

## TOYS:

A bored puppy is a naughty puppy. Relieving boredom with fun toys avoids digging, barking, chewing and other disruptive behaviors now and in the future. Keep in mind, your puppy will go through a teething phase (3-6 months of age) and it will be necessary to chew to break new teeth through. Providing rawhide, pigs ears or specially designed chew toys will save your shoes, clothes and furniture from destruction!

## TOILET TRAINING:

This can prove to be the biggest headache when your puppy is housed indoors. Being tolerant and following some basic rules will help. Your puppy will need to go to the toilet within half an hour after each meal, so restrict it to the yard or your designated toilet area, free from distraction, until this end is achieved. Consequently, don't offer a late night feed or you will expect to clean up a mess in the morning.

Pups have notoriously weak bladders and will often leave a wet trail behind them, particularly when excited. They will usually outgrow this. Only if you catch your pup in the act of voluntarily toileting inappropriately, should you interrupt and relocate the puppy to complete its task. Do not punish the pup after the fact and do not rub its nose in the offending item.

## PUPPY PRESCHOOL:

It is very important that your puppy is socialized at a young age to avoid all the territorial problems of an unsocial adult dog. Puppy Preschool will help to do this as well as give you more detailed advice on all of the above areas mentioned. Puppy Preschool is not Obedience Training as such, but teaches you how to start training your puppy at home. Most importantly, Puppy Preschool is a lot of fun for you and your puppy. Ask our staff for details about *Pet City's* Puppy Preschool.

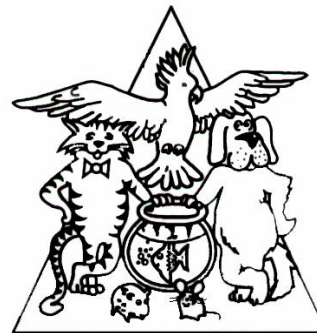
## COUNCIL REGISTRATION:

All dogs must be registered with the local council at three months of age.



*Pet City* recommends microchipping your dog as well.

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# Pet City

Mt Gravatt

**THE COMPLETE  
PET DEPARTMENT STORE**

*"Everything for your best friend"*

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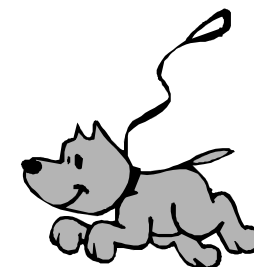
## Puppy Fact Sheet

The following is a guide to maintaining your new puppy in good health and to make the often stressful and confusing settling-in period as streamlined as possible.

Always remember you have acquired a living animal (with specific needs and emotions) at a very vulnerable and impressionable age.

The way you approach daily routines and problems now can influence your puppy's health and responses as an adult.

We will be pleased to advise you further if you require more information.



## VACCINATION:

A course of three vaccinations is required to fully protect your puppy. These are due at 6-8 weeks of age, 12 weeks of age and 16 weeks of age. Your *Pet City* puppy will already have started this course and future due dates are listed in your veterinary vaccination card. This is an important document and should accompany your puppy to all veterinary visits, kennels and obedience classes. **Until that final vaccination your puppy should not be venturing into the outside world and certainly not come in contact with other dogs whose vaccination status is unknown.** It takes 10-14 days after each vaccination to give maximum protection so it is important to plan ahead to avoid your puppy being affected by the four diseases vaccinated against. These are: **Parvovirus** – the nastiest puppy diarrhoea and vomiting disease, **Distemper**, **Hepatitis** and **Kennel Cough** – there are two bugs responsible for this highly contagious coughing disease.

A full vaccination protects against all these diseases - a 5 in 1 injection. Discuss your options with your vet. Annual boosters are necessary for the rest of your dog's life.

## INTESTINAL WORMS:



Worming throughout life is essential for all dogs. Using an appropriate **all-wormer** (we recommend Drontal or Troy All Wormer) according to your puppy's weight every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then every month until 6 months of age (desexing time) and then every 3 months for life. Your *Pet City* puppy is currently up to date with worming and future due dates are listed in your history card.

## HEARTWORM:



These worms are completely separate from intestinal worms and are spread by mosquitoes. In Northern and Eastern Australia heartworm is a grave threat to your dog's health. The worms infest the heart and lungs and cause heart failure. The condition is treatable if detected early, but is very expensive and involved. **Prevention is better than the cure.** You can start your puppy on preventative tablets immediately, but as long as you do so by 4-5 months of age and you maintain your tablet course according to your dog's weight, there is no blood testing required. There are two types of tablets available: Daily which **must** be given every day for the rest of the dog's life and are comparatively cheap; and monthly which generally are more convenient but are more expensive. A yearly injection is also available from your vet.

## DESEXING:

Males and females can be desexed around 6 months of age. There are positive health benefits to be gained from desexing at this age, such as a much lower incidence of mammary (breast) cancers and uterine disease in females, and prostate disease in males, less unwanted litters of puppies, less wandering, aggression and competition, less territory marking (leg cocking), cleanliness around the house and cheaper council registration fees. *Pet City* strongly recommends that you desex your animals.

## FLEAS:

A certain amount of scratching in a puppy is normal, largely due to nervous energy. If fleas become a problem at home you will generally see the adult fleas or find flea dirt in your puppy's coat (small black specks of dried blood left behind by fleas feeding). Your *Pet City* puppy has been treated for fleas and consequently you will not be inheriting a flea problem from us. However the flea life cycle is predominantly an environmental problem, so if you have or have had other pets at home, ensure all precautions are taken to prevent flea outbreaks. Pet City staff can help you with a total flea eradication program. Always use a flea treatment appropriate and safe for your puppy's age and size.

## FEEDING:

Feeding your puppy a balanced, high quality food is essential to ensure a healthy progression into adulthood. This is particularly important with the larger breeds. It is always best continue the previously fed diet during the initial stressful relocation period to avoid stomach upsets. Your *Pet City* puppy has already been settled in on the premium range of dog foods (Nutrience, Hills Science Diet or Eukanuba) and you will have been advised on your puppy's feeding requirements. Use the provided feeding guide as a baseline feeding level. Every dog is an individual, so the amount you feed will be determined by breed, activity levels and metabolism. Monitor your puppy's weight and body condition and feed appropriately. Small, regular meals are of greater value.

Should you decide to alter your pup's diet at any stage, do so slowly over four or five days. Gradually phasing out the current food and mixing in the new diet.

If you have a fussy puppy (which is not unusual amongst small breeds of dogs), there are tricks to keeping your puppy on a balanced diet without spoiling it and creating bad habits:



- Do not distract the pup when food is offered.
- Wet dry food with warm water.
- Microwave heat wet food to release odours and flavours.
- Adding small amounts of raw meat or a balanced sausage meat (Ecopet) to improve a meal's appeal.

DO NOT feed your puppy table scraps or human treats as an alternative if you don't want these to become your dog's preferred food.



## BEDDING:

The first night home with your new puppy is usually associated with some whining and crying. Set up your puppy's sleeping area as a safe and fun place to be. If you give in to your pup's demands for attention, expect the same routine the next night. Do not start any habits now that you don't want to continue later on.