



Blue Springs

# Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



## Wellness Health Care Recommendations

A lot of research and debate within the veterinary profession over the last few years has centered on appropriate wellness care and vaccination protocols for pets. Are we vaccinating pets too much? Not enough?

At Blue Springs Animal Hospital we have followed the research and discussion with the desire to provide the very best care for our patients.

Some important things to consider:

- One calendar year in our life is approximately **7 YEARS** in a pet's life. A lot can change in a pet's health and disease exposure in that amount of time.
- Vaccinations are still absolutely critical for pets to protect them against contagious diseases, but vaccination should not be given more frequently than necessary. New research indicates that some vaccinations provide immunity for more than 1 year. Other vaccinations provide immunity for LESS than 1 year. The time when all vaccinations should be given once yearly is past!
- The Centers For Disease Control (CDC) reports many cases each year of diseases which are contagious from pets to people. Most of these diseases could have easily been prevented with routine veterinary care. The CDC recommends that puppies/kittens receive a series of dewormings and that adult companion animals have a health assessment and fecal test every 6 months.

**Based on this information, the new recommendation in veterinary medicine is to examine pets a minimum of every 6 months – 3 ½ pet years - to monitor more closely for health problems and provide needed vaccinations at more appropriate intervals.**

A vaccination protocol will be tailored for your pet based upon your pet's exposure and risk of disease. For example, most adult dogs will be vaccinated every 6 months for Bordetella, but only every 2 years for Distemper/Parvo. Cats will require some vaccinations yearly and other's every other year, but the vaccinations will be split in order to decrease stress on the immune system.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your pet's vaccination and wellness care recommendations, please ask. Our goal is to partner with you in providing the wellness care your pet needs to keep them healthy and happy!