

COMMON DOG DISEASES

Always consult your veterinarian for further information



Parvovirus (Puppies are **HIGHLY susceptible) - Preventable with vaccination**

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious viral disease that can produce life-threatening illness. The virus attacks rapidly-dividing cells in a dog's body, most severely affecting the intestinal tract. Parvovirus also attacks the white blood cells, and when young animals are infected, the virus can damage the heart muscle and cause lifelong cardiac problems.

Kennel Cough - Preventable with vaccination

Kennel cough is a term loosely used to describe a complex of respiratory infections—both viral and bacterial—that causes inflammation of a dog's voice box and windpipe. It's a form of bronchitis and is similar to a chest cold in humans.

Rabies - Preventable with vaccination

Rabies is a viral disease that may affect the brain and spinal cord of all mammals, including cats, dogs and humans. This preventable disease has been reported in every state except Hawaii. There's good reason that the very word "rabies" evokes fear in people—once symptoms appear, rabies is close to 100% fatal.

Heartworm - Preventable with monthly medication

Heartworm is a parasitic worm that lives in the heart and pulmonary arteries of an infected animal. The worms travel through the bloodstream—harming arteries and vital organs as they go—ultimately completing their journey to the vessels of the lung and the heart chamber about six months after the initial infection. Several hundred worms can live in one dog for five to seven years.

Cancer

Finding out that a loved one has cancer can be very scary and confusing. When that loved one is your dog, it's important to keep in mind that different veterinarians might have different views on the best way to treat the disease. It's always a good idea to seek out a second opinion, perhaps from a veterinary oncologist, and carefully review your options.

Diabetes

Diabetes in dogs is a complex disease caused by either a lack of the hormone insulin or an inadequate response to insulin. After a dog eats, his digestive system breaks food into various components, including glucose—which is carried into his cells by insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas. When a dog does not produce insulin or cannot utilize it normally, his blood sugar levels elevate. The result is hyperglycemia, which, if left untreated, can cause many complicated health problems for a dog.

Ringworm

Although the name suggests otherwise, ringworm isn't caused by a worm at all—but a fungus that can infect the skin, hair and nails. This highly contagious disease can lead to patchy areas of hair loss on a dog and can spread to other animals—and to humans, too.

Your dog will need yearly vaccinations to help keep them well, in addition to regular flea, tick, and heartworm medication. Refer to the "General Adoption Info" page in your folder for their upcoming needs.



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