



Preventative Health Care Recommendations for Dogs and Puppies

Wellness Exam Visit	Bordetella/lyme/leptospirosis/flu	DHPP (“Distemper vaccine”)	Rabies	Fecal Parasite Test/Deworming	Blood Tests
Puppy Visit One: 7-9 weeks old	Bordetella vaccine	DHPP Vaccine	Too young for vaccine	Fecal Parasite Test, 1 st deworming. Start heartworm pill and flea/tick protection.	
Puppy Visit Two: 11-12 weeks old	May start lyme, leptospirosis or influenza vaccine	DHPP Vaccine-booster	<12 weeks too young for vaccine	2 nd deworming. Heartworm pill and flea/tick protection	
Puppy Visit Three: 14-16 weeks old	May start or booster lyme, leptospirosis or influenza vaccine	DHPP Vaccine-booster	Rabies Vaccine anytime after 12 weeks. Typically given at last puppy visit.	Fecal Parasite Test, 3 rd deworming, then monthly heartworm preventative to protect against heartworm disease and intestinal parasites. Monthly flea/tick protection	Pre-operative lab work prior to spay/neuter. (Lab work should be done within 6 months of the surgery. Consult your veterinarian about the best time to spay/neuter)
Puppy Visit Four: 16-18 weeks	May start or booster lyme, leptospirosis or influenza vaccine	DHPP Vaccine-booster. The number of DHPP vaccines depends on the age of your puppy at the start of the series with the final vaccine given at 16-18wks	Rabies Vaccine anytime after 12 weeks		
Adult (1-6 years): Annual Exam	Vaccinate annually for bordetella, lyme, leptospirosis and influenza	DHPP Vaccine given at 1 year and 2 years of age, then every 3 years	Vaccinate every 3 years in Minneapolis	Fecal Parasite Test twice a year; Monthly heartworm and flea/tick preventative.	Heartworm test. Pre-operative lab work prior to any necessary dental work.
Senior (7-12 years) Annual Exam	Vaccinate annually for bordetella, lyme, leptospirosis and influenza	Vaccinate every 3 years	Vaccinate every 3 years in Minneapolis	Fecal Parasite Test twice a year; Monthly heartworm and flea/tick preventative.	Heartworm test. Internal organ screen, complete blood cell count and urinalysis
Geriatric (12+ Years) Exam every 6 monts	Vaccinate annually for bordetella, lyme, leptospirosis and influenza	Vaccinate every 3 years	Vaccinate every 3 years in Minneapolis	Fecal Parasite Test twice a year; Monthly heartworm and flea/tick preventative.	Internal organ screen, complete blood cell count, urinalysis, thyroid check.
Why is it important?	Bordetella causes an infectious cough (kennel cough) and the vaccine is required by most boarding and grooming facilities. Lyme disease is a tick borne disease that can cause fever, lameness and other potentially serious problems. Leptospirosis is spread by wildlife through urine. It causes liver and kidney disease. Influenza virus can lead to pneumonia and illness.	DHPP (Distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza and parvo). The distemper virus causes vomiting, diarrhea and eventually neurologic problems. The hepatitis virus causes liver disease. The parainfluenza virus causes respiratory disease and pneumonia. The parvo virus causes severe vomiting, diarrhea and can be fatal in young puppies.	Rabies is a fatal viral disease that causes neurologic signs and death. The most common carrier of rabies in Minnesota is bats. Rabies can also be transmitted to people. It is required by law to vaccinate your dog for rabies.	The Companion Animal Parasite Control Council (CAPC) recommends preventative deworming on a regular basis. This means giving Heartgard monthly which protects against Heartworm disease and Intestinal parasites. Intestinal parasites can be spread in contaminated soil through stool, and through hunting. Intestinal parasites, like Hookworm, are common in our area and we recommend a stool screening twice a year. External parasites like fleas and ticks can be spread between species by direct and indirect contact. Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitos and causes an infection in the heart.	Lab work can be valuable in allowing early detection of disease or trends. Additionally, it provides a baseline for interpretation of data recorded at subsequent visits.