



# Preventative Health Care For **Dogs**



|                       | Main Threats   | Recommended Products  | Earliest time given   | Frequency  | Common misconceptions  | Reason Why  |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Vaccinations</b>   | Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis  | We use 'Nobivac' vaccinations                                       | Two single inoculations<br>2 inoculations 4 weeks apart.<br>1st at 6 weeks and the 2nd at the age of 10 weeks | Annual boosters essential for continued protection   | My dog will not get these diseases as I live in a rural area or have no direct contact with other dogs | These disease are extremely contagious and can be easily transmitted by both animal and man. Parvovirus can exist in the environment for 6 months   |
| <b>Worming</b>        | Roundworm (also poses risk factors for children) tapeworm and lungworm   | Milbactor   | 2 weeks old once over 1 kg  | Every 4 weeks  | I never see any worms so my dog must be fine!  | Eggs and larval stages are microscopic and are often ingested as dogs explore their environment and groom   |
| <b>Kennel Cough</b>   | Bordetella and parainfluenza   | We use 'Nobivac' vaccinations                                       | Droplets given into the nose can be given as early as 3 weeks old,  | Annual, for continued protection   | My dog wont need this as he is not going into kennels.   | Kennel cough is quite common but many people do not vaccinate against it, due to misconception. Kennel cough is a risk any time your dog comes into close contact with a sneezing/coughing dog  |
| <b>Fleas</b>          | Flea infestation, flea allergic dermatitis, internal parasites, other diseases   | Bravecto (flea and tick combined) and Indorex (environmental spray) | 8 weeks old and >1kg  | Every 12 weeks   | I will just treat my dog if necessary  | Due to climate change and central heating being in our homes fleas are a constant battle throughout the year. 33% of fleas live in the environment and jump on your dog for a blood meal, yuk! Prevention is better than cure. Flea bites are irritant and large numbers can cause blood loss, anaemia and often fleas carry other parasites such as worms. |
| <b>Ticks</b>          | Tick borne diseases, fever and infections  | Bravecto (flea and tick combined)                                   | 8 weeks old and >1kg  | Every 12 weeks   | I can remove the tick by pulling at it or using cigarettes or vaseline etc.                            | Ticks need to be rotated out using a tick remover. Pulling it will leave the head in situ and potentially cause further problems. Ticks can transmit potentially fatal diseases.  |
| <b>Spaying</b>        | Unwanted litters - over population, unwanted 'seasons', eliminate risk of pregnancy, womb infection and reproductive changes/cancers, shelter euthanasia | Surgical spaying  | At least 6 months old   | Once   | I should let her have a litter first it's better for her, right?                                       | There is no evidence to suggest that bitches are happier or healthier having had a litter. Spaying your bitch will reduce the risk of mammary cancer, some reproductive cancers and womb infections. Shelter euthanasia is the number one killer of companion animals.  |
| <b>Castration</b>     | Reproductive cancers, prostate problems, straying, aggression, shelter euthanasia  | Surgical castration   | At least 6 months old   | Once   | Castration will change his personality and make him fat and lazy.                                      | You dogs personality is not hormone driven, but anti social behaviour often is. Weight management can be achieved by following the advice we give post operatively.   |
| <b>Oral Hygiene</b>   | Tooth ache and gum disease leading to spread of bacteria to other organs   | CET toothpaste and finger toothbrush                                | Start brushing at day 1   | Twice daily  | I don't need to brush my dogs teeth I feed dry food  | Dental chews only reduce plaque and tartar by 30% at the most. Aim for the gold standard of brushing the teeth. The combination of brushing and use of enzymatic toothpaste aids prevention. There is also much more we can do to support your dogs oral hygiene.   |
| <b>Microchipping</b>  | Lost/stolen dogs unnecessarily euthanased  | Tracer advance microchips   | We advise from 6 weeks, needs to be done legally by 8 weeks old   | One off 'injection' and charge   | The chip will move and get into the bloodstream  | The microchip is introduced under the skin, it may migrate slightly but will NOT enter the blood stream.<br><i>Microchipping all dogs is a legal requirement as of April 2016, owners can be fined if they fail to comply.</i>  |
| <b>Nutrition</b>      | Malnourishment   | Royal Canin   | Start at weaning  | 2 months old - 4 meals daily,<br>3 months old - 3 meals daily,<br>6 months old - 2 meals daily | All dog food is the same, one dietary brand is suitable for all  | The variation in quality of pet food is immense. Some diets make the body work harder to extract the required nutrients even though the common analysis is the same as better diets. Due to so much breed variation one food will not do all as they have very different requirements. Dogs dietary needs also need to be addressed at varying lifestages.  |
| <b>Weight Control</b> | Diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, lack of vitality   | Royal Canin prescription diets, designed for obesity control        | Once weight increasing  | Until reaches ideal weight   | I will reduce the food or switch onto a light diet, that will work right?                              | Reducing food volume will not only cause your dog to scavenge but will also create problems like malnourishment as well as other complications. Light diets are still maintenance diets and are unlikely to achieve weight loss but should prevent weight gain.   |
| <b>Pet Insurance</b>  | Sudden large vet bill due to growing costs for a chronic condition and/ or sudden trauma   | Petplan   | Sooner the better. Be aware pre-existing conditions will not be covered                                       | Each policy usually requires annual renewal  | There is no point I have to pay the first £75 anyway   | For the same condition you only have to pay the excess once within every insured year. PetPlan will not increase premiums due to previous claims  |