

Best Behaviour

Training, socialisation and handling are the best ways to help your pup grow into a well-adjusted dog and to avoid problems like anxiety and aggression.

Short daily training sessions and obedience classes can be rewarding and fun for both you and your pup. Young puppies benefit greatly from socialisation: introducing them to as many new experiences, people, sounds and smells as possible. Hall Vet Surgery hosts Puppy Parties which are a great way to start off your training and socialisation!

It is important to establish good habits from the start. Decide what behaviours are acceptable in your pup and reinforce them from an early age. Being clear about what the rules are, and rewarding good behaviour leads to a more harmonious relationship with your dog.

Start handling your puppy all over, clipping nails, grooming and pilling as early as possible. Accustomising your pup to frequent handling reduces the stress of future examinations and helps you to pick up on any problems early on.



Identification and Registration

Registration

In ACT, registration is compulsory for all dogs from 8 weeks old. You can register your pup online, over the phone or at a government shopfront for a one-off fee. Dogs must wear a registration tag at all times.

Microchipping

In ACT dogs must be identified either with a microchip, collar & tag, or a tattoo. By 2011, all dogs must have a microchip. In NSW, all dogs (excluding working farm dogs) must be microchipped prior to registration. We can implant the microchip during a consultation or when anaesthetised, for example during desexing.

Insurance

If your dog is ill or involved in an accident, pet health insurance allows investigation and treatment to proceed without worry about the expense. Check out our website for links to many pet insurance providers.

HALL VET SURGERY

a passion for pets and their people



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Opening hours for consults:

8.30am-6pm Mon to Fri

8.30am-2.30pm Saturdays

By appointment only



**HALL
VETERINARY
SURGERY**



***Caring for
your puppy
or dog***



Starting preventative health care

Vaccination

Your puppy is first vaccinated at 6-8 weeks for distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus. At 10-12 weeks we give a booster injection and the optional kennel cough vaccine.

Keep your pup away from public areas until seven days after their 10-week vaccination.

A booster vaccination 12 months later will protect against distemper, parvovirus and hepatitis for 3 years and kennel cough for 12 months. Boarding kennels and obedience classes insist on an up-to-date vaccination record, including kennel cough.

Vaccines work best in dogs in good health so a full examination is mandatory before each vaccination.

An annual health check is essential to maintain your pet's good health and review vaccination needs.

Desexing

We desex dogs at about 6 months of age. This is a day procedure so pups return home on the same day. It is a legal requirement for desexed animals to receive a tattoo inside their left ear.

We prefer to desex female dogs when not on heat or pregnant. Desexing dogs prior to maturity helps reduce aggression and roaming in male dogs, and behavioural problems and cancer in both sexes.



Keeping your dog parasite free

Intestinal Worms

Regular worming protects your dog from roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm. Dogs with access to farm animal or kangaroo carcasses require an additional hydatid tapeworm wormer for full protection.

Pups under 12 weeks of age should be wormed every 2 weeks with an all round intestinal wormer such as Drontal or Milbemax. Roundworm eggs can develop into larvae in small children, so it is very important to teach children to wash their hands after handling a puppy.

From 3 to 6 months old a monthly dose of Milbemax will protect your pup from heartworm as well as intestinal worms.

Adult dogs over 6 months need an intestinal wormer every 3 months. If required, hydatid tapewormer is given 6 weeks after.

Heartworm

Heartworm is a potentially fatal mosquito-borne disease. Worms can develop and lodge in the heart. Signs of heartworm include a chronic cough and tiring easily.

Pups should begin monthly preventative tablets at 12 weeks of age. At 6 months we can give the heartworm preventative injection Proheart SR12. This is repeated at the next vaccination and then annually.

Dogs over 6 months which are not on heartworm prevention or whose prevention has lapsed require a blood test prior to starting prevention.

Our friendly vets, nurses and receptionists are happy to discuss any aspects of your pup's care or development.

Fleas

Flea control keeps your dog comfortable, prevents flea tapeworm and stops flea allergy. Flea control is easy with monthly top-spot products like Advantage or Advocate.

Ticks

Paralysis ticks are a danger to dogs visiting the coast, especially in spring and summer. We advise you start tick protection with Advantix, permethrin spray or Proban tablets at least 2 days before leaving. You should also search your dog daily with fingers and eyes, paying special attention to skin folds, and orifices such as the ears. If your dog develops a wobbly gait, vomiting, or difficulty breathing contact a veterinarian immediately.

Choosing the right diet

Balance

Premium dry foods like Advance provide a convenient, balanced diet. Cheaper foods only meet minimal requirements and are associated with intestinal and skin diseases.

Bones and chews

Feed pups soft raw bones like chicken necks to encourage their natural chewing instinct. Older pups and adults need bigger bones such as soup or shank bones. Never feed cooked bones or long bones cut along their length, as they can splinter easily. Alternatives to bones include rawhide chews, pigs ears, chew toys, and Greenies.



Bones and chews keep your dog's teeth and gums clean and healthy and also provide long-lasting entertainment.

A diet of mainly soft food and no bones leads to plaque and tartar build-up on teeth. This causes pain, gum infections and smelly breath. Some prescription dry foods are designed to clean the teeth as the dog chews.

Weight control and special diets

Avoid overfeeding or feeding your dog fatty foods or treats. Obesity increases the risk of hip dysplasia in many large breeds and of arthritis, diabetes and pancreatitis in all breeds. We have formulated diets available for dogs with special needs such as heart, kidney, or liver disease and for weight control.

Walking

Taking your dog for daily walks is the best enrichment and entertainment you can provide. It is a legal requirement to pick up after your dog in public places. For a map showing off-leash areas & special regulations in the ACT, visit our website at:

www.hallvet.com.au/dogareas/index.html

