

Be an Advocate for Your Dog's Health

By Alan McCorkle and Nannette Newbury

“Treat all Australian Shepherds as if they have major sensitivities to medications, NOT just the drugs on the MDR1 list. TELL YOUR VETERINARIAN THIS! Keep a copy of the Do Not Use Drug list in your dog's file at your veterinarian's office.”

Tell your Veterinarian about the following, and before allowing any medications to be administered, or procedures be performed on your puppy or dog.

1. Do not use Ivermectin products, they can kill/severely harm your Australian Shepherd.
2. Do not use Trifexis, Sentinel or Revolution or any combination flea/tick/heartworm product on your Australian Shepherd.
3. Do not use Metronidazole (Flagyl) for your Australian Shepherd. It is a neurotoxin and can cause seizures in the Australian Shepherd.
4. Do not use Imodium for diarrhea. This product can cause major health issues.
5. Do not give a Leptospirosis vaccine. NEVER give a puppy a Leptospirosis vaccine
6. Wait at least one month after final vaccinations before giving a Rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccinations can and do cause health issues in Aussies.

Use a Thimerosal -free (TF Merial) rabies vaccine. Go to a different veterinarian if they don't have a rabies vaccine without Thimerosal or cannot/will not order this for you. The traditional rabies vaccine contains mercury and/or aluminum salts which have the potential for long-term negative effects on your dog's health.

7. Do not give vaccinations and worming medication on the same day or visit. If your dog is at the veterinarian for an unrelated health issue DO NOT allow the veterinarian to vaccinate. Flea medications and heartworm medications should also be given separately.

Additional Advice:

1. Have your dog tested for MDR1 sensitivity at Washington State University.
2. Do not Neuter or Spay your puppy early. We recommend no spay/neuter surgery before 24 months of age. EARLY NEUTERING CAUSES CANCER and other serious long-term health issues. This is a researched and published fact with at least seven peer-reviewed studies cited as of 2018.
3. Do NOT give annual vaccinations; vaccinate by titer results every three to five years. Vaccinate ONLY using core vaccines for distemper virus and parvo virus. Administered properly your puppy vaccine is potentially good for the LIFE OF THE DOG and a titer test every three to five years will confirm this.
4. Investigate the need for monthly Heartworm medications versus using testing protocols. We recommend that you consider having a quarterly low-cost heartworm test and administer heartworm medication ONLY if the test is positive (which is rare). We do NOT recommend monthly heartworm medication.
5. If your dog has a seizure, DO NOT assume it is epilepsy. Do not automatically start epilepsy medications. Call your breeder or an educated breed mentor to discuss the situation.
6. Do not leave you dog overnight at the Vet Office if there is no night staff.