

PUPPY HEALTH CHECKS

Teeth & Dental Hygiene – Teething approx. 3-6 months of age. Provide safe chews. Watch gum health, breath odour.

Stools – Can vary in colour. Should be well formed, chalky stools form when too much bone is being fed. Loose stools – too much liver, unsuitable food, parasites.

Urine – Encourage good toileting, frequent opportunities to eliminate outside, especially after meals.

Thirst – Provide clean chlorine-free water at all times. Watch for excessive or lack of thirst.

Skin – no hair loss, redness, itching, odour.

Ears – no strong odour or discharge.

Eyes – clear, bright, no discharge.

Growth – Varies, growth spurts happen. Should be able to feel ribs but not see them. Watch for any lameness.

Handling – Get puppy used to having ears, teeth, feet and tummy examined in a positive manner.

Play/exercise – Self exercise only for first year. Discourage jumping, high impact exercise. Encourage mental stimulation / training and building good rapport and trust.

Socialisation – As much as you can to as many different things/situations/people/other animals as soon as you can.

Vaccinations – Ask us about our Nosode programme.

Flea Control and Worming – We provide choices in chemical-free products.



‘Every pup is an individual and deserves to be treated as such’

Our naturopathic services for your puppy:

• Homeopathy • Herbal Medicine • Bach Flowers • Tissue Salts • Bioceuticals • NatPet animal remedies • Biopton Light Therapy • Reiki & Bowen • Nutritional Advice

ANIMAL NATUROPATH

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**visit our website for Natpet
animal remedies for your Puppy**
www.natpet.co.nz

FEEDING AND CARE FOR PUPPIES



- Provide a crate for puppy's exclusively private use. Children must respect his space.
- Microchipping is a 'must-do' – it is sad when rescuers cannot identify a lost puppy.
- Apart from real food and clean water, the greatest gift to your puppy is your time.
- Teaching puppy the rules of the house and manners, keeping these simple and consistent, ensures a socially acceptable dog.

‘Puppies are the Gods of Frolic’

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FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PUPPY FEEDING

Generally it is considered good practice to feed three times daily until 6 months and then twice daily. Remember puppies are growing fast so alter meal portions accordingly, keeping puppy lean and not overweight. You should be able to feel the ribs but not see them.

Most of the digestive/skin problems occur when weaning onto an inappropriate food, setting the gut up to fail. 80% of the developing immune system 'buttons' are in the gut, so food that is not accepted as natural by the gut will trigger an immune response. This may impact immediately or later in the life of the dog.

It is important to have a balance of protein, carbohydrates and fats to suit the life stage of your puppy. Higher quality protein is required by the young growing dog so meat (dead protein) may be partially substituted for 'live' protein e.g. white cheese, yoghurt, eggs. Any milk must be raw cow's milk or goat's milk. Fresh chlorine-free water should be available at all times.

Bone growth in puppies requires both calcium and phosphorus; the perfect ratio is found in bones and dolomite (in the Flee Flea). It is not recommended to supplement these minerals with commercial ones. Refer our Tissue Salts (under additives).

Puppies should not be fed cold or frozen food or allowed to help themselves to food between meals. Meat should be fed raw unless there is a health issue. Avoid beef steak, mince and chicken if puppy has allergies. Vegetables must be cooked, mashed and added to the meat content.

The following are suggestions only and consideration must be made for the lifestyle, life stage, breed and overall health of the puppy.

Meats & Fish: (70%)

Green Tripe - easily digested, ideal for weaning. Game meats (rabbit, possum, wallaby) are high in omegas but may be too rich for some puppies so feed sparingly. Grass-fed chicken, veal, lamb. Bones minced with the meat may cause digestive issues in some puppies. Fish poached or raw (no bones), canned sardines pilchards, mackerel in spring water or fresh-caught.

Organ meats – Heart, kidney, liver (the latter sparingly) high in vitamin/mineral content.

Bones:

Must be fed raw. Choose appropriate size for breed. Supervise feeding. Chicken necks, veal bones, brisket. Important to be feeding veges to provide fibre for good elimination especially when feeding bones.

Vegetables: (30%)

Serve cooked. All green leafy veges, root crops in small quantities, kumara, carrots, pumpkin (the latter good for gut health). Carrots may be grated and added to meal to assist with worm control, especially around full moon. Frozen veges must be cooked. No corn cobs, onions, excessive garlic. Plain organic Baby Food vegetables available in supermarkets are an economic feed for very young puppies.

Other Foods:

A quality biscuit e.g. Mighty Mix (not kibble).

Fruit – prefer ripe (no raisins, grapes) and take care with stones in fruit e.g. avocados, dates. Apples, stewed or raw. If a little constipated try a little prune juice.

Cereals – Always cooked. Rice, pasta, millet, quinoa, ancient grains in small amounts.

Eggs (raw), cottage cheese, unsweetened yoghurt, organic tofu, quark, kefir.

Meatless Meals - Scrambled egg with mashed veges, crumbled biscuits, stewed apple with tofu and yoghurt. Sweetcorn (canned or fresh but no cob), marmite or honey on toast.

Additives:

Organic apple cider vinegar ¼ tsp daily in food, Flee Flea powder daily provides – dolomite (which assists bone growth), sulphur (internal cleanser), garlic (antimicrobial), and kelp (trace elements).

The Tissue Salts Calc Fluor and Calc Phos ensure regulated uptake of minerals for bone growth. See our website products.

Recommended Treats:

Quality NZ-made, chemical-free. No rawhide chews, pigs ears or other coated treats. Fruit & carrot pcs.

Transition Diet:

If you are changing from a dried kibble to a 'real food' diet we recommend the following method.

1. Stop all dried food immediately.
2. Provide raw green tripe (70%) and cooked mashed pumpkin (30%) as the usual meal for three days. Tripe has useful enzymes for digestion and pumpkin is exceptionally good for the gut. This will allow the stomach and gut to return to its normal acid/alkaline balance.
3. Other meats such as veal, lamb, goat and a little game meat may be introduced slowly. Avoid beef and chicken in the meantime or if pup has allergies. Other cooked vegetables may be added slowly.

We recommend adding ½ capsule of Slippery Elm to each meal in the three day transition period for puppies. This is a nutritive and supports gut function in the transition. (see our website)

PUPPY MILESTONES

Weaning Time: 6-8 weeks

New Home Time: 8 weeks

Teething: 12 weeks to 6 months

Sexual Maturity: 6-12 months, later for giant breeds

De-sexing: we recommend leaving it as late as possible. The bigger the dog, the later to leave it. Early desexing interferes with growth development.

No extra exercise for large breed pups apart from a short walk on lead. Pups do their own exercise!