



## Canine Preventive Care Recommendations

Overall preventive care for dogs should include a combination of wellness examinations, vaccinations, and medications for treatment of internal and external parasites. The following information is intended to be a short summary of the currently recommended routine preventive care for dogs living in Solano County.

### Vaccinations:

1. Standard Vaccinations (recommended/required for all dogs)
  - a. Puppies should receive DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis (Adenovirus 2), Parainfluenza, & Parvo virus) vaccinations starting at 7-8 weeks of age, and then every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age.
  - b. All dogs should receive a Rabies vaccination at 16 weeks of age.
  - c. After the initial puppy series the next DHPP & Rabies vaccinations should be given 1 year later (then every 3 years thereafter).
  - d. Dogs over 6 months of age at their first vaccinations should receive 1 dose of DHPP and Rabies vaccine followed by revaccination 1 year later (then every 3 years thereafter).
2. Non-Standard Vaccinations (recommended/required only in certain situations)
  - a. Bordetella (Kennel Cough) vaccination is only recommended for dogs that are going to be boarded in a commercial kennel, or that will be exposed to large numbers of dogs in settings such as obedience classes or grooming facilities. This vaccine must be administered every 6 months.
  - b. Leptospirosis Vaccination is only needed in dogs allowed to roam free in areas frequented by large wildlife or livestock, or areas where previous cases have been reported. It requires an initial two shot series 3-4 weeks apart followed by annual revaccination.
  - c. Routine vaccination for Lyme Disease, Giardia, and Coronavirus is not recommended.
  - d. Rattlesnake Vaccine- there is now a vaccine available for dogs that live in areas where the risk of snake bites is high.

### Internal Parasite Control:

1. Heartworm Disease- Monthly preventive medication is recommended for all dogs throughout their life. A blood test is required at the time of their one-year-old vaccinations and then every 3 years thereafter. This disease is a relatively low risk in this area but we do diagnose cases every year. It is spread by mosquitoes from infected dogs to your dog.
2. Intestinal Parasites- Monthly heartworm medication also treats for roundworms (a common parasite in dogs, especially puppies).

### External Parasite Control:

Fleas and Ticks- There are a variety of very effective products available for elimination/control of these parasites. Be aware that the products available through veterinarians are far more effective than those at pet stores. Currently Frontline Plus is an excellent choice for control of both fleas and ticks (it is a topical liquid applied monthly). Please call us for specific recommendations for your dog based on their exposure and risk factors.