



East Island Animal Hospital
東 區 動 物 醫 院

Vaccinations and Preventative Health – Dogs

接種和預防健康-狗

Vaccinations are a very important part in keeping your dog safe and healthy, especially in Hong Kong where infectious diseases in unvaccinated dogs are common. Vaccination is very safe and side effects are extremely rare.

Vaccinations.

There are a number of types of vaccinations for dogs, including:

- G6 Vaccination
 - The main dog vaccination, covering some of the most serious preventable diseases affecting dogs – Distemper, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, basic Leptospirosis and Infectious Hepatitis
 - This vaccine is given to puppies at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks and 16 weeks old and then yearly for life and is necessary for all dogs, even those who only live indoors
- Leptospirosis Vaccination
 - This is an advanced Leptospirosis vaccination that covers against many more forms of the disease that the basic G6 booster
 - It is necessary for dogs who do lots of hiking or playing in parkland or bushy areas, but not for dogs who only live indoors
 - This vaccine is given yearly.
- Rabies Vaccination
 - Rabies vaccination is required by law for all dogs in Hong Kong
 - By government regulation, it must be given to puppies before they are 5 months of age, and then given again every 3 years
 - A microchip and dog license is also issued for your dog at the time of rabies vaccination.
 - If your dog is travelling overseas there may be other rabies vaccination requirements, please contact us for further information.
- Kennel Cough (Bordetella) Vaccination
 - Kennel Cough (Bordetella) is often required for dogs going to dog shows or boarding kennels, or dogs who often mix or play with other dogs.
 - This vaccine is given yearly.

Heartworm.

- Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal infection involving a parasitic worm, *Dirofilaria immitis*.
- Heartworm larvae are spread by infected mosquitoes, and injected into the dog when the mosquito bites.
- Following infection, the heartworm larvae travel through the blood system, eventually developing into an adult worm in the heart and lungs, causing extensive inflammation and damage.

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- Heartworm causes significant damage to the cardiovascular system, and can cause life threatening heart failure.
- Common signs of heartworm disease include coughing, tiredness and difficulty breathing.
- Heartworm is regularly diagnosed in unprotected dogs in Hong Kong, and all dogs should take heartworm prevention medicine
- Proheart SR-12 is the best prevention for heartworm. It is an injection that is usually given at the same time as the annual G6 vaccination (above), and will prevent heartworm for one year.
- Heartworm can also be prevented by using monthly tablets such as Heartgard or medication applied to the skin such as Revolution.
- Puppies should start taking a heartworm preventative medication before they are 6 months old, and preventative medication should be continued for life.

Worming.

- Dogs are susceptible to a number of intestinal worm infections, including tapeworm, hookworm, roundworm and whipworm
- Puppies should be given a tablet for intestinal worms at each initial vaccination, and then every 3-6 months as an adult dog.
- Control of intestinal worms is important for the health of your dog, and can in some cases also be important in preventing transmission of worms to family members.

Fleas and Ticks.

- Fleas are small, fast moving insects that live on the skin and hair of the dog
 - They are a significant cause of allergy, dermatitis and scratching in dogs, and can also transmit some species of intestinal worms.
 - Flea prevention is not essential in all dogs, but is highly recommended in areas with a high flea population.
 - Frontline and Revolution are two highly effective and very safe treatments for fleas. They are both available as drops that are applied to the skin behind the neck once per month.
- Ticks are an 8-legged bug that look somewhat like a large, slow moving flea. Apart from causing irritation and possible blood loss, ticks often carry *Babesia*, a microscopic parasite which can cause Tick Fever.
 - Tick Fever is a life-threatening condition somewhat similar to malaria in people.
 - Common signs include lethargy, pale gums and very dark coloured urine.
 - Tick Fever is diagnosed on a regular basis in dogs living in Hong Kong.
 - Ticks are most common in bushy areas, but are present throughout Hong Kong.
 - Using Frontline along with a Preventic Tick collar is the most effective preventative for ticks, killing about 95% of ticks that come into contact with your dog.
 - Please note that flea and tick shampoos and pyrethrin-based products are generally ineffective, with resistance being present in up to 75% of fleas.

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