



Cottonwood Veterinary Center, P.C. Adult Dog Preventative Care Guidelines 2007



The following is a list of basic services we recommend for your adult dog. These guidelines are consistent with recommendations from American Heartworm Society, the 2006 American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Canine Vaccine Task Force and Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC).

Vaccinations:

‘Distemper’ (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza): We recommend all dogs have documented proof of an appropriate initial series or booster of ‘Distemper’ vaccination. This vaccine is essential as it helps prevent against some of the most common, potentially fatal viral infections of dogs.

Leptospirosis: We recommend all dogs ‘at risk’ for leptospira have documented proof of and appropriate initial series or booster of leptospirosis vaccine. Leptospira is bacteria found in different regions of the world (including west Michigan) and can result in serious liver and/or kidney disease.

Rabies: We recommend all dogs to have documented proof of a current rabies vaccination given in accordance to county and state laws. Rabies is a 100 percent fatal viral infection affecting many types of animals and people. As stated this vaccine is required by law as a means of protecting both pets and people.

Fecal Testing:

We recommend all dogs to have a current yearly fecal exam as the best means of identifying and controlling intestinal parasites. Many of the intestinal parasites are contagious to dogs and two types of parasites can be contagious to people. A fecal exam is the best way to protect your pet, your other pets and any people that might have exposure to your pet.

Heartworm Testing:

We recommend all dogs over 6 months of age to have a current yearly heartworm test despite history of heartworm prevention. Heartworm is a mosquito transmitted parasite commonly found in the United States including Michigan. Heartworm disease can lead to serious heart and lung damage ultimately resulting in death. We require a heartworm test at least once per year in order to assure that your dog does not have heartworm but also as a means of SAFELY using heartworm preventative.

Heartworm Prevention:

We recommend all dogs be given a monthly heartworm preventative as the best way of preventing heartworm disease **and intestinal parasites**. Traditionally in Michigan, heartworm prevention is used during mosquito season - minimally April 1 through December 1. Our current recommendation is to use heartworm preventive every month **all year around** because of the additional intestinal worm control offered by most heartworm preventatives. We do require a negative heartworm test prior to dispensing heartworm medication to assure its safety.