

Sackville Animal Hospital Meows-Letter



"We're about your Pet's Health"

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Vaccines 101... Everything you *NEED* to know!

When puppies are born, their immune systems are not fully developed, so they cannot fight disease. However, during the first few days of a puppy's life, nursing mothers provide antibody-rich milk called colostrum. These antibodies provide puppies with temporary immunity against illness. While the length of this immunity varies from puppy to puppy, it is generally believed that maternal antibodies are gone after 16 to 20 weeks.

Enter vaccines. These are designed to trigger immune responses and prevent future infection from diseases. All puppies should be administered certain core vaccines, which can include Distemper, Parvovirus and Hepatitis.

These provide immunity against the most dangerous and widespread diseases and are considered essential

for puppies in most geographical locations. Other vaccines to consider are Rabies, Leptospirosis, Lyme and Bordetella.

Distemper is a contagious, and incurable multi-systemic viral disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems caused by the Canine Distemper Virus.

Parvo is a highly contagious viral infection passed through the feces of infected dogs. Known to be extremely fatal, Parvovirus is characterized by symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy

Canine Hepatitis, or Adenovirus is defined as inflammation of the liver. Harmless to people, this virus can cause fever, loss of appetite,

lethargy, runny eyes and nose, cough, vomiting, bleeding under the skin, bruising (may be noticed in the mouth), swelling of the head, neck and trunk, fluid accumulation in abdomen, jaundice (yellowish tinge to skin), seizures, increases thirst and urination (secondary to kidney damage), bluish clouding of cornea is seen in some animals later on in the course of disease ("hepatitis blue eye").



Leptospirosis is a dangerous bacterial disease that comes in a variety of forms, commonly from urine of a wide variety of wildlife species, such as raccoons, skunks, and rats. Dogs that encounter the infected urine (remember that sniff and lick pat-

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THEY'RE BACK... Ticks and Fleas!

Ticks are parasites that feed on the blood of their hosts. They are attracted to warmth and motion, often seeking out mammals – including dogs. Ticks tend to hide out in tall grass or plants in wooded areas waiting for prospective hosts. Once found, the tick climbs on and attaches and bites, beginning the blood meal. Once in place, the tick will not detach until its meal is complete. It may continue to feed for several hours to days, depending on the type of tick. On dogs, ticks often attach themselves in crevices and/or areas with little to no hair – typically

toes, and within skin folds. Depending on species, the life span of a tick can be several months to years, and female adults can lay hundreds to thousands of eggs at a time.

Not all ticks transmit disease – in fact, many ticks do not carry any diseases. However, the threat of disease is always present where ticks are concerned. The sooner a tick is located and removed, the lower the risk of disease. The symptoms of most tick-borne diseases include fever and lethargy, though some can also cause weakness, lameness, joint swelling and/or anemia. Signs may



take days, weeks or months to appear. Some ticks can cause a temporary condition called "tick paralysis," which is manifested by a gradual onset of difficulty walking that may develop into paralysis. These signs

typically begin to resolve after tick is removed. If you notice these or any other signs of illness in your dog, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible so that proper testing and necessary treatments can begin.

15% OFF

For the month of May, you will receive 15% off on any Flea and Tick Products you purchase when you buy a Box Supply.

**Revolution
Sentinel**

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Ask the Staff to help you find the right product for your pet!

May 1st—May 31st

Vaccines 101... Everything you *NEED* to know!

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tern!) can take in this infectious agent. Leptospire can even penetrate skin and mucous membranes. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of leptospirosis cases among pet dogs. People can also pick up this infection.



Lyme disease is transmitted by the deer tick (blacklegged tick) and a small group of

other closely related ticks. The deer tick is small and may bite animals and people without being detected. Lyme disease affects a variety of species, including dogs, cats, and people. The symptoms can be quick and fleeting or chronic. The signs vary from lameness to kidney problems and in some cases, multiple body systems are affected. This can make diagnosis difficult.

Kennel Cough is a fairly common and highly contagious respiratory disease in dogs. It is also known



Porcupines and Skunks...

Porcupines and skunks are primarily nocturnal animals that unleash nasty surprises on unsuspecting dogs and their humans. Skunk spray is mostly annoying, although may have health effects at close range.

As soon as you realize a skunk has sprayed your dog, don some rubber or latex gloves and old clothes and look her over for bites or scratches. Also check her eyes for redness or discharge. If any injuries are found, you should contact your veterinarian before proceeding.

Time is of the essence here - the longer you wait to begin the process, the harder it will be to remove the stench. Get set up for bathing your dog outdoors or in an easy to clean area of your home (laundry room, bathroom, etc). If indoors, open a window to save your nose! Skunk spray is very oily and contains sulfur (hence the stench). You need to use a shampoo designed to break up the oils, many "natural" remedies simply don't work.

Porcupines, on the other hand, have a much more serious weapon: quills.

Porcupine quills are commonly found embedded in muzzle, face, head and neck of dogs, but



can be found anywhere. The quills are made out of keratin and up to 30,000 quills covers the average porcupine. They have very tiny one-way barbs along the shaft of the quill. This makes it easy for quills to keep moving inward! Quills may puncture through skin and muscle to enter body cavities, puncturing organs, which can cause infection and abscesses. Quill removal is painful and quills may break off inside your pet. Removing quills under anesthesia reduces traumatic removal/quill breakage and allows for more thorough checking.

Contrary to popular belief, the porcupine cannot "throw" the quills, but they are easily "let go of" by the porcupine and embedded in animals who tangles with it. Some people advocate crushing or cutting the quill to "let the air out" of it, but quills are like the shaft of a feather. This doesn't work; **NEVER CUT OFF THE ENDS OFF THE QUILLS!** Pulling quills out is risky.

Quills can break off easily or cutting the quills can cause "tenting" of the skin while pulling and may bury nearby quills deeper, making them almost impossible to remove.

as Infectious Tracheobronchitis. It is easily spread when dogs are in close contact with infected dogs, such as kennels, boarding situations or even dog parks. The cough produced is harsh, dry, and can be quite loud and forceful; sometimes inducing dry heaves or retching.

Recent advances in veterinary medicine science have resulted in an increase in the number and type of vaccines that are available for cats. As with dogs, there is a "Core" vaccine pattern recommended for all cats, including those who remain indoors. The "Core" vaccine program usually protects against Panleukopenia, Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. Other vaccines routinely used for cats in our area include Rabies and Feline Leukemia.

Panleukopenia is a viral disease of cats, and is often called feline distemper. It is highly contagious and can be fatal, especially in young cats. It is caused by a type of parvovirus very closely related to the parvovirus found in dogs. The virus can be spread by direct contact with infected cats but also indirectly by contact with items contaminated with the virus. The virus is very common, survives a long time in the environment, and is resistant to many disinfectants, so virtually all cats will be exposed to this virus at some point.

Viral Rhinotracheitis, which is caused by feline herpesvirus. Herpesvirus infections may occur in combination with other viruses or bacteria to produce more severe upper respiratory infections. Cats with Herpesvirus remain infected for life, even though they may not be showing symptoms. The infection can become "reactivated" intermittently, especially during times of stress, and cause a relapse of symptoms and / or shedding of the virus.

Caliciviruses are most often associated with upper respiratory infections ("colds") in cats which may occur in combination with other viruses or bacteria to produce more severe upper respiratory infections. Illness due to calicivirus varies in severity. Some cause limping due to arthritis, rare, but particularly viru-

lent, strains of feline calicivirus cause a very severe and often fatal illness. Cats with calicivirus can remain infected for a very long time after the symptoms resolve (sometimes a lifetime), and can act as a source of infection for other cats.

Feline Rabies, similar to that of dogs, is a fatal viral disease that attacks the nervous system and that is contagious to humans.

Feline Leukemia is one of the most serious infectious viruses in cats. It is responsible for a number of diseases including leukemia. It is highly contagious and transmitted through body fluids, or across the placenta in a pregnant cat.

The following are serious diseases that we do not vaccinate for, but can be tested for.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis is a disease caused by a mutated strain of the Feline Coronavirus. FIP can cause a variety of clinical signs including production of fluid in the abdominal and chest cavities. It is transmitted through infected body fluids or feces.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a virus that can cause a multitude of health problems in cats due to reduced immune system function. It can cause an acquired immunodeficiency syndrome sometimes called feline AIDS.

Some of these vaccines for dogs and cats are more or less routinely used, depending on the circumstances of your lifestyle and geography. However, in all cases the selection of the correct vaccination program for your pet should include regular visits to the vet and regular vaccinations. Your vet will assist you make an informed decision when it comes to your pets health.

