

Congratulations on the arrival of your new puppy!



Vaccinations

Vaccination protects your puppy from a number of serious and highly infectious diseases. It works by priming their immune system so that if they come into contact with the disease later, their body is better able to 'fight back'.

All puppies and dogs should be vaccinated against:

- ➔ Canine Distemper Virus
- ➔ Infectious Canine Hepatitis
- ➔ Canine Parvovirus
- ➔ Leptospirosis

We also recommend vaccinating against Kennel Cough which your puppy can come into contact with from mixing with other dogs, not just from a stay in kennels.

Primary vaccinations are given from 6 weeks of age, with a second vaccination when your puppy is at least 10 weeks of age.

At the first vaccination, your puppy will be vaccinated against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Leptospirosis (DHPL), and the same will be given at the second vaccination, 2-4 weeks later, as well as kennel cough.

Puppies are fully covered one week after the 2nd vaccinations and can then mix with other dogs and go out for walks.

Following the first booster, DHP protection will last for 3 years, with a booster vaccination given every third year. Whereas leptospirosis and kennel cough protection only lasts for 1 year, so dogs will need a booster vaccination every year.

If you are planning to travel abroad with your puppy, they will also need to have the rabies vaccination. This can be given from 3 months of age, with a booster vaccination every 3 years. Please ask for further information on travelling with your puppy.

Worms and worming

Most puppies become infected with worms at some stage. Puppies can become infected with roundworms in the womb or through their mother's milk, so regular worming is essential.

A heavy infestation of worms can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and weight loss. Some worms can be passed to humans, especially young children.

The main types of worms are:

- ➔ Roundworms – they look like tiny strands of fine spaghetti and are commonest.
- ➔ Tapeworms – these are made up of segments which look like grains of rice and can be spotted around the dog's bottom.
- ➔ Lungworms – can be picked up if your dog catches and eats small prey such as slugs, snails or amphibians.

We advise that puppies are wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age; this then reduces to every month until 6 months of age. After this time, routine worming is every 3 months. Monthly application of prinovox will help prevent lungworm.

Fleas

Fleas are an annoying and expensive problem in pet households which can easily be prevented. Regular flea treatment is advised to avoid infestation within your home, which can be difficult to eradicate. Remember when your dog has fleas you are only seeing about 5% of the problem; the majority of the lifecycle of the flea is spent in the home environment and not on your pet. Fleas can be a problem all year round, not just the spring and summer months.

Monthly treatment with a spot on flea treatment such as prinovox or frontline is recommend.

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Feeding

The aim of feeding a puppy is to provide complete nutrition for healthy development and growth. Feeding too little or too much can result in many complications. To ensure a correct growth rate and weight gain we recommend meals of a high energy density complete puppy diet until adult body size. A well made puppy diet will provide everything your puppy needs. We recommend 'Hills Vet Essentials' which is scientifically formulated to provide the best start in life for your puppy.

Socialisation

It is essential for puppies to meet others and learn about the world, ideally before 16 weeks of age. You cannot let your puppy run around in a public place until 1 week after their second vaccination, but they can be carried around outside before this time to get them used to it. Puppies should be getting used to anything they are likely to encounter at a later date, including different people, children, noises and animals.

Teeth

Plaque and tartar can build up your dog's teeth very quickly. We recommend brushing your puppy's teeth from a young age so they get used to it. Teeth should be cleaned daily with a soft bristle toothbrush and pet toothpaste, both of which can be purchased from the practice. At 6 months of age we recommend a health check, at which point your puppy's 'bite' can be checked. This is checking that the adult teeth are all lined up correctly and are not going to cause any problems in later life.

Dogs and the Law

It is a legal requirement for any dog in a public place to wear a collar with a tag showing the name and contact details of the owner. From April 2016, it will also be a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped. A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is inserted under the skin at the back of the neck.

Insurance

We are proud to say that the standard of veterinary care available to animals these days is extremely high. There are a lot of insurance companies that offer a range of policies, the best thing is to shop around and get a lifetime cover policy. Pet Plan is the insurance company that we recommend here at Henley House.

All routine procedures such as vaccination and neutering, and preventative measures such as flea and worming treatments are not covered by insurance. Remember that conditions that existed before taking out the policy will not be covered. Also if you change insurance provider throughout your dog's life, previous conditions will not be covered by the new company.

Neutering

If you have no intention of breeding from your puppy at a later date, we advise on spaying or castrating your puppy.

In females, spaying before the first season reduces the risk of mammary tumours considerably. Females can be spayed from 6 months of age or 3 months after their season. Each season lasts approximately 3 weeks. During this time, you will have to be extra vigilant to prevent unwanted mating.

In males, castration prevents some forms of cancers later in life, and it can help with aggression and reduce unwanted behaviours. Males can be castrated from 6 months old.

Pet Health Plan

Here at Henley House we offer our Pet Health Plan (PHP). This is not an insurance but is a convenient way of spreading the cost of preventative health care that your puppy will need, including vaccinations, worming and flea treatments. Monthly payments are dependent on the adult size your puppy will become. Please speak to any member of staff for further details.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns on 01825 766099.
You can also join us on Facebook on www.facebook.com/henleyhousevets

We look forward to watching your puppy grow into a happy and healthy dog.

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