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VACCINES - CANINE

Vaccinations are used to protect against certain viruses and bacteria that can cause dangerous diseases. The principle of immunization in dogs is the same as in humans. Small amounts of pathogens or parts of pathogens are injected into the muscles, mucous membranes, or under the skin, so that the body builds up defenses

Vaccinations have become commonplace for dogs today, as they can effectively prevent potentially serious canine diseases like Rabies, Distemper, Parvo, Leptospirosis and Hepatitis. Not only can regular vaccinations protect your pet's health, they can also keep the human members of your family healthy, as some canine illnesses can be transferred to humans!

What vaccines do we recommend?

Rabies: Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can affect both animals and humans, and it is unfortunately very prevalent in Arizona. Dogs are one of the primary carriers of rabies, and the disease can be transmitted to humans through a bite or scratch. The Rabies vaccine is the only vaccine that is **mandatory for Midtown patients. This vaccine is required by County law for all canines**, and it protects from a disease that is 100% fatal. Most dogs receive their first rabies vaccine between 12 and 16 weeks, again 1 year later, and then every 3 years for the rest of their lives.

DHPP: This is often referred to as the *combo vaccine*, or puppy shots, as it covers a few potential diseases that affect dogs, especially puppies. It protects your pup from *Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza and Parvo*. Parvo and Distemper are both fatal if untreated, and sometimes still fatal with the best medical care available. Both Parvo and Distemper are also very prevalent in Arizona, and they are one of the biggest risks to puppies in our area. This vaccine is boosted in young dogs, ideally given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks old, then again 1 year later, and then every 3 years as an adult.

- **Parvo:** Also known as canine parvovirus (CPV), is a highly contagious viral disease that affects dogs, particularly puppies and young dogs. The virus attacks the gastrointestinal tract, causing symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration.
- **Distemper:** Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems, causing symptoms such as coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and seizures. Distemper is a serious disease that can be fatal, particularly in puppies and dogs with weakened immune systems.
- **Parainfluenza:** A respiratory virus that affects dogs. It is one of the pathogens responsible for kennel cough, a highly contagious respiratory disease that spreads easily among dogs in close contact, such as those in kennels or shelters. The virus can cause coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and fever, but most dogs recover with supportive care.
- **Hepatitis:** Hepatitis in dogs is a viral disease that affects the liver and can cause fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, and jaundice. There are two types of hepatitis that can affect dogs: infectious canine hepatitis (ICH) and canine adenovirus type 1 (CAV-1). ICH is spread through contact with an infected dog's urine, while CAV-1 is spread through contact with infected bodily fluids.

Bordetella: The Bordetella vaccine, also known as the kennel cough vaccine, is used to prevent Bordetella bronchiseptica infection, one of the pathogens that can cause kennel cough. Kennel cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease that affects dogs, particularly those in close contact with other dogs, **such as in kennels or dog parks**. This vaccine is typically recommended for dogs that are frequently exposed to other dogs or those that will be boarding in kennels. While the vaccine can help prevent kennel cough, *it is not 100% effective*, and dogs can still contract the disease. However, vaccinated dogs typically have milder symptoms and recover more quickly.

Leptospirosis: The leptospirosis vaccine is used to prevent infection by the bacteria *Leptospira*, which can cause a range of clinical signs in dogs, from mild fever to severe kidney failure and liver disease. *Leptospira* bacteria are found in soil and water and are commonly transmitted through contact with infected urine from other animals such as rodents, raccoons, and other dogs. **Vaccination against Leptospirosis is recommended for dogs that are at higher risk of exposure, such as those that spend time in areas with standing water, dogs that hunt or swim, and those living in urban or suburban areas.** Vaccination is a crucial tool in preventing leptospirosis in dogs and reducing the risk of transmission to humans, as this bacterial disease can be zoonotic - meaning the human family is at risk, too!