

Recommended Preventive Care for Dogs

Regular preventative care is essential to promoting the long-term health and well-being of your pet. At Hope Animal Medical Center, we recommend:

* **Annual fecal exam for screening of intestinal parasites**

*Many intestinal parasites can be detected with a microscopic examination of a small stool sample. An annual fecal exam allows for rapid diagnosis and treatment if parasites are present. Most dogs with parasites have normal stool.*

* **Annual** **heartworm** **testing**

*Heartworms are parasites that live in a dog’s heart or pulmonary arteries. An annual blood test is recommended to ensure your pet is not infected. The tick-borne disease screening is recommended in our area. The three diseases tested for are Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma. These are combined into one simple blood test for your pet.*

* **Annual Bordetella** (kennel cough) **vaccine**

*This Oral vaccine should be administered to puppies and boostered regularly in adult dogs. The vaccine may need to be given every year.*

* **Annual Leptospirosis** **vaccine**

*Annual boosters of the Leptospirosis vaccine will keep your dog immune to this re-emerging disease. Leptospirosis is transmitted by wildlife, including rats, and causes kidney infections which can be fatal to dogs and humans. It’s recommended in dogs with large play groups or boarding as well since it can be passed from asymptomatic dogs through urine.*

* **Distemper** **vaccine every year**

*This vaccine should initially be administered in a series to puppies and again at one year of age. Revaccination should occur every year. Distemper is an often fatal virus that causes vomiting/diarrhea, pneumonia, and seizures*

* **Parvovirus** **vaccine annually**

*The canine parvovirus vaccine should initially be administered in a series to puppies and again at one year of age. Revaccination should occur every year. Parvo is a severe and often fatal intestinal virus without treatment and even sometimes fatal with treatment*

* **Rabies** **vaccine every year or every three years**

*This vaccination is required by law in Georgia for all dogs. The first vaccine should be given by 16 weeks of age, and then again 1 year later. Revaccination should then occur every year or every three years*

* **Regular** **blood work** **and urine screening tests**

*We recommend one blood panel and urine screening test on each pet before six months of age and then annually. We recommend Senior bloodwork for all dogs over seven years of age.*

* **Monthly** **flea and tick prevention**

*We offer a variety of options for flea and tick prevention to meet the diverse needs of pet owners. Our recommendations are based on factors such as budget, the extent of coverage needed, and preferred method of administration (oral or collar).*

* **Regular** **home dental care**

*Daily brushing is recommended for the health and maintenance of your dog’s teeth. In addition, a thorough COHAT dental cleaning is recommended for most pets by three to four years of age.*