

# PUPPY INFORMATION GUIDE

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## PUPPY DIET

Never change your puppy's diet instantly. A change of diet in the first few weeks of a puppy going to their new home can quickly lead to gastro, diarrhoea, dehydration and an expensive visit to the vet. It is important that you continue to feed your puppy the diet they have been fed here. Once they are old enough, you can gradually introduce the food you choose.

Your puppy is eating **Blackhawk Puppy Lamb & Rice**. The small or medium variety is fine.

Have a bowl of this dry food available at all times for the puppy to pick on. Some puppies prefer a soaked mixture of this food. Soak the dry food in boiling water to make it soft and feed it to the puppy once it has cooled to a warm temperature. If your puppy prefers this soaked food to the "dry" dry food, then continue feeding this once a day until 16 weeks of age. If your puppy prefers the "dry" dry food, then don't bother making the soaked food.

Your puppy will like chicken necks and meaty bones that you buy from your local butcher but wait a few weeks before slowly introducing these into your puppy's diet.

Water and dry food should always be available to your puppy but don't feed your adult dog solely on dry food.

Do not feed your puppy cow's milk because you will give your puppy diarrhoea. Give your dog some variety once they are old enough like

Meaty Bones  
Chicken Necks  
Fresh Meat Mince

Meaty bones are an essential source of calcium and protein for dogs, and they will happily chew them for hours. The bones have two benefits. They will occupy your dog when they are bored, and they will do wonders for their dental health.

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PUPPY

When your puppy is around 10 weeks of age, it can come home to you. It is best to avoid public places where unvaccinated dogs could have been, until 2 weeks after the second vaccination which is typically due at around 10 - 11 weeks of age. Keep your new puppy inside at night or when you work until around four months of age. Have a bed, chewy toys, bones, food and water available to your puppy at all times. You can get a doggy door built to help train your puppy to go outside to the toilet.

Once your puppy is over six months of age, they can happily live outside, but they prefer to be inside dogs. You will need to have fresh water, food, and a kennel for your dog to sleep outside. You will need fencing suitable for a dog not to get out. Chewy toys, balls & squeaky toys are great for puppies to play with.

## **TRAINING**

Our puppies are used to going to the toilet on newspaper. If they are in a confined area, they will use newspaper if it is available.

Start to toilet train your puppy by putting them outside straight after sleeping and also after feeding.

Obedience clubs and schools are a great learning experience for you and your puppy. It helps to socialize and train your dog.

## **VACCINATIONS**

All our puppies are vet checked and vaccinated around 6 weeks of age. Your puppy will need its second vaccination around 10 - 11 weeks of age and the third around 14 - 15 weeks of age. From then on, annual booster vaccinations are required.

## **GROOMING**

All our dogs need weekly brushing with a slicker brush and clipping 1 to 3 times a year. Their ears need to be plucked once or twice a year as their hair does not shed, and it can build up in the ears. We recommend washing your puppy in good quality puppy shampoo and always hair dry afterwards.

## **PARASITE CONTROL**

Your puppy or dog will need an effective parasite control program to help keep away common external and internal parasites. The most common external and internal parasites are fleas, flea allergy dermatitis, ear mites, sarcoptic mange, heartworm disease, intestinal hookworms, roundworms and tapeworms. Ask your veterinarian for a complete parasite control program. We recommend and use Advocate monthly. Advocate treats all the above parasites but not tapeworms. For this, we use an all wormer tablet every three months. (See below)

## **WORMING YOUR PUPPY/DOG**

Puppies are wormed every two weeks until the age of 12 weeks, then once a month to 6 months. From then, we use an all wormer tablet once every 3 months.

An effective regular worming program is essential! Adult worms are killed from the worming treatment, but it doesn't kill the worm's eggs. Dogs and cats can be reinfected by worms from their environment and other pets. The most common worms are Hydatid Tapeworms, Hookworms, Roundworms, Common Flea Tapeworms and Whipworms.

Ask your veterinarian for a complete worming program.

## **CANINE HEARTWORM TREATMENT**

If your dog is in a heartworm area, you will need an effective heartworm program. Mosquitoes act as the host for heartworm larvae and transfer the heartworm disease from one dog to another if the mosquito is infected. The adult heartworms are about 35cms long and normally live on the right side of the heart and in blood vessels. They can damage and block blood vessels, limiting blood supply to the lungs. The increased work on the heart slowly weakens the hearts muscles, reducing the hearts effectiveness of its purpose to pump blood around the body. Eventually, this leads to heart failure.

A dog in heartworm areas should be on a program for heartworm treatment from the age of 6 weeks and then monthly. We recommend Advocate. Ask your veterinarian for a complete heartworm program.

## **RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS**

All puppies have to be registered with your local council, usually by three months of age. All our puppies come microchipped and de-sexed. This should reduce the cost of getting your dog registered with the council. Your puppy's microchip will be registered in our name. We will provide a signed microchip registration transfer form for you to complete with your details and send off to the microchip registry to have your puppy's microchip details transferred into your name. There is no charge for this if the form is submitted within a few weeks of getting your puppy. You have to renew your dog's registration each year before April the 10th and if you change address or contact details, make sure you update this with the microchip registry.

## **FOOD THAT COULD HARM YOUR DOG**

Your dog can be poisoned by a variety of things, including types of vegetables and chemicals like pesticides. Here is a list of foods that are potentially harmful to your puppy/dog depending on the quantity.

- Alcoholic beverages
- Avocado
- Caffeine
- Macadamia nuts

- Onions and onion powder
- Tomato leaves and stems (green parts)
- Apple seeds
- Cherry pips
- Chocolate
- Grapes
- Rhubarb leaves
- Cabbage

## **GUARANTEE - Inform us immediately of any problems**

· Cooling-off period - Where a puppy/dog is returned within 3 days of sale, for any reason not supported by a statement from a veterinary practitioner, we will take back the puppy/dog and refund 75% of the purchase price.

· Where a puppy/dog is returned to us within 21 days of sale accompanied by a statement from a veterinary practitioner that the puppy/dog is unacceptable for health reasons, we will take back the puppy/dog and refund 100% of the purchase price. We will not be held liable for illness or injury that is not traceable to the point of sale.

· If a puppy/dog is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies of, or is euthanized from a physical defect or disease that is traceable to the point of sale within 3 years of purchase, we will refund 100% of the purchase price where the owner of the puppy/dog provides supporting statements from a veterinary practitioner, including test results where a suitable test is available. Owners of the puppy/dog must make veterinary reports and test results available to us so we can obtain our own veterinary advice (second opinion).

Inform us immediately of any problems.

If you have any problems with your puppy, please contact us at any time of day or night on 0351 924372. We will often be able to solve your problem with some simple advice. If your puppy needs emergency treatment within the 21 days of sale period and you live in the Melbourne metropolitan area, please contact us then our vet on (03) 9375 7955.

If you do not live in the Melbourne metropolitan area contact us, then a reputable local veterinarian.

Phone: 0351 924372

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