



Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital

50 County Road 43
Big Lake MN 55309
763-263-8387

Recommended Puppy Care Vaccine Schedule:

~8-10 weeks of age: DAP (Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus)
Oral Bordetella

~12-14 weeks of age: DAP
Leptospirosis
Lyme

~15-16 weeks of age: DAP
Leptospirosis
Lyme
Rabies

Continue reading for more details on these vaccines and discuss with your veterinarian if they would be a good fit for your puppy

Heartworm Testing and Prevention

We strongly recommend a 4dx test (a blood test that checks for heartworm, lyme, anaplasma, and ehrlichiosis) annually for all dogs over the age of 1 year. Heartworm prevention is a once monthly chewable tablet that includes intestinal parasite prevention. Prevention should be given to dogs once monthly, year round, for life.

Intestinal Parasite Prevention/ Control

We strongly recommend a fecal exam at 6-12 weeks of age and then annually thereafter. We strongly recommend deworming puppies every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks old. After that, administering monthly heartworm prevention will also act as an intestinal parasite preventative.

Flea & Tick Control

We strongly recommend the use of flea and tick control products in all dogs year round. Especially those that spend a large amount of time outdoors or are used for hunting. Chewable flea and tick is an easy to give option and has an added benefit of mite control.

Parasites can infect your pet anytime of the year. Be proactive and use prevention year round to eliminate risks of a parasitic infection in your household.



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Distemper/ Adenovirus-2 / Parvovirus

Contrary to the joke that the distemper vaccine is for a pet's temper. Distemper is actually a contagious viral disease that is often fatal. Affecting multiple systems in dogs including respiratory and gastrointestinal it can lead to seizures and pneumonia. Adenovirus in the DAP vaccine provides protection against infectious hepatitis. An aggressive illness causing fever, vomiting and diarrhea; even with aggressive treatment the disease is often fatal. Parvovirus is another highly contagious viral infection that affects canines. Causing severe vomiting/diarrhea, it is always fatal if left untreated. DAP is a core vaccine that should be given as listed above, 1 year later, and every 3 years thereafter.

Rabies

Rabies is a 100% fatal viral disease. The virus is secreted in the saliva and is typically transmitted via a bite from an infected animal. Rabies is a zoonotic disease that is transmittable and lethal to humans. Once there are clinical signs of rabies, there is no treatment. Animals with rabies show a variety of signs, including fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, paralysis and seizures. All pets should be vaccinated against rabies not only for the safety of the pet but for all humans that interact with the pet. Rabies is a core vaccine that should be given as listed above, 1 year later, and every 3 years thereafter.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis or lepto for short is a bacterial infection that can cause severe damage up to failure of kidneys, liver, and even the lungs. It is transmitted via infected urine from wildlife. Common carriers include deer, rodents (including squirrels), raccoons, who may urinate in yards, trails and other common places dogs go. Lepto is also zoonotic meaning humans can get this infection as well. Many infections go unnoticed and can be fatal if left untreated. After the initial series, dogs are vaccinated annually.

Lyme

Lyme disease or *Borrelia Burgorferi* is a bacteria transmitted through the deer tick. Signs of lyme disease include fever, inappetence, and shifting leg lameness. Left untreated lyme disease can progress to the kidneys causing lyme nephritis which ultimately leads to kidney failure. The lyme vaccine should be used in combination with an oral flea/tick preventative to ensure protection. After the initial series, dogs are vaccinated annually.

Bordetella

Also known as "Kennel Cough", bordetella is often picked up where dogs congregate. I.E. dog parks, grooming facilities, doggie daycare, training. Causing a honking goose cough along with gagging and sneezing this is typically a self limiting infection that with the assistance of the vaccine most dogs can overcome on their own. Dogs are vaccinated annually for bordetella depending on exposure risks.



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Spaying and Neutering

It is recommended to have dogs “fixed” (spayed or neutered) between 6-12 months of age. We provide general anesthesia for these procedures with proper analgesic and antibiotic protocol. Including monitoring of temperature, heart and respiratory rates, and blood pressure. We also offer microchipping (with HomeAgain), custom cone collars, take home pain medication, and toe nail trims.

Prior to anesthesia it is recommended to evaluate your pets internal organ function via blood chemistry. This can be done the morning of a procedure or the week prior to.

Benefits of Spaying

- Prevents unwanted litters, and eliminates the risk of a pyometra (an uterine infection that is fatal without surgical intervention)
- Eliminates the attracting of other dogs to your property during an estrus
- When done prior to the first heat cycle, spaying greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer to 0.5%
 - In veterinary medicine mammary tumors represent the most frequently diagnosed tumor in intact females. 50% of which were malignant

There is no scientific evidence that a pet will in any way benefit from having a heat cycle and or a litter before spaying.

Benefits of Neutering

- Eliminates the risk for testicular cancer
- Reduces the likelihood of enlarged prostate
- Reduces wandering behaviors and aggression associated with hormones

Intact animals during hunting trips can be distracted and distracting for other animals in the area / group out hunting. Good hunting dogs are a product of training and good genetics. Not hormone driven aggression.

Often people worry that their spayed or neutered pet will get fat. However, the aging process probably affects weight gain more than anything—as many of us are painfully aware from our human experience. It’s true that lowered hormone levels may decrease your pet’s activity. The key to this problem is simple—give your pet less food and more exercise.

Altering your pet can also add an additional 1-3 years to their life. That’s a lot of extra cuddles!



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Vaccine Reactions

While vaccines are very safe some animals will have a reaction to one or more vaccines. These reactions can vary from mild signs such as localized swelling and pain to a swollen face, hives, to more severe / possibly life threatening signs such as difficulty breathing, vomiting/ diarrhea, or sudden collapse. If you see the following please let us know immediately

- Mild reactions- these should be reported but typically do not require veterinary intervention
 - Quiet behavior, mild loss of appetite, and or soreness at the injection site. Typically seen in the first 24-48 hours after vaccination
 - Vaccination Granuloma
 - Swelling at the injection site that lasts beyond the 48 hours after vaccination
 - Non painful, doesn't change in size or cause hair loss/ other changes
- Severe reactions- these should be addressed immediately
 - Swelling of the face, muzzle, or head
 - Hives, or welt like lesions across body
 - Drainage from eyes and pawing at face
 - Typically seen 10-30 minutes after vaccination
- Anaphylactic Shock- this needs to be addressed immediately
 - Vomiting/ diarrhea- more than once or twice
 - Collapse / restlessness that then leads to collapse
 - Seizures
 - Typically happens 10-30 minutes after vaccination

After an animal has recovered from a vaccine reaction there are several things we can do in the future to reduce risk of further reactions.

- Premedication (at home or in clinic prior to vaccination) with Diphenhydramine can help to prevent a reaction.
- Splitting vaccines- giving one vaccine at a time and spreading out the vaccines by 1-2 weeks.

If you are concerned your pet is having a vaccine reaction please give a dose of Diphenhydramine and contact us or a local emergency clinic right away.



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Recommended Diphenhydramine Doses:

*When giving Benadryl® / Diphenhydramine- Make sure Xylitol is **NOT** listed in the ingredients. Make sure there is **NO** decongestant in the medication

If your pet weighs:

2-4#; give ¼ teaspoon liquid (childrens) Diphenhydramine

4-6#; give ½ teaspoon liquid (childrens) Diphenhydramine

6-8#; give ¾ teaspoon liquid (childrens) Diphenhydramine

8-16#; give 1 teaspoon liquid (childrens) Diphenhydramine

16-35#; give 1 tablet of (adult 25mg) Diphenhydramine

35-65#; give 2 tablets of (adult 25mg) Diphenhydramine

65-85#; give 3 tablets of (adult 25mg) Diphenhydramine

Over 85#; give 4 tablets of (adult 25mg) Diphenhydramine

Emergency clinics in Minnesota

Animal Emergency and Referral-
Oakdale, MN 651-501-3766
St. Paul, MN 651-293-1800

Blue Pearl-
Arden Hills, MN (24hr) 763-754-5000
Blaine 763-754-9434
Duluth 218-302-8000
Eden Prairie (24hr) 952-942-8272
Golden Valley 763-529-6560
St. Cloud 320-258-3481

Como Park Animal Hospital- St. Paul, MN 651-487-3255

See our website for a full list of emergency and urgent care pet hospitals.

Remember to always call an emergency clinic on your way to the clinic so they can anticipate your arrival and make sure they are able to accommodate you