



Your New Puppy

A Truly Independent Family Run Practice

www.longridgevet.co.uk

www.laparoscopicspay.co.uk

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Vaccinating your Dog

Your new puppy will require 2 injections at 2-4 weeks apart. The earliest we start is at 6 weeks with the final injection given at 10-12 weeks.

We recommend a booster vaccination every 12 months.

Protection is not complete until one week after the second vaccination therefore your dog should be kept away from unvaccinated dogs and public areas until then.



The diseases we routinely vaccinate against are:

Distemper	A severe diarrhoea and respiratory infection that leads to encephalitis (brain infection) and is deadly.
Parvovirus	A severe bloody diarrhoea often with vomiting, many cases die.
Hepatitis	A viral infection of the liver.
Leptospirosis	An infection which leads to kidney failure in the dog and can affect people causing severe disease in some cases.
Parainfluenza	One of the causes of “kennel cough”.

There are also additional vaccines available for your dog against **kennel cough and rabies**. The kennel cough vaccination is highly recommended for dogs going into kennels or doggy day care facilities. Rabies is required for taking your dog into another country.

If after vaccination your dog develops any worrying symptoms please ring for advice; it is not unusual to develop a lump at the injection site or to be a little quiet after.

We send out vaccine reminders when an annual booster is due. This will initially be sent as a text and email reminder (please make sure that your mobile number is correct on our system). Don't forget to check your junk folder!

Remember that if you miss your annual vaccination booster by over 3 months it is advised to start the course again.

Feeding Your Puppy

Dogs are omnivores and therefore can eat many types of food. To achieve maximal health we recommend a complete dry or wet diet.



These are perfectly balanced to meet the specific nutritional requirements at every stage of your dog's life.

We recommend **Hill's** Vet Essentials range of foods for all dogs and cats.

We run a **Hills VIP** scheme at the practice, which offers you a loyalty discount. We will give you a discount off your first bag, and then an on-going loyalty programme.

We also have regular offers from Hills and offer a full money back guarantee on all Hill's Diets. If your pet does not like the food or you are not happy with any aspect of it, the bag may be returned to us for a full refund.

Puppy's Age - weeks	No. of Meals per Day
4-6	6
6-8	4
8-12	3
12+	2

Parasites and Your Puppy

Worms

It is very important to regularly worm your puppy. We recommend monthly worming for the first six months. After six months you can choose between a monthly product or a three-monthly product. Regular worming is particularly important for households with young children or pregnant women.

Fleas

There are hundreds of products available from many sources with huge variations in efficacy and safety. Fleas are becoming resistant to certain chemicals and our pets are becoming very sensitive to fleas with many having allergic skin conditions when bitten.

You can control and prevent fleas effectively with minimal side effects to your pet by using the right products. Our expertise and advice is on hand to save you from investing in inappropriate products, which will save you time and prevent your puppy from scratching.

A brief summary of the flea lifecycle may help you understand the control mechanisms we recommend. Fleas jump onto your pet, have a blood meal, and then lay eggs. The eggs then roll off your pet's coat onto the carpet and bedding.

The eggs hatch within the environment into larvae, then mature into adult fleas which jump onto your pet's coat and the cycle continues. Under favourable conditions this cycle takes only 12 days, and as a female flea can lay 2000 eggs in her lifetime it is easy to see how quickly an infestation can arise.

Our recommendations aim to break this cycle in the following ways:

Treat the adult fleas by using a prescription-only tablet, spot-on product or veterinary collar on your pet.

Treat the environment using a spray in your home/combination product.

The method you use is dependant on your individual circumstances and wishes. We are here to advise, please ask.

Remember—fleas carry tapeworms. So if your pet has fleas or is exposed, it is also important to keep him up to date with worming treatments.

Ticks

Ticks are most active in Spring and Autumn when they climb stalks of grass, heather or bracken to wait for a passing animal to attach to. Once attached it buries its mouthparts into the skin and has a meal of blood. It engorges on its blood meal over a few days and then falls off. The tick is a source of skin reactions and abscesses where it attaches and also carries infections such as Lyme disease.

If you do find a tick on your pet the best action is to remove it with a proper tick remover. Our prescription only flea products also prevent ticks.

Regular Preventative Flea and Wormer Options

There are several options available for maintaining flea, worm and tick control. After your puppy is six months old you can choose monthly or three-monthly prescription only products. We also have a direct debit option where the treatments are delivered to your home. Please ask for details. Because we use prescription only products, and to ensure that your puppy receives the correct and most effective dose, we must have an up to date weight before prescribing and dispensing the medication. You can pop into the practice whenever you're passing. This is an excellent way of your puppy familiarising themselves with the practice, its scents and surroundings.

Prevention is the key to parasitic control

Regular quality flea and wormer will prevent your puppy having fleas or worms

Neutering Your Female Dog

Neutering your bitch (spaying) has a number of advantages

Inconvenience: Many bitches discharge heavily when in season.

Mammary tumours: The risk of your bitch developing breast cancer increases dramatically with each successive season. Spaying your bitch before her second season almost eliminates this risk.

Pyometra: This is an infection of the womb, which in the early stages causes lethargy and then progresses to blood poisoning and in un-treated, death in advanced cases. It is quoted that 50 % of un-spayed bitches develop this condition.

False pregnancy: Many un-spayed bitches go through the symptoms of pregnancy, including producing milk and nesting, although not pregnant due to hormonal upsets. They are often very lethargic and depressed at this time.

Unwanted puppies: Even the most careful owners have ended up with their bitch having an unwanted pregnancy.

There are methods of contraception available for bitches, but there are significant, and we feel unacceptable, side-effects from these. Such medications are costly and will add up far above the cost of a spay in a dog's lifetime. There is however a slightly increased risk of urinary incontinence in older spayed bitches. This is treated successfully with hormones with minimal side effects.

Spay surgery is best carried out 3 months after the first season. Here at Longridge Vets we are proud to be one of the first in the region to offer laparoscopic (or keyhole) spays. This involves only two small 6mm incisions. Your dog will experience a lot less pain and a faster recovery. Ask at our reception desk for a leaflet with full details or visit our specific website www.laparoscopicspay.co.uk.

Neutering Your Male Dog

Neutering your male dog reduces unwelcome sexual behaviour, the tendency for him to roam, and can often reduce aggressive behaviour patterns. Neutering also reduces the incidence of prostate disease, testicular tumours and anal adenomas (a tumour) in older dogs, and is why we recommend castration before the age of 6 years old. Castration can be carried out from around 6 months old, following discussion with one of our vets.

Book an appointment online at www.longridgevet.co.uk

Phone on 01772 783327

Pet Insurance

In recent years veterinary medicine has made great advances. We are now able to diagnose and treat many conditions that would have remained untreated, often with fatal consequences.

The downside of such advances is the high cost of equipment, drugs and laboratory fees. We strive to price our services fairly and openly. We always recommend taking out a comprehensive pet insurance with a lifetime policy to help cover the cost of veterinary care. To help you understand the costs we have provided examples of care either given by ourselves or from a specialist referral centre.

Problem	Cost of Care
Dog with leg fracture	£850
To diagnose an unwell labrador requiring blood tests and x-rays	£350-400
Westie with a womb infection, surgery	£700
Cat with itchy skin, tests and treatment	£250+
Dog with mouth tumour referral	£1600+
MRI scan and referral for spinal condition	£1500+
Monthly heart medication for a dog with heart failure	£250 per month

Travelling with Your Puppy

Following BREXIT taking pets on holiday with you has become more complex. We can no longer issue EU Pet Passports. Pets can now travel into Europe using an Animal Health Certificate. These take considerable time to complete and require a lot of detail. We have full information on our website regarding the certificates. Please do contact us as soon as you know that you wish to take your pet abroad. The certificates have a very narrow window for completing and take our vets considerable time.

For up to date information please visit the Gov website www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad



Puppy Behaviour

Puppies and dogs learn by association. They have a very short attention span, therefore the quicker they receive a reward for good behaviour, which can be repeated, the more often they'll demonstrate the good behaviour.

Reward all good behaviour, and ignore all unwanted behaviour.

Interrupt what cannot be ignored.

Toilet Training

Take your puppy outside after eating, sleeping and playing games. Stay with him, allowing him only a few minutes to relieve himself. Praise when he does so. Remember the first rule – ignore unwanted behaviour. This means that you do not tell him off for toileting in the wrong place.

Gaining Your Puppy's Attention

Teach your puppy to look at you when you say his/her name. Reward him/her for looking, but never call him then tell him off.

Start when you are in the same room and he is looking at you. Progress by saying his name when he is in the same room, but not looking at you. Then say his name when he is in a different room. Reward each time.

Coming when Called

Start off with your puppy on a long lead. First, gain his attention as above. Encourage him to run back to you by showing a titbit or toy. When he reaches you give him the titbit or toy as a reward. Start in a quiet distraction free environment before practising in busier environments.

Never punish your puppy for not coming when called. Always reward – no matter how long it takes.

Sit/Down

Use a titbit or toy to help position the puppy, and use them as a reward.

Only say the word "sit" or "down" when the puppy is in that position. He will then start to associate the position with the word.

Walking on a Loose Lead

The puppy must learn that walking by your side is more rewarding than pulling. Each time your puppy pulls, stop, change direction, vary the pace, or call him back to your side. Only proceed when he is back by your side. Keep his attention by talking to him or using titbits or a toy.

Socialisation

Exposing your puppy to a wide range of environments, situations, and experiences will increase the likelihood of having a confident, well-adjusted and sociable family pet. The most sensitive period of development occurs between 4 and 14 weeks. However, you should continue to expose your growing dog to reinforce the confidence.

We run puppy socialisation parties at the practice. These are hosted by Dave Gilman a dog behaviourist. Dave runs them on a Saturday in our waiting room. The puppies have an opportunity to socialise with other puppies. This means that your puppy will see it's trip to the vets as a social meeting rather than something to be afraid of. The puppy parties will help your puppy gain confidence around other puppies and people. This type of interaction is a very important part of your puppy's development.

Although not a training class, Dave will provide lots of invaluable advice on the basics of how to become the 'pack leader' to your pup. Your pup will then respect you and will be less likely to have behavioural problems later.

Please ask at the practice to book a place at a puppy party.

Here's our list of places, people and objects for your puppy to experience and gain confidence in

Places	Objects	People
Vet practice	Washing machine	Delivery people
Kennels	Hoovers	Vet staff
Grooming parlour	Tumble dryer	Beards/glasses etc
Houses	Bikes	Confident/loud
Pubs/parties	Wheelchairs	Shy/quiet
Roadside	Cars (in and out)	Children/toddlers
Parks	Livestock	Babies
City/town	Children's toys	Other pets
Lifts	Cages	Disabled/infirm
Public transport	Pushchairs	Uniform/costumes

Being Left Alone

A puppy must learn to be independent and to settle when left alone from an early age. Begin by leaving the puppy for a few seconds in another room in the house, and gradually increase the time. Only return when he is quiet. Leave the puppy alone in the house for short periods. Pretend to leave, but return after a few minutes. Distance yourself from

your puppy for a period of time before you leave. Do not 'fuss over' him or her before you leave. Provide items that he is allowed to chew, for example a Kong or Buster Cube, and remove anything else that can be chewed.

Greeting People

Dogs and puppies jump up to gain attention. You must not reward this behaviour by giving him the attention he is asking for. If your puppy jumps up, ignore him, and only give him attention when all 4 feet are on the ground.

Don't forget we're only a phone call away! We are always happy to give advice or help out with any pet queries. Do pop in with your puppy for regular weigh-ins, there's no need to book.

Do pick up our Longridge Vets practice booklet, it will give you lots of information about the practice.

Visit our website www.longridgevet.co.uk

Like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages
