



Pittwater Animal Hospital

We are your pet's other best friend.

FACT SHEET

Puppy Checklist

For a new puppy to have a long and healthy life we recommend following the Pittwater Healthcare Plan.

Vaccinations

Puppies have vaccinations at **6, 12 and 16 weeks**. These protect against the fatal viral diseases (parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis) and the common coughing illnesses (Parainfluenza and Bordatella). For the optimum protection, the final puppy vaccine should be given no earlier than 16 weeks of age. For full immunity to be achieved, your puppy should also receive a vaccination at 15 months of age. Yearly checks are also an opportunity to boost this immunity.

Tick control

The Northern Beaches of Sydney are a high risk tick paralysis area. Thousands of dogs have died in this area from being poisoned by paralysis ticks. New tick tablets provide very effective protection from tick paralysis. However, it is crucial that your dog is dosed with the correct sized tablet and that it is dosed according to manufacturer's instructions. Timing is especially important.

At Pittwater Animal Hospital, we will sms you when your dog's tick preventative is due. Your dog is then weighed and medicated. Our nurses can give you advice on any problems and a reminder is set for the next dose. The health care plan is simple and effective. If regular medication doesn't suit your pet, we can advise on the best alternatives. We also recommend that you read our tick brochure or visit our website www.pittwateranimalhospital.com.au to familiarize yourself with the signs of tick paralysis.

Flea Control

Good all year-round flea control is very important for your dog. **It is also important that all cats and dogs in the household are treated (even if they don't appear to have a flea problem)** to avoid chronically itchy, smelly dogs. If the prevention is stopped in the wintertime, the small flea population left will seed your house and yard with flea eggs ready to hatch the following summer. **Products can lose their effectiveness over time so at Pittwater Animal Hospital, we tailor our recommendations to what is working well in our local area.** This can be given to your dog by your vet nurse or veterinarian.

Intestinal Worms

Not all animals in this area are treated for intestinal worms effectively. Your animals will be exposed to infected droppings wherever they walk and play. Puppies need to be wormed very regularly (see the puppy check list) and adult dogs need to be wormed every three months. This can conveniently be done at the same time as the flea/tick preventative.

Heartworm Prevention

Heartworm is a life threatening parasite that is transmitted to dogs via **mosquitoes**. Prevention is essential to ensure we don't see a resurgence in cases as has happened in other areas of Sydney. Heartworm is becoming a problem in western Sydney with recent break-outs in this area. At Pittwater Animal Hospital we find the best heartworm protection is through a simple yearly injection. We remind you every year so you don't forget to protect your pet.

Feeding

Puppies are usually fed three times daily until 12 weeks, then twice daily. Small puppies may only need a couple of tablespoons of food as a meal. Larger puppies could have up to a cup. Good quality complete dry diets are recommended. Veterinary brands are of the highest quality to keep your puppy at it's optimum health. Our very experienced veterinarians and nurses can give you specific advice about feeding regimes and the quantity of food your pup requires.

Desexing

At Pittwater Animal Hospital we know it is very important that your pet is not only desexed but that this is a low stress, safe procedure with good pain management. This means your dog has a happy and safe experience for this major surgery.

What makes Pittwater Animal Hospital different?

- All dogs have a full health check prior to the anaesthetic
- All dogs are offered a pre-anaesthetic blood check
- A sedative and pain relief medication is given on hospital admission
- All dogs have an in-dwelling catheter placed and are administered fluids when anaesthetised. This is the safest possible anaesthetic.
- All our vets have over 10 years surgical experience
- Our nurses are well trained and have regular in-house training sessions on anaesthetic monitoring (ECG / BP / HR / Oxygenation)
- Dogs are given additional pain relief when waking up from the anaesthetic
- Patients are carefully monitored for several hours after the surgery
- Follow up pain relief medication is sent home with your pet at no extra charge to ensure your pet goes home comfortable and pain free

Council Registration and Microchipping

Most puppies will have microchip identification in place before you get them. This has been inserted by injection just under the skin over your puppy's shoulders. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and can often be felt under the skin. A scanner placed within 10cm of the chip will read the unique number on the chip that is linked to you in the New South Wales companion animal database. Our nurses can check the database so that details can be updated. If for some reason your puppy does not have a microchip, we can insert one at the first visit.

Once your puppy is six months old and is hopefully desexed, it must be registered with your local council for a small one off fee. You can now register your pet online at www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au

Puppy Pre-School

It is a great start for all young pups to attend our Puppy Pre-School. At Pittwater Animal Hospital we have a qualified behavioural trainer run classes in our dedicated puppy pre-school room. Our Puppy Pre-school aims to encourage calm, settled dog behaviour. Dogs learn to socialise appropriately with other dogs and people. Puppies have obedience training that will hold them in good stead for the rest of their lives. Plus, our instructor can advise you on all manner of ways to make having a new pup more enjoyable and less stressful. The classes are lots of fun for the whole family.

Please enquire at the front desk as to when the next class begins or email us at puppyschool@pittwateranimalhospital.com.au.

Pet Insurance

At Pittwater Animal Hospital, we strongly recommend pet insurance. Any potentially ongoing health problems will often be revealed in the first year of your dog's life. Once documented in an uninsured dog, these become pre-existing conditions and will, therefore, not be covered by pet insurance. Claiming for pet insurance is now more convenient as it can now be mostly done on-line. It is worthwhile to conduct your own research into the various pet insurance options available before making a decision.

Good Health Care

Regular check-ups EVERY year, with or without a vaccine, are essential for maintaining excellent health. **We look forward to seeing you and your dog EVERY year for many years to come!**

'Thank You' Voucher

If you are happy with our services, please recommend us to your friends. Ask them to tell us who they were referred by and we will send YOU a \$20 voucher to use at Pittwater Animal Hospital.

Corner of Pittwater Road & Arnott Crescent, Warriewood NSW 2102

Phone: 9913 -7979

reception@pittwateranimalhospital.com.au

