



# HURON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

## BIG HEARTS FOR SMALL HEARTS

70 Beacon St, Somerville, MA 02143

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## Puppy Packet

*From the ins and outs of vaccines to microchips to emergencies:  
everything you need to know for your new puppy!*



<b>Vaccination/Treatment Schedule</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>About the Vaccinations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Heartworm, Flea, Tick and Parasite Prevention</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Microchips</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Dog Licenses</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Spaying/Neutering</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>How to Brush Your Dog's Teeth</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Emergency Contacts</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Common Household Toxins</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Local Kennels</b>	<b>13</b>

## Vaccination/Treatment Schedule

Items in bold writing are “core” treatments. They are recommended for ALL dogs regardless of their lifestyle. This includes dogs that don’t have exposure to other animals and dogs that are strictly indoor pets.

Items in italic are “lifestyle” treatments. They will be recommended by your veterinarian depending of the lifestyle you choose for your dog. Some treatments are recommended based on exposure your dog will have to wildlife, other dogs or even the geographical location of your walks.

### 8 weeks

- **Fecal exam** (if negative, recheck in 2 months; if positive, treat and recheck in 1 month)
- **1st Distemper/Parvo vaccine** (good for 1 month)
- *1st Bordetella vaccine* (good for 1 year)
- *1<sup>st</sup> Lepto vaccine* (good for 1 month)
- **Heartworm Preventative** (good for 1 month)
- **Flea & Tick Preventative** (from April – December) (good for 1 month)
- **Dewormer**

### 12 weeks

- **2nd Distemper/Parvo vaccine** (good for 1 month)
- **Heartworm Preventative** (good for 1 month)
- **Flea & Tick Preventative** (from April – December) (good for 1 month)
- *1st Lyme vaccine* (good for 1 month)
- *2nd Lepto vaccine* (good for 1 year)
- Fecal exam if one has not been performed before or if previous one rendered positive results (Good for 1 year unless positive result is obtained)

### 16 weeks

- **Fecal Exam** (final exam, recheck in 1 year)
- **3rd Distemper/Parvo vaccine** (good for 1 year)
- **Rabies vaccine** (good for 1 year)
- **Heartworm Preventative** (good for 1 month)
- **Flea & Tick Preventative** (from April – December) (good for 1 month)
- *2nd Lyme vaccine* (good for 1 year)

**Monthly treatments from this age on will be heartworm preventatives and seasonal flea & tick preventatives. Use every month for the duration of your dog’s life!**

## 6-7 months

- **Obtain a dog license**
- **Spay/Neuter**
- **Microchip**

## 14-16 months

- **Annual Examination**
- **Distemper/Parvo vaccine** (good for 1 year)
- **Rabies vaccine** (good for 3 years)
- **Heartworm/Tick-born Disease Test** (good for 1 year)
- **Fecal exam**
- *Bordetella vaccine* (good for 1 year)
- *Lyme vaccine* (good for 1 year)
- *Lepto vaccine* (good for 1 year)



## About the Vaccinations

The amount of vaccinations and their different schedules can be overwhelming. It can be tough to keep straight what your dog needs. Below is a brief summary of each vaccine and the virus or disease it protects against.

### Rabies

- Rabies virus infection produces fatal encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in warm-blooded mammals including humans. The source of rabies infection is generally considered to be the bite of an infected animal that has rabies virus in the saliva. Bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes most commonly serve as the source of rabies exposure.
- Because of its public health significance, rabies vaccination protocol is state-regulated. ALL dogs should be up to date on the rabies vaccination at ALL times. Puppies will receive their first vaccination at 16 weeks of age. This first inoculation is considered to be valid for 12 months. A booster vaccination should be given 9 to 12 months later – this vaccination will be valid for 3 years, as will each vaccine following.
- **If you suspect your dog has come in contact with an infected animal, you should booster the vaccination as soon as possible regardless of vaccine schedule.**

### Distemper/Parvovirus

- Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) is a viral disease that is most commonly associated with domestic animals such as dogs and ferrets, although it can infect wild animals as well. Canine Distemper is an airborne virus that spreads through the aerosol droplets and through contact with infected bodily fluids including nasal and ocular secretions, feces, and urine. It can also be spread by food and water contaminated with these fluids. Puppies from three to six months old are particularly susceptible, as are dogs housed in facilities with large numbers of animals housed in close proximity to one another. This is because of significant infection rates and the ease of transmission.
- Canine parvovirus is a virus mainly affecting dogs. The disease is highly contagious and is spread from dog to dog by direct or indirect contact with their feces, infected soil, or objects that carry the virus such as bedding or toys. It can be especially severe in puppies that are not protected by maternal antibodies or vaccination. It has two distinct presentations, an intestinal and a cardiac form. The common signs of the intestinal form are severe vomiting and dysentery. The cardiac form causes respiratory or cardiovascular failure in young puppies. Prevention is the only way to ensure that a puppy or dog remains healthy because the disease is extremely virulent and contagious. The virus is extremely hardy and has been found to survive in feces and other organic material such as soil for over a year. It survives extremely cold and hot temperatures. The only household disinfectant that kills the virus is bleach.
- The inoculation we give your dog is a combination vaccine that protects against both these diseases. It is often abbreviated as “DHPP” or “DAPP” on medical paperwork.

- Because of the high mortality rate, it is recommended that ALL dogs regardless of their living situations get vaccinated. We recommend that puppies are vaccinated in a series of doses, extending from the earliest time that the immunity derived from the mother wears off.

### **Bordetella (Kennel cough)**

- Kennel cough is a highly contagious canine illness characterized by inflammation of the upper respiratory system. It can be caused by viral infections such as canine distemper or bacterial infections such as *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. Both viral and bacterial causes of kennel cough are spread through the air by infected dogs sneezing and coughing, through contact with contaminated surfaces and through direct contact.
- This disease is highly contagious, even days or weeks after symptoms disappear. Symptoms begin usually 3 to 5 days after exposure. The disease can progress to bronchitis and pneumonia. It is especially quick to spread among dogs in the close quarters of a kennel. As such, most boarding facilities, grooming salons, daycares, and puppy “kindergartens” require a bordetella vaccination.
- Vaccinating against kennel cough helps prevent the disease in dogs; however, the vaccine is not 100% effective due to the multiple-stranded nature of the virus.

### **Leptospirosis**

- Leptospirosis is a bacterial zoonotic disease (meaning it can be transmitted between humans and animals) caused by spirochetes of the genus *Leptospira*. It is transmitted by the urine of an infected animal and is contagious as long as it is still moist. Although rats, mice and moles are important primary hosts, a wide range of other mammals are able to carry and transmit the disease as secondary hosts. Dogs may lick the urine of an infected animal off the grass or soil, or drink from an infected puddle.
- There have been reports of "house dogs" contracting leptospirosis apparently from licking the urine of infected mice that entered the house. The types of habitats most likely to carry infective bacteria are muddy riverbanks, ditches, gullies, and muddy livestock rearing areas where there is regular passage of either wild or farm mammals.
- The symptoms of Leptospirosis are lethargy, fever, loss of appetite and vomiting. While most dogs with healthy immune systems respond to treatment for the bacterial infection, unfortunately renal or liver complications often make for fatal outcomes.

### **Lyme**

- Lyme disease is a multi-system disorder caused by the spirochete bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* and transmitted by ticks. Certain tick species are more likely to be carriers such as deer ticks; however, as recent studies showed other tick species are starting to be carriers as well.
- Usually an infective tick must be attached 48 hours before transmission of bacteria occurs. The incubation period for Lyme disease usually takes between 3-6 months. This means that testing the dog for Lyme disease days or weeks after a bite occurs will not render conclusive results.

- The symptoms of Lyme disease in dogs usually start with limping, joint swelling, loss of appetite and lethargy. Dogs do not get the typical “ring” or “bullseye” skin discolorations that humans do. Lyme disease affects animals differently, and many dogs display no clinical signs at all. If untreated, Lyme disease can lead to severe health problems such as kidney and liver damage.
- If your dog has exposure to ticks we highly recommend vaccinating against Lyme disease and using a flea/tick preventative, as well as testing annually for common tick-borne diseases.



## Heartworm, Flea, Tick and Parasite Prevention

### Heartworm: Disease & Prevention

Heartworm disease is caused by a parasitic roundworm that is spread from host to host through the bites of mosquitoes. It is the most common cause of pulmonary hypertension in dogs. **Many dogs will show little or no sign of infection even after the worms become adults.** These animals usually have only a slight infection and live a fairly sedentary lifestyle. However, active dogs and those with heavier infections may show the classic signs of heartworm disease.

Early signs include a cough, especially on exercise and early exhaustion upon exercise. In the most advanced cases where many adult worms have built up in the heart without treatment, signs progress to severe weight loss, fainting, coughing up blood and, finally, congestive heart failure. **Heartworm disease is treatable in its early stages; however, the treatment is usually costly and many dogs will suffer irreparable heart and lung damage.**

As scary as this disease is, it is easily preventable with a number of veterinary drugs administered on monthly basis as pills or chewable tablets. Our choice of a monthly heartworm preventative at Huron Veterinary Hospital is a product called Tri-Heart; however, we would be happy to discuss other options with you as well. Although in many areas heartworm disease can be seasonal, because of unpredictable weather conditions in our area, **we recommend administering heartworm medication to your dog year-round and testing for heartworm annually.**

### Fleas and Ticks

Fleas and ticks are considered to be some of the most common topical parasites. A flea infestation can lead to health risks such as anemia, flea allergy dermatitis as well as a tapeworm infestation. Moreover even though fleas will not live on a human being, they do not refrain from biting one and many people are allergic to flea bites. Ticks are responsible for transmitting multisystemic bacterial infections such as Lyme disease. In the Northeast, fleas and ticks pose a threat in both urban and rural areas during most of the year.

There are a number of products currently on the market that help prevent flea and tick infestations. At Huron, we carry topical, oral and collar preventative options. There are also many other options available through online retailers such as Chewy.com and 1-800-Pet-Meds.

A brief overview of the products we carry:

- **Vectra 3D:** Vectra is a topical product applied monthly between the shoulder blades. You should not bathe your dog two days before or after application. It repels as well as kills fleas, lice, flies, and many types of ticks. This product is very toxic to cats, so is not ideal for households with dogs and cats that spend a lot of time in very close proximity
- **NexGard:** Nexgard is a monthly chewable tablet. It kills adult fleas and many types of ticks, but does have repellent properties.

- **Seresto and Scalibor Collars:** These collars are the longest-lasting options (Scalibor is effective for up to 6 months, and Seresto is effective for up to 8 months.) Both products kill fleas and many types of ticks, and Seresto also has repellent properties.

If your dog is at high risk for fleas and ticks, these products can be used in combination with each other for added protection.

### **Heartworm and Tick-borne Disease Testing**

Mosquitoes and ticks pose a threat to your dog as they are responsible for transmitting parasites and bacteria that lead to serious health implications. Mosquitoes transmit heartworm disease, and ticks transmit a variety of bacteria that can cause Lyme disease as well as Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichia, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. It is extremely important to take measures to prevent these infestations by giving your dog monthly treatments and testing for them regularly.

At Huron Veterinary Hospital we offer a 4-in-1 test that screens for Heartworm disease and common tick-borne diseases by using one small sample of blood. We recommend that all dogs older than 6 months are tested annually at the time of their yearly physical exams or after a lapse in preventative measures. (This test will show up on medical records and reminder cards as “4DX Snap Test”).

If you failed to administer monthly preventatives to your dog, please don't be shy and alert us! Administering heartworm preventative to a heartworm positive dog can cause serious health complications, so it's always better to be safe than sorry and re-test your dog if there has been a lapse in preventatives. Heartworm disease and most tick-borne diseases can be treated without complications when caught early on.

### **Gastrointestinal Parasites**

We recommended regularly screening a fecal sample for all dogs, but puppies are particularly prone to the common intestinal parasites (such as roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, coccidia and giardia) that this test screens for. If untreated, intestinal parasites can cause severe health problems such as anorexia. Intestinal parasites can be transmitted to humans and other pets, therefore testing is recommended for all young puppies and adult dogs.

Some of the symptoms of an infestation can be acute or chronic diarrhea, decreased appetite, weight loss, vomiting, poor hair coat and potbelly look. We recommend testing young puppies at the time of their first visit and then retesting dogs once a year at the time of their annual check-up. A broad-range dewormer is often times recommended for young puppies due to their high susceptibility to an infestation. Keeping your dog on a monthly heartworm preventative can also help protect them from some of the common intestinal parasites.

## **Microchips**

A microchip is a tiny, rice-sized device encoded with a unique, permanent identification number. The device itself is implanted by a veterinarian just under the skin between the shoulders. If your pet is lost, the microchip can be detected and the identification code read by a scanner used by veterinarians, animal shelters and pet-related agencies. The identification code, registered with the microchip company, is matched to the owner or the designated contact to initiate recovery process.

Our choice of microchipping technology here at Huron Veterinary Hospital is a company called HomeAgain. You can visit their website at [www.HomeAgain.com](http://www.HomeAgain.com) to learn more about their services. Huron Veterinary Hospital will take care of your initial HomeAgain registration. All you have to do is verify your contact information with us. After your application has been processed, you can create an online portfolio for your pet and manage your contact information online.

We usually recommend microchipping your dog at the time of your spay or neuter appointment; however, microchip placement does not require sedation or anesthesia and can be performed at any time.



## **Dog Licenses**

Dog owners must obtain dog licenses for their pets through the city clerk's office at the town of their residence. Dog license provides the city with your dog's rabies information since rabies protocols are state-regulated. The fee for obtaining a dog license is determined by the town but is rarely over \$20 per year. Most towns give a discount for registering a spayed or neutered dog.

After your dog has been vaccinated for rabies and/or spayed/neutered, please contact your city clerk and obtain a dog license application. Fill out the application and mail back or drop off in person with your payment and rabies certificate – many towns also have online options for registration.

You will then be issued an official city tag and your dog will officially be a resident of your town!

## Spaying/Neutering

Spaying (for females) and neutering (for males) refers to the process of surgically removing the reproductive organs of an animal thus making it sterile. There are many benefits to spaying or neutering your dog at the right age.

Benefits of spaying:

- Helps prevent uterine infections
- Helps prevent breast tumors, which are often malignant or cancerous. Spaying your puppy before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.
- Your spayed female dog won't go into heat. While cycles can vary, female dogs usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season.

Benefits of neutering:

- Prevents testicular cancer
- Helps prevent prostate problems
- Some aggression problems may be avoided by early neutering.

Here at Huron Veterinary Hospital we recommend this procedure for all dogs that will not be used for breeding, sporting or showing. We usually recommend spaying/neutering when your dog is approximately 6 to 7 months old, however you should consult with your veterinarian about what is best for your individual pup. This surgery is a day procedure – this means you will drop your puppy off in the morning and take him or them home the same evening. The recovery process is usually simple and we will provide you with after-care instructions and emergency protocols.



# HOW TO: Brush Your Dog's Teeth!

## What you'll need:

- Pet toothbrush, small piece of washcloth, piece of gauze around your finger, or just your finger!
- Pet toothpaste (enzymatic toothpaste)
- Treats or rewards your dog really likes

**Note: do not use human toothpaste or baking soda.** Pet toothpaste comes in different flavors, and you may need to try a couple to find the one your dog likes. If your dog likes it, it will be easier to brush their teeth!



**Step 1: Be patient!** Brushing your dog's teeth should be a positive experience that is reinforced with praise and rewards. Teaching your dog to accept toothbrushing may take a fair amount of time. Reward your dog after each session!

**Step 2: Mouth Touching:** Get your dog used to you touching his or her mouth. Lift his or her lips and slowly and gently rub your dog's teeth and gums with your finger. You might want to dip your finger in something tasty like peanut butter or beef broth.

**Step 3: Introducing the toothbrush:** Once your dog is comfortable with you touching their mouth gradually switch to putting toothpaste on your finger, and then the toothbrush. Let your dog lick the toothpaste off the brush to let them get used to a toothbrush in their mouth.

**Step 4: Brushing:** Brush your dog's teeth along the gumline. Work quickly - you don't need to scrub. Note: You only need to brush the **outside** of your dog's teeth (the side facing their cheek). Do only as much as your dog allows, you may not be able to do the whole mouth at first. Work up to brushing each side of the mouth for **30 seconds once a day**. Remember to reward them after each session!

**Alternatives:** We understand how difficult it might be to brush your dog's teeth. Here are some options:

- **No Toothbrush:** As long as you apply enzymatic toothpaste to the outside of their teeth, it will work! Brushing is ideal, but this is a great alternative.
- **T/D Diet:** A prescription dental food with a large kibble that scrubs your dog's teeth as they chew.
- **Dental Chews:** Treats like bully sticks, rawhides, Greenies, or Enzadent chews can work to scrub your dog's teeth as they chew. For more suggestions visit: [http://www.vohc.org/accepted\\_products.htm](http://www.vohc.org/accepted_products.htm)
- **Toys:** By smearing enzymatic toothpaste on your dog's favorite chew toy - like a Kong or rubber ball - they can apply the toothpaste themselves while chewing!  
**Water Additive:** There are a few different water additives (we carry Oratene™) that contain enzymes that can work to break down tartar as your dog drinks their water.

*Modified from: Vetsforcatsonly.com*

## Emergency Contacts

While we do our best to accommodate our clients with emergencies with same day appointments, due to the small nature of our practice we are not always able to. If you have an after-hours emergency, or cannot be seen at Huron soon enough, please consider going to any one of these excellent 24-hour facilities:

### **Blue Pearl (Charlestown)**

56 Roland Street, Boston, MA 02129

617-284-9777

<https://bluepearlvvet.com/charlestown-ma/>

### **Blue Pearl (Waltham)**

180 Bear Hill Road, Waltham, MA 02454

781-684-8387

<http://bluepearlvvet.com/>

### **Angell Animal Medical Center**

350 South Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130

617-522-7282

<https://www.mspca.org/medical-centers/angell-animal-medical-center-boston/>

### **Mass Vet Referral Hospital**

20 Cabot Road, Woburn, MA 01801

781-.932-.5802

<http://www.ivghospitals.com/hospital/massachusetts-veterinary-referral-hospital/>



## Common Household Toxins

You will find that your puppy will often times eat and play with objects that are not intended for dog use. Below you will find a list of things we don't often think of as harmful to humans but are very much dangerous for dogs.

Timing is crucial when handling a poison ingestion situation. Call your veterinarian or ASPCA Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 (fee of \$65 for consultation, though they are very knowledgeable about poisons, as it is their specialty).

**If your pet happens to ingest any of these items, seek medical help IMMEDIATELY!**

- Onions and garlic
- Raisins and grapes
- Any foods containing xylitol such as sugar-free gum, candy, and pediatric fruit-flavored medicines
- Chocolate (Particularly baker's chocolate)
- Avocados
- Macadamia Nuts
- Coffee, black tea, and any drinks containing caffeine
- Raw yeast dough
- Nutmeg
- Alcoholic beverages
- Marijuana
- Human non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Advil, Ibuprofen, Motrin) and Tylenol
- Household chemicals such as antifreeze, fabric softener, and drain cleaner
- Pesticides, rodenticides and fertilizers
- Certain plants, like lilies or African violets - for a full list, check the ASPCA Poison Control Center's website

## Local Kennels

### **Suite Escape**

200 Terminal St,  
Charlestown, MA 02129  
617-242-5039

### **Urban Hound**

129 Malden St,  
Boston, MA 02118  
617-755-5775

### **Pooch Hotel**

285 Newtonville Ave,  
Newton, MA 02460  
617-332-3503

### **Toureen Boarding**

380 Pleasant Street,  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-923-3800