



Preventative Health Care Recommendations for Dogs and Puppies

Wellness Exam Visit	Bordetella/lyme/leptospirosis/influenza	DHPP (“Distemper vaccine”)	Rabies	Fecal Parasite Test/Deworming	Blood Tests
Puppy Visit One: 7-8 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	First lyme and leptospirosis vaccine. Consider influenza vaccine.	DHPP Vaccine- first booster	<12 weeks too young for vaccine	Fecal Parasite Test, 2 nd deworming. Heartworm pill and flea/tick protection	
Puppy Visit Three: 15-16 weeks old	Second lyme and leptospirosis vaccine. Consider influenza vaccine.	DHPP Vaccine- last booster	Rabies Vaccine any time 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)
Adult (1-6 years): Annual Exam	Vaccinate annually for bordetella, lyme and leptospirosis	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 and leptospirosis	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 months	Vaccinate annually for bordetella, lyme and leptospirosis	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 is required by most boarding and grooming facilities. Bordetella causes an upper respiratory infection. Lyme disease causes joint disease and can also affect the heart and kidneys. It is spread by the deer tick. Leptospirosis is spread by wildlife through urine. It causes liver and kidney disease. Raccoons are a primary carrier in Minneapolis. Influenza is a respiratory virus.	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. Intestinal parasites can be spread in contaminated soil (even house plants), through stool, and through hunting. 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.