

FLEA & TICK PREVENTATIVES

WHY:

Fleas feed on animals' blood and can kill animals if left untreated, fleas can cause severe skin infections that are costly, and can cause infections in humans. Ticks spread blood born parasites that cause life threatening and life long disease.

- Start prevention as early as recommended by the manufacturer (6-8 weeks), buy monthly until 6 months old, then by multiple doses as needed.
- Stay on prevention year round as infestations do occur in the fall and winter due to delayed hatching of eggs and larva living for 7 months in the environment. We recommend at least from February through October if you do not do it year round.

FELINE VACCINE PROTOCOL

These guidelines are adopted from AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) and are backed by research and veterinary recommendation.

- **WHY:** All these pathogens cause severe gastrointestinal, upper respiratory and oral disease that can lead to death or chronic debilitating illness. Treatment and control of these diseases can be difficult and costly.

Core Vaccines

FVRCP (Feline Herpes virus, calicivirus, and panleukopenia virus vaccine)

- Kittens under 16 weeks: 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks
- Adults: two doses 3-4 weeks apart, then yearly

Rabies

12-16 weeks of age, then again in 1 year. After that, we recommend yearly or, at a minimum, as labeled or required by your city/county.

WHY: Rabies is 100% fatal to humans and all mammals and there is a lot circulating through wild animals in our area. It's the law.

Leukemia

Vaccinate at-risk cats: indoor/outdoor or outdoor only due to co-mingling with feral cats. Any indoor cats housed with leukemia positive housemates should also be vaccinated.

- American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) rec vax all kittens, then all at risk (outdoor) cats.
- Boosters should be given 3-4 weeks after initial dose

FIV/FELV Testing

- **WHY:** These viruses can cause cancer, sudden death, and/or chronic infections anywhere in the body that won't heal. It can be years after infection before sickness occurs.
- **Who to test?** New cats/kittens with unknown or outdoor history before putting with current household cats, sick cats with outdoor exposure. Also any kitten from a mother with unknown test history.
- Test 60 days after potential exposure. If negative, probably negative.
- Kittens: If positive, retest every 60 days up to 6 mo. old.
- FeLV (leukemia vaccinations will NOT cause positive tests.

HEARTWORM TESTING BASED ON AMERICAN HEARTWORK SOCIETY (AHS)

WHY:

Heartworm is a blood dwelling parasite that is transmitted by mosquitoes and can affect dogs and cats (other animals too). These worms can grow up to a foot long. Can cause lung disease, heart failure, and other organ problems.

- Puppies: Prevention starts at 8 weeks. 1st dose at AMC is free.
Test: 6 months after initial does, or at 1 year vaccine booster.
- 7 months and older with inconsistent heartworm prevention administration.
Test before starting preventative.
- Retest yearly or every other year. AHS recommends yearly, we recommend the same or every other year.
- Preventative should be given year round, but if given seasonally 1 month prior to anticipated start of transmission.

PLAN:

- Oral month prevention 8wks to 6 mo. old monthly or longer is wanting the broad spectrum/tapeworm dewormer addition.
 - Proheart 6 at 6 mo. old (if only 6 mo., too young to heartworm test.
 - Heartworm test and Proheart 12 at 1 year.
 - Heartworm test every other year after.
 - Heartworm test should be done before Proheart 12 in almost all cases.
 - Heartworm test done on any dog starting preventative over 7 months old.
- We recommend oral form of heartworm prevention with broad spectrum dewormer for farm dogs or dogs without flea and tick prevention
- If heartworm prevention is skipped, missed, or discontinued, retest when continuing meds, then again at 6 months later due to time required to detect infection.

PUPPY VACCINE PROTOCOL

These guidelines are adopted from AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) and are backed by research and veterinary recommendation.

DA2PP (Distemper virus, Adenovirus, Parvo virus, parainfluenza virus)

Current DA2PP at 6, 8, 12 & 16 weeks.

Recommended to being vaccinations at 6, 8, 12 & 16 weeks. Then an every 1 year booster.

Avoid dog parks and new dog exposure until puppy is fully vaccinated.

WHY?

These viruses cause severe and life threatening gastrointestinal, respiratory, and neurologic diseases. Mothers immune cells passes to puppies will interfere with the vaccine, puppies have a more susceptible immune systems that needs boosted.

PUPPY VACCINE PROTOCOL (CONT.)

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Initially at 12 and 16 weeks of age. Or 3-4 weeks apart if older. Yearly boosters afterward.

WHY: Disease found in contaminated water (river, lake, puddle, etc.) that causes severe disease, and can also be transmitted to humans. Can be spread by urine of domestic or wild animals. City animals are just as at risk to rabbits, squirrels, feral cats, etc. We have had infections in our area.

If past due, may need to give a second booster 2 weeks after.

RABIES

No earlier than 12 weeks, then again in 1 year. The 1 year booster is essential to be legal and be protected. After that, we recommend yearly or at a minimum as labeled or required by your city/county.

WHY: Rabies is 100% fatal to humans and all mammals and there is a lot of circulation through wild animals in our area. It's the law. If patient is past due and gets exposed or bites someone, your pet may be required to quarantine.

BORDETELLA ORAL OR INTRANASAL

Usually between 3-16 weeks, then annually afterward. Some patients may need a booster 2-4 weeks after the initial vaccine and then every 6 months depending on exposure and individual susceptibility.

WHY: Kennel cough is a disease complex, meaning there are many different viral or bacterial causes to the disease. There are only vaccines for a few of the known pathogens, so even vaccinated dogs can still become infected. This is why we vaccinate all dogs using the intranasal, because it has shown to be more cross-protective than others. Kennel cough very easily spreads between dogs, especially when housed in large groups.

Required at AMC 2 weeks prior to boarding, grooming, or for surgical procedures. Oral and injectable kennel cough vaccine are not recognized for boarding at AMC.

iGENITY GENOMIC TESTING

Oral swab taken and sent off at 8 weeks of age. Results are discussed with the veterinarian at the 16 week visit.

WHAT IS IT?

This test is an opportunity to gain insight into the possible health conditions your puppy may encounter throughout their life. Things such as IVDD, certain cancers, blood clotting disorders, amongst others can be tested for the probability that your pup might experience. This allows us, as your veterinary team, to help you provide the best and healthiest life for your puppy by knowing diseases that are more probable.

While this test is most beneficial for puppies, it still can be utilized for any aged dogs that we might want to gain more insight into their health.

AMC RECOMMENDED PROTOCOL

PUPPIES

(General recommended protocol, minor adjustments may need to be made depending on history)

6wks: DA2PP vaccine (distemper parvo), deworm

8wks: DA2PP booster + Flea/tick prevention + heartworm prevention, intranasal Kennel cough vaccine, deworm, iGenity genomic testing.

12wks: DA2PP + 4L (Distemper/parvo/lepto) + F/T + Heartworm prevention, deworm

16wks: DA2PP + 4L + Rabies vx + Flea/tick + Heartworm prevention, discuss genomic testing results

5 months: Heartworm and flea/tick prevention

6 months: Proheart6 or 6 month box oral heartworm prevention and bravecto flea/tick prevention

1 year and yearly: DA2PP + 4L and Rabies booster, heartworm test, Proheart6 or 12, Bravecto

ADULT CANIN RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dogs > 1 year old)

- Continued Hw and F/T prevention year round (Proheart 12 and Bravecto preferred, oral spectrum heartworm/dewormer for hunting dogs)
- DA2PP + 4L, Intranasal Kennel Cough, Rabies Vx Yearly
- Heartworm test bi-yearly minimum frequency

HEARTWORM TESTING

<7 months old: Test 6 months after beginning preventatives

>7 months old: Before starting prevention, then 6 months after beginning heartworm prevention, then every other year if current.

KITTENS

8wks: FVRCP vaccine, begin F/T prevention, deworm

12wks: FVRCP vaccine, F/T prevention, deworm

16wks: FVRCP vaccine, Rabies vaccine, F/T prevention, deworm

SPAY & NEUTER SURGERY

- Recommended between 4-12 months of age. Kennel cough vaccine required at least 2 weeks prior
- Most dogs and cats should be spayed/neutered around 5-6 months of age. Large breed dogs can wait until 1 year if not freely roaming.

WHY?

- Spaying and neutering prevents overpopulation, can decrease some cancers and diseases such as: mammary cancer, pyometra, prostatitis, etc.

Nutrition:

- Please keep in mind your pet's energy requirement (food intake) will likely need to decrease after spay/neuter to avoid weight gain.

COMMON ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Dental cleaning:** 90% of dogs and cats over 2 years of age need a dental cleaning every 12 months. This can be discussed during the yearly exam.
- **Routine bloodwork:** Can help detect early stages of disease. Starting a yearly round of bloodwork can help detect early disease.
- **Nutrition:** We recommend Science Diet food as it is a high quality, very well researched food. There are many foods out there and a lot of them have not been tested or researched as much. Feeding higher quality food allows pets to eat less because they utilize more. If you are unsure what to feed your pet, please consult your veterinarian for specialized recommendations.