

## Puppy Primary Vaccination Consult FAQ

### What does the vaccination cover?

The vaccination is stored as 2 components which are given together in a single injection.

- DHP- Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus
- L4- includes 4 subtypes of Leptospirosis.
- Kennel Cough

More information on these diseases can be found on the BVA (British Veterinary Association) website: <https://www.bva.co.uk/resources-support/client-guides/getting-your-pet-vaccinated/>

### When do I need to have the second vaccination?

- The DHP can be given 2-4 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination, as long as the puppy is at least 10 weeks old.
- The L4 needs to be given 4 weeks after the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination. In puppies, the timing is very strict, and we can only vaccinate +/- 2 days either side of the 4-week mark.

**Fortunately, the components of the second vaccination can be split, in order to get puppies out, up to 2 weeks earlier. (See below section.) Our vets will advise you on how this could work for you and your pup.**

### What if I go over/miss a vaccination?

Unfortunately, if the primary course has not been given according to the guidelines, there is no guarantee of immunity. We would therefore advise you contact us to see if we need to give another vaccination course.

### Will there be any side effects to my puppy's vaccination?

Side effects are rare. Puppies may be slightly sleepier for the rest of the day following vaccination but should be back to normal the following day. Sometimes a small lump under the skin in the neck can appear as a "local" vaccine reaction. This is normally not painful and should decrease in size over the following 2-3 weeks. If you are concerned about any side effects or vaccine reactions, then please contact us.

### When can my puppy go out?

This depends on the age of your puppy at their 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination.

If your puppy is:

- 10 weeks or over at the first vaccination, then they can go out 1 week after their first vaccination.
- Under 10 weeks old at the first vaccination, they will have to wait until 1 week after their 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination (with DHP).

At this point they will be fully covered against the DHP part of the vaccination (Distemper, Parvo and Hepatitis) but the immunity against Leptospirosis will not be at its maximum level until 3 weeks after the second L4 vaccination, regardless of age.

It is therefore important that dogs are kept away from “high-risk” Leptospirosis areas. These include

- Stagnant water and river beds
- New Forest and other woodland/common lands.
- Wildlife latrines (especially areas where there may be a large population of rats)

We usually advise keeping to pavement/beach walks for socialisation in the early weeks, until your puppy has full Leptospirosis immunity.

### **What about flea treatment and worming?**

We advise one of the following protocols, which are included in our Pet Health Care plan (see below).

Protocol 1:

- Prinocate spot-on every month (covers fleas, mites, roundworms and lungworm)
- Anthelmin tablet every 3 months (covers tapeworm)

Protocol 2:

- Nexgard Spectra chewable-treat given every month (covers fleas, ticks, mites, roundworms and lungworm)
- Anthelmin tablet every 3 months (covers tapeworm)

We find both protocols are highly effective. The choice depends on whether you would find a chewable tablet or a spot-on easier to use. If you would like to discuss which protocol suits your needs best, then please call, and one of our reception team will be able to advise you.

Please note the “spot-on” treatment is to be applied to the skin on the back of the neck, so as to avoid ingestion of the product.

### **What is the VIP Pet Health Care plan you offer?**

Our VIP scheme covers all your pet’s preventative health care needs, including vaccinations, flea, and worming products amongst other extras, including discounts on neutering and out-of-hours emergency care. It is set up as a monthly direct debit to help spread the cost of your pet’s care over the year, meaning you can just collect your flea and worming products as you need them. For more information, please visit our website.

Please note this is not an insurance policy (see below)

## What about neutering?

Neutering can be a controversial subject. Generally, we advocate neutering for its health benefits. However, we believe that each pet should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Below, are some of the pros/cons and some details of the procedures we can offer:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of risk of unwanted pregnancy.</li> <li>• Elimination of risk of pyometra (life-threatening uterine infection in bitches.)</li> <li>• Reduced risk of mammary cancer in females.</li> <li>• Reduced risk of prostatic disease in males.</li> <li>• Elimination of testicular cancer in males.</li> <li>• Can help with behavioural issues e.g. aggression towards other dogs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can reduce metabolic rate, making it easier for pet to gain weight.</li> <li>• Cannot breed from pet.</li> <li>• No guarantee to help behavioural issues especially if done after it becomes a “learnt behaviour.”</li> <li>• Some reports of coat changes.</li> </ul>

### For Males:

- **Castration**
  - Day procedure. Pet goes home on pain relief for 4-5 days, and lead walks for 10-14 days. A post-op check, 2 days after the procedure is included free of charge.

From 6 months (Ideally consult nurse/vet before booking in as timing will be determined by breed, size, behavioural concerns and temperament.)

### For Females:

- **Traditional spay** (Ovariohysterectomy- uterus and ovaries)
  - Day procedure. Given pain relief at home for 4-5 days and lead walks for 10-14 days. A post-op check is included free of charge.
- **Laparoscopic (Keyhole) Spay** (Ovariectomy- ovaries)
  - Day procedure. Given pain relief for 4-5 days, and lead walks for 4 days. A post-op check is included free of charge.
  - Much less invasive procedure with faster recovery time.
  - Very good for bouncy/large breed dogs or working/competition dogs e.g. agility.
  - Patients must be >5kg.

### Timing

- Before first season – from 6 months.
- 3 months after a season (to ensure in middle of cycle so hormones at lowest levels.)

The evidence for whether to spay before, or post-first season, has long been debated with no clear conclusion on either side. Owners with large breed bitches e.g. G. Retrievers, Sight Hounds, or Dobermans may wish to let them have their first season, as there is some evidence that these dogs may be more prone to urinary incontinence later in life, if spayed when immature.

## **What about Insurance?**

These are exciting times in the veterinary profession, with pet care becoming increasingly more advanced. However, unfortunately, with no NHS for pets, unexpected vet bills can be a source of anxiety. There are many insurance companies offering pet insurance with various levels of cover and costs. Here are points to consider when choosing a policy.

- Lifetime policy- this means that should your pet develop a condition, it will be covered for the lifetime of your pet (and not discounted after a year.)
- At least £4000 per condition, per year.

## **How do I know if the microchip is working?**

We can scan your puppy's microchip to make sure it is reading. However, this only gives us the 15-digit number of the chip. We ask that you ensure you have notified the ID chip company of your contact details, so they can register those details to your pet's ID chip number on the National Database. (Information including a registration code should be available from your breeder.)

## **What if my puppy is unwell?**

If you have concerns regarding the health of your puppy, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01202 484466. We may be able to advise you over the phone, or book you an appointment to see the vet. If you have concerns outside of normal opening hours, we have our own out-of-hours service based at our hospital in Christchurch, with 24-hour nursing care. Just call the normal number, and follow the instructions to contact the on-duty vet. Please note: There is a surcharge for emergency consults, out-of-hours.

**If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.**