

Juvenile Canine Wellness Program

Puppy Wellness Schedule Vaccinate, Vaccinate, Vaccinate!

6 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- DA2PP Vaccine (Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parainfluenza, & Parvo Virus)
- Pyrantel® Dewormer

8 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- Hills® & Merial® Puppy Kit
- DA2PP Vaccine
- First Dose of Iverheart®
- First Dose of NexGard® or Advantix®
- Pyrantel® Dewormer
- Bordatella (Kennel Cough)

12 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- DA2PP Vaccine
- Lepto Vaccine (Farm, Hunting, Working Dogs)
- Iverheart®
- NexGard® or Advantix®
- Pyrantel® Dewormer

16 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- DA2PP Vaccine
- Rabies Vaccine
- Lepto Vaccine (2nd Dose)
- Iverheart®
- NexGard® or Advantix®
- Pyrantel® Dewormer
- Neuter/Spay

For more information, visit the American Animal Hospital Association website, www.aaha.org

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Wellness Vaccinations

Vaccines are the most important component of any wellness program. Vaccines stimulate immunity against the common contagious canine diseases which ensures that your puppy starts off on the right paw. Puppies are typically vaccinated two to four times in the first year, depending on how old they are at the time of their first vaccination. We prefer to vaccinate for the first time at 6 weeks of age, then at 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age, primarily because animals can be exposed to these contagious diseases at young ages.

Once puppies are weaned at eight weeks, they stop receiving the important immunities passed through their mother's milk. As the passive immunity declines, puppies become increasingly vulnerable to diseases. The protective passive immunity also interferes with the immunity generated by our vaccine making the early doses less effective. However, the immunity of vaccinated young puppies is far better than that of unvaccinated puppies. Once the passive immunity is completely gone (around 12 weeks) we vaccinate two more times. We can expect a full immune response by 17 weeks of age, and at that time we consider your puppy vaccinated.

Although this is the best way to stimulate immunity, there is still the possibility for your puppy to become infected with one of these diseases if they are exposed to unvaccinated animals before 17 weeks of age. We recommend avoiding social settings with other dogs, unless you know those dogs' vaccination status.

Wellness Internal Parasite Control

Internal parasites plague our pet population, even today. Heartworm is a parasite transmitted to dogs as a microscopic larvae in the saliva of mosquitoes. Once these worms develop into adults, they can inflict serious damage to your dog. They set up shop in the right side of the heart, obstruct blood flow causing heart disease. When the worms die, parts of them shower the lung and can cause a life threatening anaphylactic reaction, which often results in death.

Other parasites reside in the digestive tract of your pet. Your pet becomes infected by ingesting eggs or immature larvae from the environment, which can be picked up anywhere including your yard and the park. Some of these parasites absorb nutrients from the food of your pet while others suck blood from the intestinal walls. Either way, if these parasites are present in large enough numbers they can cause serious problems. Proheart®6 is a 6-month injectable that prevents the most serious parasite infections and eliminates the need for remembering monthly pills. Proheart®6 can be started when your pet is 6 months old. We send a reminder every 6 months for your convenience. Iverhart Max® is a monthly pill that will also protect against parasites.

Wellness External Parasite Control

Fleas, ticks and mites are the most common external parasites plaguing pets and their owners. Fleas, ticks, and some mites survive by sucking blood from your pet, while other mites literally chew on the outer layer of your pet's skin. Fleas and mites cause serious irritation to your pet's skin which results in constant scratching, hair loss, and even skin infections. Fleas can also give your pet tape worms during normal grooming if your pet ingests the flea. Ticks have the potential to carry blood-borne parasites from animal to animal, or animal to human. NexGard® and Advantix® are products we carry for flea and tick prevention. We've seen how well they keep pets free of fleas and ticks.

Neutering or Spaying Your Puppy

Unless you plan to breed your puppy, we strongly recommend spaying/neutering your puppy at 16 weeks (4 months) of age. Intact males have a tendency to wander and are more likely to be hit by a vehicle. They also have increased chances for prostate issues and testicular tumors. If a female is spayed prior to her first heat, the likelihood for mammary cancer later in life decreases drastically. Another benefit is that spayed females don't go into heat and don't get pregnant.