

# A Healthy Start for your New Puppy

Welcome to White Bear Animal Hospital and thank you for entrusting us with the care of your new puppy. Our goal is to make sure that your new pet gets off to a healthy start in life. Below are summarized the primary issues in our preventative medicine program for puppies.

## Vaccines

### Core Vaccines

#### **Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza and Leptospirosis**

- given by injection usually at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age followed by a booster at 1 and 2 years of age and then boosted every other year. A Leptospirosis-only vaccine will be given on the alternate year.

**Rabies** - given by injection anytime after 16 weeks of age followed by a booster 1 year later and then every other year.

### Optional Vaccines

**Lyme** - given as 2 injections 2 to 4 weeks apart anytime after 12 weeks of age followed by an annual booster.

**Bordetella** - given as intranasal drops anytime after 8 weeks of age followed by an injectable booster in 3 to 4 weeks and then an annual booster.

**Intestinal Parasite Control** – Most puppies are either born with intestinal parasites (primarily roundworms and hookworms) or contract them early in life. These parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, poor weight gain, a distended abdomen and sometimes coughing. You will be asked to bring a **fresh, unfrozen stool sample** at least **twice** during your puppy's initial visits so we can perform an intestinal parasite screen. One negative stool sample does not guarantee that your pet is parasite-free due to the possibility of immature parasites or low parasite numbers. We will also **deworm your puppy at least twice** with a broad-spectrum dewormer. Roundworms and hookworms **can be transmitted to other pets as well as humans**. Stools should be removed from the environment frequently and good hygiene practiced by all individuals in contact with the puppy. **Heartgard Plus** chewable tablets should be given **once monthly** to provide continued intestinal parasite control. An intestinal parasite screen will be performed at your dog's annual exam.

**Heartworm Prevention** – Canine heartworm disease is a disease of the heart and lungs and is caused by the parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*. Immature forms of the worm are transmitted by mosquitoes from one infected dog to another. Dogs are generally tested for heartworm disease after approximately eight months of age depending on the time of year when they were born. The test can only determine if a dog was exposed six months or longer ago. Prevention of canine heartworm disease is strongly recommended for every dog due to the likely exposure to mosquitoes even for indoor dogs. Canine heartworm disease can be a very serious disease and is much less expensive to prevent than it is to treat. We recommend that your puppy be on a **monthly dose of Heartgard Plus** chewable tablets to prevent heartworm disease.

**Spay / Neuter** – Unless you are planning to breed or show your pet we strongly recommend that you have **her spayed or him neutered at six months of age**. You can refer to the handout "Spaying / Neutering of Pet Dogs and Cats" for an in depth discussion of the procedure and its benefits. You can view step-by-step photographs of actual spay and neuter procedures by visiting the Virtual Surgery Suite on our website.

## Other

**Flea / Tick Control** –We recommend applying Frontline Plus once monthly from April through December. Please refer to the “Fleas and Your Pet” handout for more information.

**Training** – An obedient, well-behaved dog makes for a much better pet. We strongly recommend that you enroll your pet and yourself in a good quality dog training program. Remember the training program is as much for you to learn how to train your pet at home as it is for your pet to learn to obey your commands. There are a variety of training techniques available today and you should make sure that you use a reputable organization that employs only positive reinforcement techniques.

**Dental Care** – Brushing your dog’s teeth daily or every other day will go a long way towards preventing the development of significant dental disease that may require treatment later in life. Good quality pet dental care kits are available at our clinic. If brushing is not possible, other dental care products are available. If you have any questions regarding the care of your pet’s teeth be sure to ask. Please refer to the “Dental Care for Your Pet” handout for more information.

**Nail Trimming** – Teaching your dog to accept having its nails trimmed is an important part of early puppy training. A free nail trim demonstration is a part of all initial puppy appointments. If you’re not sure how to trim your puppy’s nails, please ask.

**HomeAgain®** – The HomeAgain® microchip is a permanent identification system that allows positive identification of your pet if it is lost or stolen and recovered. A microchip the size of a grain of rice is implanted under your pet’s skin between the shoulder blades and can be read with a handheld scanner available at veterinary clinics, shelters and humane societies. The microchip is generally implanted while the pet is anesthetized during its spay or neuter. However, dogs can have the microchip implanted while awake.

Below is a visit-by-visit summary of what you can expect during your puppy’s first several months.

<b><u>8 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>12 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>16 Weeks</u></b>
* history	* history	* history
* physical exam	* physical exam	* physical exam
* Distemper vaccine (1 of 3)	* Distemper (2 of 3)	* Distemper (3 of 3)
* fecal exam (1 of 2)	* +/- Lyme vaccine (1 of 2)	* Rabies vaccine
* deworm (1 of 2)	* +/- Bordetella vaccine	* +/- Lyme (2 of 2)
* heartworm prevention	* fecal exam (2 of 2)	* +/- fecal exam
* free nail trim	* deworm (2 of 2)	* heartworm prevention
* free puppy pack	* heartworm prevention	* discuss spay/neuter

If you ever have questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Visit us online at [www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com](http://www.WhiteBearAnimalHospital.com).

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