## **Required Vaccinations for Visiting Therapy Dogs**

**AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association)**

**HUMAN ANIMAL LINK OF OKLAHOMA FDN**

**H.A.L.O. FDN**

Handler’s Signature:

Date:

1. **DAPP (Distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus, parainfluenza):** Also called DHPP, this vaccine can be administered once yearly or every other year depending on your veterinarian's recommendation and type of vaccine offered. Adult dogs are still susceptible to these viruses/diseases. They are not only spread by dog-to-dog contact but also environmentally which makes it important to protect a working dog.
2. **Rabies**: This vaccination is offered as a 1-year and a 3-year booster after having two initial boosters. Check with your veterinarian for what they offer and what best meets your needs. Rabies is spread by animal contact. There is no cure. It is also zoonotic and can be transferred from animal to person. If an incident occurs and your dog is not properly vaccinated for rabies there are major and expensive consequences. Your dog may have to go through rabies quarantine which can become extremely expensive, or they may ask for the pet to be euthanized.
3. **Fecal Testing:** It is required for you to have your pet's fecal sample tested for intestinal parasites once yearly. These parasites are zoonotic and can be transferred from animal to person and given the places our pets visit, it is extremely important that they are not transferring any illnesses to people who are already going through a difficult time. Intestinal parasites are picked up in our pet's environment. This means yards, parks, etc. Testing yearly will allow appropriate treatment should an infestation occur, but most monthly heartworm prevention will also include a basic dewormer.
4. **Bordetella:** Also called "kennel cough". This vaccine should be administered every 6 months to once yearly. If your pet is frequently boarded, goes to the groomer often, or visits places where there are a lot of other dogs (pet stores, training facilities, daycare, dog parks- especially) then they are considered at risk for infection. Kennel cough is a respiratory illness that can take 1-6 weeks to treat. While not required by some visiting facilities, it is required that your dog be vaccinated against this in case of contact with a sick dog (one never knows who has their pet vaccinated for what or if they take them out in public when they are sick).
5. **Flea, tick, and heartworm prevention:** These preventativesare important year-round in the state of Oklahoma. Any time the weather is above 50 degrees there are fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes hatching. These monthly preventions also provide support in terms of intestinal parasites as previously mentioned. There are many tick-borne illnesses that can be prevented with monthly prevention.

**Leptospirosis: Highly recommended based on your dog's lifestyle.** Leptospirosis is zoonotic and can make a person extremely ill (usually requiring hospitalization). Your pet can become infected with leptospirosis from contact with a sick animal or a contaminated water source: most commonly ponds, lakes, and rivers. If your pet is frequently in water sources as such then it is highly recommended to vaccinate them appropriately. However, if they are not in these areas then it may not be as important for your pet to receive this vaccine. **This vaccine can be given alone or if your veterinarian has the availability, it can be combined with the DAPP vaccine. If you are vaccinating your dog for leptospirosis, it is recommended to vaccinate annually.**

**Canine Influenza Virus (CIV**): This is a newer vaccine available which is strongly recommended for dogs who are frequently around other dogs. We will likely start to see more cases of respiratory illness as the weather cools off and people start to travel with their dogs again. Most veterinarians will recommend vaccinating your pet for CIV right before spring to give your pet the best immune response possible.

It is important to know that after vaccination it takes two weeks for your dog's immune system to respond to stimuli appropriately especially if it is the first time your dog has ever received that vaccine. Ideally to provide the best protection possible avoid going into areas that there may have been sick or unvaccinated pets or those two weeks after initial vaccination (this does not necessarily apply to a dog who has had the vaccine yearly and is receiving a booster).

No vaccine is a 100% guarantee, but they are one of the best tools for reducing how sick your pet might get or possibly preventing illness altogether. If you keep your pet on a regular vaccine schedule and your pet still contracts one of the illnesses discuss your options with your veterinarian. Most vaccine companies are proud of their products and will offer support in the treatment of your pet should they become ill.