

## Recommended health care schedule for **senior dogs**:



### About 7 years of age

- **Wellness examinations** every 6 months. Our pets age more quickly than we do – for every one of our years our pet has aged 7 years – therefore more frequent health screening is recommended for senior pets to aid in early disease detection and intervention
- **Geriatric testing** including geriatric blood screens (complete blood cell counts and chemistry profiles), sometimes a thyroid panel, urinalysis +/- culture and sensitivity, blood pressure measurement and a rectal examination
- **Breed specific testing** i.e. echocardiograms for Boxers and Dobermans
- **Disease specific testing and long-term drug monitoring**

### VACCINATIONS

- **Distemper/Adenovirus/Parvovirus/Parainfluenza core vaccine** every 3 years
- **Rabies core vaccine** every 3 years

**\*Our goal is to give the rabies and DA2PP vaccines different years to avoid giving them together**

- **Bordatella non-core vaccine** for dogs that get groomed, are boarded, go to dog shows, doggie daycare, doggie parks or obedience classes. This vaccine can be done with core or non-core vaccines
- **Lyme non-core vaccine** for dogs at risk i.e. dogs spending time in wooded or grassy areas, dogs outdoors during peak tick season, or dogs living in or visiting Lyme endemic areas of the Northeast, MidAtlantic, or upper Midwest.
- **Leptospirosis non-core vaccine** for dogs at risk, i.e. dogs that play outdoors where exposure to wildlife is possible; dogs that drink from ponds or puddles; dogs exposed to deer, skunks, opossums, raccoons, squirrels or voles. Leptospirosis is the #1 cause of acute kidney failure in dogs and can be transmitted to people.

**\*Our goal is to ideally schedule non-core vaccines at a separate examination so your dog is not given so many vaccines at one time. Studies in veterinary medicine have shown that increasing the number of vaccines given on one day increases the antigenic stimulation to that patient and increases the chances of vaccine reactions. In senior pets with examinations every 6 months, core vaccines can be scheduled at one of the senior examinations and non-core vaccines can be scheduled at the other senior examination.**

- **Fecal examination** to check for intestinal parasites, some of which can be transmitted to people
- **Heartworm/Lyme/Ehrlichia/Anaplasmosis blood test** every year to check for mosquito borne and tick borne diseases

- **Continue Interceptor/Sentinel** monthly all year round for intestinal parasite and heartworm disease control
- **Continue flea/tick prevention** monthly year round or on a seasonal basis
- Oral examination and dental care recommendations for in office dental cleanings and at home dental care
- Body condition scoring and evaluation of nutrition to maintain optimum body weight
- Nutritional counseling for geriatric diseases
- Discussion of pain awareness and management