

HSCC Community Pet Clinic: Guideline of Services

Wellness Visit: Please schedule this visit if you do not have health concerns with your animal and are looking for a basic examination and vaccination services. 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.

Sick Pet Visit: Please schedule this type of appointment if your animal has a specific health concern that you would like examined and treated. Please note that HSCC is not equipped for some surgical services and is not equipped to provide x-rays - if we find on examination that your pet needs something that we cannot provide, we will refer you to a partner veterinarian.

Rabies Vaccine – A rabies vaccine is required for all owned animals by Vermont state law (unless an exemption is recommended by a veterinarian). We strongly recommend 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.

Feline (Cat) Distemper Vaccine (FVRCP) - 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).

Feline Leukemia Vaccine (Cats Only): Feline leukemia is a feline only virus that depresses the immune system, leading to persistent infections, anemia, and some types of cancer. The disease is ultimately fatal and is transmitted through face to face contact with infected cats (including things like sharing water bowls and mutual grooming). We recommend this vaccine for indoor/outdoor cats; we will also recommend testing for feline leukemia prior to vaccinating (see FIV/FelV testing below). This vaccine must be boosted once 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination; then it is given yearly.

Canine (Dog) Distemper Vaccine (DAPP) - 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.

Canine Influenza Vaccine (Dogs Only): Canine influenza is a common upper respiratory virus in dogs. This vaccine is generally recommended for dogs visiting dog parks, boarding facilities, and groomers. Some boarding facilities may require it. It is important to note that this does not fully prevent dogs from getting the influenza virus, but it will help lessen transmission and severity of disease. The initial vaccine must be boosted after 2-4 weeks to be effective.

Lyme Vaccine (Dogs Only): Lyme disease is a tickborne blood disease that is very common in Vermont. It can cause fever, lameness, inappetance, and vomiting. It can also, in rarer cases, cause kidney damage. We may recommend the Lyme vaccine if your dog is outdoors in heavy tick areas frequently. The initial vaccine needs a booster after 3-4 weeks

and then is given annually. This vaccine is not a replacement for tick control- any dog heavily exposed to ticks should also have monthly tick prevention applied.

Leptospirosis Vaccine (Dogs Only): Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease in dogs and other mammals that can cause liver and kidney problems. Leptospira bacteria thrive in wet environments and is often carried by wildlife, so any animal that is outdoors frequently and may come into contact with wet environments may be at risk. This is another vaccination we will likely recommend if your dog is often outdoors. The initial vaccine needs a booster after 3-4 weeks and then is given annually.

Heartworm Testing: Heartworm is an infectious disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is more common in Southern states but is starting to be seen more frequently in Vermont. Heartworm larvae are transmitted by mosquitoes, then grow into adult worms that live in the heart and pulmonary arteries. Heartworm will cause long term heart damage and will eventually be fatal if not treated. We recommend heartworm testing yearly; if you have adopted a dog recently that came from a Southern state, we recommend testing six months after adoption to ensure they are negative. Heartworm treatment can be expensive- please see notes on heartworm prevention below.

4DX (Heartworm and Tickborne Disease) Testing: This test will test for heartworm disease as well as three common tickborne disease (lyme, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis). We recommend this test yearly if your dog is frequently exposed to both ticks and mosquitoes, or is showing signs of tickborne disease (limping, fever, bleeding issues).

FIV and Feline Leukemia Testing: Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia (FeLV) are two infectious diseases in cats. Both cause immune suppression and can lead to infections and other health issues. Most cats with FIV can live normal lives if they are kept indoors and are regularly monitored by a veterinarian; feline leukemia is usually fatal within a few years of diagnosis. We recommend FIV/FeLV testing on any cats that may have come from outdoor situations or are regularly exposed to outdoor cats.

Deworming – We use a general dewormer that covers two common intestinal parasites- roundworms and hookworms. You will be sent 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.