

Puppy VACCINES



At your puppy's first visit your Veterinarian will recommend vaccinations to keep your pet healthy based on their individual needs and lifestyle. Below is an overview of what we typically recommend.

DISTEMPER

This combination vaccine protects against the most common and contagious viral diseases in dogs. Canine Distemper and Parvovirus are both serious and often fatal diseases affecting multiple organ systems requiring lengthy hospitalization and usually a guarded prognosis. Vaccination against Adenovirus Type 2 virus protects against canine hepatitis and vaccination against Parainfluenza helps protect against tracheobronchitis. Typically, vaccination starts at 8 weeks of age and continues every 3-4 weeks for a series of 3 injections, followed by a booster a year later. Adults with previous vaccination should be vaccinated annually through adulthood. A puppy can start going outside 7-10 days after the 2nd dose of DAPP for dog walks and puppy classes but should avoid areas frequented by other dogs until the series has been completed.

RABIES

Rabies virus can be transmitted to mammals (including humans) usually through bite wounds from an infected animal. Most commonly infected animals in the surrounding Chicagoland area are skunks and bats, though the virus has been detected in other species. Illinois State law requires that all dogs are vaccinated for rabies since it is one of the few deadly diseases pets can transmit to humans. If an unvaccinated pet bites a person or another animal, state law requires that the animal is quarantined at a veterinary facility at the owner's expense and we are required to file documentation with the Cook County Department of Animal Control. Puppies are able to be vaccinated for rabies after 16 weeks of age, followed by a booster a year later. Adults require an annual booster through adulthood, though in some cases a 3 year vaccine may be available after the dog has received the initial vaccination.

KENNEL COUGH

This bacterial infection affects the respiratory system, and while simple infection usually is not life threatening, it can progress into pneumonia. This vaccine does not provide 100% immunity from the disease; however, it will lessen the clinical signs of the disease if your pet is exposed and hopefully speed recovery time. Kennel cough is spread primarily through contact with other dogs; if your dog frequents dog parks, grooming salons, or boarding/daycare facilities, he or she will need a Bordetella vaccination. A single dose given intranasally (in the nostrils) is indicated for dogs at risk of exposure and is generally administered between 8 and 16 weeks of age. For puppies, a series of two boosters administered 3-4 weeks apart is required for full immunity. Some boarding and grooming facilities require that their clients' pets receive this vaccine every 6 months. Where the risk of exposure is sustained, we administer a single dose 1 year following the last dose administered, then annually thereafter.

INFLUENZA

Canine influenza produces symptoms of upper respiratory infection similar to kennel cough, but newer strains have the potential to cause life threatening pneumonia. Canine flu spreads best in enclosed spaces that house a lot of animals, such as a boarding facility, doggy day care, grooming salons, and dog parks. In 2015 we saw a widespread outbreak of this virus in the Chicagoland area that was fatal for many dogs that contracted it. Since then, this vaccine has become a requirement at most animal care facilities.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is caused by a bacteria and is transmissible to humans. It is spread between animals or people primarily through contact with infected tissue or urine. In Chicagoland and other urban areas rats have been known to carry and spread the disease. Infection can cause severe life-threatening damage to the liver and kidneys, and even with antibiotics and supportive care the prognosis can be guarded. For puppies, a series of two boosters administered 3-4 weeks apart is required for full immunity. Yearly booster vaccines are necessary to keep immunity at a proper level.

LYME

Lyme disease is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Lyme disease is primarily spread by ticks, which carry these bacteria and transmit them to the animal while sucking its blood. Lyme disease causes recurrent lameness, fever, swollen lymph nodes and joints, and a reduced appetite. More serious complications include damage to the kidneys, and rarely heart or nervous system disease. While this vaccine is most commonly recommended for pets who spend time in forests or wooded areas, pet owners report finding ticks on their dogs after being in Chicago parks and even from their own backyards. Your veterinarian can help you decide whether a Lyme vaccine is appropriate for your dog in addition to tick prevention. For puppies, a series of two boosters administered 3-4 weeks apart is necessary for immunity.

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Puppy PREVENTION

There are a number of preventative measures that we recommend throughout your puppy's life to keep them safe and healthy, including heart worm prevention, intestinal parasite prevention, flea & tick prevention, and preventing your puppy from getting lost by having them microchipped.



HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE

Heartworms are parasites common to all parts of the country. Adult heart worms are approximately fourteen inches long and live in the heart and main arteries of their adult host. Their presence causes obstruction of blood flow and inflammation of the arteries, and can be life-threatening if left untreated.

Mosquitoes serve as the intermediate host for the heart worm. When a mosquito feeds on an infected animal, it picks up the larvae of the heart worm. The immature heart worms migrate in the tissues of the final host for several months before entering the bloodstream and traveling to the heart. The young adult heart worms will reach the heart of their host about 6-7 months after the mosquito first infects the host. The adult worms mate, produce microfilaria, and the cycle continues. It is at this stage that we can detect that an animal has a heart worm infection.

Signs of heart worm disease vary, from no signs at all to signs of severe heart and lung disease. In dogs you may note coughing, exercise intolerance, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing. Prevention of heart worms is much safer, easier, less painful and less expensive for your pet than treatment, and it is simple to do. Our veterinarians will want to test your adult dog before you start a preventative program. Because heart worms do not reach the heart until about 6-7 months after infection, we do not routinely heart worm test young puppies, but rather put them on preventative before they have a chance to become infected. Heart worm preventatives kill the immature stages of heart worms before they reach the heart, thereby preventing heart and lung disease from occurring. Adult dogs should be screened for heart worm disease annually throughout their life. An added benefit of using a heart worm preventative is that most also kill some common intestinal parasites that can be transmitted to people such as, roundworm and hookworm. There are a number of options for heart worm preventative available, from a monthly chewable to an injection that lasts between 6-12 months. Your veterinarian will discuss these options and help you select the best one for your pet's needs.



FLEA & TICK PREVENTATIVE

Both fleas and ticks are prevalent in the Chicago area. Fortunately, we have very effective flea and tick preventatives that have a wide margin of safety and are easy to administer. We recommend the use of monthly oral or topical treatments such as Credelio, Bravecto, or Revolution. Flea collars, sprays, baths and flea-bombs are generally ineffective and employ harsh chemicals that are irritating and in some cases can be toxic to your dog. Your veterinarian can recommend a product that is suitable for your dog's lifestyle during your pet's visit.



PARASITE PREVENTION

Many puppies are born with intestinal parasites from an infected mother in utero, or via milk or feces ingestion. In order to diagnose and correctly treat your dog for parasites, we recommend performing a fecal flotation test for analysis of parasites upon acquiring your new puppy. The only way to diagnose intestinal parasites is by microscopic examination of your dog's feces for the eggs shed by the adult worms. In very large infestations, some adult worms can be observed in your dog's bowel movements or after he vomits. Dewormers are very safe and are generally administered orally, but first we need to diagnose which parasites your puppy has.

MICROCHIP

Losing a pet can be scary. Even the most experienced and diligent pet owner is at risk for losing their dog at some point during its life. While collars and tags are important and certainly beneficial when worn by your pet, they are subject to breaking, fading, becoming scratched, and even falling off. If this occurs, there is no way to determine to whom your dog belongs. Microchipping is a more permanent means of identification, and the best possible way of bringing your lost or stolen best friend back to you. A microchip is an electronic chip that is about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under your dog's skin between the shoulder blades. Once registered, the chip is linked to your contact information and can be read with a digital scanner. If your dog is ever lost and brought to a veterinary hospital or shelter, one of the first procedures performed is to scan for a microchip, giving us the ability to reunite you with your pet. Though no one wants to suffer the heartbreak of losing a pet, microchipping helps improve the chances of a happy reunion.