



PINE TREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

RECOMMENDED HEALTH CARE FOR DOGS

ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS

A thorough physical exam confirms your dog is healthy enough to receive vaccinations. We also address any questions you may have on routine care or behavior issues during these appointments. For some pets, bloodwork may be recommended which can detect diseases not evident on physical exams.

VACCINATIONS

DAPPL4 (Often referred to as the “distemper shot”): This vaccine protects against 5 different diseases! Distemper and parvovirus are common, easily transmitted diseases that can be fatal, especially to puppies. Leptospirosis is spread by wildlife, causes liver and kidney damage and can be transmitted to humans. Once a dog has been adequately protected with the full vaccine series and boosted one year later the Leptospirosis portion of the vaccine is given yearly and the Distemper/Parvo portion is given every three years.



RABIES: Required by Maine state law. Prevents a fatal, untreatable disease of animals and humans.

LYME DISEASE: Lyme disease is transmitted to dogs by ticks. The disease causes lethargy, fever, aching joints, lameness and in rare cases kidney failure.

BORDETELLA (Kennel Cough): A contagious respiratory infection spread between animals in close proximity. This is often required for day care, boarding, obedience classes or grooming. Recommended if your dog goes to social venues, such as pet stores or dog parks.

CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS: A very contagious respiratory infection that is generally mild but some dogs develop more severe signs, including a high fever and pneumonia. A small number of dogs have died from complications associated with the disease. Recommended for the same canine population that receives the Bordetella vaccine.

LABORATORY TESTS

Fecal Exam: A stool sample should be examined once a year to look for the eggs of intestinal parasites that may affect your pet and family. Pets are infected with parasites from their mother’s milk, eating rodents, contact with other animal’s feces, and from fleas. Young, old and immune-suppressed humans can also be infected by a pet’s parasites. Treatment with a dewormer may be recommended in cases where obtaining a stool sample is not possible and the dog is at risk for infection.

Heartworm & Tick-Borne Disease Test: The traditional “heartworm test” now also tests for 3 diseases carried by ticks: Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasmosis. Heartworm is a serious and potentially fatal disease carried by mosquitoes. The disease causes heart and lung damage but can be prevented through monthly medication. A positive test for the diseases carried by ticks can alert us that the dog is infected and allow us to initiate treatment before symptoms are seen.

Senior Wellness Profile: Routine bloodwork recommended for dogs 7 years of age and older to evaluate for illnesses that may not be apparent by behavior or a physical exam.

PREVENTATIVE TREATMENTS

Heartworm Preventative: Heartworm is a serious and potentially fatal disease carried by mosquitoes. The disease causes heart and lung damage but can be prevented through monthly medication. For prevention, a chewable or topical product (applied to the skin) is given once per month. We recommend it be given year round as it provides protection from intestinal parasites in addition to preventing heartworm disease

Flea & Tick Prevention: These are available as a chewable tablet that provides 3 months of protection (BRAVECTO), a monthly topical product, or a 6 month collar (Scalibor) to prevent flea and tick exposure. Fleas and ticks carry infectious diseases, cause tapeworm infections and may lead to irritating skin disease.

Microchips: A small chip that is implanted under the skin and serves as a permanent form of identification. A registered microchip gives missing pets the best chance of returning home if they are lost or stolen. Research shows that one in three pets will become lost during their life. Microchips cannot fall off or become damaged like collar and tags.

Spaying/Neutering: This refers to the removal of the uterus and ovaries (spaying) or testicles (neutering). The ideal age for these procedures is between 4-6 months. Altering your **female** pet eliminates the risk of reproductive cancers (uterine and ovarian cancers), reduces the risk of mammary cancer, prevents unwanted litters and eliminates the risk of pyometra—a potentially fatal infection of the uterus. Altering your **male** pet eliminates the risk of testicular cancer (the second most common tumor in dogs), reduces the rate of prostate cancer/prostatitis and perianal tumors, and can eliminate or reduce marking behavior if performed before 6 months of age.



Remember, a healthy dog is a happy dog!