



Greenbay Vets
34 Walnut Road, TQ2 6HS
01803 606059
79 Kingsway Avenue, TQ4 7AB
01803 843836
info@greenbayvets.co.uk
www.greenbayvets.co.uk

CARING FOR YOUR ADULT DOG

This fact sheet has been put together by Greenbay Vets to help you provide the best for your much loved dog.

Keeping your dog happy and safe

Adult dogs need to be exercised daily, the amount will depend on the breed, age and personality of the dog, but generally some off lead exercise is best. Make sure your dog is on a lead where it could get access onto a road.

Most dogs love human companionship, and many will also get on well with other dogs and sometimes other animals. It is important your dog is not left for long periods (4 hours or more) alone.

Some dogs are inquisitive (and greedy) and will eat things they shouldn't. These are some common poisons that you must keep away from your dog:

- Chocolate
- Raisins, sultanas and grapes
- Slug pellets
- Rat or mouse bait
- Human medications
- E-cigarettes

If you are travelling with your dog in a car, the dog should be on the back seat with a harness and seat belt, or secured behind a dog guard. If your dog gets travel sick, speak to one of our vets about anti-sickness tablets. Never leave your dog in the car during warm weather.

Dogs in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag.

Taking Your Dog To The Vets

It is recommended that all dogs are checked at least once a year by a vet, usually this is combined with their booster. Older dogs should be checked more regularly.

We will try to minimise the anxiety experienced by your dog at the vets. If your dog is frightened of the vets, we are happy for you to simply bring your dog in to be weighed or to have a fuss from the receptionists, so that the visit isn't always associated with something scary.

Vaccinations

All dogs should be vaccinated to protect him/her from the main infectious diseases of dogs - Parvovirus, Canine Distemper, Infectious Hepatitis (adenovirus), and Leptospirosis. There is a course of injections as a puppy and then an annual booster. Your dog may also need to be vaccinated against kennel cough. This is an infection which can be picked up anywhere that your dog is in contact with other dogs. The

vaccine is a spray administered into your dog's nostril and lasts for one year. Side effects of vaccination are not common, but the vet will be happy to discuss any concerns with you.

Worming, flea and tick treatment

Adult dogs should be wormed against roundworms and tapeworms every 3 months. Most infected dogs do not show any signs of having worms, but some worms can be passed on to humans. If your dog is in regular contact with young children, then worming should be performed monthly. Dogs that eat slugs or snails, or scavenge in the garden, may be at risk of lungworm, which can be fatal. Our vets can advise about preventing lungworm.

All dogs should be treated for fleas all year round. Effective prevention is much simpler than curing an infestation. Ticks can be picked up when walking your dog in certain areas e.g. fields. They attach and engorge themselves with blood. Apart from being unsightly and irritating, ticks can also spread disease e.g. Lyme disease.

There is a wide range of products available to prevent problems with both fleas and ticks and to treat worms. Prescription treatments are the most effective and can only be supplied by a veterinary surgery to animals under their care. The vet will be able to recommend a safe and effective treatment for your pet.

For more information see our dog parasites fact-sheet.

Micro-chipping

This is a permanent form of identification. From April 2016, all dogs in England need to be micro-chipped by law. The microchip is about the size of a rice grain and is inserted into the scruff of your dog's neck, similar to an injection. If your dog is found and taken to a vets, police station, rescue centre etc. then the microchip enables them to be identified and returned to you. It is vital to keep your contact details up to date on the microchip database.

Diet/Nutrition

The easiest way to give your dog a balanced diet is to feed him/her a proprietary, good quality dog food designed for your dog's life stage. You should use the packet feeding instructions initially, but this is just a guide so if your dog is gaining too much weight you will need to reduce it. If your dog is given extra food as treats, reduce the amount of food given in the main meal so they don't get too many calories. Dog obesity is a big health problem - our vets and nurses will be happy to weigh your dog and assess it's condition so you know whether or not they are a healthy weight.

Dental Care

As your dog gets older plaque and tartar will start to form on his/her teeth and most older dogs need their teeth cleaned and polished at some point in their lives. Regular tooth brushing can help to stop plaque forming on their teeth. If you get your puppy used to having his/her teeth brushed when they are young, then you will be able to do this all through their life. A vet or nurse will be able to discuss how to accustom your dog to this and other options which are available to care for your dog's teeth if they don't tolerate brushing.

We hope that you have found this fact sheet helpful.