



Medical Handbook

Keep them healthy!

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SHOTS & PREVENTIONS - Dogs

SPACAR will perform the necessary tests and vaccinations prior to you picking up your pet. Sometimes additional tests, vaccinations, or treatments are required. Puppies will require several rounds of vaccinations, so be prepared to take them in a couple times for their complete care. Beyond vaccinations, your dog will need regular meds for prevention of both heartworms & fleas + ticks.



Dog's Age	Recommended Vaccinations	Optional Vaccinations/Tests
6-8 weeks	distemper, parvovirus	bordetella, fecal test
10-12 weeks	DHPP (distemper, hepatitis, para-influenza, & parvovirus)	influenza, leptospirosis, bordetella, lyme
16-18 weeks	DHPP, rabies	influenza, leptospirosis, bordetella, lyme
12-16 months	DHPP, rabies	heartworm test, fecal test, influenza, leptospirosis, bordetella, lyme
Every 1-2 yrs	DHPP	heartworm test, fecal test, influenza, leptospirosis, bordetella, lyme
Every 1-3 yrs	rabies	

* confirm with veterinarian

Preventative Care	Mode of Application	Frequency
Heartworm	Oral tablet	Every 4-6 weeks
	Injection	Every 6 months
	Topical	Every 6-7 weeks
Flea & Tick	Topical	Every month
	Oral tablet	Every month
	Collar	Every 6 to 8 months

PARVOVIRUS Info

WHAT IS IT?

Parvo is a **highly contagious virus** that infects the gastrointestinal tract of puppies and young dogs that have either not been vaccinated or are incompletely vaccinated. Without treatment, it's potentially fatal.

HOW DO DOGS GET IT?

Parvo spreads either by direct contact or indirect contact. A dog can contract it by coming in contact with either **infected feces** or another dog that has been contaminated with feces. They can also contract it by indirect contact via **infected soil, clothing, objects, etc.** The virus can survive indoors for several months and outdoors in the soil for several years.

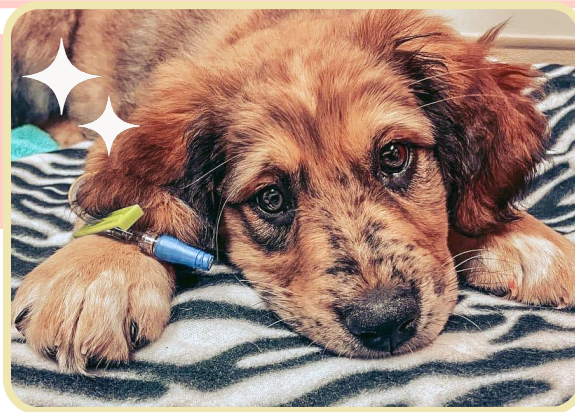
HOW DO YOU PREVENT IT?

Parvovirus vaccines are recommended for all puppies and are usually given in a **series of 3 shots** starting at 6 wks old and ending at 16 wks old. Boosters (DHPP) are given at 1 yr old and then every 3 yrs following. Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated puppies should not be exposed to unvaccinated dogs or taken to potentially contaminated public areas like parks, boarding facilities, or training schools. Keep your pup at home till they're fully vaccinated.

HOW DO YOU TREAT IT?

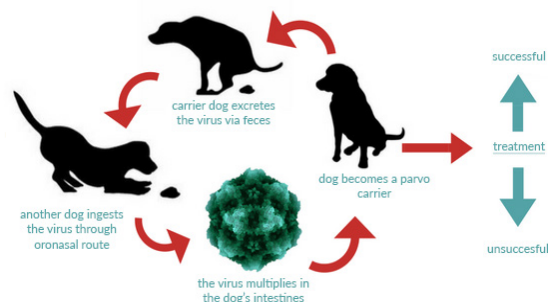
There is no cure for parvo, so get your dog to the vet immediately if you suspect they've contracted the virus. As it's potentially fatal, they'll require intensive care for about a week.

- » Your vet will most likely recommend **hospitalization** with continual monitoring
- » The vet will administer supportive fluids, medication, and supplemental nutrients
- » Antibiotics may be needed to prevent bacterial infections
- » Plasma transfusions may also be required to replace lost protein



PARVOVIRUS SYMPTOMS

- Severe, bloody diarrhea
 - Lethargy or weakness
 - Anorexia or weight loss
 - Fever
 - Vomiting
 - Depression
 - Dehydration
- » A vet can run an ELISA test or do bloodwork to check for parvo



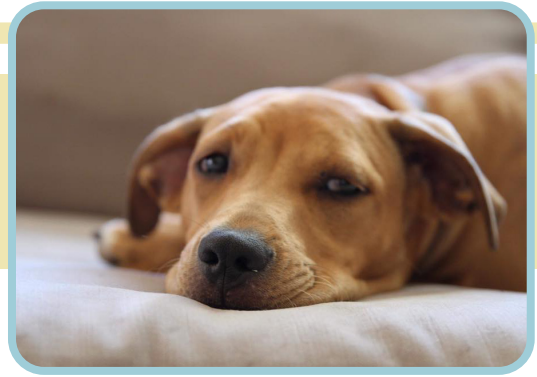
➤ Puppy's 1st shot: _____

• Puppy's 2nd shot: _____

• Puppy's 3rd shot: _____

• Puppy's 1 yr shot: _____

HEARTWORM Info



WHAT IS IT?

Heartworm is a **potentially fatal disease** caused by foot-long worms that live in the heart, lungs, and blood vessels of infected animals. As their numbers increase, heartworms can cause severe lung disease, organs damage, and heart failure.

HOW DO DOGS GET IT?

Heartworms are spread through **mosquito bites** that carry the infective heartworm larvae. These larvae then migrate through the dog's body until they reach the heart and blood vessels. Adult heartworms reproduce, releasing immature larvae into the dog's bloodstream. When other mosquitoes bite the infected animal, the larvae are picked up and transferred on to other animals.

HOW DO YOU PREVENT IT?

Regular prescription heartworm medication should be given year-round to prevent heartworm disease. Options include:

- » Oral preventative tablets
- » Preventative injections
- » Topical preventatives

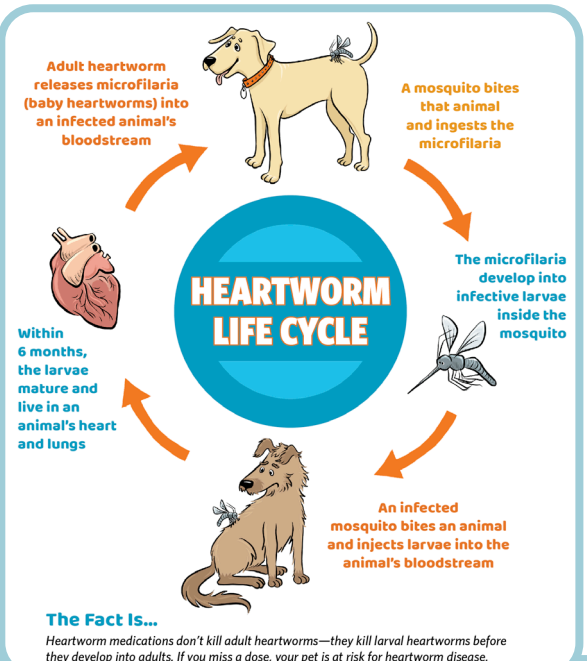
HOW DO YOU TREAT IT?

Heartworm treatment is expensive, lengthy, and difficult on your pet. These are the typical steps:

- » **Day 1** - vet administered Immiticide injection to kill heartworms + overnight hospitalization
- » **30 Days** of very limited activity, leash walking, & crating
 - as the heartworms die, fragments split off and could cause clotting in lungs; exercise increases the risk of clots
- » **Day 30** - 2 Immiticide injections + overnight hospitalization
- » **30 Days** more of very limited activity
- » **Day 60** - vet administered dose of antiparasitic
- » **30 Days** more of limited activity pending vet approval
- » **Day 90** - **heartworm free** - start pet on prevention

HEARTWORM SYMPTOMS

- A soft, dry cough
 - Inactivity or lethargy
 - Weight loss or anorexia
 - Rapid difficult breathing
 - Persistent cough
 - Bulging chest
 - Pale gums
 - Collapse (seek IMMEDIATE vet attention)
- » A vet can run a quick blood test to screen a dog for heartworms



NEXT HEARTWORM DOSE DUE ON: _____

INTESTINAL Parasites

PARASITE SYMPTOMS

- Diarrhea
 - Weight loss
 - Coughing
 - Vomiting
 - Malnourishment
- » *A vet can run a fecal test to screen for worms and parasites*

EWV WORMS

Worms are the most common form of intestinal parasite in dogs, but there's a few others. Many dogs will be infected with parasites at some point in their life. Here is an overview of the most common types:



TAPEWORMS

Tapeworms are ingested by your dog via a host that's harboring the tapeworm egg, usually an adult flea. These worms can be seen around your dog's anus. They look like grains of rice. Keep your dog on flea meds for prevention.



HOOKWORMS

Puppies can get hookworms from their mom while nursing. Hookworm larvae also live in the soil and can be ingested by adult dogs. Hookworms feed on the dog's blood, and resulting blood loss can be serious. Many heartworm prevention meds also prevent hookworms.



WHIPWORMS

Whipworms are small, 1/3-inch, and resemble thread. They're acquired via licking/sniffing contaminated ground. Look for a mucous covering the dog's stool, since they're difficult to spot. Many heartworm prevention meds also prevent whipworms.



ROUNDWORMS

Puppies are at the highest risk for roundworms as they can be past from the mother or picked up in the soil. Roundworms look similar to white spaghetti strips. They can be easily seen in a dog's stool. Many heartworm prevention meds also prevent roundworms.

NON-WORM PARASITES, PREVENTION, & TREATMENT

Coccidia, Giardia, and Spirochetes are invasive, non-worm parasites that live in a dog's intestinal tract. These parasites can be transmitted via infected soil, water, feces, food, and other animals. Prevent parasites by regularly cleaning up poop, maintaining a clean environment for your dog, and keeping them on preventive meds (see pg 3). If infected, your dog will need to be treated with medication/dewormer from your vet.

SKIN Conditions



MANGE

*Mange is a skin disease caused by mites. The two major forms are known as **scabies** and **demodex**.*

IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

Scabies is highly contagious, as the parasite can be transmitted from dog to dog, but it is less common. **Demodex** mites, unlike scabies mites, are a normal part of the dog's skin flora, always present, **not contagious**, and usually harmless within a normal immune system. However, if a dog's immune system is weakened, they can grow out of control.

SUSCEPTIBILITY & SYMPTOMS

Neglected, sick, stray, and elderly dogs with a weakened immune system are most at risk for demodex.

Typical symptoms for both types of mange include:

- Extreme itchiness
- Redness and rash
- Scaling or crusting
- Partial to complete hair loss
- Thickening of the skin

TREATMENT

A veterinarian will take a skin scraping to test for mange.

Both types will require treatments to heal the skin and control the mites. Typical strategies include:

- Hair clippings
- Weekly baths with medicated shampoo
- Topical medication to kill mites
- Oral treatments to kill mites or treat secondary skin infections

RINGWORM

*Ringworm is not a worm but a **fungus** that infects skin & hair follicles.*

IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

Ringworm is not life-threatening, but it is very contagious. It spreads through direct contact with the fungus via an infected animal, person, or object like bedding, carpet, or food bowls. Both other animals and humans can get it. In humans, it's known as 'athlete's foot'.

SUSCEPTIBILITY & SYMPTOMS

Puppies, senior dogs, and immunocompromised dogs are more at risk. The same follows for humans - young children, the elderly, and immune compromised adults are at higher risk.

Typical symptoms of ringworm include:

- Circular areas of hair loss
- Dry, brittle hair
- Scabby, inflamed skin (typically does not itch)
- Rough, brittle claws

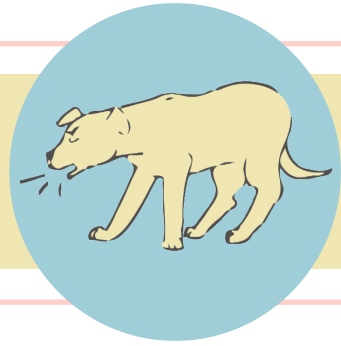
TREATMENT

A vet will examine hair or skin cells to confirm diagnosis.

Typical treatment for dogs consist of 3 steps:

- Topical cream/ointment/medicated shampoo
- Oral anti-fungal medication
- Environmental decontamination at home

KENNEL Cough



WHAT IS IT?

Kennel cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease. Dogs typically contract kennel cough at places where large amounts of dogs gather, such as boarding facilities, dog parks, and training schools. Dogs spread it through airborne droplets, direct contact (e.g. touching noses), or contaminated surfaces (e.g. water/food bowls). It's highly treatable in most dogs but can be more severe in puppies and immunocompromised dogs.

SYMPTOMS

- Strong cough (honking sound)
 - Runny nose
 - Sneezing
 - Lethargy
 - Loss of appetite
 - Low fever
- » *A vet can run a blood test to confirm diagnosis*

TREATMENT & PREVENTION

Typically, mild cases of kennel cough are treated with a couple weeks of rest, but a vet may prescribe antibiotics to prevent a secondary infection and/or cough medication.

Kennel cough can be prevented with the bordetella vaccine, and most boarding facilities require it. This yearly vaccine is available in oral, intranasal, and injectable forms.

RABIES Info



WHAT IS IT?

Rabies is one of the most devastating viral diseases affecting mammals. It is a fatal disease caused by infection with the rabies virus. It's transmitted via the bite of an infected animal.

CAN HUMANS GET IT?

Yes, if bitten by a rabid animal, humans should seek immediate treatment, which typically consists of the antibody (immunoglobulin) plus a series of vaccines.

TREATMENT & PREVENTION

There is no treatment for a dog infected with rabies. If rabies is suspected, the dog has to be kept in isolation and the authorities must be notified. The rabies vaccine is a highly effective and required preventative shot for dogs.

RABIES SYMPTOMS

- Marked temperament change (either agitated or shy)
- Furious rabies - aggressive, excitable, depraved appetite - ends in a violent seizure
- Dumb rabies (more common) - paralysis, distortion, difficulty swallowing - ends in a total comatose state

FECAL CHARTS

STOOL SCALE

What does ideal dog poop look like? It's important to be aware of what's 'normal' for your dog. Keep an eye out for any changes in size, consistency, or shape. They may be telling of some important issues that you should discuss with your vet.

CONSTIPATED / DEHYDRATED

1

Extremely dry, separated, hard to pass & pebble-like



IDEAL

2

Firm, but not hard, segmented



3

Long-shaped, moist, holds form when picked up



STAGES OF DIARRHEA

4

Soggy, log-shaped, leaves residue & loses form when picked up



5

Soggy pile rather than log-shaped



6

Piles or spots, has texture but no defined shape



7

Puddles



Causes of constipation:

- Too much or too little dietary fiber
- Not enough exercise
- Blocked anal glands
- Objects caught in intestinal tract
- Grooming issues
- Dehydration

Causes of diarrhea:

- A stressful event - moving, car ride, new dog etc.
- Switching dog foods too quickly
- Drinking water from a stagnant puddle or pond
- New medication

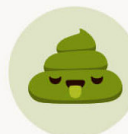
COLOR CHART

Similarly, changes in color are also important to note. Consult your vet if your dog's poop is anything but a chocolate brown color.



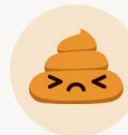
CHOCOLATE BROWN

Normal!



GREEN

Excessive grass consumed or a gall bladder issue



ORANGE / YELLOW

May be a biliary or liver issue



RED STREAKS

Blood in dog stool; check your dog's anus for cuts



WHITE SPOTS

That look like rice grains may be a sign of tapeworms



GREY & GREASY

May be a pancreas or biliary issue



BLACK & TARRY

May mean bleeding in the upper GI tract

*credit to Purina for graphic charts above

SHOTS & PREVENTIONS - Cats

Typically SPACAR will perform the necessary tests and vaccinations prior to you picking up your pet. Sometimes additional tests, vaccinations, or treatments are required. Beyond vaccinations, your cat will need regular meds for prevention of both heartworms & fleas + ticks.



Cat's Age	Recommended Vaccinations	Optional Vaccinations/Tests
6-8 weeks	FVRCP (rhinotracheitis/herpesvirus, calicivirus, panleukopenia/distemper)	FeLV (leukemia virus)
10-12 weeks	FVRCP	FeLV
14-16 weeks	FVRCP, rabies	FeLV
Annual	rabies	FeLV, bordetella, heartworm test, fecal test
Every 3 yrs	FVRCP	

* confirm with veterinarian

Preventative Care	Mode of Application	Frequency
Heartworm	Oral tablet	Every month
	Topical	Every month
Flea & Tick	Topical	Every month
	Oral tablet	Every month



INTERNAL Parasites

PARASITE SYMPTOMS

- Diarrhea
 - Weight loss
 - Dehydration
 - Vomiting
 - Abdominal bloating
- » *A vet can run a fecal test to screen for worms and parasites*

EWV WORMS

Yes, cats can get worms & parasites just like dogs. Outdoor cats are more prone to worms, and adult cats may demonstrate few outwards signs of infection, so keeping an eye out is important.



TAPEWORMS

Tapeworms are ingested by your cat via a host that's harboring the tapeworm egg, usually an adult flea. These worms can be seen around your cat's anus. They look like grains of rice. Keep your cat on flea meds for prevention.



HOOKWORMS

Hookworms are the most threatening intestinal parasite for cats. Hookworm larvae live in the soil and in feces. Cats contract them either through ingestion or skin contact. Hookworms feed on the cat's blood, and resulting blood loss can be serious. Many heartworm prevention meds also prevent hookworms.



HEARTWORMS

Heartworms are not as common in cats as in dogs, but treatment is also not as developed as it is for dogs. Heartworms are spread through **mosquito bites** that carry the infective heartworm larvae. Once they reach the heart, they can grow to 14" long. Cats should be kept on heartworm meds as prevention.



ROUNDWORMS

Roundworms are the most common intestinal parasite for cats. They can be transmitted from the mother or by ingesting eggs from infected feces. Roundworms look similar to white spaghetti strips. They can be easily seen in a cat's stool. Many heartworm prevention meds also prevent roundworms.

NON-WORM PARASITES, PREVENTION, & TREATMENT

Coccidia and Giardia are invasive, non-worm parasites that live in a cat's intestinal tract. These parasites can be transmitted via infected soil, water, feces, food, and other animals. Prevent parasites by regularly cleaning out litter boxes, maintaining a clean environment for your cat, and keeping them on preventive meds (see pg 10). If infected, your cat will need to be treated with medication/dewormer from your vet.



RABIES & Ringworm



RABIES

Rabies is a fatal disease caused by infection with the rabies virus.

CAN HUMANS GET IT?

Yes, rabies is transmitted via the bite of an infected animal, so humans are susceptible as well. If bitten by a rabid animal, humans should seek immediate treatment, which typically consists of the antibody (immunoglobulin) plus a series of vaccines.

RABIES SYMPTOMS

- Widely dilated pupils
- 1st stage - marked temperament change (either quiet cats become agitated or vice versa)
- Furious stage - increasingly nervous, irritable, and vicious; muscle spasms and drooling
- Paralytic stage - paralysis; ultimately the cat will become comatose and die

TREATMENT & PREVENTION

There is no treatment for an animal infected with rabies. If rabies is suspected, the cat has to be kept in isolation and the authorities must be notified. The rabies vaccine is a highly effective and required preventative for cats.

RINGWORM

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A veterinarian will examine hair or skin cells to confirm diagnosis.

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