



# Murray Bridge Vet Clinic

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## New Puppy Checklist

### Vaccination

Your puppy needs to be vaccinated against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvo Virus. Canine Cough vaccine is also recommended - our staff can advise whether your dog is likely to be at risk. Puppies are due for their first vaccination between the age of 6-8 weeks. Second vaccinations are given at 10-12 weeks of age. Some vaccinations require annual boosters and we will send you a reminder when your dog's vaccination is due.

### Worming

Puppies are mostly at risk from ROUNDWORM, which can affect humans. Your puppy will need worming every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age with a roundworm treatment. An ALLWORMER should then be given every 3 months for the rest of the dog's life—these ALLWORMERS need to cover ROUNDWORM, HOOKWORM, WHIPWORM, FLEA TAPEWORM, and HYDATID TAPEWORM.

### Heartworm

Heartworm, a separate parasite to intestinal worms, is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is easily prevented, yet if contracted is usually fatal. Prevention can be administered by monthly tablets, spot-on applications or yearly injection. Accurate and regular dosage is very important, if doses are missed, your dog may need to have a blood test before taking the medication again. Ideally puppies should commence a Heartworm preventative prior to six months of age. Prevention can be given from as early as 2 weeks of age.

### Fleas

We stock a range of excellent products which are safe to use and easy to administer to your puppy. We can advise which products will best suit your pet's requirements. An effective flea control program is targeted at killing and preventing fleas on your pet as well as preventing eggs from hatching and immature fleas from accumulating in your pet's environment. REMEMBER.....ALL PETS in your household need to be treated.

### Diet

A high quality, complete and balanced diet is essential for a puppy to grow to a healthy adult dog. We stock a wide range of premium diets and can advise if your puppy's diet is adequate. Remember, your puppy has only one chance at growing—so it is very important to get it right first time.

### Dental Health

Healthy teeth and gums are essential to the overall wellbeing of your dog. Tartar build-up can lead to gum and periodontal disease. This can eventually lead to other internal diseases such as heart disease and liver problems. A premium dry food with added dental defense will help keep your puppy's teeth healthy throughout its life. Raw bones, chew toys, dental treats and tooth brushing (with special dog toothpaste) will also help to reduce plaque and tartar build up. Small, medium and large breed dogs are all at risk of dental disease and a dental will be necessary later in life if teeth are not properly maintained.



[Click here to contact the clinic](#)

## Socialisation

Puppies go through a critical socialisation period from the age of 6 to 16 weeks. At this age it is important to socialise and expose your puppy to all life experiences as their brains absorb everything they experience and file it away for the future. Beyond 16 weeks anything your puppy has not already encountered is automatically assumed to be dangerous and scary. So start socialising your puppy straight away!

Young dogs also go through two separate 'fear periods'. At the age of 8-10 weeks and for a 2-3 week period between 6 and 14 months of age. During these periods your puppy will be extremely sensitive to bad experiences. A single frightening or painful experience during the fear period can have a lasting impact for the rest of your dog's life.

## Puppy Pre School (see environmental enrichment handout for option for puppies >14 weeks of age)

These fun classes are run by our nurses, who are highly trained in animal behaviour. Your puppy learns essential social skills by playing with other puppies and other people within the group. They also learn basic 'manners' and you can learn more about the care of your puppy. A well adjusted and well behaved pup is a pleasure to own.

## Desexing

Desexing can be done anytime from 5½-6 months of age i.e. when the puppy reaches sexual maturity. Our staff can discuss the benefits associated with desexing as well as other queries you may have e.g. heat, pregnancy etc.



## Microchipping

We perform microchipping which is a means of permanent identification for your puppy and can be done in a consult. The microchip is placed under the skin and will never be lost or removed, unlike a collar and tag. The puppy can also be ear tattooed to show they are microchipped. If your puppy is adequately identified a speedy return home may be possible. If a 'found' dog is brought to the clinic it can be scanned and the ID number quoted to a data base which then tells us your details so we can reunite you and your pet.

## Registration & Identification

Your puppy needs to be registered from 3 months of age with the local council.

Identification is necessary, especially in the event of your puppy accidentally misplacing themselves!! If your puppy is satisfactorily identified then a speedy return to your home would be possible.

When the puppy is registered, they will provide you with a registration disc to be worn on the dog's collar, this is only an ID number. Your puppy still needs a tag with their name, address and contact phone number which is also worn on the collar.

## Bathing

Puppies can be bathed weekly from 6 weeks of age, but you must use a high quality pet shampoo. Please never use human shampoos, soaps or any laundry or dishwashing detergents. These products do not have the same pH as a puppy's sensitive skin requires. We stock a selection of top quality shampoos and conditioners to suit any coat. As your puppy gets older, bathing should become less frequent and no more than fortnightly intervals unless recommended by your Vet.

## 6 month Progress Check

When your puppy is 6 Months of age, we offer a **free** Check up. This visit includes a general wellbeing examination and an opportunity for you to discuss any health concerns you may have (or indeed any questions at all!). Please ensure to call the clinic to arrange a time when you receive your reminder letter.

## Pet Insurance

Pet insurance can help you provide your pet with optimal care and lessen the financial concerns that may be associated with illness or injury to your pet. It may also mean you can proceed with more advanced treatments or specialist consultations for a complicated illness or injury which may not otherwise be affordable.

Both accident and illness can be covered and some companies also provide cover for routine health care such as vaccinations and de-sexing. As with other insurances there is a range of levels and options offered by companies. Cover against both accident and illness is advisable and the product disclosure statement should always be reviewed to ensure the policy is right for you and your pet.