



### *The Perfect Puppy Needs*

Vaccines: Our hospital uses adjuvant –free or purified vaccines whenever they are available to reduce risks of vaccine reactions.

**DHLPPC (or DHPPC)** Distemper, Hepatitis (Adenovirus), Leptospirosis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, and Corona virus.

These canine viruses are highly contagious, causing “flu-like” and upper respiratory disease and GI upset. The vaccine is often referred to as 7-in-1 (or 6-in-1 if Leptospirosis is absent). The DHPPC vaccine series starts at 6 weeks of age in puppies and continues every 3 weeks with the DHLPPC until the pup is 16 weeks or older. Then the dog is revaccinated annually with the DHLPPC vaccine. Adult dogs or puppies older than 16 weeks need a vaccine and 1 booster to get adequate immunity).

**Canine Bordatella:** This vaccine prevents one of the most common causes of upper respiratory infections in dogs (it is often called Kennel Cough). It should be given to ALL dogs because of the airborne nature of the infection. The bordetella vaccine can be given as early as 3 weeks of age, puppies are boosted once 3-4 weeks later, and then boosted annually.

**Rabies:** Rabies vaccines are given at 12 weeks of age or older. The first vaccine is only good for 1 year, and then they are boosted every 3 years as required by WV state law.

**\*\*Note: The DHLPPC, Bordatella, and Rabies is required to board/kennel/groom your dog!\*\***

**Lyme Disease:** Lyme disease is carried and transmitted by ticks. This vaccine is highly recommended for any dogs that go camping or hiking with their owners in high grass or treed areas, pets that are outdoors often (even in fenced areas), and all hunting dogs. The vaccine can be given as early as 9 weeks of age, and then is boosted in 3 weeks and once a year afterwards.

**Preventing fleas and ticks:** The best way to protect your dog from Lyme disease is to prevent ticks from the beginning. Of course, fleas are a nuisance parasite but they also carrying disease and other parasites (tapeworms). We carry several products for flea and tick protection and can help you choose the best option for your pet. Year-round protection against fleas is needed in our area. Outbreaks of fleas can happen any time we have a period of 24-48 hours at or above 40degrees.

**Intestinal Parasite:** All dogs and puppies should be checked yearly for parasites (worms) through a fecal exam and then dewormed as needed. Dogs on monthly heartworm prevention will get an intestinal parasite medication monthly as well; all others should be dewormed at least once every 3 months.

**Heartworm Prevention:** Dogs can get heartworms from mosquito bites. Even indoor only dogs are at risk and have been proven to be positive for heartworms. Heartworms in dogs cause damage to the heart and lung tissue that can not be reversed. Treatment to remove heartworms once present is very expensive and has health risks to the pet. So it is very important that all dogs be on a monthly prevention. In addition to preventing heartworms, our monthly medications also prevent deworm for roundworms and hookworms (intestinal parasites).

Puppies can be placed on heartworm prevention any time before 6 months of age without first being tested, after 6 months of age a dog needs to test negative for heartworms and can then be started on the monthly prevention. It is best for all dogs to stay on prevention once monthly year-round. Annual heartworm testing will confirm your pet remains free from this parasite.

**Annual Exams:** Exams allow the veterinarian a chance to catch problems early while they are easily treatable and possibly prevent problems entirely! It is also a time for you and your children to learn a lot about pet care specific to your pet. Feel free to ask questions about your dog's medical and behavioral health throughout the exam. Remember, 1 human year is approximately equal to 5-7 dog years! It is important to have a veterinarian provide a complete exam at least once every year.

**Spay or Neuter:** Spaying and neutering can be done as early as 4 months of age (when the puppy has been fully vaccinated). This is extremely important unless the pet is to be used in a breeding program. Overpopulation of dogs leads to euthanasia daily as well as advancement of contagious diseases. In addition to the stray dog problem, unneutered dogs have a long list of undesirable traits (heat cycles with bleeding and behavior changes, desire to roam in search of a mate, marking territory, aggression, increased risk of disease, increased risk of some cancers....).

*Working together for the health of your pet,  
The Doctors and Team of Hurricane Animal  
Hospital*