**UNDERSTANDING YOUR PET’S VACCINES**

Keeping your pet healthy is important in many ways. Understanding the vaccine your pet receives is key for pet owners. The number ONE reason to vaccinate your pet is to keep them free from disease that could potentially make them very sick or even become life threatening.

Canine vaccines include; DAPPV, Leptosporosis, Lyme, Bordetella (KCV), K9 Influenza, and Rabies

**DAPPv** – Commonly referred to as the “Distemper Vaccine”. This vaccine combines four different diseases we want to protect against.

* **D = Distemper (CDV, Canine Distemper Virus)** – A debilitating persistent infection of the nervous system. It replicates in the lymphatic tissue then spreads causing symptoms of:

1. Respiratory illness (coughing/pneumonia)
2. Vomiting/Diarrhea
3. Poor appetite
4. Fever
5. Seizures
6. Death

* **A = Adenovirus** – Infectious Canine Hepatitis. Causes fever and severe liver disease.
* **P = Parainfluenza** – Is a virus resulting in severe Upper Respiratory Infection and potential pneumonia.
* **PV = Parvo Virus** – Is a highly contagious virus that attacks the small intestines and can be fatal. Symptoms include:

1. Severe bloody diarrhea
2. Vomiting
3. Dehydration
4. Intestinal complications
5. Can result in death

Most at risk are puppies/dogs that are raised or are living in a poor environment (shelter, breeders, puppy mills) and have an unknown vaccination history.

**Leptosporosis** – A contagious zoonotic disease that causes acute liver and kidney failure and is usually fatal. It is transmitted through the urine of wildlife (deer, skunk, fox, raccoon, etc.). It can be picked up by your pet’s respiratory tract (sniffing the urine), mucus membranes (drinking from infected puddles, lakes, etc.) or cuts on their skin. This is also contagious to humans.

**Bordetella (Kennel Cough)** – Is a viral infection resulting in a harsh cough and can lead to pneumonia. Kennel Cough is highly contagious through the air from a coughing or sneezing dog. Most at risk are puppies/dogs that are frequently boarded or groomed at a doggie daycare facility, as well as neighborhood parks. This is usually not life threatening.

**K9 Influenza (H3N8 Virus)** – Is a viral infection resulting in a harsh severe upper respiratory infection and can lead to pneumonia. Canine flu is highly contagious. Symptoms include:

1. Fever
2. Cough/sneezing
3. Lethargy

**Lyme (Borrelia Burgdorferi)** – Transmitted by the deer tick. There are two forms seen; “Subclinical” and “Clinical”.

* Subclinical – normal, healthy looking dog
* Clinical – fever, lethargy, anorexia, joint pain/swelling

Lyme disease is not contagious, and the vaccine does offer a layer of protection, but we still recommend using a good monthly tick preventative.

**Rabies** – Is a zoonotic virus that is transmitted via the saliva of an infected animal. When it enters the bloodstream, Rabies causes fatal neurologic disease. This virus is also transmissible to humans. Fortunately, the vaccine is very effective in preventing Rabies.

Rabies is the only vaccine required by all 50 states for ALL domestic dogs and cats, both indoor and outdoor. NO exception since this is a fatal disease to both humans and animals.

**We hope you have a better understanding behind the vaccine we recommend for your pet. If you have a concern regarding any of these diseases that your pet is not vaccinated for, please call us at (610) 458-8789 and we will gladly get your pet protected!**