



Caring for your Dog



The bond between a dog and its owner is very strong, providing huge rewards over a number of years. Dogs make fantastic companions and will expect lots of love, plenty of regular exercise, time for play and grooming.

Caring for your dog's needs also includes providing a good diet along with lots of opportunity to play and express natural behaviours. A healthy dog will have bright eyes, clean ears, eyes and nose and be interested in what is going on around it.

Routine Healthcare

The key to recognising illness in your pet is knowing what your pet is like when it is well. An observant owner will often be able to detect subtle changes in their pet's behaviour or appetite that indicates illness well before anyone else can.

Regular visits to the vet for routine health checks and preventative health care, including vaccinations, worming treatments, flea control and dental care allows your vet to get a familiar picture of your dog when well. It also allows the presence of any clinical disease to be detected and diagnosed earlier.

Neutering

Female puppies can be neutered either before their first season between the ages of five and six months, or 2-3 months after having their first season. Male puppies can be neutered from 6 months of age.

There are many positive health benefits associated with neutering and we recommend this is performed in both bitches and dogs. For the females, there is reduced risk of mammary (breast) and uterine (womb) cancer. The risk of uterine infection (pyometra) is eliminated and there is no risk of an unplanned pregnancy or hormonal "false" pregnancies. For males, there is a reduced risk of prostrate problems and the risk of testicular cancer is eliminated.

Vaccinations



Dogs, just like children, are at risk from many infectious diseases. We are strong believers that vaccinations can offer the essential protection against these deadly diseases.

To keep your dog fit and healthy, make sure they complete both their initial course of vaccinations as a puppy and then receive regular booster jabs at yearly intervals thereafter. We vaccinate dogs against canine parvovirus, canine adenovirus, canine distemper, leptospirosis and canine parainfluenza virus. Additional intra-nasal vaccinations are available against infectious laryngotracheitis ("kennel cough") which we recommend if your dog is going into kennels or will be mixing with a large group of dogs, such as at a training or socialisation class.

Rabies vaccinations will be required if you intend to travel to Europe with your dog.





Flea, Fox Mange, Lungworm and intestinal Worm Treatment

Dogs can become infected with intestinal parasites e.g. roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms. We recommend worming adult dogs every 3-6 months with worming tablets to provide protection.

Fox mange is easily spread between foxes and dogs, or between dogs. The mites cause intense itching which can lead to marked self-inflicted trauma. Fleas are another common cause of itching in dogs.

Once restricted to certain areas in the country, lungworm is now prevalent in Surrey and London. The parasite is spread by garden slugs and snails. Clinical signs may be mild or severe with respiratory problems and bleeding disorders the most common presenting signs.

We have found that many non-prescription preparations do not work well enough to achieve effective parasite control and advise you choose a veterinary licensed product / combination of products as best practice. We recommend monthly application of Advocate for mange, flea and lungworm protection in addition to oral worming tablets for intestinal parasites.

We offer a special discount on Advocate - 12 months for the price of 9 months.

Nutrition

The correct diet is essential to keep your dog fit and healthy and conversely, poor nutrition accounts for many significant health problems.

Home-made diets are difficult to prepare, expensive and very rarely nutritionally balanced or complete. Commercially available diets (such as Royal Canin) are convenient and fully balanced and complete. Different life stage diets will be appropriate at different stages of your pet's life, for example puppy, junior, adult, and mature / senior. Wet and dry diets are available.

Microchipping

Collars and tags may become lost. Microchipping is a safe and permanent method of identification which increases the chance of a lost dog being safely reunited with its owners.

Furthermore, from the 6th of April 2016, under the Animal Welfare Act of 2006, it is now compulsory for all dogs in the UK to be microchipped.

Dental Health



Dental disease is a common problem in dogs. As owners rarely get an opportunity to look in their dog's mouths problems may go undetected for some months or years.

All our vets recognise the benefits that dental care contributes to your dog's well-being and are happy to advise on the best preventative dental plan for your dog.

Insurance

We strongly advise taking out insurance against illness and accidents for your dog. We recommend a lifetime policy to provide cover for both long-term and ongoing conditions. Our practice is accredited to Petplan, and as such we are able to advise you on their different insurance policies.

If your pet is healthy and aged between 6 weeks and 1 year of age, we can supply 4 weeks of free Petplan insurance as an "immediate veterinary cover" offer.

Wingrave's Dog Facilities



We believe that our clients and their pets deserve a 5 star level of treatment, service and care. As such, we have developed a range of services and facilities to ensure your pet is cared for in the best possible environment.

Our Sutton surgery benefits from separate cat and dog waiting rooms, consulting rooms and wards and a large supply of gravy bones – creating a relaxing experience for all. Large "walk-in" kennels help us provide comfort for our larger canine patients when they are hospitalised. We also have separate cat and dog wards at all our other surgeries.



To learn more about caring for your dog, as well as the services we offer at Wingrave, visit our website

 www.wingravevets.com

Follow us:

 [Wingravevets1](https://www.facebook.com/Wingravevets1)