



# PUPPIES

## FEEDING YOUR PUPPY

A healthy diet, properly balanced in nutrients, is essential for the optimum growth and development of your puppy. The best way to achieve this is to feed an all in one diet.

**Hills** diets are formulated to meet the needs of dogs during all stages of their life cycle, development and activity, therefore we strongly recommend them. Whilst a nutrient requirements for fat, protein, carbohydrate, vitamins and minerals are met special attention has been paid to avoid unnecessary high levels of these nutrients particularly those which may be harmful in large amounts. These diets should not be supplemented as such additions may upset the nutritional balance.

**Hills Science Plan Puppy** should be fed until 12 months of age. After this the diet should be changed to **Science Plan Adult** once physical maturity has been reached.

## CONTROL OF WORMS

There are two types of worms in dogs that need to be controlled: Roundworms and Tapeworms.

**Roundworms** are a particular public health concern. These are white worms that look like pieces of string. About 40% of puppies have roundworms living in the intestine. The main roundworm of concern is *Toxocara canis*, which can be infectious to humans. Roundworm eggs are microscopic and cannot be seen in the faeces, therefore there is little evidence of their presence although they can be passed into the environment via faeces onto the grass. The eggs are less dangerous if cleared up straight away, but if left for a day or two they can infect dogs or in rare cases humans, so good personal hygiene is essential.

If a dog has **tapeworms**, pale rice grain sized segments or flat ribbon shape pieces may be seen moving in the faeces or escaping from the dog's anus. Often dogs become infected whilst grooming by swallowing fleas that are carrying tapeworm larvae. These larvae soon turn into adult worms that start shedding their egg filled rice like segments we see in the dog's faeces.

**ROUNDWORM and TAPEWORM CONTROL:** Puppies should be wormed at the time of their first vaccination and again at their second vaccination. Worming is repeated at 4, 5, and 6 months of age and then every 3 months for life.

We stock several products to treat puppies with tapeworm and roundworms. We recommend **Milbemax Puppy**. Once your puppy is 6 months old, **Drontal Plus** tablets should be used. These can both be concealed in food.



## FLEAS

Like all insects, fleas lay eggs and it is these eggs that cause most of the problem. Even your pet only has a couple of insect visitors, each female adult flea can lay up to 2000 eggs. These drop off your puppy into the carpets, upholstery and bedding in your home. Flea eggs need warmth to hatch and thus fleas can breed indoors all year round. After hatching into pupae (cocoons), the fleas can lie dormant for up to a year. When the pupae sense the movement and warmth of pets or people, the fleas emerge and are ready for their first blood meal.

To control fleas on your pets you need to:

- *Apply treatment to your puppy to kill adult fleas*

Anything which kills adult fleas on your pet must be safe, easy to apply and effective. We recommend **Advocate** and **Advantage**. These 'spot on' treatments are applied to the skin at the back of the neck. They kill existing fleas on contact within 24 hours, are not absorbed into your pet's blood stream and do not contain organophosphates. They give protection against fleas for 4 weeks and are very popular with dog owners. Advocate also includes round worm treatment. We also stock other products which can be discussed with nurses as required.

- *Treat your home to kill flea larvae*

As well as treating your pet for fleas, vacuuming followed by environmental spraying with a **specialised household spray** is often required to break the life cycle of the flea. Our staff can recommend products.

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are essential to prevent your puppy contracting potentially fatal diseases. The first vaccination is given from 8 weeks of age against Canine Parvovirus, Canine Distemper, Leptospirosis, Corona Virus, and Parainfluenza. This is repeated with a second vaccination 2-6 weeks later when your puppy is at least 10 weeks of age.

Your puppy should be kept away from any areas which other dogs use and any unknown dogs until 2 weeks after the second injection. We would, however, encourage you to socialise your puppy with other vaccinated dogs in private gardens and to carry on around town if possible. Puppy parties are the ideal way to introduce your young puppy to other dogs and children. Ask our staff about Puppy Parties at Avonvale.

Your puppy will be given a certificate of vaccination once the primary vaccination course has been completed.

Even though all these diseases are still very common, it is **very** important that your dog receives a regular yearly booster to maintain adequate protection.

## SPAYING AND CASTRATION

We usually recommend bitches are spayed before their first season, at 6 months of age except for certain larger breeds; in which case we recommend before their second season. As well as preventing unwanted pregnancies, early spaying has been proven to result in a huge reduction in the occurrence of mammary tumours in

older bitches and prevents life threatening uterine infections. This protection is virtually lost after the second season.

Dogs are castrated at 6 months of age before they start to develop male traits such as roaming, urine marking etc. This also reduces the risk of developing prostate problems, anal tumours and testicular cancer.

Our vets carry out both of these surgical procedures here in our fully equipped operating suite. Your pet's anaesthetic is carefully monitored by trained nurses. Your dog should be able to go home that evening.

**Neutering** can be done with **15% discount** providing your pet has been vaccinated at Avonvale or is registered on our New Puppy Programme.

## MICROCHIPPING

This involves injecting a tiny chip under the skin on the back of the neck. This carries a number, unique to your puppy, which remains there for life. It is registered with **Petlog** on their central computer so that if your puppy becomes lost he/she can be reunited with you as soon as possible. Unlike a collar or disc the chip can never be lost.

We offer a comprehensive **New Puppy Programme** which includes all the preventive healthcare your puppy needs for the first six months of its life. To ensure your puppy gets the best start in life ask about our great value **New Puppy Programme**.

**If you would like advice on any aspect of your puppy's care, our Vets and Nurses are always pleased to help, so don't hesitate to call your local Avonvale Veterinary Centre.**

**Warwick 01926 400255**  
**Southam 01926 812826**  
**Wellesbourne 01789 841072**  
**Kenilworth 01926 854181**

[www.avonvets.co.uk](http://www.avonvets.co.uk)

