



During your visits we will discuss.....

Your puppy's vaccine plan: During puppy's first wellness visit, we will give him/her a **DHPP** (or "distemper-parvo") vaccine. The DHPP is a combination vaccine that helps to protect puppies from the most serious and potentially fatal canine viruses. Puppies need a DHPP booster every 3 weeks until they have reached 4 months of age. The rabies vaccine (RV) can be given after 3 months of age. DHPP and RV are considered "**core**" vaccines because nearly all dogs are at some risk for contracting these diseases. We also recommend certain "**non core**" vaccines for dogs whose daily activities may put them at risk for other diseases. Dogs who regularly go to a grooming facility, a dog day care, dog park or boarding facility need to be vaccinated for **Influenza H3N2** and for **Bordetella** (also called "kennel cough"). Both of these diseases are highly contagious. Dogs who go on wilderness walks, go camping, swim in lakes and rivers or visit farms are at increased risk of contracting **Leptospirosis** (or "Lepto"). These dogs need to be vaccinated not only for their own protection but also for the safety of their family as Leptospirosis can be transmitted to humans. Until your puppy has had his/her full round of vaccinations, he/she should not be exposed to other dogs or common areas such as a park or playground.

Intestinal parasites: **Roundworms**, **hookworms** and **whipworms** are the most common intestinal parasites of dogs. All healthy puppies are given a **dewormer** on their first visit to the hospital. We will also test your puppy's stool sample for worms and other parasites. After the puppy series, we test a stool sample every 6 months. Our protocol is designed to protect your puppy and your family as well. Intestinal parasites can be transmitted to humans. Children, the elderly and immune compromised individuals are at greatest risk. Intestinal parasite eggs are shed in the feces, so be sure to clean up after your puppy.

Training: As puppy settles into your home, it's important for him/her to learn good manners. Generally, we discuss **crate training** at puppy's first visit. The crate is a great tool for getting your puppy into the habit of eliminating appropriately. This process is commonly referred to as "**house breaking**".