

## Harden Ranch Veterinary Hospital

27 San Juan Grade Rd. Salinas, CA 93906 831-443-8387

### Canine Preventative Care Recommendations

1) Annual Physical Exams– regularly scheduled wellness evaluations are the most important tool we have in detecting and preventing disease and disability in pets. These visits are also opportunities to discuss weight, diet, behavior and any other health related questions.

2) Annual Fecal Parasite Analysis– intestinal parasites are harmful to your pet and potentially transmissible to people. If parasites are detected the appropriate de-worming agents can be prescribed. A fresh stool sample is required.

3) Heartworm/Intestinal Worm Prevention– Highly recommended for all dogs year round  
*Testing-* a primary Heartworm test is recommended for all puppies 6-12 months of age. Testing also recommended for newly acquired dogs and for dogs that have been off prevention for 2 months or more. For dogs on prevention re-testing is recommended every 2 years.  
Our current preventative of choice is Heartguard®- a monthly chewable beef-flavored medication

4) Vaccinations– vaccines are sub-divided into core ( required for all dogs) and non-core ( recommended for some dogs depending on risk and life-style)

#### CORE

a. Canine Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus (DA2P)- highly recommended for all dogs. Puppies receive an initial 3 dose series, then booster vaccination one year after primary vaccination, then every 3 years thereafter

b. Canine Rabies– Required by law for all dogs. Primary vaccine at 4 months, then booster vaccination one year after primary vaccination, then every 3 years thereafter

#### NON-CORE

c. Kennel Cough ( Bordatella/Parainfluenza)- recommended for dogs being kenneled, dogs that visit other dogs frequently ( i.e., parks, beaches, doggie day care), and show or agility dogs. This is an intra-nasal vaccine that is given annually

d. Lyme Disease- Dogs are at relatively low risk in California. This vaccine is recommended only for dogs with heavy tick exposure. There is an initial 2 vaccine series, then booster vaccines yearly

e. Canine Leptospirosis– a serious bacterial disease that attacks the kidneys and liver. It is transmissible to people. Dogs may acquire this infection by contact with wild animals, wild animal carcasses, or contaminated water sources. Hunting dogs and dogs frequenting rural streams and rivers are most at risk. There is an initial 2 vaccine series, then booster vaccines yearly for at-risk dogs

5) External Parasite Prevention– Fleas and ticks are common in our area, cause discomfort and are known to transmit blood-borne parasites and disease. We recommend the monthly application of Front-line Plus ® for the control of fleas and ticks. This is a safe and effective product, that is applied to the skin on the back of the neck