

## HSCC Community Pet Clinic: Guideline of Services

**Wellness Visit:** A wellness visit and exam are required for us to ensure your animal is healthy prior to vaccination. Any wellness service appointment must include a wellness visit/exam.

**Rabies Vaccine** – A rabies vaccine is required for all owned animals by Vermont state law (unless an exemption is recommended by a veterinarian). We require that all animals coming for wellness services at HSCC receive a rabies vaccine at a minimum. Rabies is a serious disease that is transmissible to people and is nearly always fatal. It is generally transmitted to domestic animals from wild animal populations. If your animal is already up to date on rabies, you **MUST** bring proof in the form of a rabies certificate with you, or we will give a rabies vaccination.

**Feline (Cat) Distemper Vaccine** - Most common vaccine given to cats and considered a core vaccine (meaning all vets recommend this vaccine unless there is a particular health reason not to do it). This vaccine protects from three different viruses. Two are common upper respiratory diseases (causing “cat colds”). It also protects against feline distemper, which is very easily spread. It causes vomiting, diarrhea, and severe dehydration, and can be fatal (particularly in kittens and young cats).

**Canine (Dog) Distemper Vaccine** - This is also considered a core vaccine and vets recommend this for all dogs, unless there is a specific health reason to not vaccinate. This vaccine includes protection against two upper respiratory viruses, as well as canine distemper and canine parvovirus. Parvovirus causes severe vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration. Distemper can cause a number of symptoms, ranging from respiratory to neurological to gastrointestinal, and can be difficult to catch right away. Both distemper and parvovirus can be fatal in dogs.

**Kennel Cough Vaccine (Dogs Only)** – Kennel cough is the general term for upper respiratory infections in dogs. Bordetella (a bacteria) is a common cause of kennel cough and has a fairly effective vaccine. This vaccine is recommended for dogs who will be meeting a lot of other dogs. Day care, groomers, boarding facilities etc. require this vaccine. It is important to note that bordetella is far from the only cause of upper respiratory infections in dogs-a dog may be vaccinated for bordetella but still get kennel cough, as there are many different infectious causes of upper respiratory infections in dogs.

**Deworming** – We use a general dewormer that covers two common intestinal parasites- roundworms and hookworms. You will be sent home with three doses of dewormer to give two weeks apart.

**Flea Prevention:** Fleas are very common in animals. They feed on an animal’s blood supply and can cause itching, skin irritation, and hair loss. They can also get into carpets and furniture and will bite people living in the home. We can provide monthly doses of flea prevention. It usually takes at least three months of flea prevention to completely get rid of a flea infestation in a home.

**Heartworm Prevention:** Heartworm is a parasitic disease that causes worms to grow in the heart and blood vessels. It is transmitted by mosquitoes and is very common in other areas of the country; it used to be less common in Vermont, but incidences of it are increasing. It is easily prevented with a monthly chewable tablet. Heartworm can be fatal if not prevented or treated, and treatment can be very expensive (over \$1000).

**Microchip:** We can microchip your animal for you. A microchip is a permanent form of identification that is placed between the shoulder blades. It has a unique number that links to your pet’s information and your contact information. It is important to note that this is NOT a tracking device (it cannot locate your animal), it is merely for identification purposes if they lose their collar and tag. Any clinic or humane society that gets a stray animal should scan for a chip, and then contact you to let you know your animal was found.