

## 3-5 Years: Veterinary Recommendations

In the 3-5 year age range, most dogs will need their first dental cleaning performed by a veterinarian. They should be well settled into a routine at home by this stage. Some dogs may begin to show signs of maturity while others maintain a youthful and energetic demeanour. Wellness check-ups are the cornerstone of longevity and avoiding behavioral and medical problems.



**Age: 3-5 Years**

### Discussion Points

- Exercise & weight
- Behavioral issues
- Dental health
- For large breeds, review musculoskeletal issues
- Breed specific concerns
- Wellness & preventive care

### Recommended Services

- Annual Physical Examination
- DHP vaccine (3 year)
- Bordetella\* vaccine
- (given every 6 months)
- Fecal Analysis
- Heartworm Test
- Wellness Panel
- Dentistry Discussion
- Blood Panel

## 6-8 Years: Veterinary Recommendations

Almost all breeds will show some signs of aging by 6-8 years old. Diet and nutrition are especially important to helping your dog age well. This may be a good time to have an open discussion about supplements. This is also a good time to review exercise and habits.



**Age: 6-8 Years**

### Discussion Points

- Behavior
- Diet & Supplements
- Dental health
- Vaccination boosters
- Parasite prevention
- Breed specific concerns
- Wellness & preventive care

### Recommended Services

- Annual Physical Examination
- DHP vaccine (3 year)
- Bordetella\* vaccine
- (given every 6 months)
- Fecal Analysis
- Heartworm Test
- Wellness Panel

# 9-11 Years: Veterinary Recommendations

Large breeds age faster than small breeds. However, by 9-11 years old, most dogs are entering their senior years. We can help keep them at their best with preventive care, good nutrition and a focus on weight and exercise.



**Age: 8-10 Years**

## Discussion Points

- Behavior
- Diet & Supplements
- Dental health
- Vaccination boosters
- Parasite prevention
- Breed specific concerns
- Wellness & preventive care

## Recommended Services

- Annual Physical Examination
- Rabies vaccine (3 year)
- Bordetella\* vaccine
- (given every 6 months)
- Fecal Analysis
- Heartworm Test Plus

# 12 Years and over: Veterinary Recommendations

By this stage most dogs will have some form of a chronic illness and we highly recommend semi-annual wellness exams. Pain management is often neglected because most owners are unaware of the subtle yet serious signs of pain in older dogs. We can help make sure that your dog maintains a high quality of life in its senior years.



**Age: 12 Years and over**

## Discussion Points

- Semi-annual exams
- Diet & Supplements
- Dental health
- Special attention to arthritis and other painful conditions
- Review of chronic illness and medications
- Wellness & preventive care

## Recommended Services

### Senior Work-up

- Semi-Annual Physical Examination
- Parvo vaccine (3 year)
- Bordetella\* vaccine
- (given every 6 months)
- Fecal Analysis
- A Complete Blood Count Panel
- Senior Wellness Panel

# THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The physical examination begins with a brief visit from the veterinary technician who will collect information about your pet's current activity, overall health status, appetite and activity level. If your pet is experiencing abnormal behavior any information you can provide will be helpful in pinpointing potential problems. The technician will obtain your pet's temperature (normal temperature for a dog varies between 99.5 and 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit) and body weight. They will also review some basic preventive health measures. This is a great time for us to provide you with educational information about your pet's health or behavior and answer any questions you may have.

Once the technician has collected information about your pet, the doctor will perform a complete head to tail physical examination. Your pet's eyes, ears, and mouth will be checked for any

abnormalities. In addition, the veterinarian will palpate your pet's entire body, feeling for appropriate organ size and looking for any skin growths or masses. During the examination, you will be asked additional questions in order to obtain an overall assessment of your pet's current health status. Depending on your pet's particular circumstance, your veterinarian may recommend certain laboratory or diagnostic tests for further evaluation.

Because our pet's age at a much faster rate than we do, it is important to have your pet examined at least once a year during the first eight years of life and then increase the frequency to at least once every six months.

Following your veterinarian's recommendations will help ensure the health and happiness of your pet.





# Vaccinations

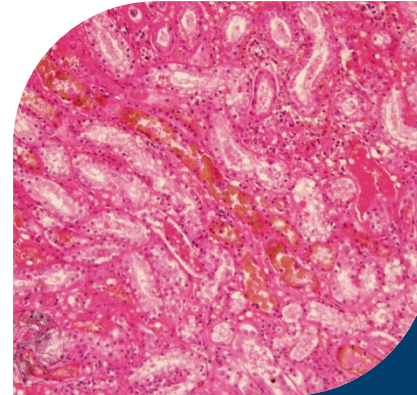
## ***When should my puppy be vaccinated?***

There are many diseases that are fatal to dogs. Fortunately, we have the ability to prevent many of these by the use of vaccines. In order to be effective, these vaccines must be given in a series. The timing of the vaccine is important. Ideally vaccines are started between six and eight weeks of age. The schedule will vary depending on when they were actually started. The routine vaccine schedule will protect your puppy from eight diseases:



### **Distemper**

Canine Distemper virus is widespread in the dog and coyote population. A dog with CD may have diarrhea, fever, respiratory disease, seizures, muscle twitches, and watery discharge from the eyes and nose.



### **Hepatitis**

Hepatitis is spread primarily through infected urine. The virus attacks liver in an unprotected dog's body, producing fever, respiratory disease, diarrhea, liver and eye damage, and changes in the blood.



### **Parainfluenza**

A common respiratory virus. Can compromise the immune system and leave them vulnerable for secondary bacterial infections.



### **Parvovirus**

A virus causing vomiting and diarrhea. This disease is easily spread as millions of viral particles remain in the loose, watery stool of an infected dog. Viral diarrhea in puppies can cause death due to loss of fluids and immune suppression.

# Vaccinations

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### **Bordetella**

A stubborn respiratory infection known to many as “kennel cough” or tracheobronchitis. Because it is airborne, boarding your pet is not the only reason to vaccinate for this infection.



### **Rabies**

Rabies is a deadly disease that can infect all mammals. Usually dogs and cats are infected by a bite from a rabid raccoon, skunk, or bat. Once the virus enters the animal, it moves to the brain. The animal either becomes unusually aggressive or lethargic and withdrawn. Death occurs from paralysis and respiratory failure. There is no treatment for dogs or cats.



### **Leptospirosis**

See the following page

The first four of the vaccines listed above are included in one injection that is given at three week intervals until 16 weeks of age. Dobermans, Pitbulls and Rottweilers should receive an additional booster at 20 weeks because of their very poor immunity to parvovirus. The Bordetella vaccine is given at about 12 weeks of age and rabies at 4 months. The Lyme vaccine is one other optional vaccine that is given in certain situations. If your dog has a high exposure to ticks, this vaccine should be discussed with the doctor. The Leptospirosis vaccine is first given at 12 weeks of age, and a booster is given 3 weeks later.

# 10 key facts about Leptosporosis (“Lepto”)

An emerging infectious disease of dogs

1

Bacterial infection affecting dogs (and occasionally people)

2

Usually transmitted through ingestion of water contaminated by urine

3

Wildlife (including rats, raccoons, coyotes) can carry and spread the bacteria

4

More cases when higher rainfall affects a warm region

5

Exposure to stagnant water significantly increases the risk of infection.

6

Symptoms vague but include fever, lethargy, increased thirst/urination

7

Can result in kidney or liver failure

8

Difficult to diagnose but easy to treat in early stages

9

Antibiotics and fluids for early/mild infection but renal dialysis for severe disease

10

Can be prevented with annual vaccination — ask us for more information



# Leptospirosis (“Lepto”)

## *Why does my puppy need more than one vaccine?*

When the puppy nurses its mother, it receives a temporary form of immunity through the milk. This immunity is in the form of proteins called antibodies. For about 24-48 hours after birth, the puppy's intestines allow absorption of these antibodies directly into the bloodstream. This is of benefit during the first few weeks of the puppy's life, but at some point it fails and the puppy must be able to make its own long-lasting antibodies. Vaccinations are used for this purpose. Since we do not know when an individual puppy will lose the short-term immunity, we give a series of vaccinations. We hope that at least two of these will fall in the window of time when the puppy has lost immunity from its mother but has not yet been exposed to disease. A single vaccination, even if effective, is not likely to stimulate the long-term immunity to DHLPP. Re-vaccination is necessary. With Rabies, one injection given at the proper time is enough to produce long term immunity. With Bordetella, one vaccine in puppyhood is enough to be protective but this vaccine does not confer long-term immunity and should be repeated at six-month intervals throughout the dog's life. This is the most common infectious disease we see in our area.



# Intestinal Parasites

## ***Do all puppies have worms?***

Intestinal parasites are common in puppies. The microscopic examination of a stool sample will usually help us determine the presence of intestinal parasites. We recommend this examination for all puppies and then annually for the lifetime of your pet. The stool sample collected may or may not detect worms that are really present because dogs do not pass worm eggs in their stool every day. Deworming medication is recommended especially if we do not obtain a stool sample. It has no side effects and is safe and effective against several of the most common worms found in dogs. Deworming is repeated in about 2-4 weeks because it only kills the adult worms. Within 2-4 weeks the larval stages will have become adults and will need to be treated. Dogs remain susceptible to reinfection with hookworms and roundworms unless they are on Sentinel. If this preventative is not being given or if it is given inconsistently, semi-annual deworming throughout the dog's life is recommended. Adult hookworms and roundworms are not infectious to humans but the larval stages have been reported to invade the skin and, in rare instances, the internal organs of humans that come in contact with dog feces. It has usually been a child who came in contact with feces or grass where feces had previously been. In our opinion, ***it is very important for people who have children to keep their pet on a monthly parasite prevention program*** in an effort to protect their children from this problem. It is not a common one but can be devastating if it occurs.

