

## RIVERSIDE FAQ #6

### Q: What Should My Dog Have To Stay Healthy

**A: Wellness Examination** – A complete physical exam can detect problems very early when they are easier and less expensive to treat. Every pet should have an annual wellness exam. In senior pets, those over 7 years old, it is recommended every 6 months. Blood Chemistry panels, CBC, and urinalysis may be recommended.

**Rabies Vaccine** - A virus causing one of the most dangerous diseases, it is fatal in most all cases. It affects the brain and nervous system. Transmitted in saliva. It is required by state law for any pet over 4 months old.

### **Distemper, Parvovirus, Adenovirus, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza Vaccine**

**Canine Distemper** - Widespread, often fatal disease it can affect the respiratory system, GI system, footpads, and most seriously the nervous system causing seizures.

**Canine Parvovirus** - A very serious viral infection in young animals it affects primarily the GI system causing vomiting and hemorrhagic diarrhea. It also causes a very low white blood cell count. This very contagious virus can be carried by inanimate objects and can remain stable in the environment for over a year.

**Canine Adenovirus** - Causing either a liver disease (hepatitis) or a respiratory infection. It can also affect the kidneys. The respiratory type is important in kennel cough

**Leptospirosis** - A bacterial infection affecting the kidneys but may affect other organs such as the liver. It can be spread to other animals and humans. Recovered animals often have permanent kidney damage

**Parainfluenza** - It can be a mild respiratory infection in otherwise healthy pets but can be very severe in young or debilitated animals. It often combines with other viruses or bacteria to cause highly contagious kennel cough.

**Bordetella or Kennel Cough** - A common cause or contributor to kennel cough, this a bacteria not a

virus. It causes a severe tracheal and bronchial inflammation that leads to a persistent cough

**Intestinal Worm Exam** – Checking for intestinal parasites. Many of these cannot be seen with the naked eye. Some parasites are potentially a human health problem.

**Heartworm Exam** – Heartworms are a very serious blood parasite that kills many dogs. An annual exam is recommended even if the dog is on heartworm prevention.

**Heartworm Preventative** – Monthly preventative to prevent heartworms. Should be given year-round. Many also help control intestinal parasites.

**Flea and Tick Preventative** – Topical or Tablet to help control infestations that lead to other problems.

**Spay or Neuter** – After 6 months of age spay or neuter your pet to aid in preventing various forms of cancer and behavioral problems.