



Southern Cross  
Pet Insurance



# Dog healthcare tips

Looking after a pet is a big responsibility and there's lots to remember.

## Desexing

Have your dog desexed by your vet when they are 4-6 months old. Neutering is good for both male and female dogs. It helps prevent fighting, wandering and unwanted pregnancies.

**Register your dog on the NZ Companion Animal Register and with your vet.**



## Registration and microchipping

All dogs over 3 months old are required to be registered and microchipped at your local council. If your dog is ever lost or stolen there's a higher chance that they will be returned to you.

**Good to know: Southern Cross PetCare policies cover \$25 each policy year for annual vaccinations or vet check ups.**



## Vaccinations

Vaccinations against disease are critical throughout your dog's life. Puppies need vaccinations at around 8, 12 and 16 weeks and then every 1-3 years. The vaccination schedule will depend on the protocol used by your vet, contact them for more information.

## Flea control

Fleas can have negative effects on your dog's health causing skin conditions so it's best to be proactive about flea control all year-round. Regularly use a flea treatment on your dog, and other pets in your home.

**Dogs need worm treatment every 3 months.**



## Worming

Puppies commonly pick up a variety of worms from their mother or environment so they need to be given a broad spectrum wormer every 2 weeks until they are 3 months old, monthly until they are 6 months old, then every 3 months after that (monthly for pregnant dogs).

**Your dog should always have access to clean drinking water.**



## Grooming

Dogs need regular grooming to stay clean and healthy, including regular brushing, bathing, and cutting nails. It is also a great way to regularly check your dog's physical health and condition.

**Never feed dogs cooked bones, they can splinter and cause internal damage.**



## Nutrition

The right nutrition for your dog depends on their size, age and lifestyle. Maintain their recommended body weight with good nutrition and regular exercise.

## Dental care

Your dog's 'baby' teeth will fall out at around 4 months of age and by 7 months all permanent 'adult' teeth will be in place. Keep your dog's teeth clean by regular brushing and giving your dog dental food and/or chews.

Always consult your vet on the best way to look after your dog. And to avoid unexpected costs, make sure your pet is insured.

Get a quote at  
[southerncrosspet.co.nz](https://southerncrosspet.co.nz)  
or call us on  
**0800 800 836.**

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