

## **YOU & YOUR PUPPY ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR PUPPY PARTY!**

The course runs for 4 weeks and is held at the practice on a Monday evening from 7pm to 8.30pm. If your puppy is aged between 8-16 weeks old and has had their 1<sup>st</sup> injection, then come and join in the fun! We have been running puppy parties for over 12 years at Summerhill, and have met hundreds of puppies and have always had excellent feedback from owners, often with owners attending again and again with new puppies.

The puppy parties are taken by our team of qualified veterinary nurses; Nadine Fletcher RVN, MBVNA, Cert AAB, MSFTR, MOC – (Animal behaviourist) and Stephanie Daykin RVN. In addition Samantha Ford, (trainee veterinary nurse), assists with handling techniques and preventative health care advice. Together they strive to promote animal welfare, responsible pet ownership and believe that many behaviour problems can be avoided by correct intervention and socialisation during the early stages of a dog's life. Through observation, training and handling Nadine and her team can detect the early warning signs of problem behaviours and feel that if picked up early enough, are generally much easier to resolve.

Nadine enjoys training her own dogs, competes in dog agility competitions all over the country, trains a beginners dog agility class at a local training centre and has been invited to be part of the kennel club good citizen scheme display team at Crufts for 2 consecutive years. The course encourages well-supervised regular puppy play sessions; these are enjoyed by all and often timid and fearful puppies become happy and confident when approached by other dogs or people. The puppies are managed in groups of no more than 8 and kind effective methods are used, including clicker training.

**Week one** - This first week we ask that you attend without your puppy, this is so we have the opportunity to give you up to date information on pet care, training and how to deal with common problems, (such as fussy eating, play biting, housetraining, jumping up, fears and phobias). A brief insight will be given into breed specific behaviours, clicker training will be introduced to all owners and practical demonstrations given regarding the use of the clicker as a training aid. General advice will be given and there will be an opportunity for any of your questions regarding your puppy to be answered. At this first session you will be given an information pack which includes a book, written

by the UK's leading canine behaviourist, which covers topics such as the importance of adequate socialisation and how to socialise your puppy properly. A CD-rom will be given which contains over 120 information handouts; these cover topics such as pet care and canine behaviour such as play biting, house training, crate training, aggression, digging, barking, teaching recall, sit, down, stay etc.

**Week two** - Following introductions and a play session the puppies will be taught how to watch and sit on command. Information regarding nutrition, dental care and insurance will be given. All puppies will be weighed and their weights recorded on a growth chart enabling us to pin point any underweight or overgrown pups. Handling skills will be introduced and demonstrations on how to brush your puppy's teeth will be given.

**Week three** - A quick run through the watch and sit is followed by the introduction of new training methods for down and leave. Flea and worm prevention are discussed and free products given. Handling is continued and puppies are encouraged to be handled by different owners. A first aid session will highlight important action for emergency care and a practical bandaging session will have you bandaging your puppy's feet and head! Micro-chipping is introduced and places will be booked for discounted micro-chipping next week.

**Week four** - Party night! Prizes are given for the fastest sit & down, the best recall, the longest stay, doggy press-ups etc. Neutering is discussed. Pass the puppy game involves owners changing their appearance and novel noises are introduced to the puppies, (tube station, trains, fireworks etc). The micro-chipping session gives the opportunity for 1 lucky puppy to get the micro-chip FREE of charge. Certificates are given to every puppy that has successfully completed the course.

The fee to enrol your puppy onto the course is £18:51, which includes all of the above products and information handouts. Please ask at reception or telephone the surgery (01328 855814) to book your place NOW—book early to avoid disappointment as classes are limited to 12 puppies per session (split into 2 groups of 6).