



bestforpet

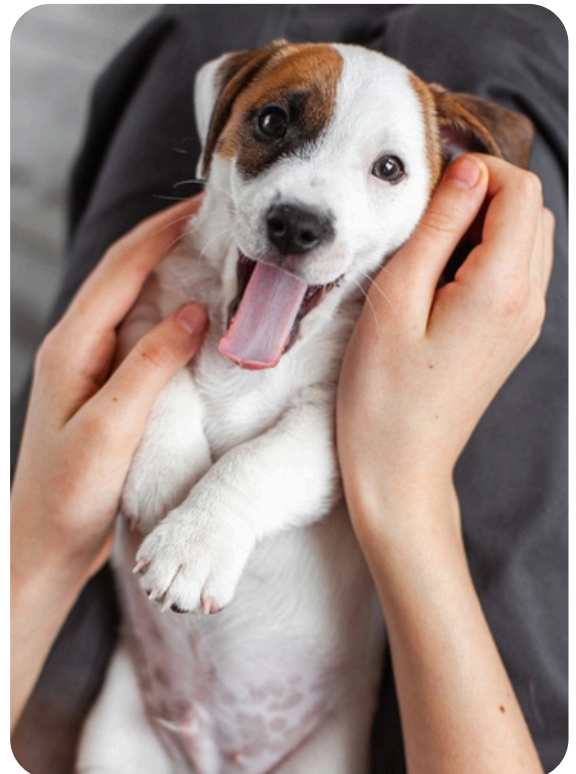
Your Puppy Starter Guide

Welcome to the exciting world of puppy ownership!

This guide gives you tips to get your new bundle of joy off to the best start in life and ensure they can grow into a happy and healthy dog.

Introducing your new pup to their forever home is such a wonderful time, and you'll want to make sure they have everything they need. This starts with providing them with proper nutrition, vaccinations, and parasite protection, as well as plenty of mental and physical stimulation to help establish a strong bond between you and your pet.

By visiting our clinic, your puppy can get a nose-to-tail health check, vaccinations, parasite protection and proper nutrition - all of which are essential for their health and well-being.



Guide highlights:

- [Vaccinations](#)
- [Intestinal Worms](#)
- [Fleas and Ticks](#)
- [Dental Health](#)
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- [Weight and Nutrition](#)
- [Desexing](#)
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Our veterinary team are here to help you at every step of the way to give them the best care and get your puppy off to the best start.

Vaccinations

It's essential to vaccinate your puppy at the correct times to allow the greatest protection from a variety of serious and potentially fatal diseases, including canine parvovirus, canine distemper virus, infectious canine hepatitis, and infectious canine tracheobronchitis (kennel cough).

In some parts of New Zealand, it's also recommended to vaccinate against Leptospirosis (please ask your vet whether this applies to your puppy).

It's important to keep up with the recommended vaccination schedule for puppies as they grow to provide your pup with the best disease protection.

If you're not sure when your puppy is due for their next vaccination, talk to our team to make sure your puppy is up to date.

Typical Puppy vaccination schedule:



First vaccination

between 6-8 weeks old



Second vaccination

between 10-12 weeks old



Third booster*

between 14-16 weeks old

*Check with your vet for the recommended vaccination schedule for your puppy



Learn more about
Vaccinations here.



Intestinal Worms

Intestinal worms live in the intestines and feed off the nutrients that the puppy consumes.

If left untreated, they can cause a wide range of health problems, from malnutrition to anaemia and even death. The most common way puppies become infected is by ingesting the eggs of the parasites, which can be found in contaminated soil, faeces, and other sources.

Some intestinal worms can also be passed onto humans. To protect your puppy from these parasites, regular deworming treatments should be provided. Talk to your vet about deworming your puppy.

You should deworm your puppy:



- Every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age
- Once a month until 6 months of age
- Every 3-6 months for life (more often when they're around young children)



Learn more about [Intestinal Worms here.](#)

Fleas and Ticks



Fleas

Fleas commonly cause itching, skin disease and allergic reactions in pups. What's more, they can be challenging to diagnose, as a puppy with flea allergy dermatitis may never actually be seen with fleas!

That's why flea treatments should be given all year round to prevent and control flea infestations effectively.

Please ask our veterinary team for the best advice and recommended flea prevention for your puppy.

Ticks

The Cattle tick (or bush tick) is most common in the North Island, in part of the Tasman, West Coast and even Marlborough. These ticks see our pets as an ideal food service and can cause significant discomfort where they attach themselves. Irritation often follows and bacterial infections can occur.

Our team are happy to advise the best preventative for your puppy. Importantly, regardless of which prevention you choose, you should check your puppy for ticks regularly. This is especially important between the months of September to February, but remember, ticks can appear all year round. Run your fingertips over the coat, parting the fur and checking for lumps.

Most ticks reside on the head, neck, and ears, but you should take the time to check the entire body. If you see a tick, remove it carefully with tweezers and take it to your veterinarian. Your dog will need to be treated for infection.



Cattle Tick Map
● Common Areas
● Sparse Areas

Tick prevention products include:

- Annual injection
- Spot-on products
- Oral chews
- Tick collars



[Learn more about Fleas, Cattle Ticks and other parasites here.](#)

Dental Health

Good dental health is essential for pets, just like it is for humans! Puppies can be prone to dental health problems, so it's good to start caring for their teeth from a young age.

Proper dental care can help prevent the build-up of plaque and tartar, which can lead to gum disease and tooth decay, not to mention smelly breath. Regular brushing and specialised dental chews for puppies can help remove any built-up debris and help keep your pup's teeth and gums healthy as they get older.



Puppies start teething at around 18 weeks of age, with most having all their adult teeth present at 6 months of age. We recommend a health check at this time to make sure their oral health is on track.



[Learn more about dog Dental Care here.](#)



Microchipping

Microchipping your puppy helps ensure they are easily identified and is a legal requirement in most regions of New Zealand. A tiny chip is placed under the skin of the neck, between your puppy's shoulder blades.

If your puppy is found and taken to a vet or animal shelter, staff will use a scanner to retrieve the unique identifying code on your puppy's microchip, which is stored in nationwide registry databases. Therefore, it's important to keep these details up to date. If you're unsure of your puppy's microchip status, we can use our clinic scanner to check this. It only takes a few minutes and doesn't require an appointment.

Talk to our team to confirm your current details registered on the chip.



[Learn more about Microchipping here.](#)

Weight and Nutrition

Weight

Maintaining a healthy weight for your puppy is extremely important for their overall health and well-being. Keeping your puppy at their ideal weight helps to keep their bones, joints, and muscles strong and healthy. In addition the risk of serious health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and types of cancer can reduce.

Monitor your puppy's weight regularly and work with your veterinary healthcare team to make adjustments to ensure they stay at their ideal weight. By doing so, you can help your puppy stay healthy and happy.

A trip to the vet for a weight check can be a perfect opportunity to keep track of your puppy's weight whilst also ensuring a positive vet experience with lots of treats and cuddles from our team.

Nutrition

Proper nutrition is another part of helping your puppy get the best start in life. Puppies need a balanced diet that includes all the essential nutrients for growth and development. Proper nutrition is vital for puppies because it helps them to grow strong bones and muscles and provides the energy necessary for play and learning.

There are many premium-grade commercial foods that meet the exact nutritional requirements of growing puppies. Although brands vary in quality, premium brands generally provide higher-quality ingredients. Therefore, we recommend you feed your puppy premium-grade puppy food.

Providing the proper nutrition for a new puppy will ensure they get the healthy start they need to grow into a happy and healthy adult dog. Talk to our veterinary team for advice on the appropriate nutrition for your puppy.

Extra care should be taken with large and giant breed pups to restrict their caloric intake to the amount recommended for the diet that is chosen. Exercise should be restricted to leash walks only while the pup is growing.



Learn more about Weight and Nutrition [here](#).



Desexing

Desexing your puppy doesn't just prevent them from having unwanted litters. It also reduces the risk of certain diseases such as mammary cancer, prostate enlargement and pyometra, which is an infection of the uterus causing severe illness. Additionally, desexing can help to reduce the urge to roam, which can result in accidents and injuries, and reduce urine marking and aggressive behaviours.



Learn more about Desexing your dog here.



When to desex?

Each puppy is unique, and depending on their breed, behaviour and your lifestyle it can occur anytime from 6 months of age.

We recommend having a discussion with your veterinarian to choose the time that works best for your pet and family.

Puppy School

The experiences your puppy has during their first 16 weeks of life will significantly influence the sort of adult dog they grow into. It's very important that your puppy has positive interactions with other people and puppies during this crucial period to help them grow into a confident and well-behaved member of the family.

Puppy School is a wonderful opportunity for you and your pet to learn basic obedience skills, loose-lead walking, toilet training, positive reinforcement techniques and more.

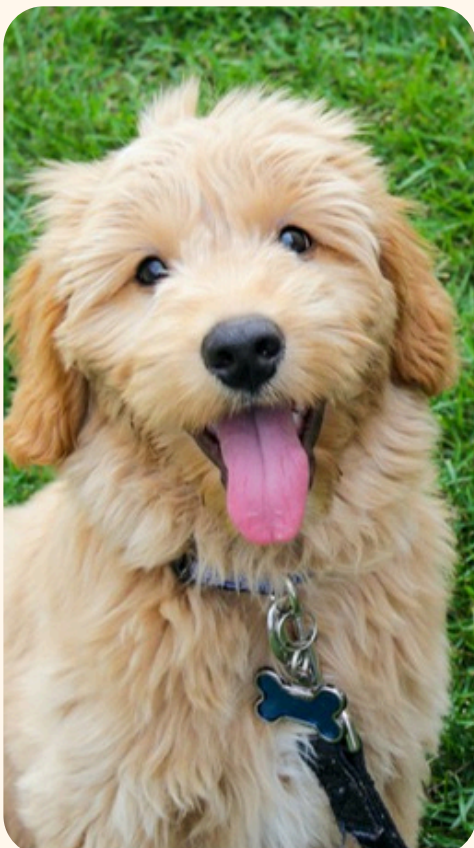
The classes also allow your puppy to socialise safely with vaccinated puppies of a similar age, and a wide variety of people.



Puppy School is an excellent way to help your pup grow into a well-behaved dog.



Learn more about the benefits of Puppy School here.



Pet Insurance

While not essential, pet insurance is a serious consideration for new pet owners. It provides financial protection in the event of unexpected veterinary bills arising from accidents or illnesses. In addition, pet insurance lets pet owners enjoy peace of mind knowing that, should the worst happen, their pets will be taken care of.

Pet insurance doesn't often cover routine care, such as vaccinations, dental cleaning, and flea and worm treatments, which is where a pet wellness program can be a great complimentary option!

Talk to our healthcare team about how pet insurance and wellness programs can save you money and give you peace of mind for the care of your precious new puppy.



Learn more about the difference between Pet insurance and Wellness Plans here.

A healthy puppy is a happy puppy



WellnessPlan[®]

Designed by Vets, the Best For Pet Wellness Plan covers your puppy's typical health care needs in their first year and beyond all for a low monthly fee.



Unlimited vet consults



24/7 live vet support



\$250 off dental



Free Microchip



Core vaccinations

and more!

With no joining fees or waiting periods you can start saving now.

Join today or learn more at bestforpet.co.nz

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for
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