs can be minimized by feeding the right food and not over exercising them. The food must be balanced in terms of calcium and phosphorous ratios, and also have correct protein and energy levels. There are special formulations of food available that have been scientifically formulated to provide an optimum mixture of all the necessary nutritional requirements for large breed puppies. We recommend Eukanuba or Advance Large Breed Puppy. These diets are best fed 3-4 times daily up to 12 weeks of age. Plenty of fresh, clean water should always be available.

HIP DYSPLASIA

Many large breed dogs are prone to hip dysplasia. It is a disease that causes the hips not be properly seated deeply in the hip socket either because of a shallow socket or a loose joint or both. Many dogs become quite sore and lame because of this. It can affect them their whole life.

The cause of hip dysplasia is multifactorial. Genetics play a large role in determining the conformation of the hip joints. Nutrition and exercise can also play a role in how growing hips form and how the dog is affected by what they were given genetically. Optimising nutrition and not exercising growing dogs excessively helps maximize the chances of having good hips.

Genetics come from the parent dogs so ensuring that these dogs have good hips is a big step toward having puppies with good hips.

PENN HIP X-RAY TEST

Once you have a puppy, there are now more things that are available to check your dog has good hips. There is a test available at a young age to determine the looseness of the puppy's hips. Loose hips have been found to correlate with hip joint disease and pain in older dogs. If the puppy is found to have loose hips, there is a simple surgical procedure that can be performed at an early age, to change the pattern of growth of the hip, to decrease the likelihood of hip arthritis.

If you are interested in your puppy having the Penn hip x-ray performed then please ask one of our vets. It is possible to perform this and desexing on the same day.

If you are thinking of breeding from your puppy in the future, then Penn Hip tests are recommended so good genetics are passed on. These can be done later than 16 weeks if you wish.



SMALL DOG ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GROOMING

Many small dogs have long hair or hairy faces. Some of our most popular breeds (eg. Maltese cross Shih Tzu) are often in need of some hairdressing to keep them looking good, but also to keep them comfortable and happy.

If you have a small dog with long hair, it is a good idea for it to get used to having its face, feet and ears played with from an early age to make grooming a more enjoyable time. Regular brushing is helpful to keep out knots and burrs. In spring and summer, grass seeds and burrs need to be removed from the coat before they penetrate the skin. These especially occur in the feet and arm pits. Trimming of hair from around the eyes helps to keep the face clean and vision optimal. Nails can need trimming if the dog doesn't walk on hard surfaces often.

If you would like some help with how to maintain your pets coat then please just ask one of our helpful staff.

Often people like to have their dog's long coat clipped off over the summer to keep them cool and to minimise knots. Our groomers are available to do this for you or even for a little extra pampering all year round.

DENTAL CARE

The best care for dogs' teeth is to chew raw meaty bones regularly. Some dogs cannot tolerate bones or are not inclined to chew properly or well enough to keep their teeth clean. Most dogs need to chew a raw meaty bone twice a week for 15-20 minutes each time to keep their teeth clean. It is best to introduce puppies to bones when they are young and "teething" to start good dental hygiene habits early. If your dog is unable to chew bones then there are other options available.

Canine t/d

This is a dry dog food designed to clean the teeth for you. It is palatable and easy to use and comes with a 100% money back guarantee. Best results are achieved if t/d is fed exclusively.

Aquadent

This is an additive that can be placed in the dogs water. It acts to decrease the amount of bacteria and plaque in the dogs mouth.

Oravet

This is a coating that can be applied to your dogs teeth weekly to minimize plaque and tartar build up. It is applied with a dry finger or cotton tip onto a dry tooth surface. It is similar to waxing your car to help prevent damage.

Tooth Brushing

There are many pet toothpastes formulated to enable you to brush your dogs teeth. Toothbrushes or finger brushes are also available. This needs to be performed daily.

Teeth Scaling

If your dog does happen to get tartar (brown staining) on the teeth, then it can be removed with ultrasonic scaling just like ours is at the dentist. It is good to treat teeth with this before any further dental disease occurs like gingivitis or gum recession. This will be checked every year at your dog's yearly vaccination and health check.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

It is vital to socialise young puppies with other dogs and people to help prevent some of the common behavioural problems seen in adult hood. Socialization can begin after the first vaccination by mixing your puppy with puppy friends who you know are healthy and vaccinated. You'll still need to avoid public places, i.e. the beach and parks until the vaccination program is complete.

We run regular puppy pre school classes which allow early socialization for puppies.

Obedience training can start at home as soon as you get your puppy. The way you treat your puppy in their early days will have an enormous influence on the type of pet they will become. Don't leave all the work to one hour weekly classes at obedience school. Training puppies takes time, commitment and patience. Keeping in mind that lessons need only be short and can be incorporated with play. Puppies only have a short attention span – but they're eager to please and love to learn.

PUPPY PRE SCHOOL 8-12WKS OF AGE

Puppy pre school is a great start for your new puppy and the whole family. The 4 week course is designed to teach your puppy how to be a confident, well behaved member in our community. We teach you and your puppy how to socialize with other puppies, how to understand basic obedience and general pet care. Best of all puppy school is great fun for everyone involved. Each course is held for 1 hour per week for 4 weeks and classes are available at all our clinics.

TODDLER TAMING - PUPPIES 3 - 6 MONTHS OF AGE

This age group is equivalent to the "terrible twos" of childhood. Ideal for those that missed out on Puppy School and also a great follow on to polish up on basic skills and continue with positive socialisation. Some of the topics covered are; come reliably when called, walking on a loose lead as well as lots of supervised playtime.

ACTIVE ADOLESCENTS DOGS 6 --12 MONTHS OF AGE

Designed to cover what we humans would call the "teenage years", this period of growth can be the most challenging. We will share with you positive training methods that can help you understand and deal with this stage of their development. Topics covered may include; come when called, playing games nicely off lead with other dogs, responding to cues for sit, drop and stay.

MATURE MANNERS - DOGS OVER 12 MONTHS OF AGE

Dogs over 12 months of age can display a range of behaviours we consider inappropriate. These classes are designed to address each handler and dogs' individual needs. It could be as simple as walking nicely on a loose lead, coming when called, not barking at other dogs when out walking, through to not jumping on visitors. Class numbers are kept small to ensure individual attention.

Doggydayplay



Monday to Friday from 7.00am – 6.30pm by appointment

Telephone: 5248 7444

*Day care and socialisation for your best friend
in a supervised and positive environment.*

Available at 65 Coppards Rd Newcomb (at the back of the clinic).



WEB SITE

If you would like more information about us or what we do then visit our web site :

www.bellvet.com.au

VET NOTES

Blank area for vet notes.