

## Important Information for Your New Dog

### Vaccinations

Start Distemper-Hepatitis-Parvovirus-Parainfluenza (DHPP) vaccine between 6-8 weeks of age.  
Booster DHPP vaccine every 3-4 weeks until 14-16 weeks old.  
Rabies vaccine given at time of last DHLPP vaccine.  
After this it's once a year.

Bordetella vaccine is optional. It is sometimes required by boarding kennels, training classes, and groomers. We do not require Bordetella vaccine in our annual vaccinations. This vaccine helps to prevent infection by one of the bacteria that can cause "kennel cough." "Kennel cough" is a syndrome that can be caused by a number of bacteria or viruses.

### Worming

It is recommended that all puppies be wormed when you first get them. The general wormer is inexpensive and does not harm your dog if they do not have worms. Adult dogs can be wormed annually, or if you notice any loose stools or worms in the stool. You can bring in a stool sample when you come for annual shots for the doctor to check for worm eggs.

### Spaying/Neutering

Female dogs can be spayed after 6 months of age. Male dogs can be neutered after 9 months of age. The doctor waits until the dog is fully mature before performing these surgeries. Male dogs will have absorbable stitches under the skin that do not need to be taken out after surgery. Female dogs will have stitches that need to be taken out in 10-14 days. There is no charge for suture removal.

### All Surgeries

The doctor does surgical procedures Mondays through Thursdays. We have the owner drop the animal off in the morning, and surgery is done that afternoon. The animal can be picked back up anytime the next day. The owner is asked to withhold food and water after midnight the night before bringing the animal in for surgery.

### Heartworm Preventative

It is recommended that all dogs be started on heartworm preventative sometime before they are 6 months old. Heartworms are transmitted through mosquito bites. If a dog stays on heartworm preventatives year round, it is recommended that they be tested about every 4-5 years. If they are on only during the summer months, it is recommended that the dog be tested annually. We currently carry three types of once-a-month heartworm preventatives. All three also act as a general wormer for intestinal parasites. The Heartgard Plus is a meat morsel while the Interceptor and the Iverhart Plus are beef flavored tablets. The Heartgard Plus and Interceptor are comparable in price while the Iverhart Plus is a little less expensive because it is a generic of Heartgard Plus. All three are sold in six-month supplies.

### Flea Control

Fleas are external parasites that bite the dog and suck blood. The bites irritate the skin and will cause scratching. The scratching can result in hair loss, hot spots, rash, etc. If the dog develops a flea bite allergy, the symptoms get much worse. The best way to control fleas is to prevent them from getting on your dog. There are a variety of products that are sold over the counter from spot on products and shampoos to sprays. In our office, we recommend using Frontline Plus, ProMeris, or Vectra 3D. All three products are sold in three dose packages. All three products are also effective against ticks. We also offer a premise spray if the dog's environment becomes effected by fleas.

### Tick Control

Dogs that are outdoors a lot, will often encounter ticks. Again we use Frontline Plus, ProMeris, or Vectra 3D to prevent most tick infestation. We also sell the Preventic Collar. This collar is not effective against fleas, only ticks.

### Ears

It isn't uncommon for dogs to get ear infections. Most commonly, we see yeast infections in the ears. This is usually caused by excessive moisture in the ears or allergies. Dogs with long ears tend to be more susceptible. We also see bacterial infections and ear mites. If your dog is scratching his/her ears or shaking his/her head excessively or shows tenderness to the ears, this may indicate an infection. If you cannot get an appointment to bring your dog in, you can call us and bring in an ear swab. To get an ear swab, use a Q-tip and get a sample of the wax and build-up in the ears. As long as you keep the Q-tip vertical in relationship to the dog's head you will not hurt anything no matter how far in you go. The ear canal does almost a ninety-degree turn before reaching the eardrum. We can usually tell from an ear swab what type of issue your dog's ear is facing, and we can dispense medication accordingly.