



## Information for Owners of New Puppies at the Chess Veterinary Clinic

### **Settling in:**

When your puppy first arrives at his/her new home it can be a very stressful experience. Ensure that your puppy has a safe place where he/she can retreat. A puppy crate is ideal for your puppy's safe haven.

### **Feeding:**

Young puppies should be fed *3-4 meals, evenly spaced through the day*. We recommend feeding a *puppy diet* since these are specially formulated for your puppy's nutritional requirements. It is important to make any changes to your puppy's diet gradually, slowly increase the proportion of new food and decrease the proportion of old food over 1-2 weeks to avoid diarrhoea.

How much food your puppy needs varies depending on the brand of food and the individual's metabolic rate. If your puppy is the correct weight you should be able to feel (without applying pressure), but not see, your puppy's ribs and spine and there should be an obvious waist. We run free nutrition and weight-monitoring clinics at our surgeries and are very happy to weigh your puppy regularly and give advice on feeding.

### **Vaccination:**

Initially your puppy will need a course of 2 vaccinations. The first vaccine can be given from 8 weeks of age; the second vaccine is then given 2-4 weeks later. You can take your puppy out and about 1 week after the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination.

*2<sup>nd</sup> vacc due .....*

After the initial vaccinations your puppy will only need boosters once a year, this is a good time for us to do a full health check.

*Annual booster due .....*

Vaccination will protect your puppy against Distemper, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, Hepatitis and Leptospirosis.

You can also vaccinate your puppy against Kennel Cough. Dogs are at risk of contracting kennel cough in boarding kennels and sociable places such as Chorleywood Common and the Aquadrome.

The vaccine should be given at least 10 days prior to kennelling your dog. Each kennel tends to have their own requirements so please check with them.

### **Worming and Flea Treatment:**

It is important to worm puppies regularly with highly effective products. We recommend using a dose of **Drontal Plus / Endogard** to kill intestinal worms, followed by using **Advocate** once a month to kill most worms to include lungworm (which is passed by snails and slugs), fleas, fox mange and ear mites.

**Drontal Plus / Endogard / Droncit** is recommended every 3 months to deal with tapeworm (Advocate does not kill tapeworm).

### **Identification:**

Identification is important in case your puppy should get lost or stolen. We can get tags engraved with your contact details to attach to your puppies collar.

You may also want to get your puppy *microchipped*. This is a tiny chip that is inserted under the skin at the back of the neck. It contains a barcode that is registered to your puppy. Should

your puppy get lost or stolen any vets, dog's home or police station can scan your puppy to find out whom he/she belongs to. If you decide to microchip your puppy at the same time as an operation we will be happy to do it at a discount rate.

**Pet insurance:**

We highly recommend insuring your puppy. Look into the different policies and see which is right for you (*life-time vs 12-month policies*). Alternatively set up a bank account for your puppy and put money into it every month.

**Training:**

You should start training your new puppy as soon as possible. Puppy classes are a good place to start. *Please ask at reception for a list of training classes in the area.*

**Teeth:**

One of the main health problems affecting older dogs is dental disease. In order to prevent this you should start brushing your puppy's teeth as early as possible. There are many different types of brushes and pastes available so find one that suits both you and your dog. Please ask for advice on how to brush your dog's teeth – it's not difficult!

**Adolescent Health checks:**

We offer a *free check-up at 6 months of age* to answer any questions or concerns you may have. It is also important to have your puppy checked by a vet regularly. This allows us to pick up any problems early (such as growth defects or tooth problems) and to stop them progressing.

**Neutering:**

If you are not planning to breed from your puppy when it is older we recommend that you neuter him/her. There are a number of problems that can affect your puppy if left entire. We can *castrate your dog from 6 months old. Bitches are usually spayed after their first season* (which can be any time from 6 months).

Please ask for our information leaflet which discusses the pros and cons.

**ENJOY YOUR NEW PUPPY!**