

This brochure is designed to help you make informed decisions about your pet's health. Regular visits to the veterinarian play an important part in ensuring that your pet has a long and healthy life. Animal Clinic East looks forward to teaming up with you in this venture.

A good place to start is with...

A YEARLY PREVENTIVE EXAM

A thorough physical examination will ensure your new pet is healthy. This is also an important opportunity to answer your questions and address your concerns. During the first visit, the doctor will discuss vaccination selections for your dog. Our goal is to protect your new dog from serious infectious diseases with appropriate vaccinations given only as often as necessary.

VACCINES

DA2PPC (the “Puppy Shot”)

This vaccine provides protection against 5 viral diseases. All puppies should receive this vaccination at 8, 12, and 16 weeks old, with a booster in one year. This vaccination provides protection against the following diseases:

- Distemper is a viral disease that attacks nearly all systems of the body. It poses a serious risk to both puppies and adult dogs.
- Adenovirus – 2 is a respiratory virus that can cause pharyngitis, tonsillitis, and trachea-bronchitis.
- Parainfluenza is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease that can develop into pneumonia in susceptible animals.
- Parvovirus is a viral disease that affects the intestinal lining resulting in vomiting, diarrhea, and life-threatening dehydration. It is very common in puppies with incomplete vaccination.
- Coronavirus causes a disease that closely resembles parvo with vomiting and diarrhea.

Rabies

This deadly disease is frequently diagnosed in wild animals but can also be contracted by unvaccinated pets. A well-vaccinated pet population offers protection to humans from wild animals with rabies. The rabies vaccination is required by law and should be given to all dogs.

Puppies should be given their first rabies vaccination at 3-4 months old. The vaccination series consists of 2 vaccinations given one year apart followed by boosters given every three years.

Bordetella

Bordetella is a bacterium that is one of the more common causes of kennel cough. The bordetella vaccine is recommended for dogs that are boarded at a kennel, visit dog parks, are taken to a grooming facility, or participate in dog shows. Puppies should be vaccinated at 8-10 weeks. The oral vaccine provides protection for one year.

Leptospirosis

This bacterial disease affects humans and animals. The organism is commonly maintained in livestock and wildlife populations and is transmitted by urine. Dogs exposed to standing water are at risk for this disease. The strain of leptospirosis found in our region is not currently included in the available vaccine. We will let our pet owners know when this vaccine is indicated in our area.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Spaying and Neutering

Millions of healthy animals are euthanized each year due to overpopulation. We can do our part by making certain that our pets do not contribute to those millions. Additionally, pets enjoy many health benefits from these procedures. Females that are spayed before their first heat cycle have a greatly reduced incidence of breast cancer. They also have no risk of uterine infections and ovarian abnormalities. Males that are neutered have a reduced risk of prostate enlargement and cancer.

They are also less likely to roam. The doctor will recommend the best age for your dog to undergo surgery. General anesthesia is used and patients are hospitalized for one night following surgery.

Dental Care

Along with tooth loss, many severe health problems can result from tartar, gingivitis, and tooth root infections. Also, there is a strong correlation between longevity of pets and their dental health. Dogs have all of their permanent teeth in place by 6 months old. Team up with your veterinarian to keep those teeth permanent for the life of your pet. When tartar is already present, ultrasonic cleaning and dental evaluation under general anesthesia should be performed by your veterinarian. To prevent tartar and odor before and after dentistry, at-home brushing can be very rewarding. Talk to our staff today about how you can get started.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Intestinal Parasites

Several types of worms including tapeworms can be present in your dog's digestive system. They may cause weight loss, anemia, and diarrhea. Most puppies are born with roundworms or acquire them from their mother's milk soon after birth. Puppies with fleas are at risk for tapeworms. All puppies should be de-wormed repeatedly during their first months of life to eliminate these parasites. The doctor will recommend the best treatment strategy for your puppy.

Canine Influenza

Dogs that go to dog parks, performance competitions, dog shows, training classes and boarding kennels have a higher risk. Vaccinating reduces how ill your dog can be if infected and lessens your dog's ability to transmit the virus to other dogs. If your dog is at higher risk, please talk to your doctor about this vaccine.