Preventable Canine Diseases

**Disease** **Vaccination Schedule**

Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Combination vaccine against 3 viruses.

Starts at six to eight weeks of age.

Booster every three-four weeks until 15-18 weeks of age, adult booster in one year, then every three years.

Leptospirosis Must be at least 9 weeks to begin series. Booster in three to four weeks, then once a year. May be combined with distemper combination vaccine.

Rabies Must be at least 12 weeks to begin series.

Booster at one year of age, then every one to three years, depending on the vaccine used.

Bordetella *(Kennel Cough)* Oral vaccine. May be given any time after six weeks of age. Booster once a year.

Lyme Must be at least 9 weeks of age to begin series. Booster in three to four weeks, then once a year.

**Distemper**

Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that can occur at any age, although puppies are more susceptible. More than 50% of dogs that contract distemper will die from it, and recovered dogs may be left with uncontrollable muscle spasms and generally spread through contact with mucous and water secretions discharged from the eyes and noses of infected dogs. However, distemper may also be spread by contact with urine and other bodily fluids, so a dog does not need direct contact with to become infected.

**Infectious Canine Hepatitis** (Canine Adenovirus 1 & 2 or CAV1&2)

Hepatitis in dogs is a very serious and contagious viral disease that can affect the liver, kidneys, lymph nodes, eyes, and other organs. Although most adult dogs recover, it is often fatal in puppies. Hepatitis is not contagious to people. It is transmitted through direct contact with infectious dogs or its bodily fluids.

**Canine Parvovirus**

Parvovirus is a highly contagious intestinal viral infection causing severe and often bloody vomiting and diarrhea. It is often fatal, especially in young or debilitated dogs. There are several strains that affect the gastrointestinal tract and one that causes inflammation of the heart. Both types of parvovirus have severe and often fatal symptoms. It is spread by contact with infected feces.

**Leptospirosis**

Leptospirosis is caused by bacteria from a family of bacteria called spirochete. It is a contagious disease that can be spread between species including humans. Leptospirosis can cause severe liver and kidney damage. This spirochete can be found in bodily fluids, particularly urine. Transmission is by contact with infected urine, often through drinking contaminated water or eating contaminated food. Signs include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, painful kidneys, and ulcers in the mouth or on the tongue, vomiting, diarrhea, jaundice, or stiffness.

**Rabies**

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that can affect all warm-blooded animals, including humans. Rabies is spread through bite wounds from the saliva of a rabid animal. Rabies is most often found in wildlife such as raccoons, skunks and bats, but can also be found in horses and cows as well as dogs and cats. Rabies affects the central nervous system and brain causing a behavioral change and leads to death. Once symptoms appear the disease is **always** fatal. While there is an effective post exposure treatment for humans, there is none for animals. Dogs are usually required by city laws to be vaccinated for rabies.

**Bordetella**

Bordetella is also known as kennel cough. It is a complex of viruses and bacteria that cause tracheobronchitis or “kennel cough.” It is usually not life threatening, but the cough can be persistent for several weeks and can develop into pneumonia. Young puppies are at the greatest risk for severe pneumonia that can be fatal. Signs of kennel cough include a dry, hacking cough. It is highly contagious and spreads through the air or by contact with contaminated surfaces. Dogs that go to boarding facilities, participate in dog shows, attend obedience class, visit dog parks, or go to a groomer on a regular basis are at an increased risk of contracting kennel cough.

**Lyme Disease**

Lyme disease is a bacterial disease caused by the spirochete Borrelia burgdorferi and is spread by the ticks. Lyme disease affects both humans and animals, though it is not spread between humans and dogs or horses. It often causes joint pain and swelling, fever, loss of appetite, lethargy and reluctance to move. Dogs exposed to fields of tall grass or wooded areas were ticks reside are at an increased risk of contracting Lyme disease. Dogs cannot spread Lyme disease to people. It must have an intermediate host, usually the deer tick.