



A PET OWNER'S GUIDE TO VACCINATIONS & PREVENTATIVE CARE

We want your puppy to be healthy and happy. This guide gives recommendations and explanations on vaccinations, spaying/neutering, dental care, parasite control and microchipping.



Prior to being fully vaccinated, we suggest that you keep your new puppy confined to your own yard. To further reduce the risk of exposing your dog to a potentially fatal disease, do not take your puppy to the park, to kennels, or to play with other dogs until they are fully vaccinated.

CORE VACCINATIONS:

These should be given to all dogs

- **DISTEMPER:** May cause signs varying from respiratory (coughing, sneezing) to intestinal (diarrhea, vomiting).
- **HEPATITIS:** May cause severe liver damage or death.
- **PARAINFLUENZA:** May cause mild to severe flu-like symptoms.
- **PARVOVIRUS:** May cause severe vomiting and diarrhea that may lead to dehydration and death.
- **RABIES:** Affects the brain and central nervous system. Rabies can affect humans and is fatal if left untreated.
- **LEPTOSPIROSIS:** A bacterial disease that can cause potentially fatal kidney and liver disease and is transmissible to humans.

NON-CORE VACCINATIONS:

These should be given to dogs on an individual, as-needed basis

- **BORDETELLA (KENNEL COUGH):** Can cause a severe cough and is highly contagious.
- **LYME DISEASE:** A bacterial disease that can cause arthritis and high fevers.

THE CORE VACCINATIONS ARE GIVEN IN A SERIES OF THREE AT THE FOLLOWING INTERVALS:

6 - 8 WEEKS OLD	Exam DHPCPV Heartworm Prevention Fecal Examination
10 - 12 WEEKS OLD	Exam DHPCPV
12 - 14 WEEKS OLD	Exam DHPCPV Heartworm Prevention Rabies

The CORE vaccinations will be boosted one year after the final puppy shot and then every three years for the life of the dog. Rabies vaccines may be given every two years if required by law.

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NEUTERING/SPAYING

We recommend spaying and neutering all pets as they will experience a lifetime of health benefits and behavioral improvements. So much so, that sterilized pets live longer lives. Also, by eliminating sexual instincts, pets become less aggressive and more loyal companions to their human family members. All in all, it's a win-win for you and your pet.

- **Spaying** is performed on female pets to remove the ovaries and uterus. This quick and safe procedure prevents unwanted litters, heat cycles, mammary and uterine complications and cancers, aggression, the urge to roam, and mood changes.
- **Neutering** is performed on male pets to remove the testicles. This quick and safe procedure prevents the urge to roam, aggressive behaviors, and the dangers of testicular cancer and an enlarged prostate.

Proper timing is determined based on factors such as age, breed, size, and lifestyle; however, we typically recommend the procedure be done around 6-months of age.

DENTAL CARE

Our doctors recommend yearly or bi-yearly dental exams and cleanings.



Your pet's teeth are prone to disease just as your own teeth are. Over time, oral bacteria colonize on the teeth, forming plaque and tartar build-up that leads to gingivitis, tooth decay, and dental disease. Oral bacteria is also linked to infections of the upper respiratory tract, tonsillitis, pneumonia and even heart disease, all of which are life-threatening. Many of these painful conditions are preventable when proper dental care begins at a young age and continues throughout your pet's life.

Dental cleanings are performed under general anesthesia for the safety of your pet and our medical team.

PARASITE CONTROL

When it comes to external and internal parasites, year-round prevention is the key to a disease-free pet.

Fleas and ticks are external parasites that latch onto your pet's skin and puts them at risk for skin irritation and allergies. We recommend frequent grooming and monthly flea & tick preventives.

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes and cause irreversible damage to the heart and lungs, also known as heartworm disease. Preventatives should be given monthly, and pets should be tested yearly for heartworm disease starting at 5 months of age.



Intestinal parasites are found in all areas of the US and are transmissible to people. An annual fecal test for your pet and keeping up with monthly preventatives are highly recommended.

MICROCHIPPING

Microchips are permanent, affordable, and help reunite lost pets with their owners. For this reason, we recommend all pets be microchipped! Unlike collars and tags, microchips are forever and cannot be removed. Still, we recommend using collars, tags, and microchips for your pet's optimal safety in case of an accident.

A microchip is as tiny as a grain of rice and implanted similarly to a routine vaccination beneath the skin between the shoulder blades. The entire process is quick and painless! What makes microchips so valuable is the unique, patented radio communication that provides quick and reliable information to identify an animal.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For large and giant breed dogs, we recommend an x-ray of the hips to determine the risk of hip dysplasia. Hip dysplasia, a genetic disease, is a deformity of the hip that occurs during growth and can be avoided by keeping puppies at a normal, lean weight during growth.