

Welcome to Ashgrove Vets



On behalf of the team, we would like to welcome you warmly to Ashgrove Vets. We are a dedicated small animal practice, aiming to deliver the very best of care for your pets.

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Introducing a new puppy to your home and your life brings with it lots of fun and new challenges. What needs to be done and when to do it can be a little overwhelming; at Ashgrove we will do our best to make this straightforward, and answer any questions you may have about caring for your new addition.



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Vaccinations: Puppy vaccinations can be started from 8 weeks of age. The core vaccinations are given by two injections, 2 weeks apart. Your puppy will be protected against the diseases covered 2 weeks *after* the second injection; this means they should not go outside or be in contact with unvaccinated dogs until then. Dogs required to have a vaccination booster annually; we can remind you of this by post or email.



Parvo Virus Vaccination: 49 out of every 50 puppies vaccinated will develop enough protection against Parvo Virus infection from the above core vaccinations. However 1 in every 50 puppies will not. Without blood sampling we do not know which puppies these are, so we recommend an additional Parvo Virus vaccination at 16 weeks of age. This costs an additional £20; you can book an appointment for this at reception.



Kennel Cough Vaccination: Kennel cough is a disease spread from dog to dog through close contact. Because of this, it might be better known as **social dog cough!** If you intend to take your puppy to puppy classes (great for socialisation), kennels or exercise your puppy with other dogs, then Kennel Cough vaccination is definitely a good idea. It provides protection against both the bacterial and viral components of the disease. The vaccination lasts 1 year: usually it costs £36, but if you choose to include it with the core vaccinations you save over £20!

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Worming: there are many protocols for worming puppies; the important thing is that high quality, effective products are used in the correct way, to ensure that your puppy can be relieved of any worm burden (often passed on from the mother) and kept as healthy as possible.



We recommend using **ADVOCATE**; this is a combined wormer and flea treatment, protecting against lungworm, as well as many other common infestations. Lungworm is an emerging disease in the UK. We advise using Advocate monthly; the first treatment will be provided free of charge at your puppy's first vaccination. From 6 months old your puppy will also require to be wormed against tapeworms: we advise that this is done every 6 months, with **DRONCIT**.



Because your puppy will grow so much during its first year, we recommend that you take advantage of our **free monthly weight checks**. This will allow us to prescribe the correct strengths of Advocate and Droncit for your dog.

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Fleas and Ticks! Monthly **Advocate** treatment (see above) will protect your puppy against flea infestation. Although there are many different products on the market, this is one we have very high confidence in.

Regarding tick control, we advise the use of a **SERESTO** collar, which acts to repel ticks (and fleas) very effectively for 8 months. This is especially important if you plan to exercise your dog in the country, particularly the Highlands, which is a real tick hot-spot. Some ticks carry Lymes disease, which can be debilitating and difficult to treat effectively.



Microchipping: we recommend microchipping of all puppies. This is usually done at their 2nd vaccination. A microchip gives a puppy a unique number, to which its owners details are saved in a database. If a lost dog is presented to a vet, the police or SSPCA, it is scanned for a microchip. If one is found this can be used to reunite it with its owner. Standard microchips are £25.



Biotherm microchips: as well as standard microchips, we offer **BIO THERM** microchips. These allow us to take your puppy's temperature by scanning, rather than by inserting a thermometer into the rectum. Thus saves a lot of stress, and although at times we may wish to double check, we are generally very happy with the accuracy of this peripheral temperature measurement.

Biotherm microchips are £30.

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Helping your puppy feel settled: Being separated from your mother and siblings at 8 weeks old can be stressful. There is a lot of evidence to support the use of ADAPTIL collars when a puppy moves to its new home. These release the same pheromone released by the mother of the puppies, which helps to reduce the puppies' stress and helps them to adapt to their new environment.

Guide Dogs for the Blind and various rehoming charities use the same collars to help train and socialise their puppies. We recommend use of the collars from purchase of the puppy for the first 2 months. www.adaptil.com



Insurance: At Ashgrove Vets we recommend insurance for all puppies. We believe so strongly in its worth that we offer all puppy owners 1 free month of insurance through Petplan. This insurance covers your pup from the moment we have checked them, with no waiting period before full cover commences.

During the free month of cover a Petplan representative will contact you to offer you a continued policy; although we strongly recommend it, you are in no way obliged to continue the cover. Many companies offer pet insurance; please choose carefully when taking out a policy.

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Neutering

Unless you wish to breed your pet, we strongly recommend that you spay or castrate your puppy. There are health benefits to both sexes from neutering, which the vet will be happy to discuss with you.

Male dogs can be castrated from 6 months of age. Females can be spayed from 6 months of age or after their first season (the vet will be happy to discuss these choices with you).



Ashgrove Healthy Pet Club

At Ashgrove we believe that prevention is better than cure. We also understand, however, that everyone has busy lives with different financial pressures. Ashgrove Healthy Pet Club offers a preventative care plan for your puppy which guarantees the best quality medication for a reduced price, providing gold standard healthcare for a small monthly fee.



Ashgrove Healthy Pet Club: benefits

All flea and worming requirements

Annual core vaccinations

6 month check-up

10% Discount off neutering, diets, microchipping, dental work, acupuncture, additional vaccinations and tick prevention.

Please ask a member of staff for further details.

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