



28966 Information Lane
Easton, Maryland 21601
(410) 822-8505 (410) 758-3404

Canine Core Vaccines

Distemper (DA2PP) and Rabies

The Distemper vaccine is a multi-component vaccine. It is given to puppies starting at 8-9 weeks of age; an exam and booster vaccine are done every 3-4 weeks until 16-17 weeks of age. This frequent vaccine administration is necessary to keep puppies protected as the maternal antibodies disappear. Large breed, black/tan dogs should receive the last booster at 17-18 weeks of age because of their increased susceptibility to parvovirus. This vaccine is boosted the following year, and then given every 3 years. The vaccine protects against the following viruses:

Distemper is a widespread virus and is often fatal. This virus attacks the respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, skin and central nervous system. All dogs should be vaccinated for distemper, as all ages are susceptible.

Canine adenovirus can cause respiratory disease and hepatitis, and can be fatal. This viral infection is rare now because of immunizations.

Parvovirus is a widespread, sometimes fatal disease which causes severe dehydration, diarrhea and vomiting in dogs, especially younger pups and unvaccinated dogs.

Parainfluenza is a viral cause of infectious tracheobronchitis (ITB) or kennel cough. It is often a mild respiratory infection in otherwise healthy dogs.

For mature patients at risk to vaccine reactions or who have immune diseases, a vaccine antibody titer for distemper and parvovirus can be done yearly in lieu of the vaccine, starting after the one-year booster vaccine. This does not apply to puppies.

The Rabies vaccine is first given at 12-16 weeks of age. The booster vaccine is given at 1 year; thereafter it is administered every 3 years. Rabies is a lethal virus to all mammals, including people. It is prominent in wildlife of the eastern shore, so all dogs should be vaccinated. This vaccine is required by Maryland law for all dogs 12 weeks of age and older.

For a link to commonly asked questions about vaccination, visit this link:

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Vaccination-FAQs.aspx>



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Internal and External Parasite Prevention

Heartworms

A heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) is a large spaghetti-like worm that lives in the heart and lungs of infected dogs and causes heart/respiratory failure. The lifecycle of the heartworm is 6-8 months. Immature larvae are spread to dogs through a mosquito bite. It takes 6-8 months for the larvae to reach adulthood and produce microfilaria, the first stage larvae that are ingested by the mosquito. The life-cycle starts again when the mosquito bites another dog.

The Heartworm test should be done yearly, starting at 6 months to 1 year of age.

For a link to more information on Heartworm disease in dogs, visit this link: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Heartworm-Disease.aspx>

Intestinal parasites

ALL dogs are susceptible to intestinal parasites, including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, whipworms, giardia, and coccidia. These parasites can cause malnutrition, anemia, gastrointestinal, and respiratory problems. A small, thumbnail size fresh stool sample is required for testing.

Fecal testing: A centrifuged fecal sample is recommended at the first several visits for all puppies and annually for adults to test for intestinal parasites. Many intestinal parasites shed eggs or cysts intermittently, which may result in a false negative stool sample. For this reason, puppies are dewormed at least twice to treat roundworm and hookworm infections.

External parasites

Common external parasites on the Eastern Shore include fleas, multiple species of ticks, ear mites, and skin mites. These parasites can be debilitating for all pets, causing skin rashes and often severe discomfort. Fleas and ticks can also transmit serious infections, including Lyme disease, and protozoan infections like Ehrlichia and Anaplasma. For information on external parasites visit this link: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/externalparasites.aspx>

External Parasite Preventative: Many different types of oral and topical medications and flea collars are available for dogs to prevent fleas, ticks and ear mites. We recommend topical Frontline Plus or oral Nexgard. Talk with the veterinarian to see what medication is best for your pet. Remember even animals indoors are affected by parasites, especially fleas.

Internal Parasite Preventativ: All puppies should be started on heartworm disease preventative at 8-12 weeks of age. The dosage will be adjusted for weight as your puppy grows. The heartworm tablet is actually treating the early stage of heartworm infection, by killing the L3 stage larvae spread by the mosquito. We recommend Interceptor Plus or Heartgard as heartworm/intestinal parasite disease preventative. These are systemic medications that kills the immature larval heartworms, and the adult intestinal parasites.



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Puppy Training: Housebreaking/Socialization

Puppies are extremely impressionable. How you manage your puppy will have dramatic and long lasting effects. You can make your puppy a better pet and prevent behavior problems by taking a few precautionary steps.

It has been shown puppies learn best through food reward. Praise can reinforce a learned behavior, but food works best to train the behavior. Negative reinforcement is not recommended as a teaching method. This means every time your puppy is doing something right, reward him/her! When they are displaying unwanted behavior, ignore or redirect them. Be patient, and remember a puppy has a very short attention span, and they are very in tune with your body language - so be consistent!

Links to training information and videos:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-potty-train-a-puppy/>

<https://youtu.be/6UhuAyu3tiU>

https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Documents/socialization_puppies_kittens.pdf