## General Information about Vaccinating Your Pet

A pet's general good health can be ensured by routine vaccinations, regular check-ups by a veterinarian and by avoiding exposure to animals infected by common diseases.

Why give your pet routine vaccinations? Without proper vaccinations, your pet is at risk of contracting serious, potentially life-threatening infectious disease. Most of the common infectious diseases can be prevented by routine vaccination. Keeping your pet up-to-date on immunizations is usually cheaper than paying for the treatment of a sick pet later.

To ensure a lifetime of wellness, all pets, including indoor-only pets, should receive vaccinations.

Puppies and kittens: Newborns receive protection from colostrum in the mother's milk (if the mother was vaccinated). After weaning, the natural immunity gradually disappears, and vaccines must provide this protection. We recommend beginning vaccines at 8 weeks of age, and following a booster schedule provided by your veterinarian. If vaccines are given too early, protection from mother's milk fights off the vaccine, and renders it ineffective. If given too late, the puppy or kitten is at significant risk to contract a disease. Young animals' immune systems are immature, and not capable of developing long-lasting immunity until at least 16 weeks of age.

## Recommended Vaccine Schedule for Dogs, Cats, Puppies and Kittens

8 weeks	Puppies	Kittens
	DHPP Distemper combination	<b>FVRCP</b> Distemper combination
	Bordetella	
12 weeks	DHPP re-vaccination	FVRCP re-vaccination
	Leptospirosis*	Feline Leukemia*
16 weeks	DHPP re-vaccination	FVRCP re-vaccination
	Lepto re-vaccination*	Feline Leuk re-vaccination*
	Rabies	Rabies
1-3 years**	DHPP and Rabies	FVRCP and Rabies
	Bordetella and Lepto*	Feline Leuk*

<sup>\*</sup> If recommended. Please discuss your pet's individual risk for these diseases with your veterinarian.

Rabies: Required by law, rabies virus is fatal and is transmissible to humans.

DHPP: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus

Leptospirosis: A disease transmissible to humans that causes kidney failure

Bordetella: One of the causes of canine upper respiratory disease, or "kennel cough"

FVRCP: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia

Feline Leukemia: A disease that causes blood disorders, immune system issues, and is a

leading cause of cancer in cats.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Annual and 3-Year re-vaccinations: An annual visit to your veterinarian provides an opportunity for a routine health check, as well as any boosters that are necessary. Pets should be vaccinated yearly for some vaccines after the initial puppy or kitten series. Some vaccines can be given every three years. Note: If your adult pet has never received a particular vaccine, it will need one additional dose in 3 to 4 weeks before starting on an annual or 3-Year cycle.