



BEFORE YOUR PUPPY ARRIVES:

Do some research on the type and breed of dog that will suit your family and lifestyle.

Think about how much exercise they will need, how big they will grow.

Remember larger dogs cost more to feed, take up more space and medicines will cost more if they are ill.

Contact a Rescue centre or Kennel Club registered breeder. It's absolutely essential that you see the puppy with their mother in the home environment (#wheresmum?) in order to ensure that your puppy has had a happy and healthy start.

Check whether the puppy has been wormed, de-fleaed or had any vaccinations. Ideally bring a few days' supply of his / her current food home so that you can gradually move to a new diet.

When your puppy comes home:

Moving into a new home can be a stressful time for your puppy. He / she may be a little overwhelmed, but if you are at all worried, please do call our **Puppy Helpline on 01525 373329**. We can give your puppy a free check-up, and give you reassurance and advice.



Our First Steps puppy package costs just £50 and covers everything you'll need to start your puppy off in the best way: vaccination course, worming and flea treatment, Kong toy and training treats and a Junior check up at 7 months. (£60 with microchip)



Vaccination: Vaccinations protect against the potentially fatal parvovirus, distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis and parainfluenza. Vaccinations are usually given at 8 weeks, and 12 weeks. Thereafter, an annual booster injection maintains immunity.

Worming: Generally puppies are wormed every 2-3 weeks until they are 12 weeks old, then monthly until they are 6 months old. Thereafter we advise that dogs are wormed monthly if you have young children or anyone in the family has poor immunity, otherwise worm every three months.

Microchip: A microchip permanently identifies your dog, so that you can be reunited if they are ever lost or stolen. A microchip tag on the collar will also deter thieves. By law all dogs must be microchipped.

Flea treatment: Fleas can cause severe anaemia in puppies and skin disease in adults, as well as spreading tapeworm. Dogs should be treated monthly for fleas for life.

Diet: To meet the special nutrient requirements of a growing puppy, he / she should be fed a complete, balanced puppy food appropriate to their age. For large and giant breeds it is also important to choose a diet designed for large puppies to reduce the risk of joint disease. *Please ask your Vet for more information.*

Socialising: Puppies learn most easily when they are very young. It is, therefore, important to socialise them with a range of dogs, other animals, people and situations from a young age, reducing the likelihood of behavioural problems when they get older. We hold regular '**Puppy Playgroup**' sessions at the surgery - *please ask for the next start date.*

Neutering: Unless you are planning to breed from your dog, neutering is recommended, and is usually carried out 2-3 months after the first season for bitches. Male dogs can usually be castrated from 10 months old but in some dogs it's best to delay - call us or book a pre-neutering appointment.

Insurance: Insuring your dog brings peace of mind that he / she will always receive the best possible care without you having to worry about the cost. The best policies offer 'lifetime cover', but there are many policies available giving different levels of cover. At Ark House we promote Vetsure insurance. *Please ask at reception for details.*

Paws Club: the smart way to keep your pet and your purse healthy. You can budget monthly for your pet's healthcare and save 10% on your vet bills, along with free annual vaccinations and all flea and worming treatments included.

