

YOUR DOG'S ANNUAL EXAM

Vaccines

Vaccines are started when your puppy is 6-8 weeks old and are given every 3-4 weeks until he is 16-18 weeks of age. The booster vaccine that is given is DHPP (Distemper, Adenovirus types I and II, parvovirus and parainfluenza) and is responsible for preventing life threatening diseases. The DHPP vaccine is good for 1 year initially and then is given every 3 years to adult dogs.

Leptospirosis is a bacteria that is found in contaminated water sources and wild animals. The vaccine series is started at 12 weeks of age and is boosted in 3-4 weeks. This is a yearly vaccine and is recommended for all dogs in Michigan.

Rabies vaccine is required by law and is needed to get a license for your pet. It is usually given with the final puppy vaccine. The first vaccine is good for 1 year and then is given every 3 years.

Bordatella (Kennel Cough) is given to dogs that board, go to dog parks, are groomed or are show dogs. It is usually given by nose drops or by injection. It is a yearly vaccine.

Heartworm

Once a year, your dog will have a blood test to check for heartworm disease and then will be placed on monthly preventative. Puppies are started on heartworm preventative at 8 weeks of age. We recommend all dogs be kept on heartworm prevention year round.

Fecal Exam

Once or twice a year, your dog should have a stool sample checked for intestinal parasites. We look microscopically for parasite eggs that are not visible to the naked eye. Puppies should have multiple stool samples

checked as well as routine dewormings because it is very common for them to have worms.

Physical Exam

Your dog should have a physical exam at least once a year. We will examine his teeth, eyes, ears, listen to his heart and lungs and palpate his abdomen. We are looking for any abnormalities (dental disease, ear infections, heart murmurs, etc) and any input you can give us as to your pet's health at home will be helpful. It is very important for puppies to be examined when they receive their boosters. They are growing and changing rapidly and a physical exam can help detect problems that otherwise may not be apparent.

Annual Blood Profile

We recommend drawing extra blood when we are testing for heartworm disease so that we can check for early signs of disease, including kidney failure, liver failure, diabetes and anemia. This is particularly good to do in animals that will be anesthetized for general surgery (spays, neuters, dentistry) and older animals. The purpose is to catch a disease process in the early stages when it may be more easily treated.