**NEW PUPPY INFORMATION PACKET**

**Canine Core Vaccines**: Core Vaccines are recommended for all puppies and dogs with an unknown vaccination history. The diseases involved have significant morbidity and mortality and are widely distributed, and in general, vaccination results in relatively good protection from disease.

**RABIES** is a fatal disease for both animals and humans. The primary carrier of rabies in Michigan is bats. In accordance with Michigan state law, we recommend that puppies receive a dose of rabies vaccine at or before 16 weeks (4 months) of age. Adult dogs with unknown vaccination history should also receive a dose of rabies vaccine. A booster is required one year later and thereafter, rabies vaccination should be performed every 3 years using a vaccine approved for 3-year administration.

**CANINE DISTEMPER** (DAPP OR DHPP (Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), Adenovirus, Parvovirus, & Parainfluenza) is a combination vaccine that protects against the most common and contagious viral diseases in dogs. Canine Distemper and Parvovirus are both serious and often fatal diseases affecting multiple organ systems requiring lengthy hospitalization and usually a guarded prognosis. Vaccination against Adenovirus Type 2 virus protects against canine hepatitis and vaccination against parainfluenza helps protect against tracheobronchitis. Typically, vaccination starts at 6-8 weeks of age and continues every 3-4 weeks for a series of injections until 4 months of age, followed by a booster a year later. Adults with previous vaccination are recommended to be boostered every 3 years.

**LEPTOSPIROSIS** is an organism that can be harmful to both dogs and humans. It can cause liver disease or kidney failure in a dog. It is transmitted by wildlife and rodent urine and found in standing water. Unfortunately, it can be prevalent in Michigan and Northern Indiana. Vaccination can be helpful. For puppies, a series of 2 boosters administered 3-4 weeks apart is required for full immunity. Yearly booster vaccines are needed to keep immunity at a proper level.

**Canine Non-Core Vaccines:** Non-Core vaccines are optional vaccines that should be considered considering the exposure risk of the animal, IE. Based on geographic distribution and the lifestyle of the pet.

**LYME DISEASE** (Borrelia Burgdorferi) is prevalent due our proximity to the lakeshore. We strongly recommend Lyme vaccine. In dogs, Lyme disease can cause fever, joint issues, attack the immune system and cause kidney disease and seizures. For puppies, a series of 2 boosters administered 3-4 weeks apart is required for full immunity. Yearly booster vaccines are needed to keep immunity at a proper level.

**KENNEL COUGH** (Bordetella Bronchiseptica) is a highly contagious cough that is a dry, hacking cough or “goose honk”. This vaccine is recommended for all dogs that interact with other dogs.

**CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS (CIV)** causes upper respiratory signs including cough, nasal discharge, and a low-grade fever followed by recovery. A small percentage of dogs develop more severe signs in association with hemorrhagic pneumonia. Vaccination may be recommended for dogs intended to be in boarding facilities or shelters. Two doses of vaccines are given 2-4 weeks apart to puppies as young as 6-8 weeks of age. Annual boosters are required.

**VACCINE REACTIONS**: The benefits of vaccination greatly outweigh possible risks. Just as in children, following a vaccination, your puppy may experience mild and short-lived reactions. Symptoms include poor appetite, lethargy, and fever that resolve without treatment. Rarely, more severe reactions can occur which include vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, hives, redness, or difficulty breathing. These serious reactions appear within minutes or hours of the vaccination and require **IMMEDIATE** care. Seek veterinary care if a reaction occurs.

**INTESTINAL WORMS**: Fecal (stool) exams should be preformed at least twice in puppies and annually in adult dogs. Some parasites are transmissible to humans (zoonotic). Young children and anyone barefoot are at increased risk of exposure. Routine deworming is also important. Please bring a stool sample with you to your appointments.

**HEARTWORM DISEASE**: Heartworms are common in dogs throughout the U.S. They are among the most damaging parasites in dogs. Luckily, they are almost 100% preventable! Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes and once mature, they live in the heart and large blood vessels of the lungs. A simple yearly blood test can let you know if your dog is affected, and prevention is available for puppies as young as 6-8 weeks of age.

**FLEAS/TICKS:** Fleas are the most common external parasite found on dogs. Most flea problems can be managed by treating and preventing fleas on the pets. We recommend year-round flea prevention. Ticks attach to your dog by inserting their mouthparts into your dog’s skin. Many ticks also produce a sticky, glue-like substance that helps them remain attached.

**REMEMBER PREVENTION IS KEY\***

**DENTAL CARE:** Home dental care for your puppy is important. We have multiple products to help freshen your puppy’s teeth. Furthermore, we recommend routine dental exams and dental cleanings for your adult dog.

**PREANESTHETIC BLOOD SCREENING:** Before undergoing anesthesia for any procedure, we recommend assessing your puppy’s blood for the health of his/her function of the kidneys and liver, as well as glucose. We also check their RBC/WBC to make sure they are healthy enough to undergo anesthesia.

**PEDICURES: Toenail trims**- Please play with your puppy’s feet and trim the tips of their nails to get them acclimated them to someone touching them. This desensitizes your pet to having their feet touched as they age.

**SPAY/NEUTER:** Spaying your pet reduces the risk of uterine infection (pyometra) as well as mammary cancer later in life. Neutering your pet reduces the risk of benign prostatic canine hyperplasia and testicular cancer.

**MICROCHIPPING**: A permanent means of identification and the best viable way of bringing your pet back to your care. A microchip is an electronic chip that is inserted under the skin of your pet. If your found pet is brought to a veterinary hospital or shelter, one of the first procedures done is a scanning for the microchip.

**Any questions or concerns, please call us! (269) 673-5654**