



Kingston Vets

Dog Healthcare

Routine vaccinations

Vanguard Vaccine

These offer protection against Distemper, Parvovirus, Leptospira Hepatitis and Parainfluenza. These are given generally at 8 and 10 weeks of age and followed up with annual boosters. It is important that puppies are not walked in public until a week after the vaccination course is complete.

Other vaccinations

1. Rabies – Required for overseas travel with a Pet Passport.
2. Kennel Cough – An intranasal vaccine given annually if your pet is due to go into kennels, or in a high risk environment, i.e. regularly walked by a dog walker. We see this very commonly in young & elderly dogs when their immune system is not as good.

Parasites

Fleas

Some animals are very sensitive and attractive to fleas.

We advise NEXGARD SPECTRA (monthly chewable tablet) throughout the year, this is also effective against fox mange, roundworms and lungworms.

Annual house spraying with Indorex is also useful to reduce the eggs and larvae on your carpets.

Worms

1. Roundworms – Spread toxocara which is especially dangerous to young children and can lead to blindness. Monthly treatment with Advocate is effective against this.
2. Tapeworms – Animals infected by rodents and birds eaten, and also fleas. Worming every 3-6 months with Milbemax.
3. Lungworm – A rapidly growing problem leading to lung disease, bleeding, anaemia and possibly death. It is spread by snails and slugs especially in wet weather. Monthly treatment with Advocate is effective against this.

Ticks

If your dog is prone to Ticks or you regularly walk in Richmond Park, we recommend Nexgard Spectra monthly during the summer.

Seresto Collars are available: Effective against fleas and ticks

Please note:

For Flea and Worm control we recommend you use the products we sell as these are much more effective than pet shop or supermarket brands. Although products can be bought on the internet, they will require a veterinary prescription. Please be aware it is illegal & DANGEROUS to buy some veterinary products via the internet.



Identichip

This is an injection which inserts a small chip into your pet, thus providing individual identification. If your pet is lost or stolen it can be identified using a scanner. It is **COMPULSORY** for all dogs over 8 weeks of age and is also one of the requirements for pet passports if you decide to take your pet abroad.

Diet

We highly recommend Hill's Vet Essentials and Royal Canin Diets. They produce good quality complete life stage dry food. Dry food makes a big difference to the long term maintenance of your dogs teeth.

Lifestyle diets contain the right quantity of protein for each stage of your pet's life.

Raw Meaty Diets are proving popular now and can really suit some dogs. It is important to remember that you are handling raw food and so strict hygiene must be maintained.

Exercise

Particularly with large breed dogs, it is important that you don't over exercise them until they are fully grown as this can have a detrimental effect on the development of joints leading to early arthritis. Please don't throw sticks for your dogs. Every year vets see dog with injuries, sometimes life threatening as a result of stick injuries. Try not to do too much ball throwing. The 'darting' action that happens when your dog is running too and fro can result in damage to their knees.

Insurance

We highly recommend insurance for peace of mind. Please check the small print and make sure you choose a policy which states "cover for life". Please don't change Insurers if possible – new insurers will exclude every problem previously mentioned in the animal's medical history.

We recommend 'Petplan' and 'Agria' insurance companies but there are lots to choose from.

Please note that fees for referral to specialists can easily rise to over £6000, so your policy should be able to cover this. If you choose not to take out cover, it would be wise to have a safety net of funds in a 'dog account' for any emergencies that may arise.

Teeth Brushing & Grooming

- If you can get into the habit of brushing your dog's teeth regularly, this will help considerably to reduce tartar build up and gingivitis [gum disease] long term. There are dog specific toothpastes [with NO fluoride] and toothbrushes and finger brushes available. This has been proved to be far the best way of keeping your dog's teeth clean
- Failing that, dental chews and dry food will help.
- Shampooing routinely is not necessary on most dogs. A mild shampoo when dogs are dirty is all that may be necessary.
- Regular grooming and clipping is necessary for course coated dogs. In the summer it is particularly helpful to clip ear flaps and paws short to avoid grass seed problems.



Neutering

There is good evidence that neutering dogs can double their length of life, although they can gain weight.

Females: We recommend spaying from 6 months or 2 months after their first season depending on the breed. This reduces the risk of unwanted or false pregnancies, mammary tumours and uterine infections which can kill the dog.

Males: We recommend castration from 6 – 10 months, this reduces the risk of wandering, fights and road traffic accidents and also prostate disease, testicular cancer and certain skin cancers.

Behaviour/training

We recommend you seek out good training classes. This provides good socialisation for your dog and also advice and guidance. It is important to remember rewards work better than punishment. Always reward dogs when they have done something good, usually with praise and a food treat. Ignore bad behaviour either by putting the dog in another room or moving to another room yourself. Establish house rules and boundaries and make sure the whole family is consistent.

Toilet training

- Every time your puppy goes outside GO WITH him.
- REWARD every urination or defaecation in the RIGHT place
- Make the reward GOOD
- Take him to the area REGULARLY- after every, every drink, every play session, every sleep and every hour!
- Be patient and consistent
- Make sure ALL the FAMILY follow the rules

General training

- Always reward the dog when he comes, however long it takes.
- Make the recall signal friendly, exciting and unpredictable (e.g. using a squeaky toy)
- Be as welcoming as possible by adopting a crouched body position
- Do not grab at the dog if it runs past
- Never punish a dog for not coming
- Encourage your dog to a 'DOWN' position by putting a treat in front of your dog's nose and then slowly lower your hand to between the dog's front legs. Do this slowly so your dog follows your hand. As the down position is reached reward with the treat. Once you have done this regularly start using the command – 'DOWN'. Do this for 2 minutes several times a day.
- Don't try to discipline by shouting. To your dog, shouting sounds like barks signalling approval of behaviour.



- If your dog cries every time you leave the room, reassure it by showing you are coming back. Walk in and out of the room repeatedly, for brief periods at first, without looking or speaking to it. Also useful to stop dogs jumping up. Offer a treat when dog does not cry or jump.
- Don't pander to your dog if it refuses food. It will cave in after a couple of days. Obviously seek vet advice if the loss of appetite is over an extended period.
- If it strains on the lead, come to stop. If pulling continues, then take by collar and move back 2 metres, then 4 metres, then 10 metres. Don't say anything, just show you're in control.
- If your dog is aggressive when meeting other dogs, take it by the collar, step in front of it and stroke the other dog [if friendly!], to show there is no threat.

General advice

- Provide suitable introduction to people and pets. Allow your puppy to socialize as much as possible.
- Introduce the puppy to a variety of experiences by car journey, visit the vet, and even being left alone. Try and make sure these experiences are as positive as possible.
- Teach basic obedience including sit, stay and recall.
- When behavior is inappropriate, redirect them to a suitable alternative.
- Avoiding separation anxiety by leaving your new dog for short periods as soon as possible.