



# Rice Creek Animal Hospital

(651)483-6128

**Vaccinations-** All dogs are at risk of being exposed to many infectious diseases, some of which are life threatening while others pose a public health risk to humans. Prevention of infectious disease is more beneficial to your pet than treating the disease once it occurs. The combination of the physical exam and vaccinations are the two most reliable and cost efficient methods of health care available.

## Core Vaccines Given Routinely

□ **Distemper Vaccination** is a combination of 4 vaccines in one administration. It covers:

**Distemper-** A widespread virus where exposure is considered inevitable during a dog's lifetime, so distemper vaccine is almost always recommended. The clinical signs of distemper include respiratory disease, diarrhea, fever, nasal and ocular discharge, and neurologic signs. This disease is easily transmitted and often fatal.

**Parainfluenza-** A viral infection that is easily transmitted through the air or through direct contact and causes respiratory disease. Frequently this disease will progress to pneumonia.

**Canine Adenovirus Type-2-** A viral infection that causes symptoms similar to the Parainfluenza virus. However, CAV-2 is closely related to Canine Adenovirus Type-1 and also protects from that strain. CAV-1 is the cause of infectious canine hepatitis, a severe liver infection.

**Parvovirus-** A virus that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting. Unvaccinated puppies and young dogs are most commonly affected. Severe cases of parvovirus can be fatal due to the dehydration and secondary infections that accompany it.

□ **Leptospirosis-** A bacterial infection that comes from contact with the urine of infected wildlife or contaminated water or food. Leptospirosis causes severe liver and kidney damage and can be transmitted to humans by contact through breaks in the skin or mucous membranes.

□ **Rabies-** A viral disease that is usually transmitted by bite wounds, often from wild animals. Rabies causes nervous system abnormalities. Once signs are detected, death is inevitable. Transmission to humans usually occurs through bite wounds from the infected saliva of an animal.

## Non-Core Vaccines Given Based on Lifestyle

□ **Bordetella-** A bacterial disease that is better known as "kennel cough". Bordetella is a highly infectious respiratory disease that is transmitted through the air or through direct contact with other dogs ie. boarding, obedience class, grooming, and dog parks.

□ **Lyme-** A bacterial disease that comes from the bite of an infected tick. Lyme disease can cause serious, potentially deadly health problems. Symptoms of Lyme disease include lameness, swollen joints, fever, and fatigue.

**Intestinal Parasite Exam-** Not only are they unpleasant and can cause illness in animals, but many of them can infect human beings. Puppies should have several fecal parasite exams during their first year of life. Intestinal worms are very common in puppies and can cause more problems in younger dogs, so early detection is important. Not all intestinal parasites are addressed by common dewormers, so fecal parasite exams are important even in puppies receiving regular deworming. In adult dogs, fecal parasite testing should be performed every six months, even if they are on heartworm prevention or other parasite prevention.

**Heartworm/4dx Test-** Heartworm disease is a parasitic infection that can be fatal if not treated. Mosquitoes carry the parasite from one dog to another, so if it is possible for your dog to be bitten by a mosquito, they are at risk. According to the American Heartworm Society, all dogs should be tested yearly for this deadly parasite. Also, all pets should be on monthly heartworm medication year round. This serves a two-fold purpose one, it ensures the most protection for your pet and two, it acts as a deworming agent.

The 4dx test screens for four serious vector-borne diseases: Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Heartworm infection. It provides results in just a few minutes, allowing early detection and prompt treatment. Regularly completing a 4Dx test is important because many of these infections can cause serious or long-term health problems—and dogs often show no early symptoms. Early detection helps protect your pet's health, prevents disease spread, and ensures that preventive measures (such as tick and heartworm control) are working effectively.

**WARNING: Your pet may experience some lethargy or mild soreness at the vaccine site. Allergic reactions to vaccines are a rare event, but they do occur. If you notice any facial swelling, hives, vomiting, diarrhea, or anything out of the ordinary, call us immediately.**

[www.ricecreekvet.com](http://www.ricecreekvet.com)

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