

The Greater Cartersville-Bartow Veterinary Group



PUPPY VACCINATIONS AND WELLNESS SCHEDULE

Below is a summary of recommended core vaccines and parasite control during your puppy's first 6 months and a brief explanation of common canine diseases and symptoms

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| 7 weeks of age | Distemper/ Hepatitis/ Parainfluenza/Parvo virus (DHPP #1) Bordetella vaccine #1 Stool exam/ deworming Begin heartworm and flea prevention program |
| 10 weeks of age | Distemper/ Hepatitis/ Parainfluenza/ Parvo virus (DHPP #2) Bordetella vaccine #2 Stool exam/ deworming |
| 13 weeks of age | Distemper/ Hepatitis/ Parainfluenza/ Parvo virus (DHPP #3) Stool exam/ deworming |
| 16 weeks of age | Distemper/ Hepatitis/ Parainfluenza/ Parvo virus (DHPP #4) Rabies Stool exam/ deworming |
| 6 months of age | Stool exam/ deworming (if needed) Bordetella vaccine Spay or neuter |

DISTEMPER COMBINATION/DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvo)

Canine Distemper Virus causes diarrhea, fever, respiratory disease, seizures, muscular twitches, and a discharge from the eyes & nose.

Canine Hepatitis Virus attacks organs throughout the dog's body producing fever, respiratory disease, enlarged lymph nodes, and abdominal pain.

Parainfluenza Virus causes respiratory disease. While not typically life threatening unless pneumonia develops, it is one of the organisms implicated in "Kennel Cough".

Parvo Virus is a life threatening illness causing severe intestinal problems, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, depression & rapid dehydration.

DHPP Vaccination recommendations:

- Begin vaccinations at 7 weeks of age
- Continue vaccinations every 3 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- Revaccinate annually

RABIES VACCINE

All warm-blooded animals (dogs, cats, livestock, and wildlife) can become infected with rabies virus. Because rabies is also a threat to humans, many states, including Georgia, require vaccination of all dogs and cats. Even indoor animals can be exposed to rabies, often by wildlife (especially bats) entering the house.

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Rabies is a virus that attacks nerve tissue, developing slowly over 10 days to several months. Infected animals may withdraw, avoid contact with people and other animals, become unnaturally aggressive, and may attack. Death always occurs once a rabies-infected animal shows signs of disease.

In North America, most rabies exists in wildlife, especially raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Rabies is spread by bite wounds and exposure to the saliva of infected animals. Therefore, an unvaccinated dog involved in a fight with any animal should be suspect for rabies exposure. When rabies is diagnosed, any exposed, unvaccinated animals must be quarantined for six months or euthanized (humanely destroyed). In contrast, an exposed, vaccinated animal is given a booster vaccine and is then considered safe from infection.

If humans are infected, they can be vaccinated successfully in early stages of the disease. Treatment, however, is unpleasant and costly.

Rabies Vaccination recommendations:

- First vaccination is given at 3-4 months of age or older
- Revaccinate annually

BORDETELLA/KENNEL COUGH

Bordetella is the principle organism involved with Kennel Cough, the most common upper respiratory disease in dogs. Transmission usually occurs when dogs are housed together in close proximity such as in a boarding kennel, grooming parlor, or at a dog show. It causes a dry, hacking cough that can persist for days or even weeks.

Bordetella Vaccination recommendation:

- Puppies are vaccinated twice between 7 and 16 weeks of age
- Revaccinate biannually thereafter, as an adult dog

PARASITES

Dogs and cats can serve as “hosts” to many organisms that live in their intestines and these organisms are known as intestinal parasites. Dogs and cats can share them easily and pass them on to you and your family. Many parasites can be found in sandboxes, dirt, and grass and parasite eggs can live in your pet’s feces outdoors for months. Four groups of worms – roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms, and a few species of single-cell organisms, such as coccidia and Giardia – are the most common intestinal parasites.

Intestinal parasite exam recommendation:

- First deworming at 3-4 weeks of age
- Test and deworm every 3 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- Continue to test every 6 months and deworm as needed

Heartworms are spread by mosquitos and live in the large blood vessels of the lungs and heart. Heartworm disease is harmful, and can be fatal, *but very preventable*. We recommend Revolution®, a topical year-round preventative for heartworm, fleas, tick, and ear mites. Simple monthly treatments, keep your dog protected all year long.

WELLNESS TESTING

Regardless of age, we recommend diagnostic testing at least once yearly. From puppy through adulthood, it is important to monitor for common diseases like heartworm, thyroid disease, and renal disease. As dogs age, just like you, arthritis can also become a crippling problem. By following our simple wellness program, many diseases can be caught early, adding quality and years to your pet’s life. One of the best times to start is when your puppy comes in for a spay or neuter. Baseline data at a time that we presume your puppy is at its healthiest, is important information to have in our records, for later comparisons as your pet ages.