



Preventative Health Care Recommendations for Dogs and Puppies

Wellness Exam/Visit	Bordetella & Canine Influenza vaccines	DHPP vaccine (distemper/parvovirus combination)	Leptospirosis & Lyme vaccines	Rabies vaccine	Fecal Parasite Testing, Deworming & Monthly Preventatives	Other Lab Tests
Puppy Visit One: 7-9 weeks old	Bordetella vaccine	DHPP vaccine	Too young for vaccine	Too young for vaccine	Fecal parasite test, 1 st deworming, start monthly preventatives	Heartworm testing is recommended 7 months after the last possible exposure for rescue dogs.
Puppy Visit Two: 11-12 weeks old	May start / booster Canine Influenza vaccine (after 8 weeks of age)	DHPP vaccine booster	Recommend starting / boosting Leptospirosis after 12 weeks of age +/- Lyme vaccines after 9 weeks of age	<12 weeks is too young for vaccine	Fecal parasite test, 2 nd deworming, continue monthly preventatives	Pre-anesthetic blood work is done prior to spay/neuter and other anesthetic procedures. (Lab work should be done within 3 months of the procedure.) Consult your veterinarian about the best timing for spay/neuter and other surgical procedures.
Puppy Visit Three: 14-16 weeks old		DHPP vaccine booster		Vaccinate for Rabies after 12 weeks of age	Fecal parasite test, 3 rd deworming, continue monthly preventatives	
Puppy Visit Four: 16-18 weeks old		DHPP vaccine booster The number of DHPP vaccines depends on the puppy's age at the start of the series with the final vaccine given at 16+ weeks of age.				
Adult (1-6 years): Annual Exam	Vaccinate annually for Bordetella and Canine Influenza	DHPP vaccine is given at 1 year and 2 year visits, then every 3 years	Vaccinate annually for Leptospirosis, Lyme	Vaccinate at 1 year of age, then every 3 years	Test for fecal parasites every 6 months.	Heartworm/tick tests annually. Blood work prior to any anesthetic procedure and every 6 months for dogs on chronic medications.
Early Senior (7-10 years): Annual Exam		Vaccinate for DHPP every 3 years		Vaccinate every 3 years in Minneapolis		
Senior/Geriatric (10+ years): Exam every 6 months						
Why is it important? Regular examinations are a way for veterinarians to detect disease early and are important more frequently as a puppy is growing or a dog is aging. They are also needed for a valid doctor-patient relationship for giving medical advice and prescribing medications.	Bordetella (“kennel cough”) and Canine Influenza virus are part of the complex of bacteria and viruses that causes “Canine Infectious Respiratory Complex.” The Bordetella vaccine is required by most boarding and grooming facilities and Canine Influenza, which can cause severe illness, has been endemic in our area since the outbreak in 2023.	DHPP (Distemper, Adenovirus/Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus). -Distemper is a serious, often fatal disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems. -Adenovirus causes hepatitis (liver disease). -Parainfluenza is a virus related to distemper but causes respiratory disease. -Parvovirus causes severe diarrhea and vomiting and can cause death in puppies.	Leptospirosis is spread through the urine of wildlife, causing kidney and liver disease which can be fatal. It can be transmitted from dogs to people. Lyme disease is a tick-borne disease that can cause fever, lameness and other serious problems. Minnesota is a hotspot in the U.S. for Lyme.	Rabies is a disease that causes neurological signs and death. Bats are the most common carrier of rabies in Minnesota. Rabies can also be transmitted to people. It is required by law to vaccinate your dog for rabies.	The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends frequent dewormings and fecal testing for puppies, as well as regular dewormings and fecal testing every 6 months for adults. Dogs can get intestinal parasites when they are in the uterus or nursing, or from contaminated soil and hunting. Heartworm disease affects the heart and lungs and is spread by mosquitoes. Monthly heartworm preventatives also contain a dewormer to keep many intestinal parasites in check. External parasites such as fleas and ticks are present year-round, even in Minnesota.	Annual heartworm and tick disease testing allows for early detection of disease. Additional lab work (complete blood cell count, chemistry values for internal organ screening and urine analysis) allows for detection of disease before a dog becomes symptomatic or undergoes general anesthesia. It can also provide a baseline for interpreting lab work at subsequent visits. Lab work is needed more often to monitor effects of chronic medications as well as some chronic diseases.