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## *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

We at Aloha Animal Hospital are dedicated to helping you keep your pet healthy. Vaccinations are an essential factor in preventing and controlling diseases in our pets. Our hospital believes that a knowledgeable owner is the best defense your pet has against foreseen health risks. To aid you in providing the best care for your pet we have included the following information to help you understand which vaccinations are important, and the types of diseases they prevent.

Aloha Animal Hospital's vaccination schedule is designed to provide each individual pet with the maximum amount of protection against the common diseases listed below. The vaccinations for these diseases are very effective in preventing illness. However, some animals are unable to maintain adequate immunity, so boosters are needed at regular intervals.

Newborn puppies may receive temporary protection through the mother's milk against a number of diseases depending on whether the mother was vaccinated prior to pregnancy. However, this maternal protection usually lasts only for a short while. We recommend that the pediatric visits begin at 6 to 8 weeks of age and be repeated every month for a total of 3 visits. Upon completion of the pediatric visits, your pet should visit the veterinarian every 6 months. This program is a significant first step in caring for a healthy, happy pet for years to come!

### ❖ **DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus)**

**Canine Distemper** – a systemic viral infection which does not require direct bodily contact for transmission among dogs. This disease often causes permanent disability and even death. Puppies are most susceptible although unvaccinated adult dogs may also be affected. Some signs include fever, nasal discharge, coughing, and vomiting.

**Canine Infectious Hepatitis** – a viral infection spread primarily through an infected dog's urine. This disease affects dogs of all ages with signs varying from slight fevers to chronic liver disease, and it may even cause sudden death in puppies.

**Canine Parainfluenza** – a viral, upper respiratory disease which causes an unproductive cough.

**Canine Parvovirus** – a highly contagious and prevalent virus among non-vaccinated puppies and adult dogs. This disease is spread through contaminated feces and saliva and can survive in the environment for months. Signs included lethargy, lack of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. Immunization is the first defense but immediate veterinary care is essential to recovery although death may be unavoidable.

❖ **Bordetella (Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis – *kennel cough*)** – a bacterial infection spread through the air affecting the trachea and bronchi of a dog causing a recurring dry cough injuring the surface of the bronchi and bronchioles. Damaged respiratory tissue permits subsequent infection by other viruses and bacteria.

❖ **Leptospirosis** – a bacterial infection that is transmitted by contact with infected urine. Infected dogs may shed the bacteria in the urine for months or years contaminating stagnant water supplies. Signs may include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and difficulty producing urine.

❖ **Canine Corona Virus** – a viral infection spread through an infected dog's feces. The virus attacks the small intestine causing mild to severe diarrhea that may be bloody.

❖ **Intestinal Parasites** – we recommend having your dog's feces microscopically examined at least twice each year. The most common internal parasite we test for are coccidia, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. Detection of worm eggs microscopically, with the exception of tape worms, allows us to treat your pet against internal parasites that are potentially hazardous to your pet and to your family. Owners can detect tapeworms by visually inspecting their dog's feces. They resemble flat white rice grains or cucumber seeds. Worm infestations can lead to diarrhea, weight loss, and weakness, and in some cases anemia and death.

❖ **Heartworms** – live in the heart and large blood vessels of a dog. A dog becomes infected with heartworm larvae through bites of infected mosquitoes. Signs of a heartworm infestation are listlessness, exercise intolerance, fatigue, wheezing, and/or dry coughing. Left untreated, heartworm disease may be fatal.