

## Canine Wellness

Thank you for choosing the Monroe Animal Hospital. We are here to provide you and your pet the highest quality veterinary medicine in a caring and professional environment. At least twice a year, your pet needs a complete physical examination to maintain good health. These exams give your veterinarian the opportunity to discuss diet, behavior, and to customize appropriate vaccination, flea and heartworm prevention programs. The staff at Monroe Animal Hospital can help you decide what preventative measures are necessary for your pet!

- **The “Distemper” Vaccine:** Commonly called the DA2PP. These initials represent **D:** Distemper, **A2:** Adenovirus, **P:** Parainfluenza, and **P:** Parvo virus. Distemper is a common, highly contagious and often fatal disease which is most often seen in young, un- vaccinated dogs as well as dogs not regularly vaccinated. Parvovirus can cause life threatening immunosuppression and vomiting/diarrhea. Parainfluenza is a viral cause of respiratory disease in dogs. Adenovirus vaccine helps prevent a liver infection of dogs. We recommend all puppies get a series of these vaccinations, a booster at 1 year of age, and then every 3 years of life thereafter.
- **Bordetella/Canine Influenza Vaccines:** These vaccinations help to prevent canine respiratory infections. These are extremely contagious and can occasionally lead to pneumonia. Exposure to these infections occurs at dog shows, grooming, and boarding kennels, parks, etc. Boostered yearly.
- **Leptospirosis:** This vaccination prevents a bacterial disease spread in the urine of wild animals that can cause kidney or liver failure in dogs and is transmissible to people
- **Lyme Vaccine:** This vaccine is recommended to all dogs that come in contact with ticks. Arthritis, with joint pain, is the most common symptom, although this disease can occasionally cause kidney failure. Adult dogs should have a 4DX test (see heartworm below) to rule out exposure to the disease prior to vaccination and flea/tick prevention (frontline, vectra, and advantix) is recommended monthly. Boostered yearly.
- **Rabies:** This vaccine is required by law and must be given to have your pet licensed. This disease is fatal to both humans and dogs. 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine is given at 12 weeks and is valid for 1 year, then subsequent vaccines are valid for 3 years.
- **Heartworm Prevention:** Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes; symptoms do not show up sometimes for years. Testing yearly for heartworm is required and giving monthly heartworm prevention (ex. Interceptor or revolution) all year long is recommended.
- **Wellness Bloodwork:** A baseline wellness blood work should be performed every year on animals under 7 years of age and every 6 months on dogs over 10 years of age so in order to find early changes in the internal organs (liver, kidney, blood sugar, etc. )that may affect your pet’s health
- **Fecal Analysis:** Once a year a stool sample should be tested to check for parasites/ Giardia.
- **Heartworm Test:** Blood work should be done once a year to test for heartworm disease. At the Monroe Animal Hospital we recommend the 4DX heartworm test which screens for 3 tick illnesses (Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma) as well.