



Lilydale Clinic
 484 Maroondah Highway
 Lilydale VIC 3140
 P (03) 9739 5244 F (03) 9735 5509

Yarra Glen Clinic
 28 Bell Street Yarra Glen VIC 3775
 P (03) 9730 1569

www.yarrarangesvet.com.au
 clinic@yarrarangesvet.com.au

**Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a new puppy.
 Owing a dog is very exciting and rewarding, but it also carries with it some responsibility.**

VACCINATION

Vaccination is an extremely important part of your pets’ life. Vaccination is essential to protect against the serious contagious diseases of dogs. It is of great importance that puppies receive a primary course of booster vaccinations in order to ensure complete and early protection against the following diseases:

Disease	Symptoms
Parvovirus	Bloody vomiting/diarrhoea. This virus is highly contagious and can survive in the environment for over 12 months FATAL
Infectious Canine Hepatitis virus	Sudden death or vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, coughing, bleeding from body orifices FATAL
Distemper virus	Green discharge from eyes and nose, bloody diarrhoea, skin rash, seizures, high fever FATAL
Kennel Cough: Para-influenza virus <i>Bordatella bronchiseptica</i>	Highly contagious upper respiratory infection characterized by a severe, harsh hacking cough and retching

PARASITE CONTROL

There are three main groups of parasites that can infect your dog: intestinal worms, heartworm and external parasites (fleas and sarcoptic mange). Puppies are highly vulnerable to parasite infections and can even die from blood loss caused by worms and fleas. Also, as some of these parasites can be transmitted to humans and especially children, it is vitally important that we establish good parasite control (your veterinarian will recommend a parasite control program to suit your individual needs). The following table is a brief overview of some of the products that we recommend.

Product	Fleas	Sarcoptic Mange	Intestinal worms	Heartworm
Advantage (spot on)	√			
Advocate (spot on)	√	√	√*	√
Revolution (spot on)	√	√		√
Sentinel spectrum (tablet)	√		√	√
Interceptor spectrum (tablet)			√	√
Proheart Injection				√
Popantal All-wormer (tablet)			√	

* Not Tapeworm

Recommended intestinal worming protocol for puppies:

Treat every two weeks from 2 to 12 weeks of age, then every month from 12 weeks to 6 months of age. Ongoing treatment regime will depend on the product(s) used.



Lilydale Clinic
484 Maroondah Highway
Lilydale VIC 3140
P (03) 9739 5244 F (03) 9735 5509

Yarra Glen Clinic
28 Bell Street Yarra Glen VIC 3775
P (03) 9730 1569

www.yarrarangesvet.com.au
clinic@yarrarangesvet.com.au

FEEDING YOUR PUPPY

Why is good nutrition important?

Puppies have specific nutritional requirements that need to be met in order to ensure proper growth and development. There are several diseases that puppies can develop if they are not fed the appropriate diet. Puppies have increased requirements for energy, protein, calcium and other vitamins and minerals compared to an adult dog. **Both deficiency and excess of nutrients can cause abnormal growth and disease.**

What should I feed my puppy?

We recommend a complete and balanced commercially available premium puppy food, such as **Hill's Science Diet** or **Advance** dry food. Home cooked diets are to be avoided as they are unlikely to meet your puppy's specific nutritional requirements.

Does my puppy need dietary supplements?

No! If you feed a high quality complete and balanced puppy food there are no additional nutritional requirements. In fact, supplementation with additional minerals (eg. Calcium powder) can cause diseases such as Ricketts. Cow's milk should be avoided, as most puppies are lactose intolerant and can develop diarrhoea and abdominal pain. "Puppy milk" is lactose free and therefore safe for your pet, however is not essential.

How much should I feed?

The daily intake of you puppy depends on two main factors:

- The breed of your dog
- The food you are feeding. Commercial dog foods will usually have a recommended daily intake listed on the packaging.

How many meals per day?

Young puppies have very small stomachs and cannot consume a large volume at any one time. Therefore, puppies should be fed multiple small meals daily. All puppies should be fed three meals daily until they are 3 months old. Small breeds (such as Maltese terriers and Jack Russell terriers) should continue to be fed three meals daily until 6 months old. Adult dogs should be fed two meals per day.

Can I give my pet treats? What about bones?

Treats are a good way of rewarding good behavior and training your puppy. Human food should not be used for treats as this can lead to obesity and will encourage begging behavior. Acceptable treats include dried pork liver treats, individual dry food kibbles.

Raw bones are a great addition to your dogs diet. They are great for keeping your pets teeth clean and preventing boredom. The following points are very important:

- NEVER feed cooked bones – these are brittle and will splinter in your pet's mouth, causing injury to the mouth and gastrointestinal tract.
- Feed the right sized bone for your pet! Raw chicken wings are good for small puppies and marrow bones are appropriate for larger dogs.
- Do not feed bones where the marrow is exposed. Bone marrow is composed of PURE FAT and can lead to obesity and even pancreatitis.
- Bones should be fed no more than 3 times per week.
- Old bones become brittle and are a common cause of stomach upsets and broken teeth. We recommend bones be taken away after 3 days.



Lilydale Clinic
484 Maroondah Highway
Lilydale VIC 3140
P (03) 9739 5244 F (03) 9735 5509

Yarra Glen Clinic
28 Bell Street Yarra Glen VIC 3775
P (03) 9730 1569

www.yarrarangesvet.com.au
clinic@yarrarangesvet.com.au

BEHAVIOUR AND SOCIALISATION

Toilet training

Puppies are no different to human babies – they need to go to the toilet frequently and don't have much control of their bladder, so be prepared for accidents! Puppies are very quick learners so early training will help eliminate unwanted surprises at

home. The best way to toilet train your puppy is to take puppy outside every hour or so and praise them when they go to the toilet in the right spot. Also take puppy outside after all meals. Do not scold puppy for having accidents in the house or rub their face in their "business" – they won't understand what they have done wrong.

If you require more detailed information, please don't hesitate to ask.

Socialization

A dog's adult behavior is based on their experiences during the critical learning period when they are a young puppy. If dogs are not exposed to different people of various ages, as well as different animals and situations as a puppy, they are more likely to display anti-social behavior later in life. Unfortunately the socialization period is also the period where puppy is still receiving booster vaccinations and is not fully immune from disease. Therefore, we should socialize only with fully vaccinated dogs. This means not taking your puppy to the park and anywhere where 'strange' dogs may be found until after their final vaccination. This is why puppy classes are so popular nowadays. After your puppy has their full booster course of vaccinations, obedience classes are recommended to both socialize and train your dog.

DESEXING AND MICROCHIPPING

What is desexing?

Desexing involves the surgical removal of the reproductive organs. In the female this procedure is called a **spay**, and involves removal of the ovaries and uterus. In the male this procedure is called a **castration**, and involves removal of both testicles.

Why should I desex my puppy?

Desexing dogs has several health and social advantages. These include the following:

- Reduced risk of mammary cancer
- Eliminates the risk of ovarian, uterine and testicular cancer
- Reduced risk of prostate disease
- Reduced desire to roam
- Reduced aggression and undesirable sexual behaviours

What is the best age to desex my puppy?

Puppies should be desexed between 4 and 6 months of age. By this age they are developed enough to tolerate the general anaesthetic required for this procedure. Female puppies should be spayed prior to coming on heat for the first time (any time after 6 months of age).

What is a microchip and does my puppy need one?

A microchip is an identification device that is about the size of a grain of rice. The microchip is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. Each microchip has an individual number that can be detected by a microchip scanner.

Every dog should be microchipped because it is the only permanent form of identification available if your pet should go missing. Also, it is a legal requirement of most shires and councils to have your pet microchipped. Dogs can be microchipped at any age, however we most commonly perform the procedure when pets are in hospital for desexing.