

Congratulations on getting your new puppy and welcome to the Rowan family!

You've just entered a very exciting time but we know that it's also a period when there can be a lot to try to remember. This handout is full of advice direct from the Rowan Veterinary Team to give you a first point of reference for the FAQs you are sure to have. We're delighted you have trusted us with your puppy's health and just want to remind you that one of our own vets is on call 24/7 in case of an emergency- just call the usual number.



At Rowan, we are aware that the earliest experiences in a puppy's life affect the way he or she develops, which is why it's important to make sure they are happy and healthy.

What should I expect when we first come to Rowan, apart from a warm welcome?

FREE vet check & nurse cuddle consult

A full veterinary health and weight check

A chance for your puppy to get used to being at the vets without any extra, potentially scary, elements

Flea/worming treatment demonstration with 1 month's free 'NexGard Spectra'

4 weeks' free insurance with Petplan®

Discussion of the issues raised in this leaflet and of any other questions you may have

Following the healthcheck consultation we will book your puppy in for vaccination, after which we offer a free program of monthly weight clinics. For more information please ask a member of staff. Please turn over for more detailed information on the main important puppy topics.

VACCINATIONS

At Rowan we are committed to using the best vaccines available. An initial course of 3 injections is given with the 2nd of these being given at 10 weeks of age or older. Your puppy is free to go for its first 'proper' walk one week after the 2nd injection but we advise avoiding standing water for a further two weeks after this. It is important to boost this vaccination annually to maintain protection.

Additionally, usually at '2nd Vaccination', we offer vaccination against Kennel Cough, which is also then boosted yearly. This highly infectious disease causes an unpleasant dry hacking cough which generally lasts about a month. It is very common and your puppy does not need to go to kennels to catch it!



FLEA PREVENTION

All dogs are liable to catch fleas if they are not treated regularly. With central heating creating an ideal environment for fleas, treatment is required all year round.

At Rowan, we recommend 'NexGard Spectra', a monthly chew, because we believe it is the most effective flea and tick killer available. NexGard Spectra also prevents ear mites, roundworm and lungworm (see below).



WORM CONTROL

Puppies need to be wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly for life. Worms can be dangerous to pets. They also pose a risk to humans, particularly children; some may even cause blindness. You do not need to see adult worms for your pet to be infected as most animals only shed the eggs in their faeces. For this reason, always make sure you 'Scoop the Poop' when your pet is in public areas.

At Rowan, we recommend 'NexGard Spectra' chew every month to control roundworm and lungworm (as well as fleas). Additionally, we recommend the use of 'Milbemax' tablets to control tapeworms, given every 6 months.

MICROCHIP

It is now a legal requirement for every dog in the UK to have a microchip by the age of 8 weeks. Having your puppy microchipped takes just a couple of minutes and means

that it can be returned to you if found. Microchips are also necessary for identification if travelling abroad.

INSURANCE

At Rowan we are big fans of pet insurance. Owning a puppy can be expensive as it is but unexpected treatment costs can be very unwelcome and sometimes, sadly, unaffordable. With good pet insurance you can rest assured your furry friend is covered for all eventualities and we do recommend a "Lifetime" policy. We do direct claims with Animal Friends, Argos, John Lewis, Kennel Club, M&S, More Than, Pet Plan, Sainsburys and Tesco. See our leaflet "The Importance of Pet Insurance" for further information.

PUPPY CLASS

The socialisation period for your puppy is between 3 - 14 weeks. During this period behaviours are established that will continue for life so it is really important to start training early. Try to introduce him or her to as many everyday experiences and (trusted) fully vaccinated pets as you can. For example, use the Hoover around them and start grooming early. Before your puppy is old enough to go for walks, he or she can be carried in your arms to experience things like traffic.



Ask us about poisons!

To help you make the most of this crucial period we run an evening puppy class which is open to all puppies who have had their first vaccine and are under 14 weeks old. Your questions will be answered (such as 'what should I do about toilet training?!') by a qualified veterinary nurse and a retired guide dog trainer. Friendly advice is offered regarding all of the issues in this leaflet and much more. In addition to this, all attending puppies receive a welcome pack full of goodies. It's always good when our dogs associate the vets with having fun!

"Thoroughly enjoyed it- very informative, relaxed and helpful. Kerry & Lynn had time for everyone's questions and problems... very useful tips and advice for new and experienced owners plus good socialisation for pups"

Amanda Hargreaves with Harry



NUTRITION

Initially, your puppy will need their daily feed requirement split into 3 - 4 meals a day. It is important for development to feed a puppy diet for at least the first 6 - 9 months and larger breeds may need a junior diet for a period after this. We recommend Hills Vet Essentials which is a good quality dry diet, and is fed with the estimated adult weight in mind. Specific advice is found on the side of the packet. Remember, every puppy is an individual and our regular free weight checks are the best way to stay on track.

DENTAL CARE

It is ideal to get your puppy into the habit of having his or her teeth brushed once a day. We offer a free consult with one of our nurses to demonstrate this and help you get started. In addition, a dry diet is better for dental health than a wet diet and there are dietary treats/supplements available, such as Hills t/d, which can be given. Beware of products with a high calorie content!



NEUTERING

In the UK, it is routine to neuter unless you plan to breed from your dog. Please note that once your dog has been neutered he or she will need less food!

For bitches, we advise spaying around 3 months after the first season, which usually occurs between 9 and 14 months. Spaying avoids unwanted pregnancy and removes the inconvenience associated with a season. It also prevents the development of pyometra (pus in the uterus) and reduces the risk of mammary cancer. Both of these conditions can be life threatening. Particularly in bitches neutered before their first season there is a small risk of urinary incontinence developing, which can usually be treated medically.

For dogs, we advise castrating at around 6 months, which also prevents unwanted pregnancies and has potential health benefits. Done at this early age, castration usually reduces non-desirable behaviours such as marking, aggression, sexual activity and roaming.