

Dog Care



ALL CREATURES ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Our Mission "All Creatures Animal Hospital is dedicated to providing progressive medicine in a caring environment for pet of all species. Through preventative medicine, client education, professional development of our staff, and advanced medical and surgical techniques, we hope to foster a strong and lasting bond with clients and their pets."

Vaccines

Vaccinations are a very important part of any dog’s preventative health program. The “distemper” vaccine, or DHPP-L4, is really a combination shot protecting your dog against five diseases: distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza. Dogs should receive a series of vaccinations, 3 to 4 weeks apart starting at 8 weeks old and finishing at 20 weeks old. In addition, puppies get a complete physical exam and weight checked at each of these visits to ensure they are developing normally. The DHPP-L4 vaccination is usually boosted annually in adults.

Rabies vaccination is legally required for all dogs by state and county laws. Current vaccination for rabies is also required for all boarding and commercial travel. Rabies vaccination should be administered at 4 months of age. The rabies shot is boosted annually, then every 1 to 3 years. Registration is required for all dogs in Champaign County. Tags are available here or through Animal Control.

Kennel cough vaccine is an intranasal vaccination to protect against bordatella, adenovirus, parainfluenza, and upper respiratory infections. Grooming, training, and boarding facilities required this vaccination. In addition, this vaccine is highly recommended if your dog has any nose-to-nose contact with other dogs such as walking in the neighborhood, or playing in the park. This vaccine also needs to be boosted annually.

Lyme vaccination is available for dogs at risk due to potential tick exposure or traveling to endemic areas. Additional protection from Lyme and other tick borne diseases can be achieved with monthly use of Frontline Gold.

Influenza vaccines are available for both strains of canine influenza virus and are recommended for dogs at risk of exposure due to their increased exposure to other dogs – such as boarding, traveling, attending events with dogs present, and visiting dog parks.

Preventative Schedule

DHPP-L4 – one:			
DHPP-L4 – two:			
DHPP-L4 – three:			
DHPP-L4 Annual:			
Rabies:			
Bordatella:			
Lyme – one:			
Lyme – two:			
Influenza – one:			
Influenza – two:			
Dewormer:			
Fecals tested:	1:	2:	3:

Heartworm Disease



Heartworm disease is major cause of illness and death in unprotected dogs. This disease is spread by mosquitoes that bite the dogs, transmitting juvenile forms which, over 6 months, develop into adult worms living in the heart and major blood vessels of the lungs. Heartworms are prevalent in Illinois, and infect 1 in 10 unprotected dogs every year. It is recommended that all dogs be given heartworm preventative year-round. These medications are pills that are given monthly to prevent infestation. Heartworm preventatives such as Trifexis and Heartgard Plus also provide some protection against common intestinal parasites. We encourage dog owners to use heartworm preventative year-round to avoid exposure to these parasites due to lapses in medication. A heartworm test is a blood test identifying the presence of adult heartworms. This test is first performed after the pup is 6 months old and then annually throughout the dog’s life.

Parasites

Intestinal parasites or worms are a common concern in all dogs, especially puppies. Worm infestations cause inflammation of the intestinal tract, deprive the dog of nutrients, and cause blood loss. This can result in diarrhea, vomiting, anemia, and failure to thrive. In addition, most parasites are contagious to other dogs and some (Giardia and Toxocara) can be transmitted to humans. Almost all puppies are born with roundworms, therefore, routinely deworming for this parasite is recommended.



Most infestations can only be accurately identified by microscopic examination of the pet's feces for parasite eggs. Since parasite eggs are shed intermittently, we recommend testing the puppy's stools 3 times to eliminate any intestinal parasites. Adults should have a fecal test performed annually. Tapeworms are one type of intestinal parasite that are not routinely found on a fecal exam. They look like small, moving, rice-sized worms in the feces. Contact your vet if these are seen.

Reproductive Health

Pet overpopulation is a major problem in this country resulting in the abandonment and death of millions of dogs and cats every year. A simple way to be a part of the solution to this sad problem is to have your pet spayed or neutered. Many serious diseases of older pets including breast cancer, perianal and testicular cancer, prostate disease, and uterine infections are largely due to leaving dogs intact. Also, some behavioral problems, including urine marking, hormone related aggression, territorial aggression, and roaming, could be avoided or often corrected by spaying and neutering. Therefore, the one thing responsible owners can do to improve the quality and longevity of their pet's lives is to neuter or spay them.

Spaying or neutering your dog is a routine surgical procedure that provides birth control and eliminates sexual hormones. Most pets are only hospitalized one day, but may need a couple days of recovery at home. A neuter or spay can be done as early as 5 to 6 months of age, or any time after that. There are some health benefits, primarily in large breed dogs, in postponing these procedures until complete physical development. Discuss the appropriate age for your pet to be spayed or neutered with your vet.

Flea and Tick Prevention



Fleas and ticks are prevalent in our area. Monthly prevention with topical preventatives, such as Frontline Gold, is highly recommended for all dogs. Fleas and ticks can carry infections, such as tapeworms, that can be passed to your dog. We recommend monthly prevention starting when the weather is above freezing for 30 days and continue until a hard frost in the fall. We do not recommend over-the-counter products that are pyrethrin-based as they can be toxic to your dog and are generally ineffective. Environmental treatment may be necessary with severe infestations. Consider year-round prevention for dogs that are at high risk (boarding, traveling, and shows).

78% of Pet Dogs are Spayed or Neutered.



22% of Pet Dogs are Intact.



Only 10% of Shelter Dogs come from this group.



90% of Shelter Dogs are from this group.



Identification

Microchip implants are a form of permanent identification where a small, sterile, coded chip is injected under the skin. If the pet becomes lost, they can be scanned to identify the presence of a microchip and the owners' information can be retrieved. In addition, if there was ever a dispute over ownership, the pet could be positively identified by the unique number of their microchip. AVID brand microchips are one of the most common brands available nationally and animal control facilities and veterinary clinics throughout the country are equipped with compatible scanners. Our microchips are ISO microchips and also appropriate for international travel. This simple procedure can be performed at an office visit or with surgery.



www.avidid.com

1-800-336-2843

Nutrition

Nutrition is a very important part of puppy-raising and has improved vastly in the last thirty years. Most puppies and adults can get all the necessary nutrients from a high quality commercial diet. National brands (Purina, Pedigree, Iams) tend to have very consistent quality and are widely available. Premium brands (Science Diet, Wellness, Canidae) are made with "human grade" food products, which provide improved palatability and digestibility.

Dry foods are better for dental hygiene and tend to aid digestion with additional fiber. We usually recommend canned food for underweight dogs or those with dental problems.

There have been some recent concerns about links between canine heart disease and eating certain pet foods labeled as grain-free, which contain high proportions of peas, lentils, other legumes, and/or potatoes as main ingredients. While direct causality has yet to be proven, it would be advised to avoid these brands of food.

When changing diets, slowly mixing in the new food over a period of one week will decrease the chances of gastrointestinal upset. Meal-feeding often aids in housebreaking because most dogs will defecate after a meal.

Grooming

The amount of grooming required in dogs varies based on their coat type and length, health status, environment, and needs and desires of owners. Dogs should be bathed no more than once every 2 weeks with a mild shampoo, such as oatmeal or a hypoallergenic shampoo. Dogs with persistent dandruff, allergies, or other skin problems can be bathed more frequently but also need a conditioner or spray-on moisturizer. Owners with allergies to their pet can use shampoo and skin sprays, such as Lo-Shed, to reduce allergens in their home. In addition, regular brushing helps with human allergies, prevents matting, and reduces chances of skin infections. Breeds with long hair should be brushed at least weekly. Northern breeds with thick undercoats need intense brushing during their seasonal sheds in the spring and fall. Breeds with continuously growing coats do not shed, and therefore require regular haircuts with a groomer every 1 to 3 months.

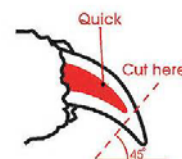
DIET: _____
FREQUENCY: _____
FOLLOW-UP: _____



Nails

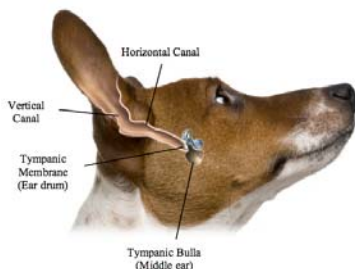
Most dogs should have their nails trimmed weekly to monthly. If the nails are clear, simply cut past where the pink blood vessels end. Black nails are more difficult and require knowledge of the normal curvature of the nail to determine where to cut. In general, if you position the nail clipper blade parallel to the bottom of the toe pad, you should avoid the "quick". It is best to have a styptic available in case you trim the nails too short. Powders and creams are available at pet stores for this purpose. If you are uncertain how to correctly trim nails, ask your veterinary professional or groomer to demonstrate proper techniques.

Nail cross section



Ear Care

Most dogs develop excess earwax that requires regular cleaning. Ear cleaning can be done with an ear disinfecting solution such as Epi-Otic. An ear cleaner can help break down the wax, disinfect the ear canal, and gently cleans the ear. To clean: flush solution into the ear canal, gently massage the vertical part of the ear canal, and then wipe with a cotton ball (do NOT use q-tips). These products are available at veterinary clinics and pet stores. Avoid using alcohol or peroxide for cleaning ears, as these tend to be irritating. Any unusual discharges that persist could be an indication of ear infection, and should be checked out by your veterinarian.



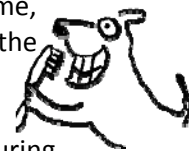
Dental Care

Dental care starting at puppyhood is an important part of your dog's long-term healthcare. Dental disease later in life can be associated with chronic pain, tooth and bone infections, and bacteria in the blood stream that can affect distant organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys. Habits formed early can produce a lifetime of benefits.

Teeth brushing can be introduced as soon as teeth are present. Most puppies have all their baby or deciduous teeth in by 8 to 10 weeks of age. These teeth are very sharp, but have small roots. Permanent teeth start appearing at 4 to 5 months of age. Puppies can exhibit signs of teething just like human babies such as drooling, relentless chewing, and irritability. Occasionally they will be chewing on a toy and owners may notice some bleeding from the gums. Owners rarely find the baby teeth because most puppies swallow them when they fall out.



Normally, the deciduous tooth falls out as the permanent tooth is erupting through the surface of the gum. It is abnormal to see both the adult and baby tooth present at the same time, and indicate a malocclusion of the adult teeth. If baby teeth do not fall out they should be extracted, often while under anesthesia during spay or neuter.



There are 3 different options for dental homecare: brushing, oral rinse, and medicated chews. Brushing daily to every other day is the best way to keep teeth and gums clean and healthy. A dentifrice or toothpaste designed for pets is necessary because human toothpastes contain fluoride which can be toxic if swallowed. Toothpaste can be applied with a human soft-bristled toothbrush, a pet toothbrush, finger brushes, gauze, or Q-tips (for puppies or very small dogs). Brush gently along the gum line on the outside surface of the teeth. If the puppy is nervous, start gradually just working on the upper right molars, then alternating to left the next day. Once they are comfortable add in the lower teeth. Limit brushing when adult teeth are coming in, as this can be painful.

Dental rinses do not remove tartar but help reduce bacteria in pets' mouths. Rinses designed for pets can be administered daily to every other day.

Dental treats can help reduce tartar and improve the health of the gums. Small rawhide strips or commercial dental chews work well given daily to twice weekly. Dental chews containing a pet dentifrice or toothpaste work even better. Avoid hard, brittle materials such as antlers, hooves, and real bones, as they can fracture teeth. Look for the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) seal of approval (Pictured).

Finally professional dental cleaning is usually necessary as your pet ages.

This is an anesthetic procedure where the teeth and gums are evaluated, the oral cavity is screened for cancers, the teeth are scaled and polished, x-ray can be taken as necessary, and any advanced dental therapies (extraction, gingivectomy, mass removal) can be performed. Regular dental home care helps reduce the frequency of professional dental cleaning and helps improve your pets' quality and quantity of life.



