

Puppy/kitten nurse consult notes

After the Vet has completed their consult, they will ask you to step in to discuss further health care with the client.

Start by saying hello and making the client feel welcome. Ask if this is their first visit, or if they have other animals. Make conversation with them.

Tell them they may know a fair bit of this information already, but it's a good idea to go over it to refresh their memory. Its so easy to forget, especially when you are so busy with a new puppy or kitten.

Vaccination

Your new pet will need a series of vaccinaitons, in the first part of their life, to help protect them while they grow. After that they only need vaccination annually.

At Redgum, we use the following vaccination combination- Puppies

- • 6 to 8 weeks of age (C3 and C2i – C3 protects against hepatitis, parvo and distemper; C2i protects against canine coronavirus and leptospira (this is a disease carried by rats which affects a lot of the organs of the body).
- • 12 weeks of age (C3 & C2i – 2nd booster) and bronchoshield (intranasal) – this is the canine cough vaccination and will only be required annually.
- • 16 weeks of age C3 – final booster.
- • then annually (C5) for the rest of their life

Kittens

Feline vaccinations protect against (F3):

- • Enteritis
- • Cat flu – Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus

This is a series of three (3) vaccinations, each a month apart, to build immunity. This is then followed by an annual vaccination.

Feline Aids Virus (FIV), is very like the human aids virus, and is not treatable. It causes a suppression of the immune system and is transferred by fighting and biting with infected cats (body secretions). The vaccinations for FIV are a course of 3 injections, each two weeks apart, and then annually for life.

Cats over 7 months of age will require a blood test prior to being given the FIV vaccination, to determine if the vaccination will be effective.

Worming and flea/ tick prevention

Intestinal parasites and fleas/ticks are common in puppies & kittens. They can become infected with parasites before they are born or soon after through their mother's milk.

We recommend worming your pet every two weeks, from two weeks of age, until 3 months of age, and then every three months throughout their life.

From 3 months, we recommend **Nexgard Spectra** as this product prevents against parasites (fleas/ticks/worming) as well as fleas/ ticks and heartworm.

This is because your pet will be growing such a lot in this early stage, and the dose rate of the worming tablets will change quickly (they are dispensed according to weight).

Later in life your pet will require to be protected against tapeworm. Some supermarket products do not cover for this and that is why we recommend **Nexgard Spectra which is a total care product.**

Heartworm Prevention

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in dogs & cats. It is caused by a worm and spread by mosquito, so potentially every dog or cat is at risk heartworms. Adult worms cause disease by clogging the heart and major blood vessels leading from the heart. They interfere with the valve action in the heart.

There are two options for heartworm protection.

1. We recommend the 12 month **Proheart** injection, usually given at the same time as your pets annual vaccination.
2. Monthly chews.
3. Dogs over 7 months of age will need a blood test to ensure they DO NOT have heartworm, prior to being vaccinated or treated. This is because giving the treatment to an animal WITH heartworm, can be fatal.

Diet

Diet is a complicated but important topic! There is no one-size-fits-all answer for what to feed your cat or dog. Dietary recommendations will vary based on species, breed, age, health status and a lot of other factors.

Be aware, there are many opinions regarding diet. Some of these opinions are based on detailed expertise, and some aren't.

Generally, we recommend the **Advance** range of pet foods due to their extensive investment in researching animal nutrition and being Australian owned and operated, and your Vet might also recommend a specialised prescription diet, such as Hills Science Diet, or Royal Canin foods.

Dental Health

Dental health starts at a very young age.

It's estimated that 100% of dogs and cats over 3 years of age have some form of dental disease. Dental disease causes bad breath (halitosis), inflamed gums and more, and is a

painful experience for your pet. It is also a source of infection and can make your pet seriously ill, and particularly affect the heart, liver and kidneys.

Dental disease is preventable in the vast majority of cases and in most cases, this is easy to achieve at home. There are many different methods to keep your pet's teeth 'pearly white' and these methods should be started while they are puppies and kittens.

Brushing your pet's teeth daily is the 'gold standard' and most thorough method, although we have other methods of prevention as well.

Kibble – Advance dental biscuits

Dental Toys – kongs etc

Treats and chews – greenies, oravet

Water/ food additives – aquadent, hexarinse, oxyfresh, plaque off

Training your puppy

Puppies are a wonderful addition to our families. You can make sure your puppy is well socialised and behaved by taking them to a professional puppy pre-school.

At Redgum, we offer a 4-week puppy training course covering all aspects of puppy ownership:

- How to deal with puppy problems such as chewing, digging, barking, play biting
- Anxiety issues
- Toilet training
- Learning to walk on a lead, sit, settle and come

Our puppy training is conducted by our wonderful vet nurses.

Our puppy training classes are fun, positive and focused on rewarding desired behaviour, encouraging your dog to enjoy the training sessions.

The cost of the classes is credited to your account, for you to use at a future time, so essentially the classes are FREE!

Grooming your pet

At Redgum, we believe that good health for your pet is about more than just treating illnesses; it's also about making sure your pet feels great and has a great quality of life.

That's why we offer extensive, high-quality dog grooming and cat grooming .

We offer shampooing, conditioning, styling, and clipping to keep your pet's coat looking lustrous and stylish. Our groomers also trim your pet's nails and clean their ears, leaving them more comfortable and safer.

The pet groomers at Redgum are experienced in grooming all dog breed types as well as cats. If you are after a particular pet grooming service for your pet our team is happy to accommodate special requests whenever possible.

Benefits of De-sexing Your Pet

It is very important to get your new puppy or kitten de-sexed. The best time is usually between 5 and 6 months of age but this can vary depending on your pet's breed. Very large breed dogs may benefit from waiting until they have moved through several growth stages before desexing. Our veterinarians will be able to discuss and confirm with you the best time for your pet's procedure.

There are many advantages to de-sexing your pet. These include reducing the risk of a number of diseases and preventing the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens.

In male dogs, de-sexing can prevent:

- Dominance aggression
- Prostate cancer
- Testicular cancer
- Hernias
- Perianal adenomas – tumours around the anus
- Wandering, which can lead to animal fights or traffic accidents

In Male Cats, De-sexing Controls:

- Spraying
- Aggressive behaviour
- Roaming

In Female Dogs And Cats, De-sexing Prevents:

- Mammary cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Pyometra – a disease of the uterus from deadly bacterial infection

I know this is an awful lot of information- and it's a lot to take in.

If you come along to our puppy school program, we will go over much more of this and help you to understand it better. You can also come in any time you like to chat with our nurses and they can go over any of the information again with you.

You have a wonderful little puppy/kitten, a new addition to your family, and we really want to make this an amazing experience for the both of you!