



## **MONTVILLE VETERINARY GROUP**

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### **Preventative Healthcare for Dogs**

It is our intent to offer you optimum healthcare for your canine companions. Our hospital places a strong emphasis on preventative veterinary medicine. Through annual physical exams, age-appropriate diagnostic testing, vaccinations, and information/education we strive for early detection and prevention of disease in our patients.

1. Yearly physical examination and age-appropriate blood work: A thorough yearly physical examination is one of the most important means for the early detection of medical problems. Based on your dog's age and physical examination findings, age-appropriate blood screening may be recommended.
2. Vaccinations:
  - a. DHPP vaccination (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza): This vaccine protects against five highly contagious infections that can cause serious illness in dogs. As a puppy, this vaccination is a series of injections 2-3 weeks apart until approximately 16 weeks old, followed by boosters every 3 years (or as deemed appropriate based on your dog's risk of exposure).
  - b. Leptospirosis vaccination: Leptospirosis is a contagious bacterial disease that can cause organ failure (primarily of the liver and kidney). Vaccination is strongly recommended for dogs that are deemed to be at risk for this disease (e.g. spend significant time outdoors). This vaccination is an initial series of 2 injections 2-3 weeks apart followed by yearly boosters.
  - b. Rabies vaccination: This vaccine is mandated by state law as Rabies is a prevalent and fatal disease. The first vaccination is given at 3 months of age. A second vaccination is given one year later and repeated every 3 years thereafter. This vaccination must be current for the entire year for licensing purposes.
  - c. Bordetella ("Kennel Cough"): This vaccine may be recommended for your dog every 6 to 12 months based on his/her exposure to this infectious disease. Dogs that board, groom, and/or frequently socialize with other dogs are generally at higher risk for this disease.
  - d. Lyme Disease: Tick control (Frontline Plus) is the best means of preventing this serious and prevalent disease. In addition, vaccination against Lyme Disease is strongly recommended for dogs that are exposed to ticks. This vaccination is an initial series of 2 injections 2-3 weeks apart followed by yearly boosters.

3. Heartworm Disease: Heartworm Disease is a serious disease transmitted by mosquitoes. All dogs should be on monthly heartworm preventative. The heartworm preventatives that we prescribe have the added benefit of also preventing gastrointestinal parasites (roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms) that can cause illness in both dogs and people.
4. Fleas and Ticks: Monthly flea and tick preventative (Frontline Plus) is strongly encouraged. Fleas and ticks are carriers of many infectious diseases that are harmful to both humans and dogs. Preventing exposure to these agents helps protect the health of your dog and your family.
5. Spaying/neutering: Spaying/neutering at 4-6 months of age is strongly recommended to prevent unwanted pregnancies as well as for prevention of multiple health problems as your pet ages (e.g. mammary and testicular cancers, uterine and prostatic infections).
6. Stool (fecal) analysis: At least two fecal examinations are recommended for puppies. Stool analysis is recommended at least once a year for adult dogs to screen for intestinal parasites (worms) that may otherwise not be detected.
7. Microchip Identification: A tiny computer chip that is encoded with a unique identification number can be implanted under the skin. It can be a valuable tool in helping return your dog to you if he/she is ever lost. All humane societies and shelters have scanners capable of reading microchip ID numbers. We strongly recommend this very safe and easy procedure.
8. Obedience training is strongly recommended. Please consult our staff for local schools/trainers.