

Medivet puppy and kitten *guide*





Welcome to Medivet

We're delighted that you've chosen us to help you give your new pet the best start in life. Whether it's carrying out a routine health check, providing emergency specialist treatment, or simply offering expert advice and reassurance, we're always there.

This guide will provide you with advice and support and will help you get your new pet off to the right start. It will help you to understand the importance of regular vaccinations, health checks and also provide support to ensure that your pet becomes a healthy and confident adult.

Please make sure you bring this guide with you to every visit.

For more useful advice visit [medivet.co.uk](https://www.medivet.co.uk)

Your *new* pet

Fill out the information below to create a personal profile for your pet.



Pet's name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Breed: _____

Gender: _____

Microchip number: _____

Insurance policy number: _____

Medivet Healthcare Plan member: Yes No

Useful *contacts*:

Vet:

.....

Phone no:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Email address:@medivet.co.uk

Emergency vet:

.....

Phone no:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Insurance provider:

.....

Phone no:

.....

Petlog no (to update microchip details):

.....

Phone no:

.....

Contents

Responsible pet ownership:

p. 8

- ▶ Pet Insurance
 - ▶ Medivet Healthcare Plan
 - ▶ Regular health checks
 - ▶ Vaccinations
 - ▶ Flea and worming
 - ▶ Dental care
 - ▶ Nutrition
 - ▶ Neutering
-

Upcoming appointments

p. 14

- ▶ First health check
 - ▶ First vaccination
 - ▶ Second vaccination
 - ▶ Third vaccination
 - ▶ Six month health check
 - ▶ First annual vaccination
-

Weight chart

p. 25

Beyond 12 months

p. 28

- ▶ The importance of annual health checks
 - ▶ Vaccination alternatives
 - ▶ The importance of senior assessments
-





Responsible pet care

Getting a new puppy or kitten is an exciting time and there is a lot to get through. With so much to learn about how to give your pet the best start in life, it can feel daunting, but we're here to help.

The next few pages will talk you through what we consider to be some of the most important aspects of pet ownership.

Pet Insurance

We highly recommend taking out pet insurance to help you cover the cost of unexpected vet bills such as illnesses or accidents, it's comforting to know that the cost of your pet's care will be covered if ever needed.

Although we don't sell pet insurance ourselves, we can arrange 4 weeks' free insurance for you. Our pet insurance leaflet explains the different types of policies available to you.

Medivet Healthcare Plan

Our tailored plan helps you to spread the cost of regular care making it easy and convenient to stay on top of all your pets' preventative care needs including vaccinations and parasite control. Regular health checks are included and you'll also receive 10% off vet care and medications.

We will tailor the plan to your pet's needs, this will mean that as they grow, the plan may change.

We can set up reminders for when vaccinations and check-ups are due, plus we're on hand for advice and reassurance whenever you need us.

To find out more about what is included turn to page 13.

Regular Health Checks

Like babies, new pets develop quickly and a regular health check gives us the opportunity to spot any potential issues before they become serious. Early detection allows us to treat your pet as quickly and easily as possible and greatly increases the likelihood of a positive outcome.

Our health checks incorporate a thorough nose-to-tail clinical examination as well as a lifestyle, nutritional and behavioural assessment. This includes checking their temperature, eyes, ears, mouth and teeth, skin, internal organs (through external touch), joints and more.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are an essential part of responsible pet care and keep your pet safe from potentially fatal diseases. Some of these diseases could also be transmitted to you and your family.

Your vet will discuss your pet's lifestyle and tailor their vaccination schedule to suit their individual needs and environment. We also offer immunity testing to ensure we only give your pet the vaccines they need, this blood test is called Vaccicheck.

Flea and worming

Regular flea and worm treatment is key for all pets, but especially for puppies and kittens. Many are born with worms that are passed on from their mother; it's important that these are eliminated as quickly as possible to allow your pet to thrive and grow.

There are many lifestyle factors we will consider when recommending flea and worming protection for your pet - we will discuss this all with you.

Dental care

Dental disease is one of the most common conditions found in pets, and if left untreated it can lead to other serious health problems.

Ongoing dental care is key to ensuring your pet's teeth and gums remain healthy. This includes regular teeth brushing, feeding your pet the right diet and attending regular dental checks. It's important to introduce a good dental routine from an early age to prevent future issues.

Nutrition

The right nutrition is vital to your pet's overall health and will be key to their growth and development. A good diet encourages good health, whilst a poor diet can contribute to a number of issues, including diabetes, dental disease and obesity.

There are many factors we must consider when deciding what food we recommend for your pet, including their breed, exercise level, weight, current health and neutering status.

Neutering

Neutering is a medical procedure that prevents pets from being able to reproduce, it may also be referred to as a castration in males and spaying in females. Both procedures are carried out under general anaesthetic and are very safe for your pet.

There are a wide range of benefits for both you and your pet if you do decide to neuter them, your vet can explain these to you.

We will start discussing neutering with you at their second vaccination appointment when they're 12 weeks old.



Socialisation

The socialisation needs of a puppy and a kitten will be different, however we've split socialisation into two key areas; the people and animals that you want them to have a relationship with and the environment they will live in.

Although they will be taught skills from their mother, there's a lot of work that needs to be done to ensure they grow into well-behaved adults. Our team can provide you with more specific tailored advice at your future appointments.

Microchipping

This is where a microchip (smaller than a grain of rice) is inserted under your pet's skin. The chip contains your personal details and means that if your pet gets lost, they can be scanned and easily identified as yours.

Please note that it's now a legal requirement in the UK to have your puppy microchipped by the age of eight weeks.

If you have a puppy, the breeder may have already microchipped them. If so, you will need the microchip number and company, so you can immediately update with your details.





What's included in the Medivet *Healthcare* Plan?

Our tailored plan makes it easy to stay on top of your pets' preventative healthcare needs.

	Dog	Cat
Vaccinations*	✓	✓
Parasite control	✓	✓
Microchip	✓	✓
Nose-to-tail health check every six months	✓	✓
Annual urine screening**	✓	✓
10% off vet care and medication	✓	✓
15% off dental procedures	✓	✓
10% off Hills, Royal Canin	✓	✓

* Vaccines DHP, KC, FeLV, RCP, Myxo RHD PLUS. Vaccinations can include primary three-course (at 8, 12 and 16 weeks), lapsed restart course, boosters excluding rabies. ** Urine dipstick and SG.

To sign-up today, speak to your practice team or visit [medivet.co.uk/medivet-healthcare-plan](https://www.medivet.co.uk/medivet-healthcare-plan) for more information.

Complimentary health check

To help get your new pet off to the right start, we offer a complimentary health check.

The following pages will explain what you can expect to happen at this visit and the things you can be focusing on at home during the first few weeks.

At your appointment, we will:

Carry out a thorough health check

Issue your 4 weeks' free insurance

Discuss the Medivet Healthcare Plan

Set up your reminders

Review your pets' nutritional needs

Advise on microchipping and socialisation

Here are some *tips* on what you could be focusing on:

Settling them into their new home

We can share some hints and tips on how you can help your pet to feel more at home in their new surroundings. This might include a pheromone plug in, spray or collar. You should also make sure they have a comfortable bed or crate in a quiet part of the house.

Tooth brushing

Dental disease can be very painful, we can advise you on a dental hygiene routine to help prevent future problems.

Handling them

It's really important you get them used to being gently handled from a young age, paying particular attention to touching their ears, paws, lips and nose regularly. You should reward them with a treat to encourage positive association with being handled.

Toilet training

Accidents are inevitable, with kittens it's generally slightly easier if you use a litter tray, however with puppies we can provide some useful tips on how to toilet train them.

Grooming

Grooming is a great way to get your pet used to being touched and handled.

Socialisation

A well socialised pet is a happy and confident one and it's important you start this early as there's a limited window of opportunity. This golden window of opportunity closes around 16 weeks of age so it's vital you make the most of it.

If you don't, your pet may approach unfamiliar people, objects and experiences with caution, trepidation and sometimes even aggression.

Have a look through the list and pick the main items your pet is likely to come across. We recommend that you share 2-3 new positive experiences per day, this will avoid sensory overload.



Household items

Hoover
Washing machine
Tumble dryer
Dishwasher
Broom and mop
Ironing board
Doorbell
Music and TV
Dropped pots

Garden items

Lawnmower
Hedge trimmer
Shed
Greenhouse
Garden toys

Other animals

Dogs
Cats
Small animals
Birds
Horses

People

Men
Women
Babies
Toddlers
Teenagers
Postal workers
Refuse collectors
With face masks

Outside items and areas

Bin bags and bin
Garage
Car
Bus stop
School
Pub
Pet shop
Town centre
Park and fields

We have partnered with a team of puppy trainer behaviourists that can help you stay on track with this important part of your puppy's life, please visit medivet.co.uk/puppy-training



First *vaccination*

In some cases the breeder will have already had your new pet vaccinated and administered the necessary flea and worming treatment.

If so, please make sure you ask the breeder for your pet's vaccination card and any clinical notes from their vet.

8
Weeks

At your *appointment*, we will:

- Carry out a thorough health check

- Administer first vaccination

- Review/administer flea and worming protection

- Advise on nail clipping

Here are some *tips* on what you could be focusing on:

Pet Insurance research

It's important you spend time researching the different pet insurance options ready for when your 4 week cover expires. Speak to friends and family who have pet insurance for their advice. Don't forget to ask for a copy of our Pet Insurance leaflet that explains all the different options.

Nutrition

You might be introducing your pet to a new diet, it's important this is done gradually. Try to switch their food over the course of at least a week by replacing their old food with a small amount of the new food. Then gradually increase the amount over a week, until they're comfortable with the new food.

Getting to know your pet

Spend time just getting to know them – it's as simple as that.

Bringing them to see us

We recommend bringing your pet in regularly to see us to get them used to coming to the vets, even if it's just for treats and cuddles. It's important this is done outside their vaccination appointments, so they don't just associate us with injections - plus we love to meet your new puppies and kittens.



Second *vaccination*

12
Weeks

It's important that the first vaccination is quickly followed up with a second to provide your pet with immunity against some potentially fatal diseases.

Please make sure you bring your vaccination card to this appointment.

At your *appointment*, we will:

- Carry out a thorough health check

- Administer second vaccination

- Review/administer flea and worming protection

- Discuss neutering options

Here are some *tips* on what you could be focusing on:

Pet Insurance

Your 4 weeks' free cover will have expired by now, if you haven't already taken out a policy now is the time to finalise this important aspect of pet care. Please speak to a member of our team about what options there are when choosing an insurance policy.

Exploring outside

Your pet is now allowed outside, this can be daunting but we will support you with some useful hints and tips.

Socialising

With your new pet going outside they will be meeting other animals, this is an important part of their development. If you have any concerns please do speak to us.

Puppy pre-school

Many of our practices work with pet behaviourists to provide invaluable support to help you train your puppy. We also provide puppy pre-school classes in some practices. Speak to our team to find out more.



Third *vaccination*

This is the final vaccination of your new pets' initial vaccination course to ensure they have built up the necessary immunity.

Please make sure you bring your vaccination card to this appointment.

16
Weeks

At your *appointment*, we will:

- Carry out a thorough health check

- Administer third vaccination

- Review/administer flea and worming protection

- Initial check for hip and elbow dysplasia (puppies only)

Six month *health check*



Over the first six months your new pet will develop and grow quickly. This complimentary check allows us to ensure they are developing correctly.

At your *appointment*, we will:

- Carry out a thorough health check

- Check for any breed related problems

- Review/administer flea and worming protection

- Check for elbow dysplasia

- Discuss neutering (if this hasn't already happened)

First annual *vaccination*

Your pet's first booster vaccination is important to boost their immunity and ensure they remain completely protected. This completes their initial vaccinations.

Please make sure you bring your vaccination card to this appointment.

At your appointment, we will:

- Carry out a thorough health check**

- Administer first annual booster vaccination**

- Review/administer flea and worming protection**

- Review the Medivet Healthcare Plan**

- Review their insurance status**

Puppy and kitten *weight chart*

It's important to track the weight of your puppy or kitten to make sure they're developing as they should. We will weigh your pet at each appointment they attend.

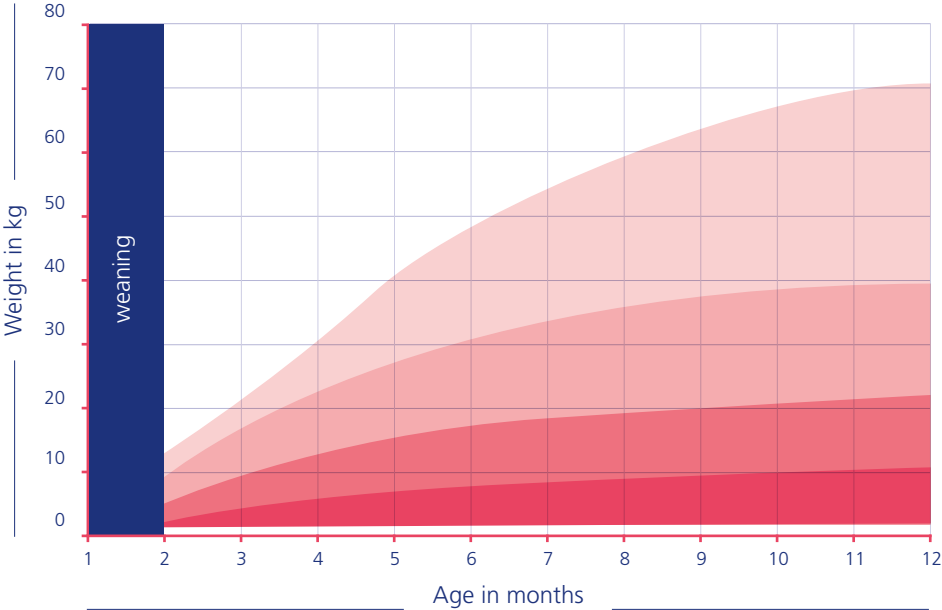
A healthy weight for your pet will depend on a number of factors.

Use our handy charts to monitor your pet's growth.



Puppy

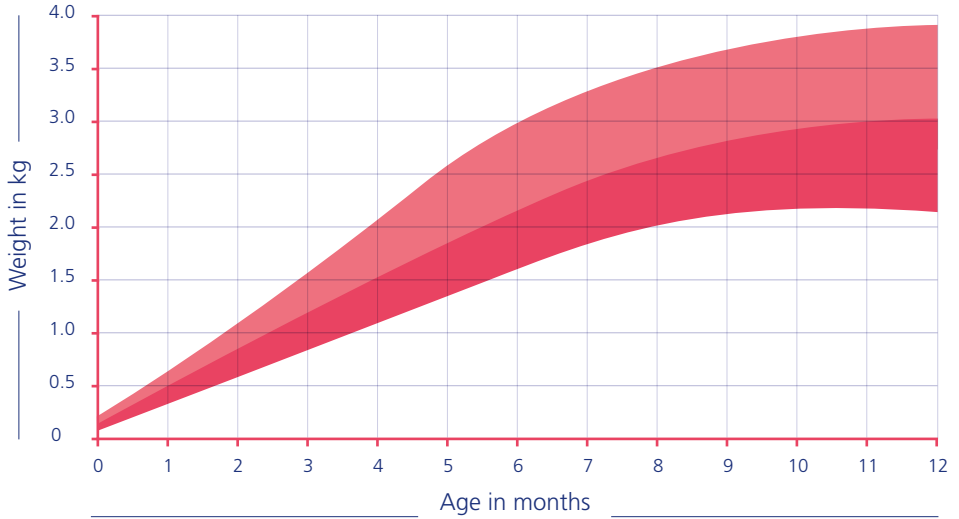
■ Small (5 - 10 kg) ■ Medium (10 - 25 kg) ■ Large (25 - 40 kg) ■ Giant (40+ kg)



Age in months	Date of visit	Body conditioning score	Recommended feeding amount	Weight
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Kitten

■ Female ■ Male



Age in months	Date of visit	Body conditioning score	Recommended feeding amount	Weight
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Why annual health checks are so *important*

After your pet's first year we recommend regular health checks. This will allow your vet to monitor any changes to their health.

At your appointment, we will:

- Carry out a thorough health check

- Discuss lifestyle - assess for mobility/weight issues

- Administer booster vaccination

- Review/administer flea and worming protection

Are there any *alternatives* to vaccinations?

In reality, there's no alternative to vaccinations that can protect your pet against diseases.

However, we can use a blood test to check your pet's level of immunity each year after their initial vaccinations. This test is known as Vaccicheck, it also means your vet can prescribe a tailored booster schedule to suit your pet's needs.

Some vaccinations can't be tested for in this way, so it's worth discussing it with your vet.





The importance of *senior* assessments

As your pet matures their health needs will change. If detected early enough many of these changes can be managed to ensure your pet is comfortable during their older years.

Our senior assessment will include the following:

- ▶ A blood test
- ▶ A urine screen

We will discuss lifestyle, looking for signs of:

- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Mobility issues
- ▶ Degenerative diseases, e.g. arthritis

We offer an additional add on to your Medivet Healthcare Plan to cover the cost of these assessments.

