

BUNBURY & EATON Vet Clinic's



NEW DOG GUIDE



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Welcome to the Bunbury and Eaton Vet Clinic's New Dog Guide

Bringing a dog into your life
can be one of the most enjoyable
and rewarding things you will ever do.

To make the process of buying
and owning a dog as easy as possible,
we have written this free guide.

We hope you find it useful
and informative.



Chapter 1: Preparation Work

Before you get a dog, you need to do your homework to decide what type of dog is right for you, and to make sure you are going to be able to look after a dog for the next 15 years or so. Make sure you consider the following points before you commit to taking on a dog.

- You need to understand that getting a dog is a long term commitment, with the average life span of dogs being between 12 and 15 years. Check that you can have a dog in your current home, particularly if you are living in a rental property. Also consider what may happen if you need to move. Will you be able to take your dog with you or find another rental property that allows you to have a dog?
- Ask yourself if you have time to walk, feed and provide company for a dog every day. All dogs should be walked daily, and being pack animals they need quite a lot of contact with their owners. Make sure you can provide these needs for your dog.
- Would a dog or a puppy suit you best? It may be great fun to have a puppy around, but puppies take a lot more time and commitment to training. Would you be better buying an adult dog which is already toilet trained and less likely to chew everything in sight?
- Can you afford to care for the dog properly? You need to make sure you can afford to feed, vaccinate, worm and flea treat your dog as needed. You also need to be able to access some funds for basic vet care if your dog is unwell. You don't need to have thousands set aside, but having to access a \$150-200 is needed in case your pet becomes unwell. Pet insurance can also help cover the costs of unexpected vet care.



What Type of Dog Would Suit You?

The type of dog which will best be suited to you depends a lot on your lifestyle. The bulk of behavioural problems we see with dogs are a result of people getting the wrong dog rather than the dog being “bad”. For example, people living in a small flat shouldn’t buy a working breed such as a Border Collie or Kelpie unless they are able to spend almost the entire day with the dog and give it a lot of exercise (at least 1-2 hours vigorous exercise every day). Equally, people who want a running companion will need to avoid dogs with short noses such as Pugs and Bulldogs as they are very inefficient at cooling themselves and can have trouble breathing after exercise.

Points to consider when deciding what type of dog will suit you include:

- Size – will a small or large dog suit you best?
- Activity level – some dogs are very active, while others love lazing around relaxing. What activity level would suit you best?
- Cross-bred or Pure-bred? – Many people like to get pure-bred dogs because they have a fairly good idea what the dog will be like when fully grown. The downside of owning a pure-bred dog is they are much more prone to genetic defects, inherited disease or may in fact suffer from the exaggerated features they are bred to have. For example, French Bulldogs may be very cute, but they frequently have breathing and skin issues. On average, cross-bred dogs will experience fewer medical issues and hence will often be cheaper to look after
- Breed characteristics – think about things like the need for grooming and maintenance. Some dogs need regular grooming and clipping, while others will only need occasional brushing. Some dogs, such as Mastiff breeds, may produce a lot of saliva so may not be suitable for some houses

Where is the Best Place to Get a Dog?

The first place I would encourage people to look for a new dog is with rescue organisations such as SWAR and SAFE. You can often find a dog that will match your needs very well through these welfare groups. By taking on a rescue dog, you do more than save one dog. You also create space in the system for another dog.



Rescue dogs normally come with their initial vet work already done (they will normally be desexed, vaccinated, microchipped and parasite treated). You will often pay less for a rescue dog that has had all this work done already than you would pay to get the vet to do these procedures for you. So not only do you save a dog's life, you save quite a bit of money up front too.

The other advantage that can come from adopting a rescue dog is that you potentially get to see what the dog is like as an adult (as most rescue dogs are young adults). This means you can get a good idea on how calm or energetic the dog is, how sociable it is and how it will match your lifestyle.

If you decide to get your dog from a breeder, there are a few golden rules you should follow.

- Make sure the breeder will let you meet the puppy's mother and see where the puppy was born. If the breeder doesn't let you see the mother or the place, this is a red flag for a breeder who may have substandard facilities or be breeding irresponsibly. That is, they may be "puppy farmers". You should visit the place where the puppy was born at least twice before purchasing the puppy, and be allowed to handle the puppy on each occasion
- Are you happy with the place where the puppy was born? If the mother doesn't look healthy, or if the breeding facility is dirty or overrun with dogs, don't purchase a puppy from there. By buying a puppy from such a place you will be perpetuating the cycle of irresponsible breeding
- Have the puppies been health checked by a vet, had their first vaccination and treated for worms and fleas? When a litter of pups receive these early treatments, it gives you the best chance of getting a healthy, happy puppy.
- Has the puppy's parents been tested for heritable diseases such as hip dysplasia, eye problems or other breed-specific problems? You should do your research to find out what problems certain breeds are prone to along with what tests should be done to minimise the chance of your puppy being affected. Then check to see if the puppy's parents have had these tests completed and what the results were.

- Don't take the puppy from the breeder until it is at least 8 weeks old. Puppies should be with their mothers and litter mates for the first 8 weeks as this is important learning and development time
- Does the breeder offer any guarantees and post-purchase support? For example, if your puppy develops hip dysplasia or becomes unwell soon after purchase, will the breeder offer a refund or contribute to any treatment costs? Most reputable breeders who believe they are producing fit, healthy puppies will provide a guarantee of being healthy.
- Request a written agreement that the purchase is subject to a satisfactory examination by your vet within 48 hours of picking up the pup. Having your puppy examined immediately after purchase gives you peace of mind. At the Bunbury and Eaton Vet Clinics, we can also give you 4 weeks free pet insurance after this puppy examination if the puppy is over 8 weeks of age, so it means your puppy can be covered against illness or injury during those early critical weeks.

Before Taking Your Dog Home

Before picking up your new dog or puppy, make sure your home is ready for them. Remember it will be a big transition time for your puppy or dog, so early preparation can prevent a lot of problems.

- Check your fences are secure. Make sure there aren't little gaps that a small puppy can escape through, and make sure your fence is high enough to prevent jumping out
- Make sure you have moved things that may create hazards for puppies and dogs. Make sure they can't access any poisons such as snail pellets or rodenticides
- Pick up anything the puppy is likely to chew or destroy. Your new shoes might seem like a great toy to a puppy, so keep them out of temptation's way
- Do you have all the equipment you may need, such as leads, collars, food, bowls and bedding?
- Do you know your vet's contact details?
- Do you know about desexing, vaccination protocols, parasite control and council registration? We will cover these later in the book



Chapter 2: Bringing Your New Dog Home

This is an exciting time for the new owners, but a very scary time for the puppy or new dog. The puppy is going to be separated from its mother and littermates for the first time, and put into a completely new environment.

When you pick up the puppy, try to have one other person accompany you. That way, someone can hold the puppy (or even better take a cat cage and the person can hold that) while in the car to make sure the puppy can't fall off its seat and injure itself. Make sure you take some newspaper or old towels with you as puppies are prone to getting car sick.

Make sure you pick up the relevant paperwork such as pedigree certificates, vaccination certificates and information on things such as what the puppy has been fed. If the owner can't produce a valid vaccination certificate, you should assume the puppy has not been vaccinated.

Pick a name for your puppy. It sounds obvious, but its name will be one of the first things your puppy will learn.

When you get home, give your new pet a chance to explore at their own pace. Let them have a sniff around and meet any other family members. This is not a good time to have lots of people around to meet your new puppy as it will be quite stressful if there are too many new people present.

Sleeping

Make sure you know where your puppy is going to sleep. This will be your puppy's first night away from its littermates, so it may be a quite unsettled. Make sure you have somewhere that is warm, draft free and comfortable for the puppy to sleep. Also remember puppies can't hold their bowels or bladder all night, so make sure you cover the floor with puppy pads or newspaper to avoid a major mess in the morning.

There are two approaches to getting your puppy to sleep where you want it to.

1. *Straight to where it will be sleeping:* Some people believe you should put the puppy where you want it to sleep as an adult and have it there from day one. This avoids the need to transition the puppy/dog to another sleeping place when it is older. You can make this easier by putting some old shirts or jumpers in the sleeping place so your smell is there (you may have only had the puppy one day but it will be familiar with your smell). You can also get a clock which makes a ticking sound and wrap that in a towel in the bed. This ticking can mimic the heart sounds of the bitch, and be quite soothing for the puppy.

It is quite normal for puppies to vocalise when they are in a new environment. My advice is to make sure the bed is safe and secure before you take the puppy out there and then ignore any vocalisation. The puppy will quite quickly settle if you have the sleeping place well set up. If you head outside or to the sleeping place to comfort the puppy, the puppy will learn that barking and crying makes you come, which will reinforce this behaviour. The puppy will effectively train you to come. For puppies, negative attention is better than no attention, so even going to tell the puppy off still encourages the behaviour. It is always worth talking to your neighbours before you bring a new puppy home, and let them know that you will be ignoring the barking so it doesn't become an ongoing problem. Most puppies will only bark or cry for the first night or two, then settle well into their own bed.

2. *Transition Slowly:* Some people prefer to have the puppy in their bedroom with them initially, and then transition the dog to where they want it to sleep permanently at a later time. This can make the first few nights less stressful for the puppy, but it may be harder to teach the dog its new sleeping place when it is a bit older.



Feeding

When you first take your dog home, it is a good idea to continue feeding it the same food it was previously being fed for a couple of days. This helps minimise the risk of getting an upset stomach. After a few days, once the dog seems settled, you can change your dog over to its new food. We recommend changing your pet to a new food over 5 days. Start off feeding the dog 20% of the new food, 80% of the old food. Each day increase the portion of the new food by 20%, so you feed 20%, 40%, 60%, 80% then 100% of the new food.

We recommend feeding your puppy 4 times per day for the first few weeks. This can be reduced to 3 times daily until they are 4 months old, then twice daily until 12 months old. Over 12 months of age they can be fed either once or twice daily depending on what is easiest for you to sustain and fit into your daily routine.

High quality, well balanced diets are essential for optimal health. Diets that are poorly balanced can create serious problems with bone growth and other illnesses.

We recommend Royal Canin foods. We chose to stock (and feed our own pets) Royal Canin because their range of food is designed specifically to cater for dogs at each of the different life stages and body types as they grow and develop.

Small Breed Dogs (Adult weight of less than 10kg) are particularly prone to dental disease, so the food is specifically designed to help look after their teeth, whereas large dogs (over 25kg adult weight) are more prone to arthritis and joint disease, so their food has high levels of glucosamine and chondroitin to protect joints.



For large breed dogs, it is important to feed them a large breed specific diet. These diets are designed to control the speed the dog grows. If large breed dogs grow too fast, they are at increased risk of developing bone and joint problems. With these large breed diets, the dog will still eventually reach the same adult size, but at a safer pace.

Feeding puppies chicken wings or necks 2-3 times per week can be a good idea. It helps satisfy their chewing needs, resulting less damage to your personal belongings. These should always be fed raw, as cooked bones can shatter into sharp pieces that may damage a dogs throat or intestines.

Your First Vet Visit

We recommend having your new pet checked within 48 hours of acquiring them. This gives you a chance to have the pet physically examined to make sure you have been sold a healthy animal, gain advice on caring for your pet, sign up for puppy preschool, get 4 weeks free pet insurance and ask any questions you may have. We have appointments available most days, and we're also open later on Thursday evenings until 8pm plus Saturday mornings.

Phone **97215999** for the Bunbury Vet Clinic,
or **97250399** for the Eaton Vet Clinic.



Chapter 3: Training

Toilet Training

Toilet training can start as soon as you get your new dog. If you have taken on an adult dog, it will hopefully be toilet trained. If you have a new puppy, or if your adult dog is not toilet trained, these are the things you should know.

- Teach your puppy where it is good to go, as well as where it is bad. Puppies have a small bladder, so take them to where you want them to wee every 30 minutes or so. If they wee in the right place, give them praise and a pat or other reward. Also take them to their toilet spot immediately after each feed as this is when they are most likely to have a pooh.
- Only tell your puppy off if you catch it in the act of toileting in the wrong place. I recommend making a sharp, loud noise such as a clap to startle them so they stop toileting. Carry them outside to where you want them to toilet and put them down. If they continue toileting in the correct spot, give them praise
- If you don't catch them toileting in the wrong spot, do not tell them off. Dogs don't think the same way we do, so they won't realise what they are being told off for. The "guilty" look that so many people say shows they know what they have done wrong is actually them picking up on the owners body language and becoming submissive
- Puppies can't hold their bladder overnight. If you are keeping them inside, provide them with some newspaper or puppy pads to toilet on
- Dogs often like certain textures to toilet on. They may be reluctant to toilet on concrete or other solid surfaces, and some dogs don't like walking on wet grass. In the early stages of toilet training, if they seem reluctant to toilet outside, try getting an offcut of carpet and put that where you want them to go. They may like the texture of this and be happier to toilet there

- Remember that accidents happen. Even the best puppy will occasionally make a mistake. Be understanding that the puppy will be trying hard to please
- If your puppy does have an accident, clean it up using bicarbonate of soda. This will help neutralise any ammonia in the urine, which if left may encourage the puppy to continue urinating in that place.

Obedience Training

The best place to learn about obedience training is in Puppy Preschool. Being able to see a demonstration and then practice it yourself is the fastest way for you and the puppy to learn. This also provides a valuable chance for your puppy to be socialised in a safe, clean environment. The added bonus of taking your puppy to Puppy Preschool at a vet clinic is the puppy learns that the vet clinic is a fun place to be, and they will normally be happy to come back to the clinic for future visits.

The most important principle of training a dog is positive reinforcement. Dogs will try much harder to please if they are given a positive reward when they do something right, rather than getting punished if they don't. Positive reinforcement can take the form of treats (just small amounts) or praise and play. My guiding principle for any behaviour advice for dogs is reward good behaviour and ignore bad.

Repetition is important to reinforce good behaviour. You should do some training with your dog every day. Remember, puppies are just like kids with a very short attention span, so limit your training sessions to 5 minutes or less, and always finish with them wanting more.

I recommend you also look for a good book on training. This can help you take your obedience training to the next level. Also consider ongoing training with organisations such as The Bunbury and Districts Dog Club or others mentioned later in this book.



Jumping and Biting

These are amongst the most frustrating behaviours that puppies can do. Both of these problems are normal puppy behaviour, but should be discouraged to avoid injuries to people and to stop the behaviour becoming a bigger problem as the puppy gets bigger and stronger.

To stop a dog jumping, the best thing you can do is turn your back on the dog and ignore them until they settle down. Ask them to sit (this should be one of the first things you teach your dog to do), then give them praise and a pat for being good. The basic principle of ignore bad behaviour and reward good is important here.

Biting is part of puppies learning to fight when they are older. In the wild, puppies need to learn fighting skills to defend their pack and territory from other dogs and predators. When puppies are learning to play, they don't know how hard is too hard when they bite another puppy until the other puppy yelps and stops playing with them. The puppy gets negative feedback because the game ends, and the loud yelp can startle it. You can do a similar thing. When playing, if the puppy bites you, yelp and turn away from the puppy. Give it a few seconds then start the game again. If the puppy bites again, do the same thing. You should find after 3-4 times the puppy learns and will stop biting. You may need to repeat this several times as the puppy is likely to forget that biting is bad occasionally.

Puppies and dogs jumping on and mouthing children is a much bigger problem. Often this is a misunderstanding from the puppy – the kid squeals and flaps their arms, and the puppy mistakes this for play. Teach your kids that if a puppy is jumping up on them or mouthing them, to put their hands in front of them, turn their back on the dog, and calmly and quietly walk away. As a side note, kids should NEVER be left alone with a dog, no matter how much you trust the dog. I have had to euthanase several family dogs that had been trusted and caused significant bite injuries to children. Even small dogs can cause significant damage if they bite a kid's face, so this rule applies to all dogs.

Puppy Preschool

Puppy preschool is one of the most important steps that you can take in your puppy's life. Exposing your puppy to positive experiences in a safe environment before 13 weeks of age can set your puppy up for a rewarding, well balanced life. Not only will your puppy have a great time playing and learning from other puppies, you will also learn why your puppy does certain behaviours, and what you can do to teach your puppy to fit in with your lifestyle. Although most people have had a puppy before, each puppy comes with their own personality and challenges; which we can help you guide your way through.

The Bunbury and Eaton Vet Clinics provide a safe environment for your puppy to gain confidence with other puppies at the similar age which have already had at least one vaccination. During the four week course we discuss common puppy problems, which every puppy owner struggles with, such as toilet training, digging, jumping, biting and attention seeking behaviour. At the end of each class you will receive written notes on what was covered in each class, which acts as a refresher should you forget, and allows other members of the family that can not attend the classes to know what was covered.

During the course you will be given the skills to be able to teach your puppy their name, sit, stay, drop, come, roll over and lead walking. We will discuss dental health care for your puppy, appropriate chew toys and what food should be fed for a healthy puppy. We will also discuss parasite control programs for heartworm, intestinal worms and fleas, as well as vaccination protocols to help keep your puppy safe from life threatening diseases such as parvovirus.

The added bonus of having Puppy Preschool at a vet clinic is your dog learning that the vet is a fun place to be, and helps prevent visits to the vet becoming a stressful experience. We find most of our Puppy Preschool graduates love coming in to see us because they remember having fun and playing a lot at the clinic.

Please give us a call to find out when the next class is starting and to make a booking for your puppy.



Chapter 4: Health Care

Along side food, health care will represent your greatest expense in owning a dog. Health care includes preventative measures such as vaccinations and parasite control, as well as treatment for illness or injury.

We recommend making your first appointment with your preferred vet within 48 hours of acquiring your new puppy or dog to ensure it is in good health.

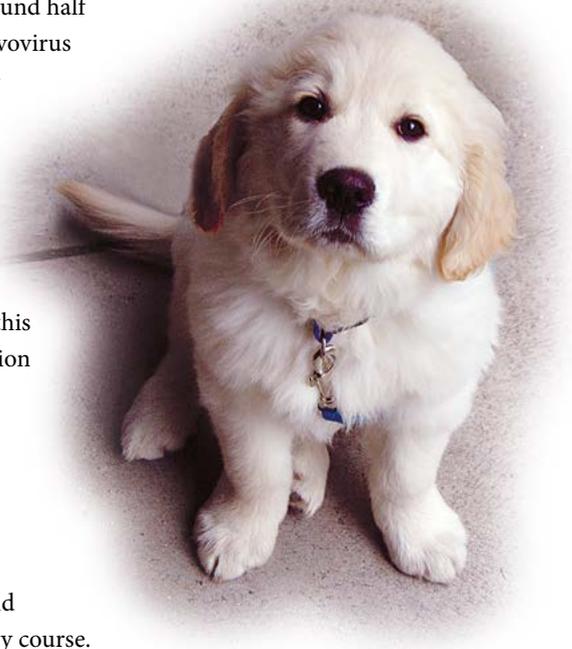
Vaccinations

Puppies should receive a primary vaccination course of three vaccinations against parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis (C3) at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks and 14-16 weeks of age. All dogs should be vaccinated against these potentially fatal diseases, even if the dog never meets other dogs or leaves the yard. Parvovirus for example can live for 12 months in the environment, and can be carried home on peoples clothing and shoes.

I would estimate that around half the dogs we see with parvovirus infections haven't left the back yard to pick up the infection.

Ideally your puppy should have its first vaccination while it is still with the breeder, as this provides the best protection for the puppy before it is sent to its new home.

For dogs over 10 weeks of age, we recommend two vaccinations against parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis for their primary course.



Dogs that will be meeting other dogs, such as in kennels, groomers, dog training or socially on walks, should also be vaccinated against Canine Cough. We tend to use the term Canine Cough now as most dogs pick up these infections in social environments rather than in kennels. We will normally use an intranasal Canine Cough vaccine (a vaccine that goes up the puppies nostrils) for puppies so they only need one dose to achieve their initial full vaccination status. When combined with a C3 vaccination, this becomes known as a C5 vaccination.

12 months after completing their primary vaccination course, a booster vaccination against Parvovirus, Hepatitis, Distemper and Canine Cough is needed. After this point, the Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis vaccinations are only needed every three years, while Canine Cough vaccinations are given annually.

We strongly recommend your pet has a general health check annually. This is normally done at the same time as the vaccinations, but if your dog is not having Canine Cough vaccines you will need to bring it in for an annual health check each year between C3 vaccines.

One of the most common reasons people give for not vaccinating their dog is the cost of the vaccines. This can be a false economy, as treating a Parvovirus infection can cost anywhere between \$1500 and \$5000. That is a LOT more than a lifetime of vaccinations.

Intestinal Worms

Puppies are prone to severe problems with intestinal worm burdens. They can cause severe anaemia (blood loss), low blood protein and even block the intestine in severe cases. Regular worming is important to keep your puppy as healthy as possible. As such, puppies should be wormed with a high quality intestinal all wormer every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until 6 months of age. Over 6 months of age they should be wormed every 3 months, which is continued for life.



Heartworm

Heartworm is a parasite not controlled by intestinal wormers. It lives in the main blood vessels between the heart and the lungs. It is spread by mosquito bites. The adult worms produce larvae which circulate in the blood. Mosquitoes suck up the larvae when they feed on an infected dog, then inject the larvae into another dog when they feed again later. Obviously we live in an area with a lot of mosquitoes, so heartworm protection is recommended. In fact, it is recommended that all dogs in Australia should have Heartworm prevention.

The most common sign of Heartworm infection is coughing, as the worms create blood clots which lodge in the lungs. As you can imagine this is very dangerous for the dog. Once a Heartworm infection is established, it is very difficult and dangerous to treat, so prevention is very important.

Heartworm medications focus on trying to prevent infection in the first place, rather than treating established infections.

We recommend using an injectable Heartworm prevention medication. The first injection is given at 12 weeks of age (which ties in with the second puppy vaccination), with further injections at 6 months and 15 months of age, then every 12 months for life. This protocol ensures the animal is covered for life and infection doesn't have a chance to start.

There are also monthly Heartworm prevention medications that are effective provided they are given on time every time. The problem we often see with the monthly products is that even the most organised of clients doses at times, or give them later than they should, so there are gaps in the treatment which leave the dog open to infection.

Fleas

Regular flea control is important to stop fleas establishing themselves in the dog's environment. Fleas are what we call nest parasites, with around 5% of fleas on the dog and 95% in the environment at any one time. This is why flea shampoos are quite ineffective – only the fleas on the dog are killed, so the other 5% keep on causing problems.

Fleas can contribute heavily to skin problems, as well as being irritating for the dog and the owners. Fleas can jump onto your dog when on walks, or be brought into your yard by visiting cats or dogs. Even if your dog doesn't have contact with other dogs we still recommend good quality flea control.

We recommend using regular flea control. There is a large range of flea control products, but we have two products we recommend above all others:

- Bravecto – this is an oral flea control product which is given every 3 months. It is very tasty, easy to give and very effective. As a bonus, it also appears to be effective against some mite species which occasionally affect puppies. If you join our Healthy Pets Club (see page 22) we'll even post doses out to you when due.
- Activyl – this monthly spot-on product is used on the very rare dog that can't have Bravecto. It is simply applied onto the back of the neck monthly. It is water resistant, has a quick kill time, is very safe for the dog and is easy to use. Because it is a new product, there is also no reported resistance, so we can be very confident it works.

If you are unsure which flea control product may be best for your dog, feel free to phone the Bunbury or Eaton Vet Clinics and you can discuss it with one of our nurses, or ask the vet when you are next in for a vaccination or treatment.

Insurance

We recommend all pets have pet insurance. Pet insurance can be a life saver if your pet becomes seriously ill or injured. We can do so much for animals now, treating conditions like cancer, arthritis and heart disease in ways that weren't possible just a few years ago. However, with this increased range of more specialised treatment and diagnostics comes a higher cost. A broken leg can cost \$1000-\$3000, a diabetic dog may cost over \$5000 if it needs treatment with insulin and for diabetic cataracts, and if the animal is referred to a specialist in Perth the cost can go as high as \$10000 for certain illnesses.



There are two broad categories of pet insurance.

- Annual or 12 month policies. These policies cover the animal for 12 months from when the condition is first diagnosed. Because they don't cover chronic conditions they are a bit cheaper, and work well if the dog breaks its leg or has an acute illness. However if the dog develops arthritis, diabetes, heart disease or any other lifelong illness they will only cover the treatment for 12 months, after that you're on your own
- Lifetime policies. These policies cover the animal for life. We recommend PetPlan pet insurance because it covers the animal for life, no matter how long the condition lasts for. They will also keep covering your pet when it is old, while many companies will no longer cover animals above a certain age. In our experience, it is when a pet is very young or very old that it is most likely to have health issues, so the cover into old age is very important.

We offer 4 weeks free PetPlan Pet insurance for dogs and cats between 8 weeks to 12 months of age. We normally give them a health check at their vaccination and sign them up straight away. This way they are covered immediately for injury and after 72 hours for illness for up to \$3000. This insurance is obligation free – even if you make a claim you still don't need to continue with a paid policy. PetPlan don't do any other type of insurance, so they won't bombard you with offers of other insurance policies. At the end of the 4 weeks if you wish to continue with insurance (which we strongly recommend) they will discuss the level which is most appropriate for you, while if you don't wish to continue they will not contact you again. It really is that straight forward. For the sake of full transparency, we don't get any payment of any sort for signing you up to the 4 weeks free insurance. We just get the benefit of being able to treat animals to the best of our ability without the owner having to make some very difficult decisions based on cost limitations.

The other benefit of PetPlan insurance policies is the public liability insurance. Did you know that if your dog ran onto the road and caused an accident you would be liable for any damages to property or people? PetPlan pet insurance will cover you for accidents like this if they ever happen.

We never want a client to make a decision to compromise the level of care, or even worse, put their pet to sleep because they can't afford the treatment, so please seriously consider insurance.

Healthy Pets Club

As a pet owner myself, I understand just how hard it is to keep track of your pet's health care requirements. Meanwhile, as a vet I understand how important preventative health care is for keeping your pet happy and healthy. As a family man, I understand how difficult it can be to budget for routine health checks, vaccinations and parasite control.

To address all these issues, we have created the "Healthy Pets Club".

The Healthy Pets Club is an annual membership which covers vaccinations, heartworm prevention, flea and intestinal worm control, free nail clipping, as well as providing discounts on a range of services. To make pet care as easy as possible for you, we post your pet's flea and worm treatments to you when they are due so you just give the dose when it arrives, and send you reminders when they need vaccinating and heartworm prevention.

Our Healthy Pets Plus membership also includes unlimited FREE primary consultations, so if your pet becomes unwell or you simply need more frequent health checks than annual, it's got you covered.

For more information on our Healthy Pets Club, head to www.bunburyvets.com.au/healthy-pets-clubs

Desexing

We recommend desexing at 6 months of age. The only exception to this is large breed male dogs, which I will cover later.

Desexing female dogs (speying) is very important. Apart from the obvious prevention of unwanted pregnancies, there are a lot of health issues that desexing can prevent:



- Mammary Tumours (Breast Cancer) – in dogs, the risk of mammary tumours is strongly linked to the number of seasons they have had. If you desex before the first season there is almost no risk of mammary tumours. After the first season the risk is about 1 in 200. By the time a bitch has had 3 seasons they have a 22% chance of developing mammary tumours regardless of whether they are then spayed or not after their third season. This means that more than 1 in 5 bitches that have had 3 seasons will develop mammary tumours, which is a very high risk
- Pyometra – bitches have evolved to be capable of becoming pregnant on a regular basis. If a bitch has successive seasons without getting pregnant, the lining of the uterus can become thickened and abnormal in a condition called cystic endometrial hyperplasia. This condition can then lead to an infection in the uterus, which is very serious and life threatening
- Uterine and ovarian tumours – although not very common in bitches, spaying will prevent these tumours from occurring
- Phantom Pregnancies – because bitches are designed to get pregnant when they come into season, we find some bitches can experience something called a phantom pregnancy. Their body's hormones fool them into thinking they are pregnant (they will even produce milk). Phantom pregnancies can lead to an increased risk of uterine infections, mastitis, and behavioural issues. I have even heard of dogs stealing their owner's socks and trying to feed them because they are so confused by the phantom pregnancy

Spaying a bitch does carry a small risk of contributing to urinary incontinence, but this is normally easily managed and is certainly less serious than the problems mentioned above. It has been proven in a recent study that desexed bitches will, on average, live longer than those which are not desexed.

Desexing males has a different range of benefits, many of which are behavioural.

Testosterone is a difficult thing for young males of any species to handle. Just head out into town on a Friday night and you will see that even relatively intelligent humans can struggle with it. By castrating males, it reduces testosterone levels and can help prevent problems such as wandering, aggression, humping and cocking their leg on everything.

The medical benefits of castration are multiple:

- Prostate enlargement – just like people, entire male dogs experience prostate enlargement with age. This can cause significant problems with toileting, and often leads to the need for medical treatment and/or castration to cure. Castration does not affect the chance of developing prostate cancer
- Testicular cancer – obviously without testicles, a dog can't get testicular cancer
- Perianal adenomas – these masses can grow around the anus and over the tail. They are often testosterone responsive so castration helps prevent their growth

As mentioned before, the exception to 6 month desexing is large breed male dogs. There is a possible link between castration while still growing and bone tumours in these large breed dogs. The link is weak and the risk small, but unless there is a reason for desexing early (such as aggression) we recommend waiting until they are 12 months of age. We don't recommend waiting to desex large breed females until this age because it would mean them having one season, which would put them in the 1:200 risk of developing mammary tumours, which is higher than the risk of developing bone tumours.

Seven Important Points About Getting Your Pet Desexed At The Bunbury And Eaton Vet Clinics

1. We give pain killers to every animal. We believe every animal undergoing desexing surgery needs good quality pain relief, so we include it in the price we give you. Remember that the pain from surgery lasts for more than 24 hours, so your pet will have some pain killers to take at home.



2. Every animal receives intravenous fluids during the surgery.
With 85% of animals experiencing low blood pressure during surgery, intravenous fluids are important to help maintain blood pressure, making the surgery safer and the recovery faster. Low blood pressure can have wide-ranging effects on the animal, including causing liver and kidney damage, delayed wound healing, increased risk of infections and slower clearance of anaesthetic agents from the body.
3. A fully qualified vet nurse will be monitoring the anaesthetic.
Although we have trainee nurses, there is always a fully qualified nurse monitoring and supervising our anaesthetics.
4. We monitor blood pressure, oxygen levels, breath carbon dioxide levels and temperature throughout anaesthesia. This is critical to make the anaesthetic as safe as possible. It has been shown time and again that careful anaesthetic monitoring gives you the chance to correct small problems before they become big problems.
5. We use warm air blankets while the animal is under anaesthetic and use heat pads when the animal is recovering. Hypothermia is one of the biggest killers of animals under anaesthetic, as well as delaying wound healing and recovery. It is also for your pet's comfort. Without adequate support, an animal's body temperature drops during anaesthesia. Since purchasing our warm air blanket, we have consistently found animals have a smoother and faster recovery from anaesthesia.
6. We provide a collar to stop the pet from being able to lick its wound.
Our pets aren't always the best behaved patients, so sometimes we need to protect them from themselves.
7. The price you are given includes all this as standard. You can see our prices on our website, so there is complete transparency as to what the procedure will cost.

Weight Control

Did you know that an overweight dog will, on average, live for 3 years less than a dog of ideal weight. Obesity can predispose to many health issues such as arthritis and many types of cancer. Keeping your dog at an ideal weight is one of the most important things you can do at home to keep your dog healthy.

To check if your dog is an ideal weight, run your hand over their ribs. You should be able to feel the ribs quite easily, but if you were to imagine them shaved you shouldn't be able to see the ribs clearly.

If you are concerned that your dog may be overweight, please phone the Bunbury or Eaton Vet Clinic and ask to be booked in for one of our FREE weight clinics. These clinics are run by our fully qualified veterinary nurses and are a great way to get your pet back in shape.



Chapter 5: Useful Information

Registering Your Pet With The Council (Bunbury, Capel, Dardanup and Harvey)

All dogs must be registered by the age of 3 months. A person must be over 18 years of age to lawfully register a dog. The registration period is from 1 November to 31 October, with all registrations expiring on 31 October, regardless of the date your dog was originally registered.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DOG OWNERS WHICH WILL BE ENFORCED BY COUNCIL

Compulsory microchipping has been introduced for all dogs.

- Dogs must be microchipped when they are registered for the first time or when a change of ownership occurs;
- All restricted breed dogs, must be microchipped;
- Since 1 November 2015, all dogs must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age;
- If your dog is impounded the dog must be registered and arrangements made to microchip your dog before it can be released.

CITY OF BUNBURY:

Your dog can be registered at the Council offices at 4 Stephen Street, Bunbury. You will need to bring all relevant documents to receive concession. You now also have the option of paying for your Dog Registration Renewal online by Credit Card or PayPal. For more information head to <http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/Pages/Dogs.aspx>

Registration Fees

Description	1 Year	3 Year	Lifetime
Sterilised	\$20.00	\$42.50	\$100.00
Unsterilised	\$50.00	\$120.00	\$250.00
Sterilised & Pensioner	\$10.00	\$21.25	\$50.00
Unsterilised & Pensioner	\$25.00	\$60.00	\$125.00

SHIRE OF CAPEL

To register your dog, you will need to complete and sign a registration form which can be found at <http://www.capel.wa.gov.au/live/animal-control/dog-registration.aspx> . Once you have completed the form, please return it to the Shire office with payment and a dog tag will be sent to you.

Description	Registration Fees		
	Fee	Pensioner	Stock Dogs
Sterilised - 1 Year	\$20.00	\$10	\$5.00
Sterilised - 3 Year	\$42.50	\$21.25	\$10.63
Unsterilised - 1 Year	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$12.50
Unsterilised - 3 Year	\$120.00	\$60.00	\$30
Unsterilised - Lifetime	\$250.00		
Sterilised - Lifetime	\$100.00		
Kennel Licence	\$200 (annual fee charged on initial application and yearly renewal).		

Registration concessions

- Pensioners who have approved concession cards are entitled to a reduction in fees.
- Only 50% of the registration fee is payable for new registrations (only for a single year registration and not including renewals or re-registration of dogs previously registered within the Shire of Capel) made from 31 May in any year.
- Proof of sterilisation is required to obtain a concession.
- Working Dogs (dogs tending stock) are entitled to a reduction in fees.



SHIRE OF DARDANUP:**1 YEAR Registration Fees**

	No Concession	Pensioner Concession**	Farm Dog Concession
Unsterilised	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$12.50
Sterilised*	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$5.00

3 YEARS Registration Fees

	No Concession	Pensioner Concession**	Farm Dog Concession
Unsterilised	\$120.00	\$60.00	\$30.00
Sterilised*	\$42.50	\$21.25	\$10.63

LIFETIME Registration Fees

	No Concession	Pensioner Concession**	Farm Dog Concession
Unsterilised	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$62.50
Sterilised*	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$25.00

Registration can be completed at the following locations:

ADMINISTRATION CENTRE – EATON

1 Council Drive, Eaton WA 6232

Cashier Hours: 8.30am to 4.00pm – Monday to Friday

DARDANUP OFFICE

3 Little Street, Dardanup WA 6236

Cashier Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm – Monday to Friday

Office Closed Daily: 12.30pm – 1.00pm

For more information head to: <http://www.dardanup.wa.gov.au/community/animals-pets-2/dogs/dog-registration/>

SHIRE OF HARVEY:**Registration Fees**

Dog Type	1 Year	3 Years	Pensioner
Unsterilised	\$50.00	\$120.00	½ Normal Price
Sterilised	\$20.00	\$42.50	½ Normal Price
Stock Dogs (Unsterilised)	\$12.50	\$30.00	½ Normal Price
Stock Dogs (Sterilised)	\$5.00	\$10.60	½ Normal Price
Kennels	\$50.00 and all dogs must be registered		

Registration can be completed at the following locations:

Harvey Administration Office 102 Uduc Road, Harvey
 Australind Sub Office 7 Mulgara Street, Australind

Head to <http://www.harvey.wa.gov.au/services/ranger-services/dogs/dogrego> for more information.



Dog Training Clubs and Classes

There are a range of Dog training and Exercise Classes available in the Greater Bunbury Area. These include:

Dog training

1. DUTCHFIELD DOG TRAINING

www.dutchfielddogtraining.com.au

Ph: (08)97310810

Mob: 0423931120

Email: bm.breedveld@hotmail.com

Dutchfield dog training offers obedience, agility and puppy classes run by instructor Becky who holds over 10 years experience as a trainer. From group classes to private lessons with locations ranging from Bunbury, Donnybrook, Balingup, Bridgetown, Boyanup and Capel.

2. BENOTTO ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

www.benotto.com.au

Mob: 0410343413

Email: benotto@benotto.com.au

Benotto animal management has a huge variety of classes ranging from Puppy Pronto through to Advanced Agility, with private lessons also available. With over 20 years experience as an agility trainer and show dog trainer, Claire is also a qualified Vet nurse and Council Ranger. Benotto run classes at various parks around Bunbury and through to Perth.

3. BUNBURY AND DISTRICTS DOG CLUB

www.members.westnet.com.au/corbin1/bd/index.htm

Ph: (08) 97315456

Email: bunburdogz@westnet.com.au

From kindy classes through to agility and show days, Bunbury and Districts Dog Club covers a range of training for you and your dog. Established back in 1965, over the last 40 years it has developed a well staffed committee that is constantly replenished with devoted and loyal dog lovers.

4. BARKBUSTERS

www.barkbusters.com.au

Ph: 1800 0670 710

Catrina is the trainer for Bunbury, Busselton, Dalyellup and Australind areas. The Bark Busters dog training method offers a fantastic alternative to harsh training methods. Bark Busters do private lessons that are carried out at your house to keep the dog in their own environment.

5. THE DOG LINE

www.thedogline.com.au

Ph: 1300 843 364

Email: info@thedogline.com.au

Whilst not Bunbury specific, the dog line has over 12 years experience in assisting people with dog training products from collars to electric dog fences and remote control collars. The Dog Line has a huge range of product available for purchase over the internet.

Places You Can Exercise Your Dog

Your dog should remain on a leash in all public places unless in a specified council approved dog exercise area. It is the best interest of yourself and your dog to abide by these rules. Councils may issue fines if your dog is caught off-lead in a non-specified area.

Why does my dog need to be kept on a leash?

There are many reasons for encouraging owners to keep their dogs on a lead when in public places – most of which center around promoting the well-being of your pet.

- Preventing your dog from getting into a fight with other unknown dogs
- Preventing approach of unknown people toward your dog, given that you do not know the potential nature of the interaction. Remember if your dog bites someone, you're liable for any damages
- Some native bushland may have baits in the environment that are poisonous and potentially lethal to your dog
- Your dog may ingest unknown substances when out of your view that may cause them to become very unwell and can be fatal



- Your dog may come into contact with kangaroos and be seriously injured
- Your dog may come into contact with snakes and receive a fatal bite
- Preventing your dog from roaming into traffic

When your dog is off the lead often you cannot be in control of its encounters and what it is exposed to. In specified dog exercise areas, the aim is to have greater control over a known environment where risk factors can be better managed.

Before you let your dog exercise off lead, make sure you have good recall. That is, if you call your dog make sure it comes back consistently. You can learn the basics of this in Puppy Preschool and the other dog training classes, but it needs practice.

Where are the council-approved dog exercise areas?

Please refer to the following websites for each Shire to find out their specified list of dog exercise locations. If your dog is off the lead, you need to ensure that your dog will obey your command to return to you when called.

BUNBURY SHIRE:

http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/pdf/Community/Dog_Exercise_Areas.pdf

DARDANUP SHIRE:

<http://www.dardanup.wa.gov.au/our-shire/maps/>

HARVEY SHIRE:

<http://www.harvey.wa.gov.au/services/ranger-services/dogs/>

COLLIE SHIRE:

[http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/gazette/gazette.nsf/gazlist/55DFAC6D1110571148257797001DFE6D/\\$file/gg171.pdf](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/gazette/gazette.nsf/gazlist/55DFAC6D1110571148257797001DFE6D/$file/gg171.pdf)
(page 4336 and 4337 at end of manual)

CAPEL SHIRE:

<http://www.capel.wa.gov.au/portals/0/doc/publications/socialisation,%20exercise%20and%20training%20for%20your%20dog%20brochure.pdf>

Dog Kennels

What to look for in a kennel: We recommend you ask other pet owners for recommendations of kennels for your dog, then organise a visit to the kennel to check it out for yourself.

On your visit, ask to see all the places your pet may be taken.

Pay particular attention to the following:

- Does the facility look and smell clean?
- Is there sufficient ventilation and light?
- Is a comfortable temperature maintained?
- Does the staff seem knowledgeable and caring?
- Are pets required to be current on their vaccinations, including the vaccine for canine kennel cough (Bordetella)? (Such a requirement helps protect your animal and others.)
- Does each dog have his own adequately sized indoor-outdoor run or an indoor run and a schedule for exercise?
- Are outdoor runs and exercise areas protected from wind, rain, and sun?
- Are resting boards and bedding provided to allow dogs to rest off the concrete floor?
- Is there enough space between the litter box and food bowls?
- How often are pets fed?
- Can the owner bring a pet's special food?
- What veterinary services are available?
- Are other services available such as grooming, training, bathing?
- How are rates calculated?



Here are some of the kennels in the Greater Bunbury area and surrounds:

DOWN SOUTH BOARDING KENNELS

8 Billingham Road, Argyle.

<http://downsouthboardingkennels.com.au/>

Phone: (08) 9731 0186

BUSHLANDS PET RESORT

www.bushlands.com.au

35 Range Road

Capel, WA 6271

Phone: 08 9727 1347

Mobile: 0410 331 744

LOCHWIND

1526 Boyanup-Picton Rd, Dardanup WA 6236

Phone: (08) 9725 4323

WILLOW PARK BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY

275 Martin Pelusey Rd, Dardanup WA 6236

Phone: (08) 9728 1162

SOUTHERN MEADOWS BOARDING KENNELS

357 Glendon Rd, Busselton WA 6280

(08) 9753 2163

BIMBIMBIE KENNELS

79 Coalfields Hwy, Roelands WA 6226

Phone: (08) 9726 3192

First Aid For Your Dog

If your pet is ever injured or unwell, basic first aid can be a life saver.

We recommend all our clients download an app called First Aid For Pets (Australia). This app has lots of information on first aid, toxins and emergency procedures such as CPR.

Poisons for Dogs

There are many common poisons that affect dogs. If you are concerned your pet may have swallowed anything poisonous, please phone for advice immediately.

Some of the more common poisons we encounter include:

- **Snail Pellets:** Even if they say “Pet Safe”, don’t believe it. Snail pellets are very dangerous to dogs, and it is one of the most common poisonings we see. The main signs we see from these is muscle twitching, salivating a lot and diarrhoea. Dogs that have eaten snail pellets need urgent veterinary attention.
- **Rodenticides (Rat and Mouse Baits):** these work by blocking the production of clotting products in the dog. The dog will seem normal for several days after eating these products, but then can start to bleed internally. Rodenticide poisoning is easy to treat if we catch it early, but once they start bleeding it is much harder to save their life. Make sure any rodenticides are out of reach of pets, and if you think they have eaten some please phone us for advice
- **Human Medications:** I have seen several cases of people giving their pets human medication for arthritis, and cases where the dog has found the medication and eaten it. Human drugs may not be safe for dogs, and should NEVER be given without veterinary advice. As little as one ibuprofen tablet can kill a dog, so it’s not worth the risk
- **Chocolate:** as a general rule, the darker the chocolate the more dangerous it is to dogs. Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromide, which can cause seizures and other problems in dogs
- **Onions and Garlic:** these foods, especially if raw can cause significant destruction of the dog’s red blood cells. If enough cells are destroyed it can be fatal or require blood transfusions
- **Grapes and Sultanas:** it has recently been found that grapes, raisins and sultanas can cause kidney failure in some dogs. It is unclear how this damage occurs, or why some dogs can eat them with no problems while others can experience significant kidney damage.



- Xylitol: an artificial sweetener, it is often found in sugar free gum and some sugar replacement products. It can cause very rapid drops in blood glucose which can be fatal, and severe liver failure
- Macadamia Nuts: although not fatal, macadamia nuts can cause gut pain in dogs
- Zamia nuts: this native plant is very toxic. The nuts initially cause severe gut pain, followed by liver, kidney and heart failure. Treatment is rarely successful.
- Fat: Although not a toxin, I thought I'd include it here as it's a common cause of problems in dogs, especially at Christmas time. Often people will feed their dog leftovers or let them chew the ham bone. A large feed of fat can cause a condition called pancreatitis, which is very painful for dogs, is sometimes fatal and requires intensive hospital treatment
- Bones: While not a poison either, these are something we often see cause problems. The wrong types of bones can cause problems such as intestinal blockages or get caught in the dog's throat. Never feed your dog cooked bones, which can shatter into shards, or chop bones that can be swallowed whole, as these are the most dangerous

What to Do Outside Normal Opening Hours

We are open 8am-6pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 8am-8pm on Thursdays. We are also open 8:30am-12pm Saturday.

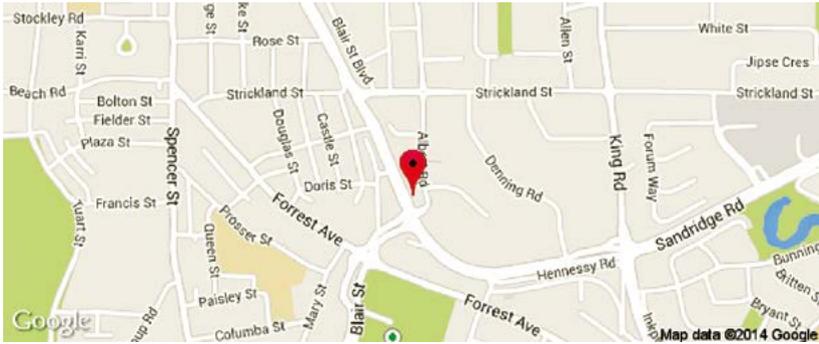
If your pet becomes unwell outside our normal opening hours, please phone 97215999 and press 2 when prompted. This will divert your call to the Veterinary Surgeon on call. Please listen carefully to which clinic you are asked to bring your pet to, as we share on call work with Harradine and Associates.

Please note there is a surcharge for consultations outside of normal hours.

Maps of Clinic Locations

BUNBURY VET CLINIC:

183 Blair St, Bunbury (Next to Sparklers Carwash)



EATON VET CLINIC:

6 Cassowary Bend, Eaton (Opposite Eaton Fair Shopping Centre)



NOTES

PRICE \$9.95

