

# SPRING IS IN THE AIR

## Thinking about welcoming a new pet into your home?

### THEN READ ON...

By Tracey Tripicchio,  
Senior Registered Veterinary  
Nurse, Blacks Vets.

**As the ground begins to thaw and our thoughts turn towards warmer days, many of us find an extra spring in our step as we contemplate our plans for when the lighter, brighter weather arrives.**

Here at Blacks Vets, it's at this time of year that we start to see an increase in the number of young pets coming through our doors, as clients old and new welcome a furry addition to their families.

It's an exciting time and also an important one, as routines established now can have a significant impact on how easily a pet adapts to their new life. Here are our top tips for helping your new arrival settle in.

#### 1. Make time

Preparing to bring a new pet home is very much like preparing to bring a baby home, with the same careful considerations applying regarding care and routine. Above all, choosing a time when you are freely available should be at the top of your list so that you can be there for your pet as much as possible in the early days. If possible, book time off work and try to ensure that other people who will be involved in your pet's care can be

around too. This helps familiarity and trust to build quickly and can make for a more harmonious journey in the long term.

#### 2. Slowly does it

It can be an overwhelming experience for a new pet to arrive at their new home, particularly for a young animal that has only just left its mother and litter mates. Although it can be tempting to bubble over with excitement, try to keep calm and quiet for the first few days as your pet adjusts to their new surroundings and family. Keep music and TV noise low and ask children to be considerate when playing near to their pet. Younger children may benefit from having another distraction, such as a new toy, so that they do not focus solely on their animal and unintentionally cause distress.

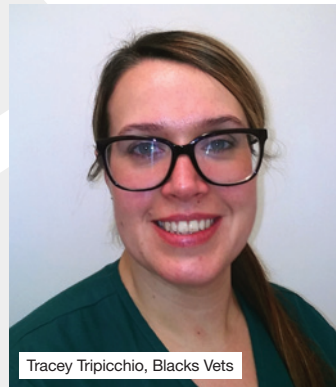
#### 3. Keep it familiar

For puppies, kittens and rabbits, providing the breeder with an old piece of clothing that you have worn means that your smell can be introduced to the new arrival before you bring them home and may help combat anxiety on arrival. You can also consider asking the breeder for a little of their bedding to bring back with you so that you can add it to their new bed, crate or hutch to promote familiarity. Don't be tempted to give your pet the run of your whole house to begin with, instead concentrate on just one room at a time so that confidence builds up gradually.

#### 4. Vital early care

It's important to register your new pet with a reputable vet as soon as possible in order to administer necessary vaccinations and check the overall health of your new four-legged friend.

Here at Blacks, we understand that a new pet at home can be an expensive time and so created our fantastic Pet Starter



Tracey Tripicchio, Blacks Vets

Pack, designed to deliver first class care and peace of mind, all for an **incredible £50!** This allows our clients to potentially **save over £200!**

Available for puppies, kittens and rabbits, the offer includes:

- Full veterinary health check
- Primary vaccination course (2 injections, 1 for rabbits) \*
- 4 weeks of Pet Plan insurance
- Initial flea, mite and worm treatment
- Microchip and lifetime registration
- Voucher for bag of Royal Canin food for puppies and kittens
- Free 6 month nurse check
- 10% discount on neutering, or 1 month free if you join our Protect My Pet Club

Perhaps most importantly, we include **a voucher to cover the cost of one emergency call out to Hospital if your pet needs Out of Hours attention in the 3 months after first vaccination.** (Please note, this can be used towards your Excess if your pet is insured. This has no transferable value and can only be used with a genuine emergency.\*\*)

\* Does not include Kennel Cough vaccine or 3rd Parvo virus vaccine at 5 months. \*\* Does not include the consultation fee or the cost of any treatments.

#### 5. Getting out and about

As the weeks progress, you should start to see your new pet's confidence grow and will be able to introduce more new experiences to them. Once your puppy or kitten has been microchipped, vaccinated and treated for worms and fleas, you can start to plan to take them outdoors.

For kittens this generally happens at around 6 months old, but for puppies this is only once immunity has developed. Ask your vet for individual guidance on this. Bunnies generally receive their first vaccination at 10 weeks old with immunity developing within 3 weeks.

For puppy owners, we offer monthly Puppy Parties where dogs



under 16 weeks old can safely meet with other puppies to play games and have fun learning to socialise with other canines. Visit [www.blacksvets.co.uk](http://www.blacksvets.co.uk) and click on **What's On** to find out more.

Our Puppy Party page also features a useful socialisation tick sheet with suggestions for people, places and situations to introduce pups to before they are 20 weeks old.

At Blacks, our vets and veterinary nurses are mines of information when it comes to advising on all aspects of pet care and are delighted to help you with any queries you may have along your pet parenting journey. We look forward to welcoming you and your new addition to one of our five Black Country branches very soon!

[www.blacksvets.co.uk](http://www.blacksvets.co.uk)

## NEW PET?

Give your pet the best start in life

### Pet Starter Package

ALL FOR ONLY

**£50**

SAVE UP TO **£200**

FOR PUPPIES, KITTENS & BUNNIES

- Primary vaccinations
- Microchip for life
- Flea, Worm & Mite treatment includes cover for lungworm
- Full veterinary health check
- 1 FREE emergency call out within first 3 months
- 4 weeks FREE Pet Plan insurance

Terms & Conditions apply. Please consult our website for further details.

☒ PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

**ALSO INCLUDES:**

- 6 month health check
- Royal Canin food
- 10% off Neutering
- 24/7 access to the Blacks Veterinary Hospital
- Free pet toy