

## **ARBOR ANIMAL CLINIC**

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### **OPTIONAL VACCINE INFORMATION**

*Vaccinations are a medical procedure and our Doctors want you to be able to make informed decisions about the following vaccines which we carry and recommend but are not part of our standard vaccine schedule. We vaccinate adult dogs every three years with two vaccines: one for Rabies, and one containing Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvo. In addition to these routine vaccinations we also provide the following vaccines:*

**Kennel Cough/Bordetella:** We require this for all dogs boarding at our clinic. We also recommend it as part of the Annual Visit for dogs who are likely to be exposed to other dogs that may carry this highly contagious disease. This includes dogs that are boarded, go to dog shows, dog parks, pet stores, shelters, puppy or obedience/training classes or wherever dogs congregate. The vaccine is administered intranasally (directly in the nose). Protection lasts for six months and should be repeated every six months to maintain protection.

**Leptospirosis:** Leptospirosis or "Lepto" is a deadly bacterial disease spread by wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, possums, squirrels, rats and domestic animals, including dogs. Humans can get Lepto from infected dogs and the number of cases seen in dogs has increased dramatically and appears to be on the rise. It is transmitted by contact with urine from an affected animal. Dogs at greatest risk are those that play outdoors where exposure or contact with wildlife is possible. The new vaccines that we have are much better than what we were previously able to offer, but 100% protection cannot be guaranteed with vaccination. We recommend dogs that may be at risk be vaccinated three times as their initial series and then annually thereafter. It is a good idea for all dogs.

**Rattlesnake Vaccine:** This is a new and very unique vaccine that stimulates your dog's immune system to make antibodies against rattlesnake venom. This allows your dog to start neutralizing venom immediately following a rattlesnake bite. It does not mean that a dog bitten by a rattlesnake won't need emergency care; it simply means that their chances of surviving the bite are much better. We recommend this vaccine for dogs that are at risk of encountering rattlesnakes due to their activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, or living on a farm or ranch. Two vaccines are given as an initial series and then boosted annually. Please refer to our "Questions and answers about Rattlesnake vaccine" handout

for full detail, and be sure to discuss this with your dog's Doctor.