



FACT SHEET

Puppy Checklist

Before you can start fully enjoying the addition of a new member to the family there are a few considerations that come first in regard to keeping your new pup happy and healthy. Here's what we recommend:

Vaccination. Yearly vaccinations protect your dog from contracting several serious, often-fatal diseases, such as Parvovirus and Kennel Cough. The latter is a particular problem on the Northern Beaches.

- 6-8 weeks New puppy protection vaccination
- From 12 weeks First full vaccination
- 4 weeks later Full vaccination booster

- 15 months First annual vaccination
- Annually Booster vaccination

Heartworm. Spread by mosquitoes, the range of this particularly nasty parasite continues to widen each year. Medication to prevent Heartworm should be started from 12 weeks. (See the **Heartworm** Fact Sheet.)

	Heartworm Prevention	Intestinal Worm Control	Stops Fleas Breeding	Kills Fleas
Milbemax®	✓	✓		
Interceptor®*	✓	✓		
Heartgard®*	✓	✓		
Sentinel®	✓	✓	✓	
Revolution®	✓		✓	✓
SR 12®	✓			

• These tablets don't treat tapeworm. If any fleas are seen, tapeworm tablets will be needed.

At six months we can give your puppy a long-acting Heartworm Prevention Injection called **SR 12**. This will last for nine months the first year (because your pup is still growing), making it due for an injection at the same time as his or her annual vaccination. You should then bring your dog in for an annual injection each following year. (Don't worry, we'll send you a reminder.) By the way, SR 12 only prevents heartworm; it is not an intestinal wormer.

Tick control. If you and your pup live on the Peninsula, then he or she is at risk of getting a paralysis tick, and this nasty pest can be fatal. See the section called **Tick Advice** on our website. Below we've listed the more common tick preventions, but we'll be happy to recommend which would be best for your particular situation.

- **Permethrin®** - A tick rinse that can be used on puppies older than 12 weeks. A soaking rinse is applied at the end of the bath and *not rinsed off*. Permethrin is safe to use every day but most people rinse just once a week. Mixed in a spray bottle, Permethrin can be used as a repellent before your dog's daily walk.
- **Frontline Spray®** - Using the correct dose, thoroughly cover the dog every three weeks. Frontline gives good protection from two days of age. Because it's calculated on weight, the spray becomes expensive for larger dogs.
- **Proban Tablets®** - Given orally every second day, Proban uses a dose of *organophosphate* which kills any ticks that happen to bite. While it's an effective tick preventative, Proban can make some animals feel nauseous.
- **Tick collars** – Collars can be used from 12 weeks and provide reasonable tick control as long as they're replaced every 6-8 weeks.
- **Frontline Topspot®** - Offers reasonable tick prevention when applied every two weeks. You can start using it from eight weeks of age.

Note: No tick prevention is 100% effective, so your dog should be searched regularly. As indicated above, some areas of the Northern Beaches experience extremely bad tick infestations, especially in the Spring. In many cases more than one tick preventative could be needed. However, you should always consult with us before combining medication.

Flea control. If you spot any fleas on your dog or see any sign of flea dirt, we strongly recommend that you start year-round flea treatment. (See the relevant **Fact Sheets**.) Long-acting spot-on medication has proved to be the best way to control fleas, but all cats and dogs in the household must be treated. The products we feel are working well this year are:

- **Advantage®** - Squeeze onto the back every month, all year round. If you stop medicating in the wintertime, the small flea population remaining will be able to seed your house and yard with eggs that will hatch the following summer.
- **Revolution®** - This spot-on medication also helps prevent heartworm. So far,

we find it very effective against fleas.

Intestinal worms. Because new puppies often have worms, we recommend that you use an 'all-wormer' on yours every two weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until six months old.

Dogs that walk or socialise should be wormed **four** times a year.

For adult dogs that never leave your property worming twice a year from the age of 12 months should be sufficient.

Feeding. In most cases you should feed your new pup three times daily – till full but not bursting - until 12 weeks old, then twice daily. **There is no need to leave food out.**

We highly recommend professional dry foods such as:

- Hills Science Diet
- Advance Puppy Food
- Eukanuba

These quality regimens provide all the nutrients needed for optimal growth, healthy teeth, gums and coat. Along with such products, you should give chunks of raw meat or low-fat bones to encourage healthy teeth and discourage chewing of things best left alone. You can also give table scraps as long as they're neither too fatty nor too sugary.

You should pay particular attention to not over-feeding; obesity has become a considerable problem with dogs. One of our vets or nurses will be happy to offer sound weight and feeding advice.

De-sexing. At PAH we recommend that all non-breeding animals be de-sexed at about six months of age. We will perform the surgery during the day, and your dog should be home that evening. (See the **Fact Sheet** titled 'Post-Operative Care Following De-sexing'.) Before surgery and the anaesthetic it's a good idea to do a routine blood scan to test for any possible abnormalities and to establish a normal baseline of blood tests for your dog. Our nurses will talk this over with you upon admission.

Council registration. All dogs must be registered with the council by six months of age. They will need proof your dog has been micro-chipped and, if applicable, de-sexed, which we can provide for you. If your dog has not been micro-chipped, we can insert a capsule and give you the relevant documentation.

Puppy Preschool. Attending our Puppy Preschool gives both you and your pup a great start in the life you'll be sharing. At PAH our qualified behavioural trainer runs classes in the dedicated Puppy Preschool classroom we've built. Young dogs undergo obedience training and learn to socialise appropriately with others dogs and people. The lessons learned here are never forgotten. Moreover, our instructor can advise you on all manner

of techniques that help make having a new pup more enjoyable and less stressful.
You'll find the classes lots of fun for the whole family.

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