



**ADOLESCENT DOG CARE**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN YOUR DOG BECOMES AN ADOLESCENT

Now that your puppy is an adolescent, we need to start thinking about the early stages of adulthood.



### FEEDING

At around 12 months of age it is time to transfer from puppy food to adult food. Feed a premium adult dog food which is within your budget. Biscuits are best for dogs, and can help prevent tartar build up on their teeth.

### VACCINATIONS

Your dog will be due for another vaccination when they reach 15 months of age. Your vet would have discussed with you during puppy vaccinations which vaccination plan is best suited for your dog. We will be in contact with you when your dog's health check and vaccinations are due and we can look at making an appointment then.

### WORMING & FLEA TREATMENT

Worming is still very important and will be for the life of your dog. When you come in for your pet's annual health check and vaccination your vet will discuss their next year's worming & flea treatment program. For the best control of fleas you need to treat on a regular basis. Ask your vet about which product is best for your dog and don't forget, we can send these to you when they are due ask one of our staff to sign you up.

### DESEXING

If you haven't de-sexed your dog yet, you should really consider it now. The longer you leave it, the higher your chances of pregnancies in females and wandering and aggression in males will be.

### PLANNING ON BREEDING?

If you are considering breeding, the ideal age is from 2 years onwards. We recommend prior to breeding having both dogs checked over for any abnormalities. Hip and elbow x-rays are also recommended to ensure that you will be breeding healthy puppies. We have a lot more information on this subject so come in and have a chat with us when you're ready.

## **MICROCHIPPING**

If you haven't microchipped your dog, we strongly recommend you do. If your dog goes missing and is scanned for a microchip, they will be able to trace your dog back to you if you have registered them on the NZ companion animal register.

## **EXERCISE & ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENTS**

At this stage of your dog's life you need to stimulate brain activity and you need to be interacting with them regularly. Dog obedience or dog agility is a great option for your dog at this age.

Don't forget, they need occupying if they are home by themselves. Kong Toys (hidden treat balls) are great! Have a chat to our staff to discuss options that may be suitable.



## **WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**

It is very important to make sure your dog stays in optimum condition.

Overweight pets are just as problematic as skinny pets. We recommend always feeding to the guide lines but bear in mind, individual needs may vary. You also need to visually decide if what you are feeding is too much, or not enough.

If you have any concerns bring your dog into the clinic for a free weight check.

Also, be aware that after de-sexing dogs can put on more weight so sometimes feeding can be reduced by 1/4.

**If you have any questions or concerns about your dog please give your vet clinic a call.**