

## DOG HEALTH INFORMATION

To help ensure that your dog has a long, healthy life and to minimize medical care expenses, your dog must be examined at least yearly by a veterinarian, vaccinated yearly, and given daily or monthly heartworm preventative medication for the dog's lifetime. Important information on canine diseases and health care is summarized here. Please consult your veterinarian regarding these and other health concerns.

**Canine Distemper\*** is a highly contagious, widespread, and often fatal viral disease which affects the neurological system. It is transmitted by airborne droplets or through contact with infected vomit, stool, or urine.

**Canine Adenovirus type-1 and type-2\*** cause infectious hepatitis and respiratory infection, respectively. Hepatitis caused by adenovirus type-1 may cause severe kidney damage or death and is transmitted only to dogs through contact with an infected dog or its urine, feces, and saliva. Adenovirus type-2 is an important factor in kennel cough and is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog or contaminated objects or droppings.

**Canine Leptospirosis\*** is a bacterial infection which may lead to permanent kidney damage and can be passed to humans. It is transmitted through direct contact with affected animals, airborne droplets, or urine.

**Canine Parainfluenza\*** is another cause of kennel cough. Although parainfluenza is often a mild respiratory infection in otherwise healthy dogs, it can be severe in puppies or debilitated dogs.

**Canine Parvovirus\*** is a disease of widespread distribution which may cause severe dehydrating diarrhea in dogs of varying ages but is especially dangerous for puppies. It is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog's feces and urine. Your veterinarian may recommend a parvovirus vaccination every 6 months.

**Canine Coronavirus** is a highly contagious intestinal disease causing vomiting and diarrhea in dogs of all ages. Especially in young puppies, dehydration from coronavirus infection can be life-threatening. It is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog's feces and urine. This vaccination is not given by HPPL but is strongly recommended! The coronavirus vaccination is required yearly, but your veterinarian may recommend it every 6 months.

**Rabies Virus** attacks the brain and central nervous system and is almost always fatal. It is transmitted to humans and other animals primarily through the bite of an infected animal. Texas state law requires an annual vaccination to provide protection from this deadly disease. Also, where required by law, you must license your pet with the city or county in which you live.

**Canine Bordetella** is a bacterial infection that may contribute to kennel cough. This infection may last several weeks and is highly contagious. The bordetella vaccination is recommended for dogs that are exposed to other dogs and may be required if a dog is boarded at a kennel.

**Lyme Disease** is caused by a bacteria that may be spread through direct contact and by insects such as fleas, flies, and ticks. Arthritic-like symptoms may occur. This vaccination may be recommended by your veterinarian.

**Heartworm Disease** is transmitted by a mosquito which bites an infected dog and then passes the infection on to other dogs they bite. Developing heartworms migrate to the dog's heart where they can grow up to 14 inches in length as they mature. If not removed, they can cause permanent heart and lung damage and even death. But you may not see any signs before it is too late. And once diagnosed, the treatment for heartworm disease can be dangerous and costly. Fortunately, heartworm disease can easily be prevented with one of several medications which are given daily or monthly, depending on the brand. These medications must be purchased through your veterinarian, and annual heartworm testing is required to renew this prescription. If your dog has been treated for heartworms, HPPL veterinarians recommend that the dog continues on the monthly heartworm preventative rather than on the daily medication.

**Intestinal Parasites**, such as hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, and tapeworms, threaten your animal's health. They can cause diarrhea which may include blood, vomiting, weight loss, and a decline in the general health of the animal. Regular microscopic examination of your pet's stool should be done for early detection and treatment. Hookworms are usually acquired by swallowing the larvae or by the larvae entering the skin. Roundworms are usually acquired by swallowing the eggs. Whipworms are also contracted by ingesting the eggs. All HPPL animals have been wormed for hookworms and roundworms, but not for whipworms. Tapeworms are transmitted to dogs and cats when they ingest a flea that harbors the immature tapeworms in its intestine. Tapeworm segments are flat, white or cream-colored, about one-half an inch long, and may be seen around the animal's tail or in its stool or bedding. HPPL animals are wormed for tapeworms only if needed.