



NORTH AVENUE ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C.

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RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE FOR **YOUR NEW PUPPY**

We would like to acquaint you with some basic information about your puppy's health, and to provide a schedule of steps we can take to guard against some potentially dangerous diseases. It is far more practical and economical to keep your pet healthy and disease free, than to initiate treatment once your pet is sick and in need of medical care.

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS UP TO YOU!

Puppies can be vaccinated starting at 7 weeks of age. Distemper vaccines are given every 3-4 weeks until the puppy is 15-16 weeks old. Most puppies will receive 3 distemper-parvo combination vaccinations (these may also include the leptospirosis vaccine). If vaccines are started late, a minimum of 2 vaccines are required to establish immunity, with the last vaccine given when the puppy is at least 15 weeks old.

Recommended during first 2 visits:

- DHPP- Distemper or DHPPL-Distemper-Lepto vaccine- Protects against distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus; may also include leptospirosis.
- Stool exam- We will check for intestinal parasites such as roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms and coccidia.
- Heartgard Plus- Monthly chew tab protects against heartworm, roundworm and hookworm. We recommend **year round** heartworm prevention.
- Deworming Medicine-Medication used to rid your puppy of intestinal parasites.
- The doctor will discuss flea and tick prevention.

Last Puppy Visit:

- Repeat of DHPPL-Distemper/Lepto vaccination, and deworming medication.
- Bordetella- Recommended for those pets boarding, going to daycare, or going to the dog park within the next 12 months.
- Rabies Vaccine- Required by law. Given at 4 months old.
- Heartgard Plus- We will dispense a 12 month supply.

ANNUAL CANINE VISIT:

We recommend a **complete physical exam** at least yearly, with booster vaccinations as recommended by your veterinarian. A stool exam, heartworm blood test and year-round heartworm prevention are also recommended.

Vaccinations:

DHPP (Distemper)

Protects against distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus.

RABIES

A fatal neurological virus that affects mammals. Pets are required by law to be vaccinated.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic bacterial disease of the liver and kidneys. This vaccine may be included with our distemper combination vaccine.

BORDETELLA

More commonly known as “kennel cough”, bordetella is often characterized by a persistent, hacking cough. Any dog that is boarded, goes to daycare, the dog park, or comes in contact with large numbers of dogs should be vaccinated for bordetella. Most kennels require a bordetella vaccination, as well as Chicago dog parks.

LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease is a potentially serious disease spread by the bite of certain ticks. This disease can cause lameness and more serious afflictions such as heart disease. We recommend a Lyme vaccination for dogs that travel to upper Midwestern states (Wisconsin, Michigan, etc.) or frequent heavily wooded areas where ticks are found.

TESTS:

FECAL TEST

Most puppies are either born with worms or become infected with them during the first few weeks of life. There are several common kinds of intestinal parasites and all of them can jeopardize your pet's health. Some intestinal parasites can even cause problems in humans. Each type of worm produces a different kind of egg that can only be seen under a microscope. It is important that we check your dog's stool annually. If your dog has worms, treatment will begin promptly. Negative stool samples are required to obtain a Chicago dog park permit.

HEARTWORM Test

Heartworm is a disease where large worms live in the heart and lungs of a dog. Mosquitoes transmit this disease from one dog to another. Some signs of heartworm disease include chronic coughing, labored breathing, lethargy, weight loss or exercise intolerance. Many times symptoms do not appear until late in the disease, and sometimes there are no symptoms at all. Heartworm disease can be fatal, with sudden death a possibility. Treatment is available for infected dogs, however it can be very taxing on your pet's system and expensive. Our hospital recommends year-round heartworm preventative medication and a blood test every year.

OTHER INFORMATION:

DENTAL CARE

By the age of 4, up to 85% of pets have some form of periodontal disease. With a new puppy, you have a great opportunity to begin effective home oral care right from the

start. Our entire staff is well informed about pet dental care and will be glad to discuss this with you.

SPAY/NEUTER

We recommend spaying (female) or neutering (male) your dog at about 6 months of age. This elective procedure increases your pet's chance for a longer, healthier life. Female dogs spayed before their first heat have a lower rate of mammary cancer as they age, compared to dogs that have not been spayed. Spaying also eliminates the threat of uterine and ovarian cancer and uterine infections, which are common occurrences in unaltered females. Neutering your male dog prevents testicular tumors and may prevent prostate disease later in life.

MICROCHIPPING

Our animal hospital recommends the AVID chip. The microchip provides permanent identification of your pet. Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted under the skin at the base of your pet's neck. Each microchip has a unique unalterable code that is identified with a scanner. These scanners are used at veterinary offices, animal shelters and animal control agencies around the country. The database is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, so that you can be contacted immediately if your pet is found.

EMERGENCY CARE

Our hospital is a founding member of the Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services (CVES), located at 3123 N. Clybourn in Chicago. The phone number is (773)281-7110. If your pet requires emergency care after hours, Sundays or holidays, please contact CVES. The emergency clinic is a fully equipped and staffed emergency care facility offering medical, surgical and diagnostic services. Our veterinarians will be informed about your pet's condition the next morning and will provide follow-up care.

Our clinic is committed to the health and well being of your pet, an important member of your family. Our staff is caring, knowledgeable and well trained. Please let us know whenever you have any questions or concerns about your pet. We promise to do our best to help you. Thanks for trusting us with the care of your new puppy!