

# HSVMA-RAVS VACCINATION PROTOCOL

## ➤ Adult Dogs and Puppies > 20 weeks

- **DHPP** (MLV) – subcutaneous injection, intra-scapular area
- **Rabies** (KV) - subcutaneous injection, right hind thigh (age of first rabies is state dependent)
- All adult dogs and puppies over 20 weeks of age should receive their next vaccine in one year, regardless of prior vaccine history.
- Note: For consistency and ease of identification, eruption of adult canine teeth will be used as indicator of appropriate age for 1 year follow-up vaccination.

## ➤ Puppies (6-20 weeks)

- **DHPP** (MLV) *OR* **rDHPP** (recombinant) - subcutaneous injection, intra-scapular area  
Recombinant vaccine is used in communities with high rates of distemper infection
- Puppies 6-20 wks of age should receive booster vaccinations every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- DO NOT give *Lepto* containing vaccines to puppies under 12 wks of age

## ➤ Adult Cats and Kittens > 16 weeks

- **FVRCP** (MLV) - subcutaneous injection, **right** foreleg over lateral humerus
- **Rabies** (KV) - subcutaneous injection, **right** hind lateral thigh as distal as possible
- Adult cats and kittens over 16 weeks of age should receive their next vaccine in one year, regardless of prior vaccine history.

## ➤ Kittens (6-16 weeks)

- **FVRCP** (MLV) - subcutaneous injection, **right** foreleg over lateral humerus
- Kittens 6-16 weeks of age should receive FVRCP boosters every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age.
- Do not vaccinate kittens under 4 weeks of age with modified live Panleukopenia vaccines!

## Frequency of Vaccination

- Although RAVS supports triennial vaccination when appropriate, given the high risk of disease exposure and lack of available follow-up in the communities we serve, adult animals seen at RAVS clinics are generally vaccinated yearly for DHPP or FVRCP unless written verification of previous vaccination is presented.
- In dogs, rabies vaccinations will be considered a three year vaccine if proof of prior vaccination is presented (certificate).
- Adult dogs and cats > 11 years of age, with previous history of annual (or triannual) DHPP or FVRCP vaccination, may not need to be re-vaccinated. Consult the lead receiving veterinarian before vaccinating for DHPP or FVRCP in senior patients so that risks and benefits can be discussed with the client.

## When NOT to Vaccinate:

- Pediatric or geriatric patients: consult with lead receiving veterinarian.
- Pregnant dogs or cats: Modified live vaccines can cause problems in developing fetuses. As we are unable to determine gestational age, pregnant dogs and cats are **not** vaccinated with DHPP or FVRCP, but may be rabies vaccinated after discussion with the client.
- Nursing queens: Do not use modified live FVRCP in queens with kittens < 4 weeks of age.
- Elevated rectal temperature:
  - Temp < 103.5 °F and no signs of illness, OK to vaccinate.
  - Temp > 103.5 °F, re-check temp in 1 hour. If still high, discuss with RAVS staff.
  - Temp >105 °F, notify veterinarian immediately.
- Clinically ill animal: Do not vaccinate, consult RAVS staff.

## Rabies Note:

- **Rabies licensing laws for dogs & cats vary with state or locality.** The rabies vaccines used by RAVS clinics are licensed such that the first vaccine can be administered at 3 months of age to puppies & kittens. There are some states which do not currently recognize vaccination given prior to 16 weeks of age (CA). Rabies vaccines administered at RAVS clinics are to be used in accordance with the local and state laws.
- Regardless of what age the first rabies vaccine is given, the **second** vaccine should be given 1 year later.
- **In dogs** - Subsequent vaccines can be given every three (3) years for approved three-year vaccines. Proof of prior vaccination must be presented (certificate) for subsequent vaccination to be certified for three-years.
- The **volume** of rabies vaccine to be administered to all canine & feline RAVS patients is ONE (1) milliliter.
- **Maximum immunity following the first rabies vaccine** given to a dog or cat is not achieved for approximately **28 days**. This means newly vaccinated animals are **not fully protected against rabies for 1 month** following vaccination! Maximum immunity following the second rabies vaccine is reached in a few days.

## HSVMA-RAVS DEWORMING PROTOCOL

### ➤ Pyrantel

- All animals (dogs, cats, puppies, kittens) with **no** clinical signs of mange will be treated for internal parasites with oral pyrantel pamoate.
- The first dose will be administered immediately.
- If the animal looks clinically to be parasitized, a second dose will be dispensed to the owner to be administered 14 days later.
- If the patient is a puppy or kitten in poor condition (thin, poor coat and pot-belly), two dosages will be dispensed to be administered at 14 and 28 days.

### ➤ Ivermectin

- Any dog or puppy, except collie or collie mix dogs, displaying skin lesions consistent with sarcoptic mange will be treated with oral ivermectin solution.
- The first dose will be administered immediately.
- A second dose will be dispensed to be administered 14 days later.
- If lesions are generalized or severe, two more dosages will be dispensed to be administered at 14 and 28 days.
- If demodectic mange is suspected, a skin scraping should be done to confirm the diagnosis. If positive, consult a HSVMA-RAVS staff veterinarian regarding treatment options.
- Given the potential for adverse reactions to ivermectin in collie or collie mix dogs, they will not be treated with ivermectin. Dogs of these breeds with suspected mange can be treated with another appropriate product at the discretion of the lead veterinarian. The rule of thumb for using ivermectin is "white feet, don't treat"