



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

Canine Non- Core Vaccines

- **Leptospirosis**- Infection from this bacterium may lead to liver and kidney disease. The disease can be transmitted to people. If your pet is exposed to stagnant water, rats, mice, or wildlife, the leptospirosis vaccine should be given. Puppies can be given the vaccine at 12- 14 weeks of age, followed in 3 weeks by a booster vaccine. This vaccine may be associated with side effects, so certain breeds sensitive to vaccine reactions may elect to not vaccinate or wait until puppies are older, after 17 weeks of age. An annual booster vaccine is recommended.

For more information about this disease, visit this link: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Leptospirosis.aspx>

- **Lyme**- This disease is an infection from the spirochete bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The deer tick transmits this organism to the dog via a bite; other mammals and people can also be infected. Infection results in symptoms of fever and joint pain, though the nervous system and kidneys can also be affected. The Eastern Shore is heavily populated with ticks; if your pet spends a lot of time outside or is in an area highly populated with wildlife, this vaccine is highly recommended. The vaccine is a safe recombinant vaccine, which is started at 12-14 weeks of age and boosted in 3-4 weeks. An annual booster is recommended.
- **Bordetella** - This vaccine protects against the causative agents of kennel cough, a highly contagious upper respiratory infection caused by the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and the virus canine parainfluenza. We use an oral vaccine which is boosted every 6 months. It is recommended for all dogs which have extensive interaction with other dogs (groomers, boarding kennels, obedience class, shows).
- **Influenza** - This vaccine protects against two strains of the respiratory virus. Influenza is indicated for pets in high risk areas, during a regional outbreak, for pets traveling across state lines, exposed to many other dogs or kennel facilities. The vaccine is given initially as a 2 part series 3 weeks apart, then boosted annually.

For more information of canine influenza, visit this link: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/CanineInfluenza.aspx>



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Is Pet Insurance Right for me?

The quality of veterinary care and the ability of veterinary specialists to perform advanced life-saving diagnostics and treatments have increased tremendously in the past several decades. With this increased availability of advanced care, costs have also risen. Orthopedic surgery for treatment of cranial cruciate ligament injury or fractures can cost \$3000-\$6000; costs for treatment of intestinal disorders can be \$2500-\$5000, while treatment for complicated conditions and cancer can reach over \$10,000. Pet insurance is an option to assist with these costs so if something unexpected happens you will have the financial resources available.

Pet insurance is NOT a way to try to save money over the lifetime of your pet. While you can save money with extensive veterinary bills, you may lose money over the long run if your pet has no major health problems. Pet insurance helps you to cover very expensive treatment costs without causing you financial hardship.

For more information on pet insurance, visit this link: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/pet-insurance.aspx>

Pet insurance may be a good idea if:

- You treat your pet like a member of the family
- Your breed of pet is known to have health problems
- You become nervous thinking about veterinary bills
- You might not be able to afford the best care if your pet is sick or hurt
- You might compromise on care for financial reasons
- You have a healthy pet now but are concerned about problems that may arise later

Pet insurance may not be a good idea if:

- Your pet has medical problems already and you want them to be covered
- You are hoping pet insurance will reduce your overall costs
- Your pet already has or you already suspect a problem
- Finances would not make a difference in choosing what to do in case of illness.
- You are mainly interested in pet insurance to cover wellness

We recommend Trupanion Insurance Company. They offer one plan that reimburses 90%* of eligible expenses with no payout limits. The cost to you varies based on the deductible. They only provide coverage for injury or illness, no wellness.

For a link to the Trupanion website, visit this link: <https://trupanion.com/>



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Feeding Your Puppy

Most young puppies should be fed three times daily, changing to twice daily once they are 3 months old. Canned foods add palatability and moisture to the food. Fresh meats or cooked vegetables can be added in limited quantity - be sure they are not the bulk of the diet as the nutrient content may be deficient. Avoid all processed human foods, fatty foods, sweets, and dairy products, as their consumption can lead to serious health issues. For snacks, offer dog treats made in the USA. Foods which are toxic to dogs include chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, and onions.

At VMC we believe pets should eat a good quality food that your pet likes and that suits your budget. A few recommended brands include Royal Canin, Science Diet, and Purina ProPlan. Many popular brands spend more money on advertising and packaging than on the quality of ingredients. Other brands use gimmicks to make the food sound more appealing: for example, terms like all natural, holistic, and fresh. What is most important is to feed a product that supplies the three essentials: **vitamins, minerals and energy supplying nutrients**.

Recently grain-free diets have become popular, but have shown to cause cardiac problems in certain breeds of dogs, such as golden retrievers. It is unclear what the cause is, but legumes, potatoes, and novel proteins play a role, in addition to the pet's breed and genetics. Dogs are "carnivorous" omnivores, which mean they do not have a strict meat-based diet requirement. Some of their diet can include vegetable-based protein. The exact amount of protein, fat, and other nutrients depends upon your dog's life stage (puppy, senior, large breed vs small breed), lifestyle (working vs. sedentary) and health related needs (weight management). Feed a diet appropriate for your pet's stage of life.

Avoid foods that contain a lot of dyes or fat, which are often used to either make the product more palatable or appear more interesting to us as pet owners. Chicken meal is basically the entire chicken ground up into a meal. Chicken by-product meal uses the animal parts not consumed by people. By-products are a less expensive yet still nutritious protein source. Whole grains, fish meal, corn gluten meal, and brewers rice are other examples of inexpensive protein sources. Be sure the diet names the meat source- for example, chicken, beef, lamb. Avoid diets which list meat meal or meat by-products, as the source of this meat is unknown.

Any pet food should be AAFCO labeled. AAFCO stands for the Association of American Feed Control Officials and is defined as a voluntary membership association of local, state and federal agencies charged by law to regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds and animal drug remedies. Essentially, they are the only

group in the industry that has established a standard at which you as the consumer will know that your pet food is delivering the nutrients that it is formulated to provide.

Nutrition Websites and Resources

American Animal Hospital Association

<http://aaha.org>

AVMA statement on raw diets

<https://atwork.avma.org/2012/07/18/the-facts-on-avmas-proposed-policy-on-raw-pet-food-diets>

American College of Veterinary Nutrition

<http://acvn.org>

AAFCO does not differentiate between the qualities of the protein source. www.aaftco.org

www.purina.com.

www.hillspet.com

www.royalcanin.com

Petdoor: Nutritional Requirements of Cats and Dogs: easy to read pet nutrition booklets

<http://dels.nas.edu/global/banr/petdoor>

Animal Nutrition Resources - The American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition

www.aavn.org/ Heading titled nutrition resources

An indoor pet environmental enrichment guide

<http://indoorpet.osu.edu>