



HELPFUL HINTS TO CARE FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

Congratulations on the purchase of your new puppy. Following are a few hints to help you care for your new puppy. If, after reading these hints, you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jerry for advice and help.

PREPARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY:

It's exciting bringing a new puppy home. Your home environment is new to your puppy and it may be very apprehensive or scared. Be calm, quiet, and provide a warm, soft and cosy area for your puppy to feel secure. Put a little chew toy or cuddly toy in its area.



VACCINATION:

Kirrawee Pic-a-Pet has had your puppy given its first Vaccination against a number of serious diseases, including parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis. You will need to take your puppy to your vet for another vaccination in 4 weeks time and then another vaccination 4 weeks after that. Keep your puppy at home (except for taking it to the vet) until it is fully vaccinated. (ie after the third vaccination). A yearly booster is recommended for life.

MICROCHIPPING:

Kirrawee Pic-a-Pet has had a microchip implanted in your puppy. All details have been sent to the relative authorities. A microchip is a permanent identification device implanted under the skin, allowing a quick and easy return if your puppy ever gets lost. Inform the microchip registry if you move or change your contact number as this will increase their chance of coming home.

WORMING:

You should treat your puppy for intestinal worms every 2 weeks until it is 12 weeks old, then every 4 weeks until it is 6 months old. After 6 months, it should be wormed every 3 months for life. Worming is essential as worms can be transferred to humans.

FLEA PROTECTION:

Your puppy should be spotted on the back just below the skull for fleas. Some flea spots also have a worming formula in them. In this case, disregard the worming section of this help sheet. Puppies and dogs should be spotted once a month, all year round, for life. Fleas carry tapeworm and can cause severe scratching and allergic reactions, known as flea allergy dermatitis.

HEARTWORM:

You must protect your puppy against Heartworm rather than waiting for it to contract it. Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes and is a parasite that lives in the heart and lungs of dogs. It is usually fatal. Heartworm Prevention treatment starts at 12 weeks of age. Speak with your vet about different forms of the prevention treatment.

FEEDING:

Feed your puppy on its current diet (Science Diet). This has all the nutritional values and protein that they require and it is good for their teeth as well. Your puppy should be fed 4 times a day until 12 weeks old, then 3 times a day until it's 5 – 6 months old. At this age they can go onto once or twice daily feeds. At the age of 12 months switch its food to Adult Science Diet. Do not give your puppy milk as this may cause diarrhoea. ALWAYS HAVE FRESH WATER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PUPPY.

FOODS THAT ARE FATAL:

Some foods are fatal to dogs and should be avoided AT ALL COSTS; These include: cooked bones, onions, grapes, sultanas, avocado, coffee/tea, alcohol, chocolate and too much high energy human foods such as barbecued or cured meats. Raw eggs, fatty marrow-bones and lily plants are also to be avoided.

TRAINING:

Start training your puppy at about 14 – 16 weeks of age. Training is vital for a happy and healthy relationship between you and your puppy. Dogs are pack animals and are used to a social hierarchy. Set your rules and stick to them. You should be fair, firm and consistent but most of all you must become the dominant "pack leader". Praise and reward your puppy every time it does the right thing by giving it a treat (Liver treats are great). Chastise your puppy with a firm "NO" and then ignore it for a couple of minutes. Ceasing playing with your puppy is also a good punishment for puppies after the firm "NO".

DESEXING:

If you are not going to use your puppy as a breeder and because of various health and behaviour problems it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you have your puppy desexed at 5 - 6 months of age. This will not change the personality of your puppy.

KEEP YOUR PUPPY WELL FED, CLEAN AND COMFORTABLE. GIVE IT EXERCISE AND TOYS TO PLAY WITH. GIVE IT ATTENTION BY TALKING TO IT AND PLAYING WITH IT AND YOU WILL HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND FIT PUPPY