

<b>Cullompton:</b>	COLLEGE ROAD CULLOMPTON DEVON EX15 1TG Tel: (01884) 35558 Fax: (01884) 831941
<b>Tiverton:</b>	7 MILLENIUM PLACE TIVERTON DEVON EX16 6SB Tel: (01884) 258585 Fax: (01884) 257050
<b>Honiton:</b>	2 DUCHY ROAD HEATH PARK IND. EST. HONITON DEVON EX14 1YD Tel: (01404) 44095 Fax: (01404) 46243
<b>Uffculme:</b>	7 FORE STREET UFFCULME DEVON EX15 3AN Tel: (01884) 841317

## Puppy party

## Vaccines

- We vaccinate for Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza (DHPPi vaccine) and Leptospirosis (L4 vaccine).
- Optional: vaccination for Kennel Cough – this is a live vaccine, so if there are any immunocompromised individuals in contact with the puppy please speak to us.
- Vaccine schedule:
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine (usually given at 6 - 8 weeks) – DHPPi and L4
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine (2 weeks later or when over 10 weeks) – DHPPi (puppy can then go out onto pavements a week after this vaccine, however ensure to avoid areas with a risk of leptospirosis, e.g. farmland, waterways, areas known to have rats).
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine (4 weeks after first vaccine) – L4 (continue avoiding high risk areas for 3 more weeks, then puppy can go everywhere).
- We would still advise carrying your puppy around, going to cafés with the puppy on your lap, going in the car etc. for socialisation and desensitisation to the environment. They are also okay to socialise with **dogs that you know, as long as they are healthy and fully vaccinated.**
- Booster vaccines are then given yearly (L4 and Kennel Cough) or every 3 years (DHPPi).

[www.valevetgroup.com](http://www.valevetgroup.com)

## Flea and worm

- We recommend a monthly flea treatment (we generally use a tablet form of this called Simparica Trio, which covers fleas, ticks, roundworms and lungworm, it does not cover tapeworm). A spot-on treatment (Prinocate) is also available, but this doesn't provide tick protection.
- Tapeworm treatment (generally a tablet called Droncit) is given every 3 months.
- The choices of treatment may vary as the vet will discuss the options with you and prescribe the best combination for your puppy.
- We recommend prescription products as these are often stronger drugs that work faster. However, this means they must be prescribed by a vet. This will usually be done at their annual vaccination but an additional health check may be required, for example if you need to change products. This health check is free of charge for our Premier Paws pets.



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## Premier Paws Club

- This is our monthly budgeting plan that is available for our clients to join for each of their pets. This works out as a significant saving throughout the year.
- Included in this:
  - o Flea and worm treatment (monthly flea treatment, with 3 monthly tapeworm treatment)
  - o Vaccinations, including Kennel Cough
  - o 4 complementary visits with a nurse per year for nail clips **or** anal gland expressions
  - o 10% off routine neutering
  - o 10% off vet consultations.

## Insurance

- We would always advise insurance for your pets – having an ill or injured pet is always stressful and scary, and having the financial aspect already covered takes away at least that aspect of the stress.
- We advise getting a “lifetime” policy. This means that the insurance cover will continue for their lifetime, this is particularly important for diseases like diabetes or arthritis. Please bear in mind that if you cancel this policy, any new policy will likely have exclusions. It is your choice what level of cover and which company you use – just please read the finer details to check what they cover and check any exclusions to the policy, so that these aren’t a surprise when/if you need to use it. Please also bear in mind that repair of a broken leg can cost between £2500-5000, and a referral for general anaesthetic and MRI scan averages £3000-4000 and treatment would be on top if this.
- Regardless of whether they are insured or not, we offer the same treatment options to you, however it may affect which options you are able to proceed with.
- We are partnered with Pet Proactive insurance company – the price of the premiums are lower than comparable policies because they are based on Vale Vet’s prices. They have access to our records so will be able to confirm any exclusions at the start of the policy. These exclusions won’t change for as long as you have the policy. There is a single £100 excess per year, regardless of how many claims you make. They pay the balance to us so you don’t have to pay anything further.
- We offer 4 weeks free insurance for puppies under 6 months old. This does have to be taken out on the day the puppy receives a clean bill of health from one of our vets or nurses.



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## Diet

- Puppies have very specific nutritional needs, requiring delicate balances of nutrients (including calcium, protein, fat, vitamins and minerals) to ensure optimal growth.
- We would advise ensuring your puppy's diet is a **complete puppy food** – this means the food is nutritionally complete and contains all the vitamins and nutrients needed (in the correct quantities) for the puppy's health and growth.
- Nutritional deficiencies can cause quite serious problems, so ensuring the diet is specifically formulated for puppies is important.
- Raw feeding – we are not against raw feeding, however we do advise that if you do want to do this that you take considerable care to do it correctly. You can buy pre-prepared minced food and we always recommend that you source this from a reputable supplier. These should generally be registered with [ukpetfood.org](http://ukpetfood.org) to ensure that they meet appropriate health and safety requirements. This will minimise the risks of infection with bacteria and immature worms to you and your family. It is also more important to keep up with worming as not all raw food is frozen to cold enough and for long enough to kill any encysted worm larvae. Food should be specifically formulated to be appropriate for puppies. Please also be aware that if the puppy is in contact with children or immunocompromised individuals, raw may not be the best choice due to risk of bacteria - as puppies put everything in their mouths, they are likely leaving this bacteria on things around the home!

## Crate training

- We would advise crate training for the puppy's safety when left alone – we're sure you have all realised by now that your puppy wants to chew and play with everything around your house!
- Keeping them crated at night or when home alone avoids them getting into things they shouldn't, keeps your belongings safe, and also helps them to have a safe space to relax and sleep. Tired puppies are hard work!
- Crating also helps with toilet training, as puppies instinctively try to avoid toileting where they sleep.
- When they come in for hospitalisation or operations at the vets, or if they go to the groomer or a boarding kennel, they are likely to need to be crated at some point. This can be quite stressful for them if they aren't crate trained. An example (that we hope most of you won't need) is the recovery from most orthopaedic surgeries, for example from a broken leg, needs crate rest of at least 6 weeks. A puppy or dog who is already comfortable in a crate is going to heal much better than one who is trying to get out or getting themselves worked up in the crate.



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## Veterinary handling

- As with crate training, getting them used to being handled in a veterinary way will make vet visits much less scary for them throughout their lives.
- Please try to get them used to being handled around their paws, ears, eyes, mouth, and try to get them happy with looking at their teeth.
- An injured dog is likely to be scared and stressed, so if they are already used to being examined, it avoids us having to stress them further by doing things they're not used to.
- If they're comfortable being handled, it also makes it more likely that we can do the things we need to do without having to use sedation.
- On that note, muzzle training is can also be a good idea – you never know when you might need to use one, and again, it's one less thing for the dog to be stressed about if they already know muzzles aren't scary and know how to wear one, especially if they're injured and we need to use one for human safety (or if they're prone to picking up/eating things out on walks!)

## Neutering

- Females
  - o We advise spaying after the first or second season, usually approximately 3-4 months after the season finishes.
  - o The best age to spay is a balance of the evidence about the occurrence of different conditions. Delaying until they are older can increase the risk of them developing mammary cancers or pyometra (infection of the uterus). There is evidence that spaying early can increase the risk of some other cancers but this is often research from other countries where an early spay is at 8-12 weeks of age. Our compromise from looking at the research is to spay after their first or second season.
- Males
  - o Castration is usually advised on an individual basis – in the UK in recent years, generally the thinking has moved from castrating every dog, to making a decision based on the individual.
  - o Nervous dogs can be made worse without their testosterone, as testosterone is a hormone of confidence. If you are wanting to castrate a nervous dog, we would always advise speaking to a behaviourist first, or trialling Suprelorin (a chemical implant which goes under the skin). This suppresses testosterone for around 6-12 months and allows us to get a feel for what his behaviour may be like if he was castrated, without it being permanent.
  - o We would ideally like your puppies to be fully grown before castration if you do want to go ahead, as testosterone helps the bones to finish growing, and we don't want to cause joint issues in the future by neutering too early. The timing for this will depend on the breed of your dog, as larger breeds take longer to be fully grown. In general this is between 12-24 months of age.



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