

Park Plaza Animal Hospital

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PROPER CARE FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR DOG

VACCINATIONS: Vaccinations can prevent many serious diseases that your dog may be exposed to in its lifetime. Vaccination is inexpensive protection against costly medical treatment or even premature death. Vaccines include core vaccines (Distemper/Parvo, Rabies) that all dogs should receive and non core vaccines that may be needed based on your dog's lifestyle.

- ❑ **DA2LPP Vaccine** - This vaccine, which protects against 5 different diseases, is often referred to as "distemper" or "distemper/parvo" vaccine. Parvovirus is a highly contagious disease of the gastrointestinal tract or less commonly the heart. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and rarely sudden death. Distemper is another very contagious virus that is often fatal. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, pneumonia, runny nose or eyes, high fever, and seizures. Adenovirus or hepatitis is another possibly deadly virus that can cause damage to the liver, kidneys, spleen and lungs. Parainfluenza causes chronic respiratory disease and can make your dog more susceptible to other respiratory problems. Leptospirosis causes damage to the liver and kidneys and is caused by several different strains of bacteria. Leptospirosis is also contagious to humans. Puppies should be vaccinated every 3-4 weeks until they are over 4 months; older dogs require a series of two vaccines 3-4 weeks apart. Annual vaccines are recommended after that.
- ❑ **RABIES Vaccine** - Rabies is a fatal neurologic disease that can infect all warm blooded animals including people. By law, all dogs 3 months of age and older must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. In addition, owners must be able to produce a current rabies vaccination certificate and all dogs must wear current rabies tags. The first vaccine is good for one year; subsequent boosters may be good for 1 or 3 years.
- ❑ **NON CORE Vaccines** - Bordetella vaccine helps prevent one of the more severe forms of kennel cough. Bordetella is recommended for all dogs who go to obedience school, are boarded, groomed, or otherwise exposed to many other dogs. Lyme disease is acquired from ticks. Animals who are routinely exposed to heavily wooded areas, especially in the northeast, should be vaccinated. A Leptospira vaccine is available that protects against 5 strains of the bacteria instead of the two in the DA2LPP vaccine. This vaccine is primarily recommended for dogs who are exposed to livestock. If you think your dog may be at risk for these diseases, please ask for more information.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS: Regular physical examinations are very important to your dog's health. Dogs do not always show signs of early disease, nor can they easily communicate discomfort to us. In early stages, many illnesses can be treated to make your dog more comfortable and prolong your dog's life. Veterinarians can best detect and prevent problems such as heart disease, kidney or liver disease, dental problems, cancer and parasites by examining your dog on a routine basis. This also allows you to ask the veterinarian questions about behavior, nutrition, flea control or any other questions you might have.

HEARTWORM DISEASE: Heartworms are deadly and one of the most common of all canine parasites. Heartworm disease spreads when mosquitoes bite an infected dog and then pass the disease along to other animals. Since mosquitoes get indoors, all dogs are at risk. Symptoms may include vomiting, coughing, difficulty breathing, lethargy, weight loss, collapse or convulsions, even sudden death. We prevent heartworm infection by giving a monthly preventative year-round. Dogs over 6 months old must be tested before the preventative can be started. After that, we recommend yearly testing.

INTESTINAL PARASITES: Parasites commonly found in the dog in Ohio are **roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, coccidia, and giardia**; some of these can be transmitted to humans as well. Dogs may show no symptoms at all, or they may exhibit vomiting, diarrhea, anemia, weight loss, coughing, scooting, anorexia, dull hair coat, or a pot bellied appearance. Because these parasites can be detected before symptoms begin, we recommend having a stool sample tested annually as well as whenever your dog is showing symptoms.

FLEA CONTROL: In addition to making your dog itchy and miserable, flea bites can cause allergic reactions in the skin, leading to other skin problems. If swallowed, fleas can also transmit tapeworms to your dog. There are many simple and safe flea preventatives such as Sentinel™, Advantage™, Frontline™, and Revolution™. There is no longer any reason for you or your dog to put up with fleas! Please ask us which product would work best for your dog.

SPAY/NEUTER: We recommend spaying or neutering for all dogs not intended for breeding. This lessens the number of unwanted pets and decreases the number of dogs local shelters must euthanize every year. Of equal or greater importance is the increased quality of life for your dog. This surgery reduces the incidence of mammary tumors, life threatening infections of the uterus (pyometra), testicular tumors, prostate disease, hernias, certain other tumors, and undesirable behaviors. We advise scheduling this surgery between 4 and 5 months of age to receive the maximum health and behavior benefits, but it can be safely performed in older dogs as well.

DENTISTRY: Dental health is one of the most neglected areas of dog care. More than 80% of dogs over 2 years old have periodontal disease. Bad breath ("doggie breath"), depression, drooling, anorexia, or pain while eating are signs of periodontal disease. Dental

tartar can also lead to infection in the liver, kidneys, or heart. Regular examinations, professional scaling, and proper home dental care are needed to keep your dog healthy.