

# Preventive Care

Puppies and kittens can start their vaccines at 8 weeks of age. They will require booster vaccines every 3 to 4 weeks until they are 16 weeks old. After their initial vaccines, they will need boosters every year for certain diseases.

Cats and kittens with an unknown history should be tested for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus. These viruses can be transmitted from the mother during pregnancy or from exposure to other infected cats.

**Heartworm disease** is transmitted by mosquitoes and can be prevented by giving a **once a month** treatment. We carry Trifexis, Heartgard, Interceptor and Revolution for dogs. Revolution or Interceptor may be used for cats. These medications also protect your pet from some intestinal parasites.

**Flea and Tick** products will keep your pets free of skin parasites and help prevent disease.

For **dogs**, we recommend a combination of an oral medication called Trifexis and a Scalibor protective band. Trifexis is an oral medication used for heartworm, flea control, and intestinal parasites. The Scalibor band is applied once every 6 months and is used for tick control.

Monthly topical medications (Frontline, Revolution) are also available. These are applied directly to the skin and work for 4 weeks. Don't bathe your pet for two days before and for two days after applying these topical medications. Certain products sold at grocery/department stores can be less expensive, but many can cause serious side effects. For this reason, many of those over the counter products are **not** recommended. Please consult with our staff if you have any questions about these medications.

**Intestinal Parasites** are common in puppies and kittens. We use a dewormer to treat for roundworm and hookworm, which are common parasites. We strongly recommend bringing in a stool sample for every pet to screen for other parasites, such as whipworms, tapeworm, coccidia and giardia. When cats go outdoors, they are commonly infected with parasites from eating other small animals. For this reason, we recommend giving a routine dewormer to cats 3 to 4 times a year.

## Yearly Care

Both dogs and cats need yearly exams to monitor their health and update their vaccines. We recommend bringing in a stool sample once a year to check for intestinal parasites.

For adult dogs, we also recommend a yearly 4DX test. This test screens for heartworm disease, and three tick diseases including lyme, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis. Early detection can prevent your dog from developing symptoms of these diseases.