



# DOG CARE



## Dog Health Needs

### Vaccinations

Puppies and dogs should be vaccinated against:

- Parvovirus: a potentially deadly virus which causes bloody diarrhea.
- Distemper: a potentially deadly virus which affects the nervous system.
- Hepatitis: an adenovirus which causes severe liver damage, that is potentially fatal.
- Canine Cough (Parainfluenza and Bordetella bronchiseptica): an upper respiratory tract infection which is common in facilities where large numbers of dogs are housed and areas where potentially unvaccinated dogs come together (training, parks etc).



Our vaccination recommendations for dogs or pups are:

- 6 - 8 weeks old: C3 vaccination (against parvovirus, hepatitis and distemper)
- 10 -12 weeks old: C5 vaccination (as above plus both forms of kennel cough)
- 14 – 16 weeks old: C5 vaccination (only necessary with some brands of vaccine)
- Over 16 weeks: Annual booster for all dogs (C5)

Generally it is recommended that a puppy should not mix with other dogs in parks and public areas until 10 days after the last vaccination, when immunity is complete. Before this your puppy may be at risk of picking up potentially fatal diseases like parvovirus from the soil or from other dogs.

Here at Animal Aid we use Forte Dodge Duramune vaccines so our pups under 10 weeks only require two vaccinations, and dogs over 12 weeks only require a single dose of C5 to be completely vaccinated for a year. We do urge you to continue vaccinating your dog with a C5, which should be done yearly at your pet's annual health check.

### Flea Control

Fleas are a common cause of skin problems in dogs, and with the newer forms of flea control products available, it should never be necessary for your



puppy or dog to have any fleas! Fleas feed on the blood of your dog, and each bite is irritating and painful for your pet.

The adult fleas which you can see on your dog only represent about 5% of the total flea population so it is important to use a control product which treats not only your pet, but also the environment.

Flea collars, shampoos and rinses all have a low efficacy at maintaining a flea-free environment and can be harmful to young animals, so ask your vet for some information on the newer forms of top-spot and tablet- form medication available.

**Flea Allergies:** Flea allergies usually present as intense itchiness over the tail base with hair loss, scabs and often fleas and/or flea dirt (flea faeces) visible in the hair. Fleas are more of a problem in the warmer months, but can survive all year round inside thanks to heating. Flea allergies generally improve well if an effective flea control program is started, but if there is major damage to the skin further treatment from a veterinarian is recommended.

## **Intestinal Worms**

There are 4 major kinds of intestinal worms affecting dogs

- Tapeworms (Common Tapeworm and Hydatid Tapeworm)
- Roundworms
- Whipworms
- Hookworms

We recommend using a veterinary all-wormer such as Drontal, Guardian or Milbemax, and adhering to the following regime:

- Pups up to 12 weeks of age should be wormed every 2 weeks
- Pups from 3 to 6 months of age should be wormed monthly
- Dogs over 6 months of age should be wormed every 3 months

Worms can be picked up from the soil as well as from other animals and can be potentially harmful for people, so regular worming is essential.

## **Heartworm**

Heartworm is a worm which lives in the chambers of the heart, and also in the blood vessels of the heart and lungs. The larvae of the heartworm are transmitted by mosquitoes, and therefore heartworm is a condition which is impossible to prevent without regular treatment with a heartworm preventative. As the worms mature into adults and increase in number, they hinder the blood-flow out of the heart eventually leading to heart failure and even death.

Heartworm preventatives should be administered to puppies as early as possible and can be started from 6 weeks of age. There are many different brands and formulations so you should ask your vet for a product which suits you.

If you have a dog which is older than 6 months and has not previously been on a heartworm preventative, he/she will need to have a heartworm test prior to initiation of a control program.

**Starting a dog which has a heartworm infestation on a preventative will not kill the adult heartworms, and infection can be FATAL!**

All dogs adopted from Animal Aid which are over 6 months old will have had a heartworm test performed prior to adoption.