

Treforest Veterinary Clinic

and **Tonypandy
Veterinary Clinic**

Pet Healthcare Leaflet 4: Your new Puppy

Congratulations on your new family member! This leaflet is part of your puppy pack, designed to help your new addition get the best start in life. It contains tips and recommendations on settling them into their new home and caring for them in their first year.

Vaccination

Our puppy vaccines protect against the most serious and worrying diseases. Many of these diseases used to be common but are now much less so due to large scale vaccination and they offer the best protection. Despite reductions on how often we see these diseases, vaccination is crucial to protecting your puppy.

Initial **puppy** vaccination consists of two injections, usually at 8 and 12 weeks old with full protection from a week after the second vaccination. This offers protection against diseases such as Leptospirosis, Hepatitis, Distemper and Parvovirus - all of which can be fatal. It is very important that your new puppy does not come into contact with unfamiliar dogs or be exposed to risk areas such as the park/dog walking areas until fully protected

Regular yearly booster vaccination is important to maintain full protection and many Kennels won't offer their facilities unless this is up to date.

We also offer a comprehensive range of supplementary vaccines. **Kennel Cough** is a severe respiratory infection and vaccination is recommended for dogs going into kennels - many kennels will require it.

Rabies vaccination is mandatory for a Pet Passport to take your dog abroad. Please ask for our 'Taking Your Pet Abroad' leaflet for more information about Rabies and other vaccines for travelling if you are considering this.



Socialisation

Socialisation in puppies is crucial to their adult confidence and training, helping them become friendly and outgoing. Good socialisation involves exposing your puppy to a variety of sights, people, animals and situations. Good experiences help them gain a lifelong confidence in these and other novel situations. Useful socialisation experiences include busy roads, other people's houses and lots of experience with young children/toddlers.

Take care not to expose them to unknown dogs or unfamiliar outside areas before their vaccines are complete! Puppy training classes can be useful not just for training but for a wide range of socialisation too.

Worming

For puppies we recommend worming with an effective prescription strength wormer monthly until 6 months of age. From then on it should be at least every three months. In some situations such as with small children in the house or your dog is a scavenger it may be preferable to do more often. Ask one of our friendly team for advice if you are unsure!



Flea and Tick Treatment

Regular flea and tick treatment is important to ensure flea problems don't build up in the household. We recommend flea treating both cats and dogs monthly with a prescription strength flea treatment. We have a variety of products available to suit your pet including combined flea and wormers for cats and flea tablets for dogs - we can help you choose the most suitable product for your pet. Our leaflet on flea control and prevention can be helpful if you are having a problem controlling them - or ask to have a chat with one of our knowledgeable team.



Microchipping

Microchipping is now compulsory for all dogs in England and Wales older than 8 weeks. A microchip is a device implanted under the skin which carries a unique number like a barcode. When scanned, this number can be used to access a database of the owners records - helping reunite you with your pet quickly! Remember that keeping your records such as address and telephone number up to date if they change is crucial!

Neutering

Neutering is the word given to the removal of the reproductive organs. It is usually done to prevent accidental breeding and to improve health.

We recommend neutering all dogs not intended for breeding at around 6 months of age. For bitches this operation is referred to as 'spaying' and has significant health benefits including over 95% reduction in mammary cancer later in life. It can also help behaviour as bitches on 'heat' are more likely to wander. For male dogs, this operation is castration and can significantly reduce prostate and testicular problems later in life, as well as potentially improving behaviour.

Take Care with Permethrin

Over the counter spot-on products containing Permethrin designed for dogs can be lethal to cats. Always check the label and take extra care to follow instructions precisely. Even contact with a correctly treated dog can cause a severe reaction in cats.

Insurance

Insurance for pets is more and more easily available in a variety of forms and can provide cover types from basic accident only to full lifetime cover. We offer 4 weeks free insurance to puppies and kittens we see - no payment or obligation. The big advantage is that this starts immediately unlike many other policies which have a 14 or 28 day waiting period before problems are covered.

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