



UPPER CANADA ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Your family pet. Our family passion.

Vaccinations and Examinations for Your Puppy

Our pet vaccination and wellness program has been designed especially to protect young canines against disease and illness. Our puppy / dog wellness program is available to your pet from 6 weeks of age up to 12 years. It is a well-known fact that puppies are vulnerable to contagious and potentially fatal diseases during early stages of development. This is why we are committed to providing a comprehensive medical plan to ensure your puppy gets off to a great start.

Our examination vaccination program protects your puppy against the infectious and potentially fatal diseases:

- Rabies
- Parvovirus
- Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Canine Cough
- Intestinal parasites



How Do Vaccines Work?

Vaccines contain small quantities of altered or “killed” viruses, bacteria or other disease-causing organisms. When administered, they stimulate your dog’s immune system to produce disease-fighting cells and proteins (antibodies) to protect your dog against illness and disease.

Canine Vaccinations

DA2PP Vaccine - Protects against canine Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus

Distemper is a highly contagious disease that is very difficult to treat. It is spread through discharges from the nose and eyes of infected dogs. The symptoms of Distemper are lethargy, fever, cough, diarrhea, vomiting, and convulsions or paralysis in the final stages.

Adenovirus causes canine Hepatitis which is spread through infected saliva, urine, and feces. Symptoms for Hepatitis are liver failure, eye damage, and breathing problems.

Parainfluenza causes canine cough, which is a highly contagious upper respiratory virus spread through the respiratory tract of infected dogs. Symptoms of canine cough are low fever, nasal discharge, lethargic, loss of appetite, and of course coughing.

Parvovirus is a disease caused by a virus that is very contagious and debilitating. Parvovirus is spread through infected feces, and because the virus is extremely resistant, it can last in the

environment for years. The symptoms of Parvovirus are vomiting, diarrhea, high fever, and lethargy.

Rabies Vaccine – Protects against Rabies.

By law, all pets must be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies is an incurable viral disease that affects the central nervous system, and can be passed on to humans. It is spread through the saliva, through bites or a break in the skin and is passed into the bloodstream. There is no cure once an animal becomes rabid, it is a fatal disease.



Leptospirosis Vaccine – Protects against Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease which attacks the kidneys and liver. It is spread through contact with infected urine, either directly or through contaminated water, such as puddles. Symptoms of a Leptospirosis infection are dark urine, jaundice, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, severe dehydration, and lethargy.

Bordetella Vaccine – Protects against Canine Cough (Kennel Cough)

Canine cough is caused primarily by *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, which results in a highly contagious upper respiratory infection. This is spread by an infected dog coughing or sneezing, and is commonly found in kennels, pet shops, humane societies, grooming salons, and dog parks.



When Should My Dog Be Vaccinated?

Generally the immunity that a puppy has at birth begins to diminish after 8-9 weeks. It is then time to begin the initial vaccinations, with boosters following every 4 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks old. Thereafter, your dog will require booster vaccinations annually.

An annual exam is imperative in the health of your puppy, to address problems before they arise, to protect them from disease, and ensure they live a long, happy, healthy life.

Talk to a member of our Pet Health Care Team today about our vaccination program, and get your puppy off to the best start possible.



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Fleas, Ticks, Heartworm and Parasites

The Niagara region is home to some of the warmest temperatures in the country, especially in the spring and summer. With this warm weather comes increased susceptibility to topical and blood borne parasites which thrive in this environment. Although these parasites or the diseases they carry may sometimes be successfully treated, prevention is always preferred because of decreased cost and increased safety for the patient. Typically, these parasites have been of concern only from May to October, however due to warmer temperatures, we are now recommending topical parasite prevention for both cats and dogs year round.



Fleas

It is very important to prevent flea problems before they occur. Just a few adult fleas left untreated can produce hundreds of thousands of offspring in as little as 30 days. The days of flea baths and collars are long gone; a topical solution applied monthly is the way to go. These products are only available through your veterinarian. Today it is the most simple and safest way to protect your pet and your home from an

infestation.

Ticks

There are three main varieties of ticks found in the Niagara region; the American Dog tick, the Brown Dog tick, and the Deer tick. We see ticks on our pets when they attach and feed on them. The feeding usually takes several days and tick gradually increases in size as it engorges with blood, the tick is then full and drops off. You will likely notice the tick once engorged, it can take on the appearance of a skin tag.



The Deer tick can carry bacteria which causes Lyme disease. With these species, young and adult ticks will feed on all sorts of animals, including dogs and people. Removing this tick within the first

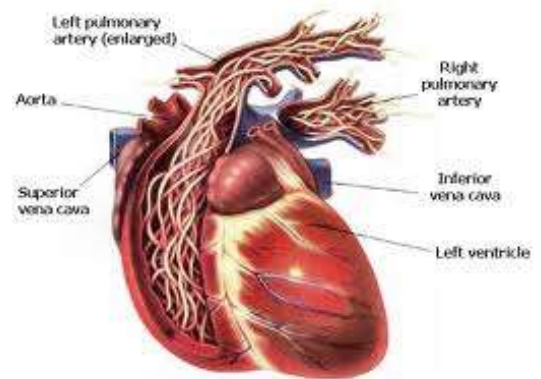
24 hours of its attachment will prevent Lyme disease, which is why tick checks are so important for dogs and people, particularly after a dog walk.

Roundworm & Hookworm (intestinal parasite)

Roundworm and hookworm are intestinal parasites often spread from the mother to the puppies. Left untreated, they will steal nutrients from growing puppies, and cause symptoms such as distended abdomen and poor hair coat. Hookworms can also cause anemia in dogs. In severe cases they can cause vomiting or diarrhea. You won't necessarily see this type of parasite unless infestation is severe.

Heartworm Disease

Heartworm disease is a parasite spread from dog to dog by mosquitos. Adult heartworms live in the heart and pulmonary arteries of infected dogs. These heartworms mate and produce microfilaria (baby heartworms), which are then ingested by female mosquitos during a blood meal. The babies partially mature in the mosquito, a process that becomes more rapid the warmer it is outside. They can then be transmitted to another dog when the mosquito takes another meal.



Although adult heartworm disease can be successfully treated if caught early, it is expensive and complications, occasionally serious, can occur. Advanced heartworm disease is usually fatal. For these reasons, it is important that all dogs be tested for heartworm disease annually and take preventive medication.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENTS

Revolution and Advantage are our recommended products against these infestations. Both are applied topically once a month between your pets' shoulder blades. They are simple, safe and effective.

REVOLUTION protects against:

- fleas
- ear mites
- hookworm
- roundworm
- heartworm

ADVANTAGE protects against:

- Fleas



Talk to a member of our Pet Health Care Team today to discuss the best options for your pet in preventing fleas and ticks.



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Dental Disease Prevention

Oral hygiene is one of the most important aspects of pet health care. It is estimated that 80% of pets more than 3 years of age have significant dental disease. Of that 80%, fully 50% require immediate attention. The same conditions that lead to our tooth and gum problems also occur in your pets' mouth. Periodontal disease can cause pain and discomfort for your pet. It can also put them at risk for:

- Heart problems
- Lung problems
- Kidney disease
- Joint infections

This occurs because the bacteria from inflamed gums can get into the bloodstream and become widely distributed throughout the body.



Home Dental Care

Royal Canin veterinary diets manufacture a specific dental diet that is clinically proven to reduce accumulation of plaque and tartar. We recommend most adult dogs be fed a dental diet, unless they have a need for a specific diet.

Teeth Brushing



It may sound silly, but yes you can brush your dog's teeth at home! We sell toothpaste specifically for dogs that they absolutely love. Different sized toothbrushes, including small fingertip toothbrushes, are available. The earlier you start brushing with your puppy's teeth the easier it will be to continue throughout their life. Ask a member of our Pet Health Care Team for advice and guidance on brushing your dog's teeth.

Veterinary Dental Treatments

If your pet has existing periodontal disease, the only way to clean the teeth is under a general anaesthetic. The teeth are examined, cleaned above and below the gum line, and polished. A thorough oral hygiene treatment by your





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veterinarian will take anywhere from 35 minutes to over an hour, depending on the severity of the disease. The good news about these treatments is your dog is only with us for the day, they go home with pain medication as needed, and they are happier and healthier.

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Health Hazards & Emergency Protocols

Dogs love to explore the outdoors as it can be an adventure. Unfortunately, there are so many dangers once they leave your front step, from being hit by a car, wildlife, animal cruelty, parasites, viral and bacterial diseases. It is important to keep your puppy on a leash while outside.

Some hazards to be aware of, both indoors and out:

- Antifreeze – dogs love the sweet taste of antifreeze, though it is a fatal threat
- Toxic plants such as lilies, tulips, hydrangeas, azaleas, and daffodils to name a few
- Household detergents, cleaning products
- Chocolate, garlic, onion, grapes
- Stuffing or parts of toys



Upper Canada Animal Hospital is strongly affiliated with the Niagara Veterinary Emergency Clinic. The emergency clinic is open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, and is fully staffed for your emergency needs. We are in constant communication with the Clinic when a patient of ours has been admitted after hours. They forward records and information over to us right away so we know the status of our patients and can follow up with our clients.



Should you find yourself in need of after hours emergency care, it is always best to phone them first so they can prepare for your arrival. They will also be able to suggest immediate first aid and give specific directions.

The Niagara Veterinary Emergency Clinic is located at:



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3300 Merritville Highway, Unit #1A Thorold, Ontario L2V 4Y6
Phone Number: 905-641-3185

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Canine Nutrition – Healthy Diet Choices

You are what you eat. We have all heard this phrase before, and it rings true not just in humans, but in our pets too. Good nutrition is as important for your dog as it is for you.

There are many dog food options available, and choosing the right food can be confusing, frustrating and very overwhelming given the choices available.

Your puppy's diet will change through their life. Superior nutrition is an extremely important component for getting your puppy off to the best start. As all body systems are developing, it is most important that your puppy receives the benefit of scientifically based diet formulations that provide optimal levels of nutrients.



A quality puppy food should have:

- Higher levels of protein, calories and minerals than adult diets. Higher calories are necessary for rapid growth patterns in puppy.
- Substantial levels of fatty acids to enhance neurological development, improve skin quality and promote a luxurious coat. Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids, and DHA are essential!
- A balanced level of calcium, phosphorus and other vitamins and minerals to support bones.
- Be highly digestible, resulting in less stool and improved stool quality.
- Be palatable for your furry friend – what's the sense if they don't enjoy it?

Dry Food Vs. Canned Food

Both dry and canned food can provide the same level of nutrition. Dry food is the most convenient, however, canned food is an excellent way of getting more H₂O in your dog, maintaining a healthy urinary tract. A mixture of both is a popular method.



How Much Do I Feed?

How much you feed your puppy depends on a variety of factors, including the nutritional value of the food, your dogs' activity level, and age. The recommended daily amount listed on the food packaging is to be used only as a guideline. Our Pet Health Care Team can help you in determining the right amount of food to feed per meal, as well as assess their body condition and change as needed.

How Often Do I Feed My Dog?

Puppies should be fed a minimum of 2-3 meals per day until they are about 6 months of age. Adult dogs require 2 meals per day. Daily caloric intake should be divided per meal to avoid excessive weight gain and obesity.



Obesity

Obesity affects almost one out of three pets, and is a life shortening disease. Research has shown that the average life expectancy of an obese pet is 30% shorter than that of a normal healthy weight pet. For this reason, obesity prevention is exceptionally important.

Dogs should be meal fed from puppy hood. A canned, high protein quality diet, with a mixture of a high quality dry food is best.

Water

Water is essential in your dogs' diet. Provide a large bowl of fresh, cool water daily to help maintain your dogs' health.



Talk to a member of our Pet Health Care Team for guidance and assistance in choosing the right food for your pet. Our Team is well trained with Royal Canin Canada, manufacturers of Medi-Cal and Royal Canin Veterinary Diets, and undergoes continuing education courses to ensure we have the most recent information and research on dietary needs and advancements.

We are here to help.

