

## **You had your puppy vaccinated today... what did the vet say?**

- **Worming regime.** Routine worming is very important not only for the protection of your new puppy, but for your family as well. All young puppies come with some worms. You may not see them because they can pass as microscopic eggs in the faeces (poo). *Echinococcus spp.* Tapeworms are transmitted by infected meat, or by fleas, to your dog. *Toxocara spp.* Roundworms are transmitted to the puppy or kitten from the mum, through the placenta or early milk. Also, by ingesting (eating) them from infected faeces (e.g. sniffing a strange dog or cat's poo in the park). It is possible for both these types of worms to infect humans. The recommended worming regime is as follows:-
  - Worm once per fortnight until your puppy's first vaccination
  - Then, worm at the first and second vaccination
  - Worm at 4 months of age.
  - Worm at 5 months of age.
  - Worm at 6 months of age.
  - Then worm 4 times per year (every 3 months)
  - *Remember that allowing your puppy to lick your mouth or face may expose you to worms.*
- **Flea and Tick Prevention.** Today your puppy will have received a Simparica tablet to take home. This will protect your puppy against fleas and ticks for 1 month. Thereafter, your puppy should receive a Simparica tablet every month for continuous protection from fleas and ticks. Please bring your puppy into the surgery every month to get his or her weight checked, and to get the next dose of Simparica. There is no appointment required to get flea treatments or to use the practice scales for weight checks.
- **Insurance.** It is a very good idea to have a "pet insurance" policy for your puppy. If the worst did happen and your puppy got ill, an insurance policy would pay for most medical bills, including blood samples and faecal samples (which can cost from £55 to £200), or more advanced treatments such as chemotherapy or placing pins and plates in a broken leg (which can cost £300 to £2000).
- **Neutering (spaying or castration).** Routine neutering is often carried out around 6 months of age. Neutering a female dog (bitch) before her 1<sup>st</sup> season (heat) has certain medical advantages including making her very unlikely to contract mammary (breast) cancer and meaning she will never get a uterine infection when she is older (pyometra).
- **Training classes for puppies.** Classes are a good idea, they help your new pup socialise and meet new dogs and people, making him/her a much more confident dog. Contact Jim Flemming at Top Dog Training for advice on 01786 464147, or Eleanor from Puppy School on 01324 815896; 07752 526030, or Ann Watt at Stirling Dog Behavioural Centre <https://www.stirlingdogbehaviouralcentre.com/>
- **Identichipping.** It is now required by law that all dogs are microchipped. Placing a permanent microchip under your puppy's skin means that if he/she ever goes missing, you can be reunited. All vets, SSPCA inspectors and dog wardens have scanners, and all stray animals are scanned. Microchipping costs just £27.99 (£5 discount applies if done whilst your pet is under general anaesthetic for e.g. neutering). Once done it lasts for life. Just ask the vet or receptionist for more details.
- **Remember** that your new pet is not fully covered for the various infectious diseases that we just vaccinated him or her against until 1 week after the second vaccination.