

Kanawha City Veterinary Hospital  
5405 MacCorkle Ave. SE  
Charleston, WV 25304

### Recommended Preventative Care for Your Dog

For ALL dogs, we recommend:

1. DHLPP/C vaccine (sometimes called the 7 in 1 vaccine) – This prevents the most common viral diseases in dogs – especially parvovirus and distemper, which can be fatal.
2. Rabies vaccine – This is the only vaccine that is required by law for all dogs. This prevents the fatal infection that can also be spread to humans through bite wounds.
3. Heartworm test and prevention – Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes, so your dog does not need to be around other dogs to be infected. Even strictly indoor dogs can contract heartworms. This disease can be fatal, and even if detected and treated early, there is always some damage to the heart and lungs that cannot be reversed. The good news is that it is virtually 100% preventable with a monthly heartworm treatment that also protects against intestinal parasites. If your dog is over 6 months old, he or she must be tested with a blood test before we can prescribe preventive medication.
4. Annual checks for intestinal parasites – A microscopic stool examination will test for intestinal worms and other parasites that can negatively impact your dog's health. Heartworm preventative medication is a very good general dewormer, but it does not deworm for every parasite that a dog can contract.
5. Monthly flea and tick control – Fleas are not only a nuisance, but they can cause anemia and flea allergies, and they can carry diseases and parasites such as tapeworms. Ticks also cause anemia and can carry many diseases such as Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, Anaplasma and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. We recommend monthly Frontline Plus for all of our canine patients – it is very safe and highly effective against both fleas and ticks.
6. Spaying and neutering – In our opinion, all dogs should be spayed and neutered. The only reason not to do so is if you are planning on using them for breeding. Altering your pet not only tends to make them better companions for you, but it can also prevent or decrease the likelihood of certain health conditions. Some of these conditions include breast cancer, uterine infections, prostate problems, dog fights, accidental pregnancies, and birthing problems necessitating dangerous (and expensive) emergency surgery. There are no medical benefits to keeping

your dog intact or in allowing a female dog to have a heat cycle or have a litter of puppies.

7. Annual examinations (or twice yearly for our pets over 7 years of age) – Annual examinations are extremely important so that our veterinarian can perform a thorough physical to detect any health problems that may not be obvious to you as the owner. This also allows us to perform all needed preventive care and to answer any questions that you may have about your pet's health and care. An annual examination is required in order for us to give vaccinations or to prescribe medications for your pet.

For SOME dogs, we recommend:

1. Bordetella vaccine (also called Kennel Cough vaccine) – A contagious cause of upper respiratory infections in dogs (and cats). This vaccine is often required to board your dog at boarding facilities. It is also recommended for dogs that are groomed, go for walks in the park, or are otherwise around other dogs frequently. If your pet will be boarding here at our hospital we require the bordetella vaccine to be given every 6 months.
2. Lyme disease vaccine – A disease that is spread by ticks. Monthly use of Frontline Plus will control tick infestations, but if your dog hunts or you live in the woods and have a lot of problems with ticks, the Lyme disease vaccine is recommended.
3. Giardia vaccine – An intestinal parasite that can cause diarrhea, blood in the stool and vomiting. Although called a vaccine, it is not a good preventative treatment, but may be recommended if your dog is diagnosed with Giardia to help him or her recover from the infection more quickly.

Please take a moment to review these recommendations prior to seeing the veterinarian so that we may address any questions that you may have. We sincerely appreciate your trust in us in allowing us to care for your pet.

*Sincerely, Dr. Jennifer Snider and the staff of  
Kanawha City Veterinary Hospital*