

VACCINE AND DEWORMING BASICS FOR DOGS



Recommended vaccines for all puppies and adult dogs:

- 1) **DHPP:** This is a four-way vaccine that vaccinates against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza. We recommend that puppies begin their vaccine series at 6-8 weeks of age, with boosters every four weeks until they are 14-16 weeks old (meaning a total of three boosters).

For adult dogs who have never been vaccinated, or puppies who receive their first vaccine after 10 weeks of age, two DHPP vaccines should be given four weeks apart. The DHPP vaccine is labeled for one year after completion of the initial booster series. We recommend yearly boosting because of this recommendation but are willing to discuss alternate protocols depending on the environment of your dog.

- 2) **Rabies:** This vaccine is required by state law, and thus strict adherence to labeled protocols is necessary. The initial vaccine must be given no earlier than 12 weeks of age, and is good for one year. After the one-year booster, it must be boosted every three years.

Optional vaccines for dogs:

- 1) **Bordatella:** This is a bacteria that causes kennel cough. It works like the human flu shot; that is, it reduces the severity of the disease, but does not necessarily prevent it. We recommend this vaccine only when it is required by a boarding kennel or training facility, or if your dog visits dog parks. We do not believe it is necessary otherwise.
- 2) **Lyme:** With the high tick burden in our area we recommend this vaccine along with year-round flea and tick prevention such as BRAVECTO™ or NEXGARD™.
- 3) **Leptospirosis:** This is a bacterial infection that is known to affect dogs and numerous other species, including cows, sheep, goats, and even humans. The bacteria causes kidney failure and sometimes liver disease as well. We recommend the Lepto vaccine for at-risk dogs, primarily those that are used for hunting in areas where there is farm runoff, farm dogs, or other dogs that spend a lot of time outdoors frequenting areas where wildlife are active.

Additional dog information:

- 1) If your dog eats carcasses or other dog's stool, we recommend at least yearly deworming. Running a fecal on a stool sample is helpful, but the parasites aren't always shedding eggs and therefore could be missed. Because it's safe to deworm dogs even if they don't have parasites, we recommend routine dewormings as an alternative.
- 2) We recommend all dogs have BRAVECTO™ or NEXGARD™ at a minimum monthly March through December. This is a flea and tick preventative, and although it doesn't directly prevent against Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, it is usually very effective at killing ticks that attach to the dog within 24 hours, which is how long the tick must be attached to transmit Lyme disease.
- 3) We recommend all dogs in this area be on heartworm preventative. Heartworm is carried and transmitted by mosquitoes, and even one worm can cause congestive heart failure. The preventative should be given once a month, April through December. We recommend a yearly test to confirm negative status prior to using preventative, as a positive dog can react dangerously to the preventative. This test also tests for Lyme disease and 2 other tick-borne diseases.