



## ***Faircrest Veterinary Care***

### **New Puppy and Dog Information Packet**

Congrats on your new puppy (or dog!). There is a lot of information to know when you first bring your pup home, we hope you find the information useful. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this information.

## ***Vaccines***

### ***What are Core vaccines for dogs?***

*Core vaccines are vaccines that are recommended for every dog, regardless of their age, breed, or lifestyle. These vaccines include the Rabies vaccine and DA2PP vaccine.*

- **Rabies Vaccine:** All mammals, including humans, are susceptible to the Rabies virus. It is almost 100% fatal if contracted and is spread through direct contact with mucous membranes (ie: a bite wound). Common carriers of the Rabies virus include skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes.

*All puppies are vaccinated for Rabies around 14-16 weeks old. The vaccine is boosted one year later and then given every 3 years thereafter.*

- **Distemper Vaccine (also known as DA2PP):** The DA2PP vaccine is a combination vaccine that covers against several disease and viruses including:
  - **Canine Distemper:** A contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems of puppies and dogs. It can be found in wildlife including wolves, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks. Can spread by coughing or sneezing (airborne) or from shared food, water bowls, and other supplies. Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, vomiting, and reduced appetite. Distemper is often fatal and dogs that survive the illness, typically have permanent nervous system damage.
  - **Parvovirus:** Highly contagious virus that can affect all dogs, puppies are most at risk. Affects the gastrointestinal tract and spread by direct dog-to-dog contact with contaminated feces, people, and environments. This highly resistant virus can stay in the environment for months

and can be deadly. Symptoms include lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, persistent vomiting and diarrhea, and abdominal pain.

- **Parainfluenza:** This is a highly contagious respiratory virus that is typically transmitted through the air. Symptoms include coughing, nasal discharge, lethargy, loss of appetite, and fever.
- **K9 Adenovirus-1:** This illness causes a serious liver disease known as infection hepatitis in dogs. It is spread by feces and contaminated fluids from infected dogs. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, fever, enlarged liver, and abdominal pain.
- **K9 Adenovirus-2:** Causes acute respiratory disease. It can be transferred through infected respiratory secretions, contaminated urine, or feces. Symptoms include coughing, fever and nasal discharge.

*All puppies should receive at least 3 doses of the DA2PP vaccine, beginning around 8 weeks of age. The vaccine is given every 3-4 weeks until the puppy is at least 14 weeks old. It is boosted again one year later and then every 3 years thereafter.*

## **What are Non-Core vaccines for dogs?**

*Non-core vaccines are those that are recommended based on the lifestyle and risk factors of each individual dog. These vaccines include Leptospirosis, Lyme, Bordetella, and Canine Influenza.*

- **Leptospirosis (Lepto) Vaccine:** Leptospirosis is caused by the Leptospira bacteria and is zoonotic (meaning can be transferred from animals to humans). It is the most common zoonotic illness in the world. It is carried by wildlife including skunks, squirrels, deer, rats, opossums, and raccoons and spread by contaminated soil, water and urine of infected animals. Because of this, it can be found nearly everywhere and most every dog is at risk. Symptoms include fever, inappetence, diarrhea, weakness, severe muscle pain, and can lead to kidney and liver failure.

*The Lepto vaccine is typically given after the initial set of core vaccines are finished. It needs to be boosted 3-4 weeks after the first vaccine and then yearly thereafter.*

- **Bordetella vaccine (aka kennel cough):** Highly contagious and causes respiratory illness in dogs. Transmitted through the air or direct contact in the environment. Symptoms include fever, coughing, and nasal discharge.

*The Bordetella vaccine is typically given to puppies around 8 weeks of age and then yearly thereafter.*

- **Lyme vaccine:** Tick borne disease commonly carried by the Deer Tick. Ticks typically must be attached for at least 24-48 hours before transmitted the disease. Symptoms include fever, joint pain, loss of appetite, and lethargic.

*The Lyme vaccine is typically given after the initial set of core vaccines are finished. It needs to be boosted 3-4 weeks after the first vaccine and then yearly thereafter.*

- **Canine Influenza vaccine:** A respiratory illness that is spread the air (coughing or sneezing) and contaminated items such as water/food bowls, leashes, and clothing of humans. Symptoms can include nasal discharge, fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing. This can lead to pneumonia. This vaccine is typically recommended for social dogs who attend doggy day care, boarding, grooming, travel to agility, dog shows, and other populated dog areas.

*This vaccine is typically given after the initial set of core vaccines are finished. It needs to be boosted 3-4 weeks after the first vaccine and then yearly thereafter.*

## Fleas and Ticks

### **What do I need to know about fleas and ticks?**

*All dogs are at risk of contracting fleas and ticks. Prevention is key in protecting your dog from irritation and illnesses that fleas and ticks can cause.*

**Fleas:** Female fleas can produce up to 40-50 eggs per day! This can quickly cause an infestation in your home. Beyond that, fleas can cause flea anemia, skin irritations such as dermatitis and can transmit tapeworms.

**Ticks:** Ticks can spread a variety of diseases including Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Along with the monthly preventative, it is important to check your pet for ticks after they have been in wooded areas or tall grasses.

*While there are a wide variety of oral and topical products available for flea and tick prevention, Faircrest Veterinary Care recommends Simparica Trio as it offers protection fleas, 5 different types of ticks, heartworm disease, and intestinal parasites.*

## Heartworm Disease

### **What is heartworm disease?**

**Heartworm disease:** spread by mosquitos and dogs are highly susceptible to this illness. Nearly all dogs who are exposed will become infected and heartworm disease is endemic in all 50 states. It attacks the lungs, heart, and related blood vessels. Heartworm disease is serious and can be fatal. Treatment is also costly and complicated. The best way to protect your dog is with a monthly heartworm preventative.

*While there are a wide variety of oral and topical products available for flea and tick prevention, Faircrest Veterinary Care recommends Simparica Trio as it offers protection against fleas, 5 different types of ticks, heartworm disease, and intestinal parasites.*

## Intestinal Parasites

*Many puppies and kittens are born with intestinal parasites. For this reason, puppies are dewormed several times in their first few months of life. Intestinal parasites are diagnosed by examining a fecal sample under a microscope where the eggs shed by adult worms are found. We may ask you to bring a fecal sample to your appointment so we can check for these parasites.*

*After the initial dewormings, giving the monthly Simparica Trio will also protect your dog from roundworms and hookworms.*

## Microchipping

### ***Why does my dog need a microchip?***

**Identification tag:** A pet ID tag that includes your pet's name and your telephone number(s) can be very helpful in getting your dog back to you should he/she become missing. However, collars and tags can fall off, leaving your pet with no identification. This is why microchips are beneficial.

**Microchip:** A microchip is permanent identification. It is about the size of a grain of rice and is easily placed in between your pet's shoulder blades. In the event your pet gets lost and taken to another veterinary clinic or shelter, the staff will immediately scan for a microchip. This unique number that appears will link to your information and help get your pet back to you safely. It is very important that you keep your contact information up to date with the microchip company so you can quickly be reunited with your dog should they ever get lost.

*Many breeders, humane societies, and rescues place microchips before the pet is released from their care. If not, a microchip can quickly be placed during a quick visit to the clinic.*

## Spaying & Neutering

### ***Why should I have my dog spayed or neutered?***

**Spay (female dogs):** There are several health benefits to spaying your dog (along with reducing the pet overpopulating problem!) including:

- Eliminates risk of developing pyometra, a serious and life threatening uterine infection that requires emergency surgery.
- Reduced risk of developing mammary cancer, especially if spayed prior to the first heat cycle.

**Neuter (male dogs):** Along with reducing the overpopulation problem, neutering your dog will help deter several problematic issues that arise from unneutered males and provides health benefits. These include:

- Eliminating the risk of testicular cancer.
- Reduce or eliminate urine marking behaviors.
- Easier to obedience train and less likely to escape from home.

*Spaying and Neutering is typically recommended around 6 months of age; however, this can be longer with larger breed dogs. Both procedures are performed at our clinic. Your pet will be dropped off first thing in the morning to have the surgery performed and be able to go home later that same afternoon. All dogs will be sent home with several days of pain medications and instructions to rest for the next 10 days. Typically, dogs recover very quickly and the hardest part is restricting exercise to give them time to heal.*

**Special Note:** *For larger breed dogs, there is the option to perform the spay surgery laparoscopically with a special surgeon that comes to our clinic. A laparoscopic gastropexy can also be performed. A gastropexy is also known as a stomach tuck and can greatly reduce the risk of your dog developing GDV (or bloat), which is a life-threatening illness requiring emergency surgery.*

## House Training

*Housetraining your new puppy or dog can require a lot of patience and commitment. In the beginning, your puppy will likely have (a few!) accidents. Smaller breeds can take longer than other breeds, but consistency can help make the process easier for everyone. For house training tips, check out:*

[Fear Free Happy Homes: Potty Training](#)

## Crate Training

### **Should I crate my dog?**

*Crate training can be very helpful for puppies and adult dogs working on house-training, for those dogs who travel often, and to help keep puppies out of trouble when no one is watching them. When used properly, a crate can be a secure, quiet place for your dog to hang out. It can take time for your puppy to get acquainted with a crate. Watch this video on how to choose a crate and help your dog feel safe and secure inside:*

[Fear Free Happy Homes Crate Training](#)

## Socialization

*Socializing your new puppy or dog is very important! The most critical socialization period for puppies is between 3 and 14 weeks of age. Socialization means exposing your puppy to new things including different people and places. Dogs that rarely leave home and interact with other dogs and people will likely grow into scared adult dogs who have a difficult time functioning around unfamiliar people and surroundings. Puppy*

*classes (or adult dog classes) can be a great way to socialize your dog with other dogs in a controlled environment, while learning some new manners. Learn more about socialization at :*

[\*Fear Free Happy Homes: Puppy Socialization\*](#)

*And for a fun way to socialize your puppy, check out:*

[\*Fear Free Puppy Socialization Bingo\*](#)

Congratulations again on your new pup! We look forward to watching your dog grow through the years.

-The Faircrest Veterinary Team