

COMMUNITY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Congratulations on your new puppy—this a very exciting time that goes quickly, so take lots of pictures! In order to keep your puppy happy and healthy, you must make sure that he is well vaccinated against common, serious infections. Plan on bringing your puppy to see us for an exam and booster shots every 3 weeks until he is 16 to 20 weeks of age. After that, we will see your dog at least once a year for a thorough wellness exam, bloodwork, and necessary vaccination boosters.



“CORE” VACCINES (given to all dogs)

Distemper, Hepatitis, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza (DHPP): Your puppy will be receiving this vaccine every 3 weeks until he is between 16 and 20 weeks of age. These are potentially fatal infections that he can pick up from other dogs, or that you can bring into your house on your shoes and clothing. He will get a booster at his first annual visit, and then every 3 years after that.

Rabies: This vaccine will be given once at or soon after 12 weeks of age, and then again 1 year later. After that, the rabies vaccine is given every 3 years, or after any bite wounds. Rabies is 100% fatal for both animals and people—it is an extremely important disease to protect against early and often.

“NON-CORE” VACCINES (tell your doctor if you would like these vaccines for your dog)

Lyme: Lyme disease is spread by deer ticks and is a very common problem in our area. The best way to protect against this disease is through consistent flea and tick control. The lyme vaccine is also a safe and effective way to help prevent this disease. Because neither of these methods are 100% effective, we recommend both to afford the best protection for your pet. The lyme vaccine will be given as two injections, 3 weeks apart, and then annually thereafter.

Bordetella (Kennel Cough): Kennel Cough is a respiratory disease that is passed from dog to dog in close contact (such as kennels, groomers, dog parks, puppy classes, etc.). We recommend any dog that will be in these situations be vaccinated with Bordetella every 6-12 months. Vaccinated dogs can sometimes contract a mild form of the disease, but the vaccine helps to avoid serious complications like pneumonia. This vaccine can be given either as an intranasal liquid or as an injection.

Canine Influenza: There have recently been some outbreaks of canine influenza in kennels around the country. Most of these dogs develop a cough but recover quickly. There have been a few dogs, however, that have developed more severe disease. The vaccine is relatively new, but it appears to be safe and effective. Some boarding facilities and groomers are requiring this vaccine. At this time, we are recommending this vaccine for high risk dogs and any dogs admitted to hospital. Speak to your doctor if you feel your dog needs this vaccine.



Leptospirosis: Leptospirosis is a disease that is spread through the urine of infected animals, especially wildlife and livestock. Dogs will commonly acquire this disease from standing water that is contaminated with urine. Leptospirosis can cause kidney and liver failure, and it can be transmitted to people. While this is a relatively uncommon disease, we have been seeing it more often in our practice. The present vaccine is improved and fewer side effects have been noted. However, the vaccine does not protect against every strain of leptospirosis. You can consult with the doctor on the risks/benefits of this vaccine. The vaccine can be started around 16 weeks of age, and give a booster 2-4 weeks later. After that, the leptospirosis vaccine is given every 12 months.

