



Puppy Newsletter

Puppy Socialisation

Once your new puppy has had its vaccines the next step is socialisation. This involves introducing your puppy to all the everyday occurrences that it will encounter as an adult. This is how your puppy will learn what is an appropriate way to behave in a variety of situations. A well socialised puppy is less likely to suffer problems related to fear of strange places, people and animals including other dogs.

Puppies have a short period of opportunity, called the socialisation window, between the ages of 6-14wks where they are open to new experiences. The positive encounters they have at this stage are likely to stay with them all their life. Likewise care must be taken to make sure there are few negative experiences as these can also be remembered and shape your puppy's behaviour as an adult.

The key to good socialisation is to try and view the World from your puppy's eyes. Do not overwhelm them all at once but start with short encounters and slowly build up until they are experiencing more and more. Ensure that they enjoy the new experiences, play with them and reward them so that they know there is nothing to worry about. Puppies' natural instincts to explore will mean they will seek out new situations and, provided you

protect them from being afraid, they will become more and more confident.

The list of things that your puppy should experience is a long one, but by including them in all aspects of your life should mean that they grow up to be relaxed and happy around everyday situations.

One of the best ways to socialise your puppy is at organised puppy training. This usually consists of a short course of weekly classes where your puppy is taught basic obedience and gets to

make friends with lots of dogs their own age. Living in this area means we are spoilt for choice as there are a number of excellent puppy classes nearby. Most can be found with a quick search on the internet or pop into one of our branches for some more information.

Another useful exercise to do with your puppy is get them used to visiting the vets. Many dogs only come to the vets when they are poorly and are then prodded, poked and injected. It is not a surprise when they are nervous at subsequent visits. Please bring your puppy to the vets at

every opportunity. Not for an appointment, but just to sit on the scales, relax in the waiting room, have a few treats at reception and so learn that the vets isn't a place to fear, but a place where they get lots of fuss and attention.



10% OFF ANY 7.5kg BAG OF DOG FOOD.
Please ring either Totton 023 8066 0400 or Lyndhurst 023 8028 2358 to order any Hills, Royal Canin or James Wellbeloved food. Please present this voucher on collection.

FLEA CONTROL

Where does my pet get fleas?

The most common flea found on cats and dogs is the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*). Rarely rabbit fleas or hedgehog fleas are found on cats and dogs.

The most important source of fleas is newly emerged adult fleas from pupae in your house. Adult fleas live and feed on our pets but the female flea lays eggs, which fall off into the environment. Under favourable conditions, these eggs develop first into larvae and then into pupae. The pupae contain adult fleas that lie in wait for a suitable animal host. Modern carpeted centrally-heated homes provide ideal conditions for the year round development of fleas. The highest numbers of flea eggs, larvae and pupae will be found in areas of the house where pets spend the most time such as their beds, furniture and so forth. Even though fleas may be in your house, you probably won't see them; the eggs are too small to see without magnification and the larvae, which are just visible, migrate deep down into carpets, furniture or cracks in floors away from the light.



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What effect do fleas have on my pet?

Many pets live with fleas but show minimal signs. The following problems can occur:

- Some pets develop an allergy to flea bites. If these pets are bitten by fleas they groom or scratch excessively and develop skin disease.
- Adult fleas live on animals and feed on blood. In puppies and kittens and debilitated animals this may cause anaemia.

- The flea acts as the intermediate host for the tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*). Tapeworm eggs, which are shed within tapeworm segments in faeces, are eaten by flea larvae that develop into infected fleas. Pets become infested by eating infected fleas during grooming. Any pet with fleas is likely also to have a tapeworm infestation.

Flea Prevention

It is really important to start flea prevention early on in life. This will not only get your new puppy used to the administration, but also help to prevent flea problems later on. There are various products available to use on your puppy: spot-on treatments, sprays and tablets.

If you would like individual advice on the most suitable flea treatment for your puppy, please contact either surgery. Totton 023 8066 0400, Lyndhurst 023 8028 2358



Don't forget to book your puppy in for their FREE 4 month puppy check. This check up is important in establishing a positive relationship between your puppy and the vets. We try to ensure that future visits will not be stressful for them. Topics covered will include worming, flea control, socialisation, teething, training and diet.

Do you have trouble remembering when your pets' worm pill is due or when you should be giving the next flea and tick treatment. If so we can help you. You can sign up for our free text messaging service. Let us have your name, address and mobile number and how often you would like a reminder and we will send you a text message letting you know when the treatment is due. If you would like further details or would like to sign up to the text messaging service, then contact reception or ring 023 8028 2358/023 8066 0400.

Name

Pet's Name

Address.....

Telephone Number