

DOGS



Valley Vets 

Quality, affordable care

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE*

*Working with the Royal Veterinary College

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



Vaccination

We recommend that all dogs receive regular vaccinations to provide protection against five key diseases – Distemper, hepatitis, parvo virus, parainfluenza (flu) & leptospirosis (Weil's disease).

Why vaccinate?

Early immunisation saves many lives. Puppies are particularly susceptible to disease and should be vaccinated to ensure their health and survival, and boost their natural immunity.

Infectious diseases

There are certain infectious diseases you should protect your pet against, depending on its individual lifestyle. For puppies and dogs, vaccinations against parvovirus, distemper, infectious canine hepatitis and leptospirosis, are considered "essential". For dogs that stay in kennels special attention should be given to exposure of infectious diseases like canine infectious tracheobronchitis (kennel cough). It is a legal requirement that all dogs entering a boarding kennels have up to date vaccinations.

A dog's vaccinations can be started at anytime from 8 weeks of age and begin with a "primary course" of two injections 2 - 4 weeks apart. Your puppy can be taken outside a week after their 2nd injection (earliest stage 11wks old). It is then really important they receive an annual vaccination to maintain the protection.

At **Valley Vets ALL** our vaccination prices include a full health check to check for problems even if you have not been aware of them and often allow an early diagnosis that can be so important in ensuring a successful outcome.

Microchip

It is a legal requirement for your dog to be microchipped.

A small chip about the size of a grain of rice is injected beneath the skin. It is a quick and relatively painless procedure that should last a lifetime. A chip also provides vital identification even if they lose their collar.



Dental Care

This can be achieved in a number of ways. The gold standard is regular (ideally daily!) brushing using an animal specific toothpaste (NOT HUMAN PASTE due to its fluoride content).

Dental chews are also very useful and we recommend certain dental chews. Some dry food diets offer dental benefits due to the shape and consistency of the biscuits.

Neutering

We recommend all pets are neutered. Neutering is part of responsible pet ownership. Neutering is removal of the sex organs. Males are castrated and this involves removing both testicles. Females have both ovaries and the womb removed and this is called spaying.

Why?

In male dogs it prevents testicular cancer and can aid in reducing testosterone influenced behaviour such as aggression, dominance and sexual activities as well as reducing certain forms of prostate disease. In females it prevents unwanted pregnancies, womb infections, can help reduce the risk of breast cancer (if done before your pet's 4th season) and stops them coming into season. Dogs normally have 2 seasons a year lasting around 2 - 3 weeks each time. During this time a watery bloody discharge is passed from the vulva. After a season dogs can also have a false or pseudo pregnancy where they show signs of being pregnant despite them not actually being pregnant.

When?

From 6 months of age for smaller breed male and female dogs (i.e. terrier sized dogs). After their 1st season for larger breed female dogs e.g. Labradors or 9 - 12 months for males. Most female dogs have their 1st season between 6 - 12 months of age.

Disadvantages?

Neutering is a surgical procedure and requires a general anaesthetic but in healthy animals this should be a small risk. Neutering does slow an animal's metabolism so they can be more prone to gaining weight but this can easily be solved by feeding them less food. There are a great many questions and myths related to if or when you should neuter your animal so please feel free to speak to one of our nurses or vets with any queries.

 www.thevalleyvet.co.uk 

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*Terms and conditions apply, see website for full details.



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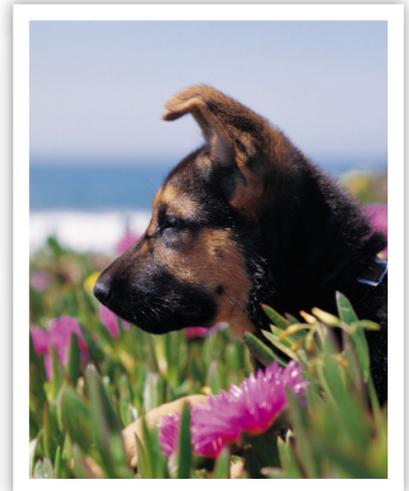
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Diet

We encourage all pets to be fed a commercial dog diet. Whilst some may prefer to feed home cooked food or scraps it is difficult to ensure you provide a complete and balanced diet. This is definitely one area where you get what you pay for and a more expensive food will usually provide a much better quality source of nutrition and may not be as expensive as you think as the volume fed per meal is often much less than a cheaper brand. Whilst we recommend a mainly dry food diet this can be "spiced up" with some wet food or occasional treat. Obvious exceptions to this can be made for pets with dietary allergies or intolerances. Young Puppies start on 3 - 4 meals a day but can be weaned down to 1-2 meals per day by 12 months of age.



TOP TIP

Remember dogs are scavengers so if presented with a large meal they may well eat all of it even if they don't need to so it is up to owners to regulate how much they get each day to prevent excessive weight gain.

Training

This is another area where you will get back what you put in. We cannot stress how important it is to train your dog from an early age. This includes the obvious areas such as toilet training as well as the less obvious but equally important considerations such as feeding and not taking them in to your own bed! We recommend attending training classes run by a professionally accredited dog trainer from an early age and then continue working with your dog throughout its life.



Grooming

Even if your dog is short haired we recommend regular brushing from an early age to encourage bonding and to ensure your dog is comfortable with all parts of their body being touched. It is also a very good way to give them a regular check over for any lumps, injuries, fleas or ticks.

When your dog gets dirty we would recommend rinsing them in warm water and towel drying. Shampoo should be reserved for more stubborn or smelly stains as it can strip the coat of important natural oils. Human shampoos should be avoided.



Further information

Vaccines	www.future-of-vaccination.co.uk
Worming	www.wormwise.co.uk
Microchips	www.avidplc.com
Flea control	www.effipro-virbac.com
Training	www.dogstrust.org.uk

www.thevalleyvet.co.uk

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