

**Pet Country** would like to thank you for your patronage and wish you good luck with your new addition to the family. Please keep in mind that we are open 7 days and are here to help, so feel free to call us anytime, (during business hours).

This check list is a guide to the items you may require for your new puppy.

- Science Diet Puppy Food
- Food Bowl
- Water Bowl
- Bedding
- Collar
- Lead
- Tie Out Chain
- Worming Tablets
- Flea Treatment (Advantage/Frontline)
- Grooming Aids (Brush/Comb)
- Shampoo
- Name Tag
- Toys
- Vitamins
- Treats (Pig ears, snouts, etc).
- Chewing Bones



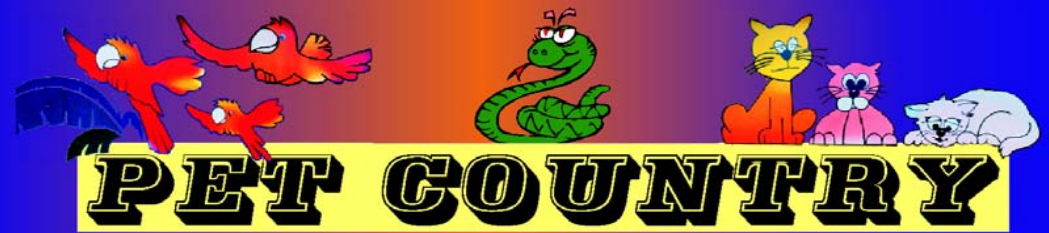
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## *The Professionals*

A few [Puppy Facts](#) to guide you through living with your new Puppy.

### **DIET**

**Young puppies** should be fed **HILLS SCIENCE DIET** three times a day until they are twelve weeks old and then once a day. A young pup may also need additional calcium to ensure strong bones and teeth. Your pet shop or breeder will be able to advise you on feeding and any supplement requirements. Big bones are good for dogs' teeth. Little bones, particularly chicken, rabbit or chops are dangerous because they splinter and can pierce the intestine. As an alternative, **Pet Country** stocks a range of bones and chew manufactured from nutritious fully digestible beef hide which will not splinter or attract flies.

**You will** have been advised on your puppy's feeding requirements. Use the provided feeding guide as a baseline feeding level.

**Monitor your** puppy's weight and body condition and feed appropriately. Small, regular meals are of greater value.

**Should you** decide to alter your pup's diet at any stage, do so slowly over four or five days. Gradually phase out the current food and mix in the new diet.

**If you have** a fussy puppy (which is not unusual amongst small breeds of dogs), there are tricks to keeping your puppy on a balanced diet without spoiling it and creating bad habits:

**Do not** distract the pup when food is offered.

**Add a small** amount of tinned puppy food to improve the taste and smell .

**Do not feed** your puppy table scraps or human treats as an alternative if you don't want these to become your dog's preferred food.

### **Bedding:**

The first night home with your new puppy is usually associated with some whingeing and whining. Set up your puppy's sleeping area as a safe and fun place to be. If you give in to your pup's demand for attention, expect the same routine the next night. Do not start any habits now that you don't want to continue later. Staff at **PET COUNTRY** can show you a range of products and give advice to help with any problems.



## VACCINATION.

A course of three vaccinations is required to give your puppy full protection. These are due at 6-8 weeks of age, 12 weeks of age and 16 weeks of age. Your puppy will already have started this course and future due dates are listed in your veterinary vaccination card. This is an important document and should accompany your puppy to all veterinary visits, kennels and obedience classes. Until the final vaccination your puppy should not be venturing into the outside world on a lead and certainly not come in contact with other dogs whose vaccination status is unknown. It takes 10- 14 days after each vaccination to give maximum protection so it is important to plan ahead to avoid your puppy being affected by these four diseases. **Parvovirus** - the nastiest puppy diarrhoea and vomiting disease, **Distemper**, **Hepatitis** and **Kennel Cough** - there are two bugs responsible for this highly contagious coughing disease. A full vaccination protects against all the diseases. Discuss options with your vet. Annual boosters are necessary for the rest of your dog's life.

## Intestinal Worms:

Worming throughout life is essential for all dog. Use an appropriate all wormer suitable for your puppy's weight every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age (second vaccination time), then every month until 6 months of age (desexing time) and then every 3 months for life. Your puppy is currently up to date with worming and future due dates are listed in your history card.

## Heartworm:

These worms are completely different from intestinal worms and are spread by mosquitoes. In Northern and Eastern Australia heartworm is a grave threat to your dog's health. The worms infest heart and lungs and may cause heart failure. The condition is treatable if detected early, but is very expensive and involved. Prevention is better than the cure. You can start your puppy on preventative treatment immediately.

**Ask for advice when buying your pup.**

## Desexing:

Males and females can be desexed from 6 months of age. There are positive health benefits to be gained from desexing at this age, such as a much lower incidence of mammary (breast) cancers and uterine disease in females, prostatic disease in males, unwanted litters of puppies, less wandering, aggression and competition, less territory marking (leg cocking) and cleanliness around the house. Cheaper council registration fees are other major benefit.



## FLEAS:

A certain amount of scratching in a puppy is normal, largely due to nervous energy. If fleas become a problem at home you will generally see the adult fleas or find dirt in your puppy's coat (small black specks of dried blood left behind by fleas feeding). Your puppy has been treated for fleas and consequently you will not be inheriting a flea problem from us. However the flea life cycle is predominantly an environmental problem, so if you have or have had other pets at home, ensure all precautions are taken to prevent flea outbreaks.

Staff at **PET COUNTRY** can help you with a total flea eradication program. **Always use a flea treatment safe for your puppy's age and size.**

## Toys:

A **bored puppy** is a naughty puppy. Relieving boredom with fun toys may help avoid digging, barking, chewing and other disruptive behaviors now and in the future. Keep in mind, your puppy will go through a teething phase (3-6 months of age) and it will be necessary for it to chew to break new teeth through. Providing rawhide bones, pigs ears or gurnabone / nylabone chew toys will save your shoes clothes and furniture from possible damage.



## TOILET TRAINING.

This can prove to be the biggest headache when your puppy is housed indoors. Being tolerant and following some basic rules will help. Your puppy will need to go to the toilet within half an hour after each meal, so restrict it to the yard or your designated toilet area, free from distraction until this end is achieved. Consequently don't offer a late night feed or you can expect to clean up a big mess in the morning. Pups have notoriously weak bladders and will often leave a wet trail behind them, particularly when excited. He/she will grow out of this. Only if you catch your pup in the act of voluntarily toileting inappropriately, should you interrupt and relocate the puppy to complete its task. Do not punish the pup after the fact and do not rub its nose in the offending item.

## PUPPY PRESCHOOL.

It is also very important that your puppy is socialised at a young age to avoid all those territorial problems of an unsocial adult dog. Puppy preschool will help to do this as well as give you more detailed advice on all of the above areas mentioned. Puppy preschool is not obedience training as such, but teaches you how to start training your puppy at home. Most importantly, puppy preschool is a lot of fun for you and your puppy.

## COUNCIL REGISTRATION.

All dogs must be registered with the local council at three months of age. Check with your local council for application forms.