



Canine Life Stages and Care Recommendations

Puppies < 12 months:

Core Wellness

- ❖ Physical exam every 3-4 weeks from 6-8 weeks until 16 weeks of age.
- ❖ Fecal Parasite Evaluation at each visit until 2 specimens show no parasites.
- ❖ Deworming every 3-4 weeks until at least 16 weeks.
- ❖ DAPP vaccine every 3-4 weeks from 6-8 weeks until 16 weeks of age.
- ❖ Lepto 4-way Vaccine at 10-12 weeks and again at 14-16 weeks for medium to large breed dogs.
Consider waiting until after 16 weeks for miniature and small breed dogs.
- ❖ Lyme Vaccine at 10-12 weeks and again at 14-16 weeks for patients at risk in medium and large breed dogs.
Consider waiting until after 16 weeks for miniature and small breed dogs.
- ❖ Bordatella Intranasal vaccine at 6-10 weeks. Boost every 6-12 months, depending on risk of social interaction.
- ❖ Influenza vaccine, optional, often started 2-3 weeks after 16week vaccines are done, based on social risks.
- ❖ Rabies vaccine at 16 weeks.
- ❖ Heartworm prevention monthly year-round starting at 8 weeks.
- ❖ Flea/tick control year-round starting at 8 weeks.

Special Procedures

- ❖ Spay/Neuter at 6 months of age for most dogs (all small and medium breeds and large breed females).
We can discuss the pros and cons of spay/neuter timing during your puppy visits.
- ❖ Large Breed Males - neuter at 10-12 months.
- ❖ Pre-anesthetic bloodwork, with first heartworm test.
- ❖ Preventative Gastropexy (stomach tacking) for breeds at high risk, generally large breed and deep chested dogs.
Greater risk in Great Danes, Saint Bernards, Weimaraners, Irish Setters, Gordon Setters, Standard Poodles, Basset Hounds, Doberman Pinschers, and Old English Sheepdogs.
- ❖ Microchip: Home Again at any time, recommended at spay or neuter.
- ❖ Feed Large Breed Puppy formula to dogs who will weigh over 50# as an adult, until 10-18 months of age (the larger the dog, the longer they should stay on puppy food).
- ❖ Work diligently to prevent obesity during growth, as this can have a significant damaging effect on the growing skeletal system.

Adult Dog (1 – 7 years)

Core Wellness

- ❖ Comprehensive physical examination yearly.
- ❖ Formulate appropriate vaccine schedule for lifestyle (consider exposure to outdoors/wildlife/other dogs).
- ❖ Discuss dental care (both home care prevention and anesthetic cleaning)
- ❖ Rabies vaccine 1 year from initial vaccination, then every 3 years for life.
- ❖ DAPP vaccine 1 year from initial series, then every 3 years for life.
- ❖ Leptospirosis Vaccine yearly depending upon risk factors.

- ❖ Lyme Vaccine yearly for pets at risk.
- ❖ Bordetella vaccine intranasal every 6-12 months, depending on social risk factors.
- ❖ Influenza Vaccine yearly for pets at risk (highly social / traveling such as show dogs, agility trial or dock diving, etc. or frequent boarding, dog day care or parks).
- ❖ Heartworm and Tick Disease screen yearly.
- ❖ Fecal Parasite Evaluation + purge deworming yearly.
- ❖ Continue heartworm, flea, tick and intestinal parasite prevention year-round.

Special Procedures

- ❖ Junior wellness screening with blood work every year – CBC, Chemistry.
- ❖ Dental cleaning as needed.
- ❖ Giant Breeds move to Senior Care at 5 years of age.

Senior Dog (> 7 years)

Core Wellness

- ❖ Full physical exam every 6 months.
- ❖ Monitor for weight changes, appetite loss, excess thirst.
- ❖ Discuss age related diet changes appropriate for age and lifestyle.
- ❖ Discuss dental care (both home care / prevention and anesthetic cleaning).
- ❖ Discuss ongoing health problems.
- ❖ Discuss arthritis and pain management.
- ❖ Rabies vaccine every 3 years.
- ❖ DAPP vaccine every 3 years. Distemper and Parvo vaccine titer yearly is available as an alternative.
- ❖ Lepto vaccine yearly if at risk of exposure.
- ❖ Lyme vaccine yearly for pets at risk.
- ❖ Bordetella vaccine intranasal every 6-12 months, frequency depending on risk of social exposure.
- ❖ Influenza Vaccine yearly for pets at risk (high social exposure).
- ❖ Heartworm and Tick Disease Screen yearly.
- ❖ Fecal Parasite Evaluation + purge deworming yearly.
- ❖ Continue heartworm, flea, tick and intestinal parasite prevention year-round.

Special Procedures

- ❖ Full Senior Health Screen yearly (CBC, chemistry, electrolytes, urinalysis, and Thyroid level).
- ❖ Antibody titer instead of DAPP vaccine is optional.
- ❖ Thoracic and abdominal radiographs yearly.
- ❖ Electrocardiogram yearly is optional.
- ❖ Dental cleaning as needed.
- ❖ Glaucoma check at time of physical examination.
- ❖ Abdominal Ultrasound is recommended for breeds at risk for Splenic and other Neoplasia (e.g. Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers, Labrador Retrievers, Dobermans, and German Shepherds, and others) and is optional.