



# A Responsible Pet Owner's Guide to Vaccination and Prevention



# VACCINATION GUIDELINES

## Why should you vaccinate your pet?

Vaccines help **prepare** the body's immune system to **fight** the invasion of disease-causing organisms. Vaccines contain antigens, which look like the disease-causing organism to the immune system but don't actually cause disease. When the vaccine is introduced to the body, the immune system is mildly stimulated. If a pet is ever exposed to the real disease, their immune system is now prepared to recognize and fight it off entirely or reduce the severity of the illness.



## CORE VACCINES

Core vaccines are considered **vital** to all pets based on risk of exposure, severity of disease or transmissibility to humans.

### Dogs

- DAPP**
- Canine parvovirus
  - Distemper
  - Canine hepatitis
- Rabies

### Cats

- FVRCP**
- Feline panleukopenia
  - Feline calicivirus
  - Feline rhinotracheitis
- Rabies

## ELECTIVE VACCINES

### OFFERED

#### Dogs

#### **Bordetella** (Kennel Cough)

- This vaccine should be given if your dog is frequently exposed to other dogs in environments such as grooming facilities, dog parks, boarding kennels, etc. It is given intranasally (via drops in the nose) and is repeated every 6 months to 1 year depending on exposure level.



## VACCINATION FREQUENCY

### Puppies & Kittens (Under a year)

Puppies should receive a series of vaccinations starting at **6-8 weeks** of age. A veterinarian should administer vaccines every 2-4 weeks **until 20 weeks of age**.

*SAHS administers rabies at the first eruption of permanent teeth, ensuring the pet is over 12 weeks old.*

### Adults (over a year)

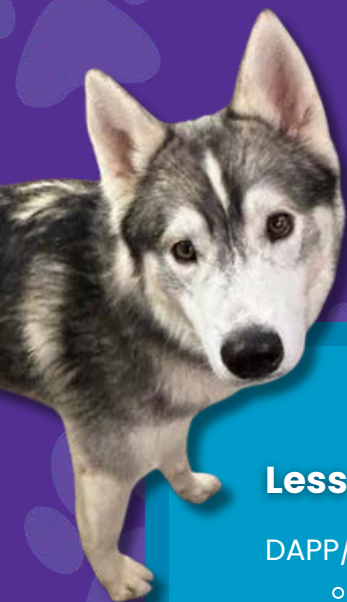
**DAPP** and **FVRCP** vaccinations should be administered **annually**.

#### Rabies

- The 2nd dose is recommended 1 year following administration of the initial dose, regardless of the animal's age at the time the first dose was administered. Revaccinations should be administered every 3 years. *State, provincial, and/or local laws apply. (AAHA Vaccination Guidelines)*

## VACCINATION RISKS

Immunizations should mildly stimulate the animal's immune system to create protection from specific infectious diseases. This stimulation can create mild symptoms, ranging from soreness at the injection site to fever and allergic reactions. As with any medical procedure, there is a small chance of side effects. In most cases, the risks are much smaller than the risks of disease itself. Most pets show no ill effect from vaccination.



# VACCINATION SCHEDULE



## Canine Vaccines

### Less than 4 months

#### DAPP/DHPP

- 1st dose - 6-8 weeks
- Repeat every 2-4 weeks until 20 weeks of age
- Given annually after

#### Rabies

- Not until 16 weeks of age

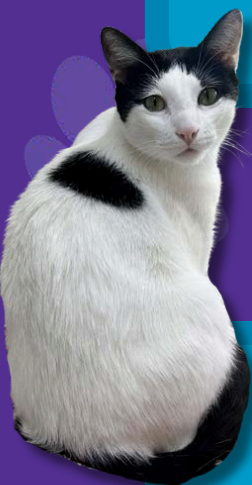
### More than 4 months

#### DAPP/DHPP

- 1st dose - 2-4 weeks apart
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose - 2-4 weeks apart
- Given annually after

#### Rabies

- Given annually after first dose
- Then every 3 years



## Feline Vaccines

### Less than 4 months

#### FVRCP

- 1st dose - 6-8 weeks
- Repeat every 2-4 weeks until 20 weeks of age
- Given annually after

#### Rabies

- Not until 12-16 weeks of age

### More than 4 months

#### FVRCP

- 1st dose - 2-4 weeks apart
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose - 2-4 weeks apart
- Given annually after

#### Rabies

- Given annually after first dose
- Then every 3 years



# CANINE VACCINE DETAILS



## Rabies

Rabies is a virus that can affect the brain and spinal cord of all mammals, including dogs, cats, and humans. Rabies is primarily passed through a bite from an infected animal. Some symptoms of rabies are extreme behavioral changes, hypersensitivity to touch, light, or sound, paralysis of the throat and jaw muscles and, the most commonly recognized, foaming of the mouth.



## Bordetella (Kennel Cough)

Kennel cough is a form of bronchitis that is similar to a "cold" in humans. A persistent cough with a "honking" sound is the main indicator that your dog has kennel cough. Kennel cough is generally passed from dog to dog through respiratory secretions. The most common way kennel cough is spread is in high density populations such as dog parks, grooming salons, or boarding kennels.

### D

#### Canine Distemper

**Canine Distemper** is a virus that affects a dog's gastrointestinal, respiratory, and central nervous systems. It is often fatal and is passed from dog to dog through direct contact with body fluids and/or respiratory secretions. The virus starts by attacking the respiratory system (sneezing, coughing, thick mucus coming from the eyes and nose, lethargy) and gastrointestinal system (vomiting and diarrhea). These signs quickly progress to neurologic symptoms (muscle tremors, seizures, vocalization), which are generally irreversible.

### H

#### Canine Hepatitis

**Canine Hepatitis** is a highly contagious viral infection that affects the liver, kidneys, spleen, lungs, and eyes. It mostly affects young dogs under 1 year of age, though it can affect adults. Canine hepatitis is transmitted through direct contact with body fluids (urine, feces). Some symptoms of canine hepatitis are a mild fever, moderate lethargy, and slight loss of appetite.

### P

#### Parvovirus

**Parvovirus** attacks the white blood cells and rapidly dividing cells in a dog's body, most severely affecting the intestinal tract. Parvovirus is extremely contagious and can be transmitted easily by anything/anyone that contacts an infected dog's feces. It is highly resistant and can live in the environment for years. Some symptoms of parvovirus are lethargy, severe vomiting, loss of appetite and bloody, foul smelling diarrhea.

### P

#### Parainfluenza

**Canine Parainfluenza** is a highly contagious respiratory disease that is associated with kennel cough. It is an acute inflammation of the upper airways that can progress to pneumonia in puppies or chronic bronchitis in older dogs. It is transmitted through contact with nasal secretions of infected dogs.





# FELINE VACCINE DETAILS

## Rabies

Rabies is a virus that may affect the brain and spinal cord of all mammals, including dogs, cats, and humans. Rabies is primarily passed through a bite from an infected animal. Some symptoms of rabies are extreme behavioral changes, hypersensitivity to touch, light, or sound, paralysis of the throat and jaw muscles and, the most commonly recognized, foaming of the mouth.

## Rhinotracheitis: FVRCP

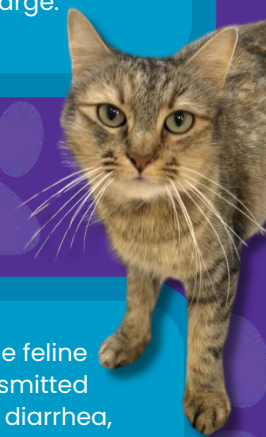
Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR) is caused by the feline herpesvirus and is a major cause of upper respiratory disease in cats. It is the most common cause of conjunctivitis (eyelid swelling, eye discharge, nasal discharge). The virus can infect cats of all ages and once infected, can never be cleared.

## Calicivirus: FVRCP

Feline Calicivirus is one of many upper respiratory infections that affect felines. It can cause oral ulceration, ocular and nasal symptoms, etc. While they rarely cause death in adult cats, they often cause serious illness and death in young kittens. Calicivirus is transmitted by direct contact with infected eye, mouth, or nose discharge.

## Panleukopenia: FVRCP

Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV), also known as Feline distemper, is a viral infection. It is caused by the feline parvovirus and once contracted, is highly contagious and can be fatal to the affected feline. It is transmitted through contact with an infected animal's bodily fluids, as well as by fleas. Some symptoms are bloody diarrhea, severe dehydration, anemia, and often death.



# DEWORMING / PREVENTIONS

## Praziquantel

A anthelmintics used to treat parasitic worms such as tapeworms

## Pyrantel (Strongid)

A parasiticide that treats intestinal parasites such as hookworms and roundworms

## Roundworms

They are the **most** common intestinal parasite. Resembling spaghetti, adult worms are 3-4 inches long. Roundworms can be transmitted from mother to baby or by ingesting either infected rodents or infected feces.

## Hookworms

They are smaller than roundworms but also found in the small intestine. Hookworms feed on blood. They can also be transmitted from mother to baby or ingesting infected feces.



## Tapeworms

They are segmented parasites that are only transmitted by ingesting a flea infected with tapeworm eggs. Tapeworms are not contagious from pet to pet (or to you). You will be able to recognize the shedding segments that look like small grains of rice.

## Heartworm Prevention

Whether the preventive you choose is a pill, a spot-on topical medication or an injection, all approved heartworm medications work by eliminating the baby heartworm stages of the heartworm.

Unfortunately, in as little as 51 days, immature heartworm larvae can become adults and heartworm prevention cannot kill them. This is why it is so important to give prevention on schedule and to test **yearly!** The products we carry here are **monthly** that also are effective against **hookworms** and **roundworms**.



# HEARTWORM DISEASE

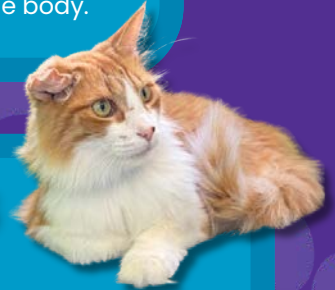
**Heartworm Disease** is a serious and potentially fatal disease. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body.

## DOGS

A dog is a **natural host** for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies.

Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.

## CATS



A cat is an **atypical host** for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage.

Cats with adult heartworms typically have just 1-3 worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage.

The **MOSQUITO** plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. Mosquitoes can spread microscopic baby worms (*Microfilaria*) from an infected animal to an uninfected one. Once inside a new host, it takes approximately 6 months for the baby heartworms to mature into adult heartworms. Once mature, heartworms can live for 5 to 7 years in dogs and up to 2 or 3 years in cats.



## Heartworm Prevention

Puppies **under 7 months** of age can be started on heartworm prevention without a heartworm test (it takes at least 6 months for a dog to test positive after it has been infected) The risk of puppies and kittens getting heartworm disease is equal to that of adult pets. Puppies and kittens should be started on a heartworm preventive as early as the product label allows, and no later than 8 weeks of age. Adult dogs over 7 months of age and previously not on a preventive need to be tested prior to starting heartworm prevention.

**Annual testing** is required to continue purchasing prevention through SAHS, even when dogs are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are **highly effective**, but dogs can still become infected. If you miss just one dose of a monthly medication—or give it late it can leave your dog unprotected. (In as little as 51 days, immature heartworm larvae can become adults and heartworm prevention cannot kill them.) Even if you give the medication as recommended, your dog may spit out or vomit a heartworm pill—or rub off a topical medication. Heartworm preventives are highly effective, but not 100 percent effective. **If you don't get your dog tested, you won't know your dog needs treatment.**





# Feline Combo Test (FIV/FelV)

The combo test covers both Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and Feline leukemia virus (FeLV).

Any positive results should be followed up with treatment at your primary veterinarian.

## FIV+

### Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)

- FIV is a disease that causes suppression of the immune system and may limit a cat's ability to protect itself from common bacteria and viruses. The disease is transmitted cat to cat, usually by biting or scratching.

### Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

- FeLV is a disease that reduces the immune system's ability to protect itself against secondary infections. It is transmitted by casual contact between cats, such as sharing a water bowl, as well as through bite wounds.

## FeLV+



# Microchipping

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It consists of a tiny computer chip housed in a special type of glass. The material is made to be compatible with living tissue. The microchip is implanted between the animal's shoulder blades under the skin with a needle and special syringe.

Microchipping is **required by law** in San Antonio according to the San Antonio City Council.

Registered microchip must show current ownership information including: Owner name, address, phone number (if available) and the description of the pet. The owner of the pet is responsible for ensuring that the microchip is registered with current information. (If there is a change in pet ownership, the previous and the current owner are both responsible for ensuring the microchip is updated with new owner's information.)

Dogs **MUST** wear a tag with the registered microchip number at all times while outdoors.

Microchips generally come with a tag from the microchip manufacturer with pet's respective microchip number engraved on it. If that tag is lost or misplaced, any tag with the microchip number associated with that pet worn on the pet's collar or harness will be considered in compliance with the law.

