



## Dog Preventative Care Program

**Part 1: Physical Exam**

**Part 2: Vaccinations**

**Part 3: The Internal Exam: Lab Tests**

**Part 4: Parasite Control**



## PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAM FOR YOUR DOG

Since our inception in April 2016, Longleaf Animal Hospital has strived to provide the best medical care for your dog. In alignment with this goal, we would like to turn our focus now and for years to come to our preventative health program that keeps your family member happy, active, and vital! Our preventative program can be broken down into four (4) but equally important parts:

1. Physical exam
2. Vaccinations
3. The Internal Exam: Lab tests
4. Parasite Control

Vaccinations and parasite control prevent disease from ever hurting our pets. Physical exams and Lab tests can help us to detect any problems early before symptoms are noticed. This can allow us the potential to make simple changes that can prevent severe conditions or emergency visits in the future.

This handout is meant as a resource. Websites have been included if you are interested in more in-depth information about the recommendations.

1. **Physical exam** is the first step.
  - a. Veterinarians use all their senses to detect any abnormalities in your family member by examining your dog from nose to tail (eyes, nose, ears, teeth, heart, lungs, abdomen, muscle, bones, lymph nodes, haircoat/skin etc.).
    - i. Sight
      1. Example:
        - a. General attitude?
        - b. How do they walk on the scale?
        - c. How do they interaction with everyone in the room?
        - d. Fat or thin?
      - ii. Hearing
        1. Example:
          - a. Can you hear the dog breath? What does cough sound like?  
How many times did they sneeze or cough?
          - b. Use of stethoscope to hear heart, lungs, and gut sounds
          - c. Does their bark sound normal?
        - iii. Touch
          1. Abdomen feels normal? Sensitive to touch?
          2. Any lumps or bumps?
          3. Any swelling or wounds?

4. Haircoat texture and skin feel normal? Feel scabs?
  5. Fat or thin?
  - iv. Smell
    1. Bad breath? Diabetes, kidney disease, and dental disease have a distinct smell
    2. Bad body odor? Ears and skin diseases can be suspected as soon as you walk in an exam room by the smell
  - b. Any abnormalities detected on physical exam can help us develop an individual plan which may include more specific diagnostic tests to identify the disease or injury
  - c. Annual examination is the minimum recommended frequency. Depending on your dog's health status, we may recommend more frequent visits to detect changes in their health status quicker
2. Lifestyle Appropriate **Vaccine Protocol**
- a. 2017 AHAA's Canine Vaccine Guidelines  
[https://www.aaha.org/pet\\_owner/aaha\\_guidelines/aahas\\_canine\\_vaccination\\_guidelines.aspx](https://www.aaha.org/pet_owner/aaha_guidelines/aahas_canine_vaccination_guidelines.aspx)
  - b. Vaccination for Distemper, Parvovirus, and Rabies have greatly reduced the occurrence of these fatal diseases. Vaccinations continue to be important, but research continues to support that some of these vaccinations have longer lasting immunity than we originally thought. We are instituting a revised vaccination protocol which is included this handout **\*\*SEE APPENDIX**
  - c. **Core** vaccines are recommended for every dog
    - i. Rabies is REQUIRED BY LAW!
  - d. **Non-Core** vaccines are recommended for dogs at risk for contracting a specific disease based on your dog's age, lifestyle, and where you live
3. "The internal exam: **Laboratory testing for parasites, parasitic diseases and general health**"
- a. Not all diseases can be detected with a physical exam. These are silent, but deadly diseases. Your dog may be acting completely normal at home.
  - b. **Heartworm and vector-borne ("tick") disease testing**
    - i. Heartworms and tick-borne diseases are prime examples of silent but deadly diseases that early detection is critical for treatment success
    - ii. Heartworm testing is required prior to starting any new preventive medication
    - iii. Annual heartworm testing is recommended even for dogs who receive regular heartworm prevention medication
      1. Resistance to heartworm medications exists and needs to be detected early
      2. All manufacturers offer guarantees with their heartworm medications that will cover 100% of heartworm treatment but all require yearly heartworm testing
      3. American Heartworm Society <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/>
  - c. **Fecal exam** is recommended annually to check stool for intestinal parasites
    - i. Parasites will cause disease in your dog but certain parasites such as roundworms and hookworms can cause serious diseases such as blindness and skin conditions in us too!

- ii. Companion Animal Parasite Council <https://capcvet.org/guidelines/general-guidelines/>
  - d. Age appropriate **bloodwork and urine tests**
    - i. The physical exam is very useful for determining many abnormalities, but it will not detect subtle, internal changes.
    - ii. Early detection can give us more time to intervene and change outcomes and it can also prevent emergencies.
    - iii. These tests are helpful in identifying common diseases early like kidney disease, diabetes, and thyroid conditions as well evaluate the condition of the circulatory and immune system
    - iv. These tests are very helpful in completing the picture of your beloved family member's health status.
    - v. Longleaf Animal Hospital offers a special discount on these preventative diagnostics.
- 4. **Parasite control** is another important part of a preventative care because parasites can cause serious diseases themselves as well as transmit disease
  - a. Heartworm, intestinal parasite, flea, and tick medications
    - i. Deciding what products are right for your dog is a discussion needed with your veterinarian based on your dog's health status and your lifestyle.
  - b. Companion Animal Parasite Council <https://capcvet.org/>
  - c. American Heartworm Society <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/>

General resources:

1. For all your after-hour questions and emergencies, call Small Animal Emergency Services
  - a. "When we are closed, they are open!"
  - b. Phone: 910-246-0405
  - c. 5901 US Highway 1 North, Vass, NC
  - d. Website: <http://www.saesnc.org/>
2. ASPCA pet poison control
  - a. Great resource to quickly answer: "Is this poisonous or not?"
  - b. Staffed 24 hours a day/7 day a week by toxicologists
  - c. <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>
  - d. 1-888-426-4435
  - e. One time \$65 consultation fee unless you have Home Again Microchip then it is FREE!
3. Veterinary Partner Website is a great general resource on everything to do with veterinary medicine written for owners <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/> that is trusted by veterinarians
4. On our website, [www.longleafanimalhospital.com](http://www.longleafanimalhospital.com), you can find links to:
  - a. Our on-line pharmacy, Vetsource, through the Home Delivery button at the bottom left of our home page
  - b. Here under client center, you will find ways to connect with us electronically by signing up for Petly where you can request appointments and prescriptions on-line, send a message, and view your pet's medical history yourself.



## Adult Canine Vaccination Protocol

Name of <b>Core</b> Vaccine	Disease	Booster interval
DHPP combo	Distemper, Adenovirus type 2, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus	Every 3 years after initial series
Rabies	Rabies	Every 3 years after initial 1-year vaccination

Name of <b>Non-Core</b> Vaccine	Disease	Booster interval
<i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i> +/- Parainfluenza	Kennel Cough	Annually
Leptospira 4-serovar	Leptospirosis	Annually *
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	Lyme Disease	Annually *
Influenza (H3N8 and H3N2)	Canine Flu	Annually *

\*The initial vaccination is followed by a booster 3-4 weeks later then the vaccination is booster annually.

**\*\*Answers to these questions will help determine your non-core vaccines\*\***

Questions from the AAHA lifestyle-based vaccine calculator:  
(2017: AAHA canine vaccine guidelines)

Select all that apply to the dog:

- Has close contact with coughing dogs
- Enjoys meeting or playing with other dogs
- Stays in a boarding kennel
- Spends time in doggie daycare
- Attends or participates in dog shows
- Lives in, may live in, or visits a shelter environment
- Groomed in a grooming facility
- Visits dog parks
- Spends time in a yard currently or previously used by livestock
- Spends time in an environment with a high population of wild rats
- Swims or wades in freshwater rivers or lakes
- Drinks from freshwater rivers, lakes, or puddles in
- Walks or lays on soil where wildlife or livestock could have urinated
- Lives in or travels to an area where Lyme disease is common
- Lives in or travels to an area where tick bites are common (specifically from the eastern or western black-legged ticks, *Ixodes scapularis* or *Ixodes pacificus*)