

VACCINATION ADVICE

When people say “has he had his shots” they are referring to a vaccination against dangerous canine diseases. This is what the RSPCA says:

Dogs should be routinely vaccinated against:

- Canine parvovirus
- Canine distemper virus
- Leptospirosis
- Infectious canine hepatitis



YOUR PUPPY'S VACCINATIONS

If you did not opt-out, your puppy was vaccinated with the first part of the course of treatment, the Nobivac vaccination, at 8 weeks of age on the 15th of August 2013. It is vital that you complete this course of vaccination and take your puppy to a vet at 10-12 weeks old. They will become fully protected two weeks after the second vaccination.

The vaccine contains a weak dose of the disease and this stimulates the dog's immune system to produce antibodies that will be able to fight the disease should they become exposed to it at a later stage. If your dog is unwell, has been recently unwell or unusually quiet when he is due to have his vaccinations, make sure that you tell your Vet. It may be a good idea to postpone his injections for a while, just to minimise the small risk of adverse reaction.

Until your puppy is fully protected, he is in danger of catching the diseases from untreated, infected dogs. You should not take it anywhere where it might come into contact with dogs or ground that may be infected. However, puppies are most receptive to new environments and situations at this age, so keeping them confined to your house and garden can be counter productive. In order to continue your puppy's socialisation programme during these important first weeks at home, you should take your puppy out to different places in your arms or the car to get it used to different situations and noises, as well as letting it meet new people.

BOOSTER VACCINATIONS

The traditional advice is to have an annual booster for this vaccination. However the Kennel Club notes, “recent trends in data mean that many products now indicate a duration of immunity of 3-4 years for canine distemper, parvovirus and adenovirus after completing the primary vaccination schedule and the subsequent booster in minimum age puppies.” The “Nobivac” vaccination datasheet also says this for the 3 core diseases for which they are most concerned.

This means that after your puppy's first booster in September 2014, having a repeat in 2015 will not increase immunity to the diseases and may increase the risk of side-effects. You may then choose not want to have another booster until 2017. A vet can analyse blood to see if it has the protective antibodies and rule out an unnecessary booster.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Guidelines are a good starting point in making a decision, with your vet, about your dog's vaccinations.

WORMING ADVICE

WORMS

The two main types of worms are: Tapeworms (Dipylidium species) and Roundworms (Toxocara canis). Infestation may damage your dog's digestion, cause blockage or diarrhoea and can cause anaemia, weight-loss and susceptibility to disease. Both types of worms are easy to eliminate and suitable preparations are available through your veterinary surgeon or pet stores and the internet. Remember, if your dog has tapeworm you must also treat him for fleas.

Some of these worms can harm humans. As a responsible pet owner, you should discourage your dog from fouling in public places, parks and children's play areas. Always carry a poop-scoop or plastic bag with you to clean up after your dog (there is a roll included in your puppy pack). You should have hygienic habits in place when you or your children are dealing with your dog – dry anti-bacterial wash is a good starting point.



YOUR PUPPY AND WORMING MEDICATION

- We wormed our bitch with Panacur Liquid from Day 40 of the pregnancy until 2 days after the whelping. This is because mothers can pass worms to the puppies before they are born and through her milk
- Puppy worming course one: was the 17th, 18th and 19th of July with Panacur liquid
- Puppy worming course two: was the 9th, 10th and 11th of August with Panacur liquid

From this point **until the puppy is 6 months old** it is conventionally recommended that you treat monthly, starting in the middle of September 2013 for worms using an "all in one" tablet for both types of worm.

From 6 months old, you may want to give worm tablets (as directed, according to your dog's weight) to your dog every 3-6 months only.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONSIDER

Worm infestations are serious and must be avoided. An alternative to routine dosing is to have your dog's stools tested for the eggs of the worms, and then dose only if the test shows enough eggs. Westgate laboratories or Wormcount.com send a kit and will perform the test for £7.25-15.00. If you don't want to use de-wormers you could do this routinely or if you suspect your dogs have worms you could check using this test.



TICKS, FLEAS AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES

TICKS are usually picked up by your dog in long grass or in woodland. Ticks are blood suckers which feed off your dog for several days before dropping off. It may pass disease onto your dog as the tick feeds. If you see a tick only pull it off using a proper tool (or consult your vet) otherwise the head may remain embedded in the skin and cause an abscess.

Using the tick remover in your puppy pack:

1. Pull skin taut around the site in which the tick is embedded.
2. With pincers open, surround the tick and then press closed
3. Swivel slightly in both directions, then pull straight up.
4. Inspect to be sure you have removed the head and, if possible, wipe area with an antiseptic or alcohol



FLEAS cause dogs a lot of irritation and can also be an intermediary host for tapeworms. Treatments to prevent fleas living on your dog can be bought from the vet or online. Giving your dog daily garlic tablets is an alternative that may work. If your dog suffers an infestation you must treat your dog and his/her environment with specialised flea treatments.

PARASITES such as mites, ringworm or lice can affect your dogs health. Please consider checking further: If your dog is scratching persistently or in uncommon areas; if you see sore or bald areas of skin particularly around the eyes and front legs, or ear edges; if he is shaking his head; or you find white eggs in his fur.

OTHER HEALTH ISSUES – Impacted anal glands may cause your dog to scoot his bottom along the ground, a vet will need to clear the glands for you.

FERTILITY Dogs are most likely start puberty when they are 6-8 months old. **Dogs** may show marking and humping behaviours and you will have to guard against him mounting any nearby bitches. These problems are best addressed by having trained him to a good level of obedience so you can exert control with these new behaviours. **Bitches** will start their estrus. The estrus cycle using lasts 6 months with the bitch being “fertile” for 3-4 weeks at the beginning. During this time you must be vigilant that a dog doesn't have an opportunity to mount her – keeping her shut in the house unless you can go with her into the garden and walking on the lead in non-doggy places. She also tends to become clingy or lethargic. Practically, if the discharge is a problem then little boy pants with a slit for the tail and ladies' liners is a good solution.

For both bitches and dogs, if you do not intend to breed, then you can have your dog neutered/spayed so these problems of fertility are time-limited. There are pros and cons to this procedure that should be discussed with your vet. A bitch can be spayed 3 months after her heat. Traditionally a dog is neutered at 18 months.

BREEDING Please think carefully before bringing new life into the world. Should you decide to have puppies, you should bear in mind that miniature schnauzers are prone to certain genetic eye diseases. Your puppy was checked and found unaffected for the eye-diseases that the miniature schnauzer may have. Before breeding you must have your dog checked again to be sure no new disease has started.



GROOMING YOUR MINIATURE SCHNAUZER



The miniature schnauzer is immediately recognisable by its distinctive hair cut of long eye-brows and beard and furnishings on the legs. If you choose to strip your schnauzer then the body hair will be thick, if you have your schnauzer clipped then the body will be close-shaven. The distribution of the salt and pepper pattern will also be affected.

WHEN SHOULD I TAKE MY PUPPY TO THE GROOMERS?

You should not take your puppy to a groomers until it is protected by the course of vaccinations. After that it is a matter of preference – you might consider having your puppy fully groomed by 20 weeks. However some introductory visits to the groomers for a bath or to have the ears shaved before this will reduce the fear the puppy feels in the new environment.

BRUSHING

Before starting professional grooming 2 aspects are important:

- Such a rich coat gets matted and it is a miserable experience to deal with once it has got bad. So brushing at least once a week will prevent this.
- It is kinder to help your puppy to get used to being groomed. I would suggest daily grooming at this stage, especially around the jaw and feet. Use a medium grooming comb and stand the dog on a table or ironing board. You might turn on an electric toothbrush near the puppy to simulate the shaver buzz! All this will habituate the puppy into the professional grooming environment.

Once your puppy is ready for the adult cut then, I would advise at least a once-a-week brush. The more you brush yourself the smarter your schnauzer will be. If you leave a professional cut more than six weeks, using a clipper yourself can help control the cut.

BATH TIME

If it is a muddy time of year, or your dog has rolled in something noxious then a bath is the only sensible course of action. A dog's skin can be dried or irritated by too much bathing so every couple weeks is enough if more can be avoided, using a gentle shampoo. Flea shampoos are useful. Animology do a good shampoo for the "rolled in something nasty" times.

NAILS

Your puppy has had it's claws cut every week since his birth with human clippers. It is important to cut nails so that they don't cause the puppy pain when walking. Again frequent regular trimming, perhaps every week, means that it is a small job and your puppy becomes accustomed to the process. Don't forget the dew-claws on the side of the 2 front paws.

As an adult your dog will need his claws trimmed every 4 weeks with clippers designed for dogs. You may find your groomer or vet will do this for you.

The Golden Rule of Feeding Dogs:

Your dog should eat slightly less well than you do!

There are foods that are great for dogs, and foods that are toxic to them – I have provided a chart that explains them. You need to feed in such a way that will look after your dog's teeth. You should always have a bowl of water available. It is advisable to remove the food bowl 20 minutes after putting it down.

Miniature Schnauzers are prone to developing pancreatitis so aiming for a diet lower in fat can help prevent this. They are also prone to putting on weight so every schnauzer owner needs to be strict in controlling their dog's diet.



HOW MUCH SHOULD I FEED?

An adult miniature schnauzer should weigh about 8 kilos (adjusted for height). 350 calories a day should maintain this. You cannot show your love for your dog more than by keeping him/her at the right weight.

As a rough guide 1g of dry food has 3 calories and 1g of wet food has 1 calories but all products vary. The raw food method is to feed 2-3 percent of the dogs weight – so about 200g/day for an 8 kilo dog. The best way is to weigh/measure the food out daily. Then you know you are getting it right and it is easier to ignore your mini-schnauzer when he tells you he is hungry! Most vets encourage owners to take their dog in regularly to keep an eye on weight too. But once you have seen your dog at the right weight you can tell with your eye when s/he is gaining. Please refer to the “body conditioning” chart to see the right shape for an adult dog.

Puppies are growing at 20 times the rate of an adult dog and building organs, muscle and bone. Therefore they have different needs such as being feed 3-4 times a day to accommodate their small stomachs, and also needing high calories. Up to age 18 weeks feed as this table shows

Pup weighs 1 kilo	As directed for age for commercial puppy diet/day	100g for raw food diet/day
2 kilos	As directed for age for commercial puppy diet/day	200g
3 kilos	As directed for age for commercial puppy diet/day	300g
4 kilos	As directed for age for commercial puppy diet/day	400g
5 kilos	As directed for age for commercial puppy diet/day	500g

You do not want an overweight puppy, but up to 18 weeks it should look slightly chubby – about “2” on the body conditioning chart. The food you use should also have feeding recommendation. Miniature Schnauzers count as small dogs

From 18 weeks to when it is fully grown at 10 months the diet should be adjusted down, month by month, to fewer meals and toward adult 350 calories or 200g raw/day.

WHAT FOOD SHOULD I FEED



SOURCE AND INGREDIENTS OF THE FOOD

I have a strong belief that the raw food diet is best for dogs and have worked hard to feed Nina and the puppies using its methods. During the important first year when growth is rapid it is better to go with the raw food menu.

Whether choosing to feed raw or commercial food the source of the food is very important.

Well-recognised supermarket and vet-recommended brands often obtain the raw materials from poor quality sources, so that “bone-meal”, for example, can mean the ground claws and beak of poultry or euthanased animals, and the “meat” ingredient is a kind of flour made from meats you would not think of when choosing animals for “Old MacDonald”.

When you check the ingredients you want to see a source of protein listed first, at 22-26%. It should be specifically named as beef, chicken, lamb, salmon etc. The fat content should be 8-14%. Foods that list “meat by-products or “meat meal” are likely to be very poor quality. Also these foods are often bulked out with soy or cereal which are of little benefit or even detriment to a dog.

Examples of commercial brands known to be conscientious about source/recipe of their dog food are :

- Orijen
- Lily's kitchen
- Nature's Menu (tins and pouches)
- Barking Heads
- Fish4Dogs
- Nature's Diet

ABOUT FOOD INTOLERANCES

Some dogs appear to be sensitive or intolerant to certain ingredients and additives such as cow's milk, wheat, sugar, colourings and this can cause a variety of problems: Lethargy, aggressive or hyperactive behaviour, chronic ear or skin problems, bloating or weight changes, diarrhoea or light brown bulky stools. If your dog has these symptoms you can experiment yourself with changing food. But if you see blood or slime in the stool see your vet.

FUN AND STIMULATION WHEN EATING

In the wild the canine species are hunters and spend a great deal of physical and mental energy before they achieve their meal. It is good to try to add some of these elements when feeding your dog. Many destructive behaviours in dogs can be due to under-stimulation. The BARF diet has chewing built in. It can also be provided by using “atomic” food balls for kibble, kongs with frozen food (there are plenty of “recipes” on the internet) and anti-gorge bowls.

More creative solutions are hiding biscuits under balls in a muffin pan, or in a blanket. Or having 4 or 5 flower pots about the garden and putting treats in only one or two – and a different pots each time – put a cover over the flower pots to extend the game.



ABOUT EXERCISE and SOCIALISATION

EXERCISE

Puppies need much less exercise than fully-grown dogs. A good rule of thumb is a ratio of five minutes exercise per month of age (up to twice a day), until the puppy is fully grown eg. 15 minutes at three months old. Do not forget mental stimulation – at this early stage giving your puppy problems to solve such as food games and the early obedience lessons extends his ability to learn.



Until 2 weeks after the last vaccination, normal “doggy” walks risk infecting your dog. Therefore, restrict exercise to your garden with suitable toys - like the toys from the puppy pack. Other private gardens are fine as long as the dogs have been vaccinated. Do not go out to play straight after a puppy has eaten. Use these weeks to start early training, and to get your puppy used to wearing a collar. . Accompany them outside to stimulate activity and reward good potty habits.

When it is finally time “to walk the dog” – 20 minutes a day split across 2 walks is a good start then build up gradually so that you don't strain young bones and muscles. Lead walking is most important at this age with some off-lead running included.

SOCIALISATION



Your puppy has already experienced various people and dogs. We have tipped them on their backs and handled their ears and tails every day. They've walked on lots of different surfaces They've had a couple of car journeys. They have heard hoovers, lawn-mowers, phones, tv, washing machines, planes and we even organised a storm! We cut their nails weekly and pretend groomed them. We have had a “potty zone” that they are learning to trot to. Each puppy has removed from its siblings to be alone with a human for short periods.

Why is all this important?

A puppy's brain in weeks 1-16 of life builds connections at a fantastic rate. Their desire to learn outweighs fear. It's the optimum time to shape your dog's character. Weeks 8-16 are essential to socialising her/him so that s/he is confident and smart. In this way you will avoid the long term problems of noise phobias, separation anxiety, and aggression. Notice the things you want your puppy to interact with eg Grandma and your dog (socialisation) and things you want him/her to be calm about (habituation) eg The hens and postman. Reward both!

How to do it?

DO NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH, TOO QUICKLY AND MAKE IT FUN. Continue with the touching, grooming and toilet-training routines we have already started. Offer him new experiences of environments, people and animals - start small, repeat and then extend to something that takes more courage. Puppy training classes can be part of this.

Teach your puppy how to behave in his new social group: Set boundaries and consistently reinforce them.

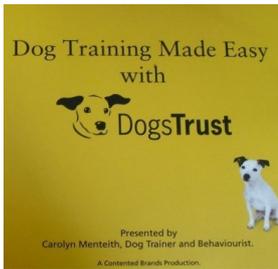
- Decide if you want your grown-up dog to lick faces: If not, then every time your puppy tries to lick, puff in his face like blowing away a fly. If everyone does this – he will not lick faces.
- Decide if you want an adult dog that jumps up: If not, then every time your puppy stands on two legs, STEP FORWARD. This establishes your authority. Only give attention when “four paws are on the floor”
- Decide if you want an adult dog that uses his teeth when playing: If not, then screech “ouch” every time your puppy uses them in play and then ignore him/her for 30 seconds.

Make sure you see the world from the dog's point of view. For example s/he will need to chew when teething so don't only take away the forbidden object, give a substitute – like the antler in the puppy pack.



TRAINING TIPS

OBEDIENCE TRAINING



The Dog's Trust DVD covers the techniques of obedience training and individual lessons. Teaching him his name means he will listen when you teach him everything else. Be aware how fine a dog's distinctions are – if you usually give a command standing up – he will only obey it in then. Return to basics if you change position, room etc.

Use high value treats like cheese or liver to get extra concentration. **Notice when your dog is calm and relaxed and reward him with a treat** - to only pay attention when there is a problem encourages your dog to reproduce misbehaviours to get attention

TOILET TRAINING

Work hard at taking your puppy to its “potty zone”: when he wakes up; after eating; and every 2 hours (at least); and when he is excited. Note if he has failed to go and take him back out in a few minutes. Walk him there – carrying, just teaches him to come to you, rather than going to the door, when he wants relieve himself. Use 2 specific commands such as “go wee” and “good poo” so that eventually your dog has commands for both. Stay with him, so you are ready to heap praise on him/her when he is successful but make a distinction between going outside to potty and to play. Your puppy will need to go out at night.

MISTAKES THAT WILL SLOW TOILET TRAINING DOWN: Not feeding in a routine; Waiting for your puppy to signal he needs to go; Leaving the door open so he can go as he pleases; Leaving your puppy unsupervised so he is force him to soil inside; Punishing him/her for accidents; Cleaning up with ammonia-based cleaners.

TEACH YOUR PUPPY HOW TO SPEND TIME ALONE

Mini Schnauzers are a companion breed; it is built into their genes to need to be close to someone. But your puppy is going to be alone sometimes and must cope with his/her anxiety. Your puppy feels secure when you are top dog. So be top-dog Then when you leave the pack he will be confident that you will come back. Also exercise and play with him, then he will be glad to rest while you are absent.

From Day 1, be careful not to respond to crying by picking up or letting out (unless it for the toilet) Like a crying baby, wait 1 minute before responding and extend the waiting time over several days.

Lesson one: Create opportunities for your puppy to practise being “all alone”. Toilet him and then confine him in the kitchen – with plenty of toys - put the ironing board across the open doorway if you haven't got a crate – but be close by in the next room. Talk to him across the room, and when he is quiet, spend a little time nearer but outside the crate/room and then withdraw again, before returning to release him. Do this for very short and then longer periods. You could feed a meal by himself so that he associates being alone with something good.

Lesson two: Do not make a fuss of your dog when leaving or returning (not even in lesson one!) The emotional roller-coaster of excitement due to your attention followed by the anxiety of isolation is disasterous. Give him toys and chews, even a frozen kong, and leave quietly after a few minutes. Upon your return, organise yourself and greet everyone else before acknowledging the dog. Then make sure that you have some quality time with your puppy during your time at home.

Lesson three: Part of your puppy training could be “Practise Departures” Go through the putting-on-coat and locking-the-door routine but sometimes you are only absent for 2 minutes, sometimes 10 minutes, sometimes 30 minutes. Do this enough times in a day, for several days and your puppy will stop over-reacting to your departures.

