



Congratulations on your new puppy! We are so happy to have your furry family member as a new addition to the Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic family. We are sure you have many questions about the care and needs of your pup so we hope you find this document helpful. As always, our doctors and support staff are here to help answer any additional questions or concerns you may have.



OPEN 7 DAYS WEEK! 8AM – 8PM
contact_us@cherrydalevet.com
703.528.9001

Vaccines

The vaccination timeline listed here serves as a general guideline. A specific vaccine protocol will be discussed and implemented by our doctors according to your pet's lifestyle, age, size, breed, etc.

Bordetella, Kennel Cough Vaccine

This is a one-time vaccine that is generally given intranasally or orally and is given to puppies 8 weeks of age and older and is good for 1 year. Some boarding kennels recommend this vaccine given every 6 months. This vaccine is very well tolerated and the only occasional side effect seen is a passing upper respiratory congestion from the intranasal form of the vaccine. Kennel cough is a highly contagious disease causing inflammation of the trachea and bronchi and is found where large numbers of dogs congregate such as boarding facilities, obedience classes, and dog parks.

Distemper Vaccine, DAP Vaccine, DHP Vaccine

This is a core vaccine given to puppies every 3-4 weeks starting at 6-8 weeks of age. We use a DAP vaccine that is labeled as effective for 3 years. The final vaccine is generally given at 12 or 16 weeks of age, depending on the vaccine history of your puppy. This vaccine is generally very well tolerated, although sensitivity at the injection site or a mild lethargy can be seen infrequently. This vaccine protects against 3 viruses that dogs are susceptible to: Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, and Parvo virus.

Leptospirosis Vaccine

In Northern Virginia the Lepto vaccine is considered a core vaccine due to the prevalence of this bacterial disease in our rodent population. This vaccine is typically started at 12 weeks of age and requires a booster to be given 3-4 weeks later. The duration of immunity is one year. This bacterial disease is found in rodents and is transmitted through urine and causes acute kidney and liver failure, and is transmittable to people. The urine typically ends up in a puddle or contaminates the soil leading to infection in dogs.

Rabies Vaccine

This is a core vaccine that is also required by law in puppies over 16 weeks of age in the state of Virginia. The first vaccine has a one-year duration of immunity, and future vaccines will have a 3-year duration of immunity. This vaccine is well tolerated although in rare cases a non-painful swelling can be present post vaccine that resolves in 4-8 weeks. Lyme disease vaccine- This is a lifestyle vaccine and your veterinarian will discuss whether or not this vaccine is right for your puppy. This vaccine is typically started at 12 weeks of age and requires a booster 3-4 weeks later and is then repeated yearly. It is a very effective and well tolerated vaccine, although sensitivity at the injection site can be seen.

Lyme Vaccine

Lyme disease is transmitted by ticks and Northern Virginia is now endemic for this disease. If your dog will be an active outdoor dog or your yard is wooded or frequented by deer, the Lyme vaccine may help to further reduce this health threat to your dog.

Vaccine Reactions

Vaccines can rarely cause an allergic reaction that consists of a swollen, itchy face, a fever, hives, and vomiting. The approximate rate of vaccine reactions is 0.04%. This reaction typically presents 2-3 hours post vaccine, so we recommend making the appointment for first time vaccines earlier in the day so Cherrydale is available should your puppy be one of the unlucky few to have said reaction. This reaction is easily treated with an injectable antihistamine and steroid (if necessary). Dogs with a history of reactions will be pre-medicated for future vaccines with an injectable antihistamine.

Preventative Care

Preventive care can help your pet live a longer, healthier life by preventing diseases and catching illness in its early stages.

Heartworm Preventative

Heartworm is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that is present in Northern Virginia. The mosquito bites the dog, and a larva finds its way to the dog's heart and grows into an adult worm within the heart. This disease is treatable, but the treatment is expensive and has many associated risks. Prevention is key with this disease. There are chewable preventatives that are given once monthly, year round, for the entire life of your dog. These are dosed according to weight, and your veterinarian may dispense them monthly to your puppy depending on their growth rate.

Flea/Tick Preventative

Fleas and ticks carry an assortment of diseases, and thus year round prevention is recommended in Northern Virginia. There is an assortment of preventatives available, and your veterinarian will discuss which one is right for your puppy. Most of our clients are using Nexgard which is a monthly oral chewable, although there are safe and effective topical medications and collars available as well. Many of the over the counter products are made with drugs that have the potential for severe side effects, so please consult with your veterinarian prior to purchasing a flea/tick preventative.

There is one preventative that is now available that is an oral chewable called Simparica Trio which is an effective preventative for fleas, ticks, heartworms, roundworms, and hookworms. This is also given monthly.

Internal Parasite Prevention and Treatment

A fecal sample will be analyzed at your first check up to determine if your dog has internal/ gastrointestinal parasites. Many times dogs can be carrying these parasites and even pass them to other dogs and are asymptomatic. The treatments for each of these parasites are different, and most require multiple treatments with a de-wormer to disrupt the lifecycle of the parasite. You will receive notification within 2-3 days of submission of the sample with results. It is recommended to check a fecal sample every 6 months as many of the parasites that can affect dogs can be transmitted to people.

Spay/Neuter Procedure

It is now recommended to wait to spay female dogs until they go through one heat cycle and until they reach skeletal maturity. Male dogs should be neutered once they reach skeletal maturity. The health benefits affect larger breed dogs more than smaller breeds. These include a reduced risk of urinary incontinence in female dogs, cruciate ligament injuries, osteosarcoma (bone cancer) and other orthopedic issues. Waiting to spay or neuter is a decision that your veterinarian will discuss thoroughly with you, as there are possible consequences to this decision such as behavioral issues in male dogs and pregnancy in female dogs that need to be taken into account.

Common Household Toxicities

Many common foods and medications that are perfectly safe for people are toxic to dogs and can even be fatal. Please do not give any over the counter human medication to your pet without consulting our doctors.

For example, Ibuprofen is incredibly toxic to dogs, and even one dose can be fatal. Topical antibiotic ointments (Neosporin, Bacitracin) and topical anti-inflammatories (Hydrocortisone cream) are safe to apply to minor skin ailments if needed. There are also a number of foods that can be toxic to dogs including grapes/raisins, gums/foods containing Xylitol, and chocolate to name a few.

Here is a good list from the ASPCA detailing foods to avoid as well as common plants that can be toxic. If you think your pet has ingested anything potentially harmful please contact the ASPCA at 1-888-426-4435.

Poison Control for Dogs & Cats	
People Food	
Safe*	Unsafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apples• Bananas• Blueberries• Bread• Broccoli (cooked)• Cantaloupe• Carrots (cooked)• Chicken & turkey (cooked)• Eggs (cooked)• Green beans (cooked)• Milk/cheese (if pet isn't lactose intolerant)• Oatmeal (cooked)• Peas (cooked)• Pumpkin (cooked)• Salmon (cooked) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol• Avocado• Chocolate, coffee & caffeine• Citrus• Coconut & coconut oil• Grapes & raisins• Macadamia nuts• Milk/cheese (if pet isn't lactose intolerant)• Nuts• Onions, garlic & chives• Raw/undercooked meat, eggs & bones• Salt & salty snack foods• Xylitol• Yeast dough 
Common Houseplants	
Safe	Unsafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• African violet• Air plant• Bamboo• Boston fern• Cast iron plant• Christmas cactus• Haworthia• Herbs (basil, sage, & thyme)• Palms (NOT sago palm)• Phalaenopsis orchids• Spider plant• Wax plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aloe vera• Asparagus fern• Corn plant• Cyclamen• Dieffenbachia• Elephant ear• English ivy• Herbs (lavender, oregano)• Jade• Lilies• Philodendron• Sago palm
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435	
*Although these foods are safe for dogs and cats, please only offer as an occasional snack and in moderation.	

NOTES

[illegible]