

## CANINE VACCINE INFORMATION AND CONSENT

Cambridge Animal Hospital  
1610 Pace Street #400  
Longmont, CO 80501



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccines in general are very safe and protect your pet from many diseases, some of which can be life threatening. However, they are not without some risk. We ask that you review the following information and weigh the risks and benefits of each vaccine along with your pet's life-style before deciding which vaccines to have administered to your pet. While we can help provide you with appropriate information, it is ultimately your decision as to which vaccines you wish your pet to receive. Please feel free to ask the doctors or staff any questions you may have.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), there are two broad categories of vaccines: CORE and NON-CORE.

*CORE VACCINES* are those which every dog should receive (or have blood titers checked in the lieu of vaccination), regardless of lifestyle. These include **RABIES, DISTEMPER, and PARVO**. These are given as a series of vaccinations initially, then boosted 1 year later. Rabies is then given every 3 years. Although many distemper/parvo vaccines are labeled to be administered every year in adult dogs, evidence now supports that the protection last longer. For this reason, we administer this vaccine every three years as well, following the initial 1 year booster.

*NON-CORE VACCINES* are those vaccines which may or may not be necessary based on your pet's lifestyle and the prevalence of the disease in various areas of the state or country. These vaccines are available and can be given if you elect. (Please initial below what you elect)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Leptospirosis:** This is a disease that occurs sporadically in the US, usually in the summer and fall, and is caused by various strains of the *Leptospira* bacteria. Infected dogs may have a fever, do not eat well, vomit and may suffer from kidney and liver damage. This disease, even when treated, can be fatal. It can also be transmitted from infected pets to human family members via urine. Dogs become infected by contact with animal urine or contaminated water or soil. Leptospirosis is carried and shed by a number of animal species, especially raccoons, skunks and mice (causing problems in urban areas) and farm animals and deer (causing problems in rural regions). **Though it was once thought that only hunting dogs or outdoor dogs should be vaccinated, we are seeing this infection more and more even in toy breeds and vaccination should be considered in all dogs.** The recommended vaccine contains four serovars (strains) of this bacteria and is given initially as a series of 2 injections 4 weeks apart and then one injection annually thereafter. The vaccine may not give complete protection and cannot protect against all strains, however, it does offer good protection against the most common strains. The vaccine we use now is safer and carries a lower risk of side effects than lepto vaccines used in the past.

**Currently, we are seeing cases in the northern Colorado and Colorado Springs area, indicating that wildlife in these areas are shedding the organism.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bordatella:** This vaccine helps protect dogs against some forms of upper respiratory infections and can lessen the severity of the disease in dogs that do become infected. This vaccine is recommended for dogs who come into contact with other dogs, go to doggie day care or dog parks, or are going to go to a groomer or boarding facility. This vaccine is give either every 6 or 12 months, depending on boarding and groomer requirements and can be given as an injection or as intranasal drops.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rattlesnake Vaccine:** There is a vaccination available that may decrease the risk of death in the event your pet is bitten by a rattlesnake. It does not replace the need to seek emergency care following a bite, but can hopefully decrease the severity of the symptoms. This vaccine may be recommended if you frequent areas where rattlesnakes are known to live.

**VACCINATION SIDE EFFECTS:** Most dogs will not have any side effects from vaccines. The most common side effects are localized pain/swelling at the site of the injection, mild lethargy and low-grade fever. These usually resolve on their own within 24 hours and do not require treatment. More severe reactions are less common, but can present as vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and hives. If your pet shows signs of a reaction such as this, please seek medical attention. With any vaccine, anaphylaxis (a very severe and potentially fatal hypersensitivity reaction) is a risk but is rare. Also, while there is no direct cause and effect relationship between vaccines and certain auto-immune diseases, this continues to be investigated.

Overall, the risk of vaccines is quite small compared to the risk of the diseases these vaccines can prevent and we at Cambridge Animal Hospital do recommend vaccination of pets. However, it is important for you to consider all information and make an informed decision about what vaccine protocol is best for your individual pet and your family. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have. We are always happy to discuss this with you.

I have read the above information and feel that I am able to make an informed decision about my pet and vaccines. Any questions and concerns I have, have been addressed.

Signature of owner/authorized agent:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_