

PUPPIES AND DOGS – WHAT YOU NEED TO CONSIDER

Puppies and dogs need a lot of care to keep them happy and healthy.

Where to get your pet

Consider carefully what sort of pet will best match your lifestyle. Do you have sufficient time/energy to train a puppy? Could you give a loving home to a rescue dog? This website should help you www.your-right-pet.org.uk.

Register with a vet

Do this straight away, and make an appointment to get your new pet checked over as soon as possible. [Click here](#) or telephone **02476 464789** to register with us today! Your pet should be vaccinated and wormed regularly to keep them healthy. All our vaccinations include a **free** full health examination with a fully-qualified Veterinary Surgeon. Should your pet become ill, we offer [Consultations](#) and comprehensive [Facilities](#) to better diagnose and treat your pet.

Pet Insurance



You may have budgeted for routine healthcare costs such as vaccination and parasite treatment, but what if your pet is involved in an accident or is diagnosed with a serious disease requiring expensive or ongoing treatment? Pet insurance helps you budget for the unexpected, and we recommend you seriously consider it. Ask one of our fully-qualified Vets or Nurses for advice about the different types of insurance. And remember, if you bring your puppy in to us for their primary vaccination course, you will get 4 weeks' **free** insurance as part of our Puppy Package.

Microchipping

We advise that all pets are microchipped, as recommended by Dogs Trust and other major animal welfare organisations. Microchipping greatly increases the chances of you and your pet being reunited should they be lost or stolen. For more information visit: www.pet-works.net/microchipping and watch our [offers](#) page for regular microchip promotions.

Neutering

We recommend your growing dog is neutered. Read our [neutering leaflet](#) to find out why.

A comfortable dog bed

A cosy, safe place for your pet to rest is important. Your dog's bed should be kept in a quiet, dry, draught-free area. Choose one that can be cleaned easily and thoroughly, and do this regularly.



Leaving your dog alone

Dogs are very social animals and should not be routinely left on their own for more than a few hours per day. For these times and for overnight, think about using a special "crate" for their safety.

Feeding your dog

Your dog will need constant access to fresh, clean water from a clean bowl. Food and water bowls should be easy to clean. Stainless steel bowls, or heavy pottery ones are. It is important to throw out any uneaten food after your dog has finished eating to make sure it doesn't go stale or mouldy. Replace bowls if they become chipped or cracked.



Puppies are usually ready to eat solid food when they are about five weeks old. Initially, puppies need four meals a day but this can be reduced to three a day at about 12 weeks. At six months, they can have two meals a day, which can continue for the rest of their life.

Adult dogs should generally be fed twice a day. They need a healthy, balanced diet that meets all their nutritional needs. Feeding a complete, commercial dog food is normally preferable to a homemade diet. It's not easy to achieve the correct balance of nutrients if you make your dog's diet yourself.

One of the best ways of making sure you give your dog the necessary nutrients is to feed according to 'life stage'. This means feeding a different diet depending on whether your dog is a puppy, adult or senior dog, because dogs of different ages have different nutrient requirements. For example, puppies need more calories in their food because they are so energetic. Several leading brands of commercially available dog food offer different foods for different life stages. We recommend and stock Purina Pro Plan across our 3 sites.



Follow the packet feeding guidelines and weigh the food out to check you're getting it right. Feeding the right amount is important as obesity is a common and growing problem among UK pets, leading to health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.

The only time you should really give food treats is when you are training your dog using rewards. Try to use something healthy such as small slices of carrot, and reduce the amount of food given in the main meal so that there aren't too many calories on training days. You don't need to use food to show dogs that you love them – games, walks and affection are better for their waistline!

Avoid feeding your dog immediately before travelling, to avoid travel sickness, or within an hour before or after vigorous exercise as this can lead to a dangerous condition called 'bloat'.

Exercising your dog

Socialisation is one of the most important things you can do for your puppy. It's all about letting them experience lots of everyday sights and sounds, especially in their first few weeks of life. A well-socialised puppy is more likely to grow up to be friendly and confident. Get your puppy vaccinated with us and we will discuss this further, and invite you to a [free Puppy Party](#) where your puppy can safely play with others in a controlled environment.

A week after their vaccination course, your puppy can safely be taken out for walks. The amount of exercise needed varies according to the age, breed and health of a dog. Ask your vet for advice on how much exercise your dog should be getting. Make sure you keep your dog on a lead in built-up areas. There are several dog-walking companies who will exercise your dog for you if you are unable to.



Cleaning up after your dog

Broad Lane Vets promotes responsible dog ownership. Dog faeces can transmit diseases, as well as parasites such as worms. Make sure you clean up after your dog using a plastic bag or 'pooper scooper', especially if there are children around. Dog owners and people responsible for dogs have a legal obligation to do this when in a public place, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Holidays

If you go on holiday, you need to arrange for someone responsible to care for your dog. Dogs can be booked into kennels or, alternatively, a friend or professional "pet-sitter" could look after them. Well-run kennels won't allow dogs to board if they haven't been vaccinated, so make sure you check your dog's routine vaccinations have been given within the last 12 months, and check to see if the separate kennel cough vaccination is required. [Click here](#) for links to local petsitters and kennels.

Training

Training is a great way to keep your dog's mind active and helps make sure you and your dog understand each other, especially when you are out together. People expect dogs to behave in certain ways, and to follow certain rules, but, like a child, a dog can only know what these rules are if they have been properly taught. The key to successful training is to make it fun! Dog Trainer Nicky Brunt from [Sound Hounds](#) comes in to start some basic obedience at our [free Puppy Party](#).



Toys

Dogs need plenty of mental stimulation to be happy, and you should play with your dog regularly, using appropriate dog. Keep some stored away and rotate the toys, to keep them interesting for your dog.

Grooming

All dogs need grooming, some more than others, and many longer-haired breeds also need regular "clipping". [Click here](#) for links to local dog groomers.