

Last Chance Humane Canine Policy

Spayed/Neutered: Your dog has already been spayed or neutered. Our companion animals currently face an overpopulation crisis. Each year, millions of healthy cats and dogs are euthanized because the shelters have no room and there are no homes for them. Therefore every animal that is adopted out of our programs cannot further add to this sad and frustrating situation. Your contract will state if the animal was spayed/neutered prior to our receiving the dog or it will list the date our vet performed the operation.

Spay/neuter not only helps keep the shelters from euthanizing even more animals, but has physical benefits as well. Females have a lower risk of ovarian, uterine and breast cancers and she will never develop pyometria, an infection of the uterus, which occurs often in older unspayed females. Males are less likely to develop prostate, perianal, and testicular tumors and cancers.

Neutered pets have twice the average life expectancy of unneutered pets, partly due to a much lower chance of suffering from breast, uterine, prostate and, testicular cancers. Many express concern that spaying and neutering makes a pet fat. Actually, overeating and lack of exercise are the only things that can make a pet fat.

Canine Distemper: DA2PPv-CVK(Canine distemper, adenovirus type 2, parainfluenza, modified-live parvovirus, killed coronavirus. This is probably the most important vaccine your dog receives. Puppies receive a series of three shots before they are fully protected so it is important you do not expose your puppy to areas where other dogs have been until this series is complete – please see “**Parvovirus**” for more information.

Adenovirus-2 causes canine infectious hepatitis, which is a disease of the liver and other body organs. It is a quick killer and death may follow even two hours after the onset of symptoms.
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Canine distemper is a virus, which affects a number of organs and causes symptoms such as nasal and eye discharge, diarrhea, vomiting and seizures. It is approximately 75% fatal in dogs.

Parainfluenza is the most common viral causative agent of “kennel cough”, which is otherwise known as <i>tracheobronchitis</i> .

Coronavirus infects the cells lining the dog’s intestines and causes diarrhea. It is not as fatal as the other disease this vaccine prevents but left untreated can kill especially weak or young animals.

Parvovirus is a highly contagious and often deadly disease. Symptoms include fever, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and loss of appetite. The virus can remain in the environment at least 5 months since it is very stable and resistant to environmental stresses. Also, dogs recovered from an infection may shed the virus for up to 10 months. This is why it is important to have the series of shots and have your puppy fully protected before allowing him to walk on floors and grass, etc where other dogs were present.

Bordatella or “Kennel Cough” Vaccine: This vaccine is administered intranasally. Kennel cough is the most common upper respiratory disease in dogs today. This vaccine protects against canine infectious tracheobronchitis (ITB). ITB may be caused by several different infectious agents either working alone or in concert. Those agents are parainfluenza, adenovirus-2, and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*.

Flea Control: All dogs are administered Frontline Top Spot™. When you apply FRONTLINE® to your pet, the active ingredient Fipronil is stored in the natural oils of his/her skin and coat. This provides your pet with protection against fleas and ticks for a month. Talk to your vet about the best choice for you and your pet in flea and tick control. For more information about Frontline® please visit <http://www.frontline.com/>

Fecal Exam: Checks for the presence of hookworms, pinworms, roundworms as well as other intestinal parasites that may be present and need treatment.

Heartworm: Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in dogs. It is caused by *Dirofilaria immitis*, a worm, which is found in the heart and large adjacent vessels of infected dogs.. All dogs have tested negative for heartworm with the Ixex Snap test. Any dogs over 4 months of age have received their first month's heartworm preventative in the form of ivermectin which is the active ingredient in Heartguard®. Collie's and collie crosses need a weaker form of heartworm preventative, please see the contract for more information on which medication was given to your dog.

De-wormed: We use the broad spectrum wormer Strongid® which contains the chemical pyrantel tartrate. Since this is a broad spectrum wormer it may not kill all worms your dog may have. This is one reason why the follow up vet visit is so important to your pet's health

Rabies Vaccine: All dogs 3 months of age and older receive a rabies vaccine. You should receive a rabies tag as well as a certificate of vaccination. Please keep this certificate for your records. The next rabies vaccination is due in 1 year. This is a mandatory vaccination and you will need the certificate to license your dog.

Why should my dog still see a vet after all this vet work has been done?

First, it helps you establish a relationship with a vet. This is a wonderful forum for all your questions about your pet's needs. A vet is trained to help you keep your new pet healthy and happy.

Second, not all possible vet work has been given to your pet. The broad spectrum wormer may not have removed ALL parasites from your dog or puppy. The vet will determine if any are present, identify which one(s) and prescribe a more targeted drug. The Frontline flea control and Heartworm preventative lasts optimally for one month. You may obtain more by visiting your vet.