

# The Greater Cartersville-Bartow Veterinary Group

## PREVENTATIVE HEALTHCARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DOGS

### DISTEMPER COMBINATION/DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvo)

Canine Distemper Virus causes diarrhea, fever, respiratory disease, seizures, muscular twitches, and a discharge from the eyes & nose.

Canine Hepatitis Virus attacks organs throughout the dog's body producing fever, respiratory disease, enlarged lymph nodes, and abdominal pain.

Parainfluenza Virus causes respiratory disease. While not typically life threatening unless pneumonia develops, it is one of the organisms implicated in "Kennel Cough".

Parvo Virus is a life threatening illness causing severe intestinal problems, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, depression & rapid dehydration.

#### **DHPP Vaccination recommendations:**

- Begin vaccinations at 7 weeks of age
- Continue vaccinations every 3 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- Revaccinate annually

### RABIES VACCINE

All warm-blooded animals (dogs, cats, livestock, and wildlife) can become infected with rabies virus. Because rabies is also a threat to humans, many states, including Georgia, require vaccination of all dogs and cats. Even indoor animals can be exposed to rabies, often by wildlife (especially bats) entering the house.

Rabies is a virus that attacks nerve tissue, developing slowly over 10 days to several months. Infected animals may withdraw, avoid contact with people and other animals, become unnaturally aggressive, and may attack. Death always occurs once a rabies-infected animal shows signs of disease.

In North America, most rabies exists in wildlife, especially raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Rabies is spread by bite wounds and exposure to the saliva of infected animals. Therefore, an unvaccinated dog involved in a fight with any animal should be suspect for rabies exposure. When rabies is diagnosed, any exposed, unvaccinated animals must be quarantined for six months or euthanized (humanely destroyed). In contrast, an exposed, vaccinated animal is given a booster vaccine and is then considered safe from infection.

If humans are infected, they can be vaccinated successfully in early stages of the disease. Treatment, however, is unpleasant and costly.

#### **Rabies Vaccination recommendations:**

- First vaccination is given at 3-4 months of age or older
- Revaccinate annually

### BORDETELLA/KENNEL COUGH

Bordetella is the principle organism involved with Kennel Cough, the most common upper respiratory disease in dogs. Transmission usually occurs when dogs are housed together in close proximity such as in a boarding kennel, grooming parlor, or at a dog show. It causes a dry, hacking cough that can persist for days or even weeks.

#### **Bordetella Vaccination recommendation:**

- Puppies are vaccinated twice between 7 and 16 weeks of age
- Revaccinate biannually thereafter, as an adult dog

### LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease is a tick-borne bacterial disease caused by the organism *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is largely transmitted by the deer tick, but has also been isolated from the common brown dog tick seen in the Southern Tier. Clinical signs include pain and lameness, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and depression.

#### **Lyme Disease Vaccination recommendation:**

Currently, we are only recommending vaccination for high-risk patients due to the low incidence of the disease in our area. Please let us know if you will be traveling with your pet outside of this area.

- First of two initial doses given at 7 weeks of age or older, then annually as indicated