

Veterinary Hospital puppy and kitten guide



Welcome to team VH, we are delighted you have trusted us to provide the care, advice and support you and your pets may need as you welcome them to the family.

This guide will provide you with important information needed to ensure your pets start their life happy and healthy.



Useful Contacts:

Vet

Phone Number

Address

Emergency Vet

Phone

Address

Insurance Provider

Policy Number

Phone

Petlog Number (to update microchip details)

Phone

Website

It can be an incredibly exciting yet daunting prospect of bringing a pet into your lives.

Below we cover some of the most important areas to consider:

Insurance

Taking out an insurance policy provides peace of mind for those unexpected vet bills should they crop up.

Although we are unable to recommend specific companies we do however highly recommend that you take out an insurance policy that will cover for lifelong illnesses such as diabetes, that has an renewable yearly limit.

It is important to check the small print on your policy to ensure you are aware of any exclusions.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are an essential part of responsible pet ownership as they keep your pet safe from potentially fatal disease. Some diseases which do risk being transferred onto you and your family.

We will discuss the options and schedule available depending on your lifestyle and pets age at the time of consultation.

Flea and worming

Providing effective worming and worming treatment will help prevent infection and disease in your puppy/kitten.

Many are born with worms that have been passed on by the mother and therefore it is important to establish a good worming/flea protocol early on - this is something we will discuss during your appointment.

There are many different flea and tick products on the market including tablets or spot-on products depending which best suits your lifestyle. Products sold in veterinary practices are prescription only, meaning they have gone through rigorous testing procedures and contain the most effective ingredients. It is important to be aware that shop bought products do not have to adhere to these standards, and most are not as effective

Veterinary Hospital Health Care Plan

Our Veterinary Hospital Health Care Plan (VHCP) focuses on preventative healthcare and provides the most comprehensive and cost-effective way to give your pet everything they need to stay healthy.

The VHCP provides a way to spread the cost of all your preventative products over 12 months.

If you have a puppy or kitten and join the annual plan this will entitle you to gain access to the kitten primary vaccinations for £60 and the puppy primary vaccinations for £60 thus receiving a 20% saving alone.

Sign up online today: www.vhvets.co.uk

Neutering

Neutering is the universal term for castration of male dogs and spaying of female dogs.

There are many benefits to having your pets neutered not just for the obvious reason of preventing reproduction. Both procedures are performed under general anaesthetic and are very safe.

We will discuss neutering during your initial appointment.

Nutrition

It is important to provide your pet with a good quality complete diet for essential growth and nutrients needed for those growing bones!

There are many different diets on the market: our veterinary nurses will be happy to discuss these in more detail with you.

Following recent research, we do not recommend raw feeding or completely grain free diets.

Identification

Since 2016 it is a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped. This should have been done before your puppy left the breeder; if it has not we

recommend microchipping your puppy as soon as possible. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is injected into the skin at the base of your puppy's neck. Each microchip has a unique number which is stored on a central computer database. If your pet is found, their chip can be quickly read with a hand-held scanner and your details found on the database. This will allow you to be reunited with your pet quickly and effectively. It is your responsibility to ensure that the details registered on the database are up to date and correct. As well as a microchip, your dog should wear a collar and tag with your contact details on it.

Dental Care

Dental disease is one of the most common conditions found in pets, and if left untreated it can lead to other serious health problems. Ongoing dental care is key to ensuring your pet's teeth and gums remain healthy. This includes regular teeth brushing, feeding your pet the right diet and attending regular dental checks. It's important to introduce a good dental routine from an early age to prevent future issues

Puppies' baby teeth (deciduous teeth) are replaced by adult teeth at around 6-7 months of age. If they do not fall out naturally by the time they are 9-12 months old, your veterinary surgeon may need to remove them to prevent dental problems.

Socialisation

This is a really important topic, one which shouldn't be ignored as research suggests that those early experiences of new sounds/smells/pets and human interaction greatly impact on how an animal behaves and after all we want a well rounded, nicely mannered pet to thrive within your home/family environment.

We are very lucky to have a certified behaviourist in Miriam Prior working at the Veterinary Hospital who has put together a puppy guide specifically concentrating on socialisation/training information.

Next Steps ...

Ahead of your first appointment here are some things you could focus on:

- ❑ Letting your new addition settle in - providing a quiet comfy corner or crate where he/she can relax and settle. Consider the use of pheromone plug ins/collars/sprays
- ❑ Handle them - get them used to being touched from head to tail including ears and paws
- ❑ Grooming - this is a great way to get them used to being touched
- ❑ Toilet training - accidents may happen but with lots of frequent trips outside (for puppies) and praise they will learn quickly
- ❑ And finally enjoy them

We can't wait to welcome you and meet your new addition.

Should you have any queries or require any information please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Veterinary Hospital Team