

Pitts Veterinary Hospital, P.C.

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PUPPY VACCINATION SCHEDULE

This is an example of what our doctors may recommend for your pet. Each animal is different and unique, so our vaccine protocol is tailored to meet the needs of your pet. We feel it is beneficial for your pet to have the best possible care, so our doctors will give your puppy a full exam at the time of each distemper/parvo vaccine. The full exam ensures the health of your puppy by checking ears, eyes, dental health, heart, lungs, and body condition. This allows us to treat or prevent any potential health risks at an early stage.

We recommend all dogs be on once monthly heartworm preventive year round, beginning at the first visit. Heartworm testing must be done if your puppy is greater than 6 months when starting preventive, after the puppy has been on preventive for 9-12 months, or if doses have been missed after starting preventive. The current recommendation by the Heartworm Society is annual testing to verify negative status.

We also recommend that a fecal sample be tested from your puppy. Intestinal parasites are very common in young animals. Bring a fresh sample to one of your first visits, the 16 to 20 week visit, then annually or as recommended.

If your animal has any record of previous vaccinations or de-worming (example: by the breeder or pet store), please bring this information with you to your first visit.

7-11 Weeks: Distemper/Parvo Vaccine, +/- Lepto

12-15 Weeks: Distemper/Parvo Vaccine, +/- Lepto

16-18 Weeks: Distemper/Parvo (+/- Lepto) + Rabies Vaccine (booster 1 yr later, then every 3 yrs)

20 Weeks: Parvo Vaccine *** When we are seeing parvo outbreaks, the doctor may recommend that your puppy receive a parvo booster between Distemper/Parvo vaccines.

We have a vaccine for Bordetella or Kennel Cough, which will be most effective if given two weeks before boarding. The vaccine will maintain immunity for 6 months. A Lyme disease vaccine is available and recommended for dogs with tick exposure. Your puppy can start flea and tick prevention as early as 8 weeks of age.

After this initial round of vaccines, your puppy can be spayed (female) at the age of 6 months or neutered (male) between the ages of 7-8 months. While your puppy is in for one of these procedures, we recommend having a microchip inserted under the skin for identification. It is also recommended that medium and large breed puppies have an x-ray of their hips evaluated for dysplasia. This is also when we recommend large and giant breeds have a procedure to surgically fix the stomach to the body wall to prevent stomach torsion. Please feel free to discuss the benefits of spaying/neutering, microchipping, x-rays, and gastropexy with one of our veterinarians or staff members. Estimates are available for these procedures.

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