

If You Don't Protect Me...



...Who Will?

An important part of loving your pet means providing the veterinary care he/she needs in order to live the healthiest possible life. Annual trips to the vet are essential in order to be pro-active about your pet's health. Physical examinations and blood tests can reveal potential issues that are not yet obvious to a pet owner. The following "Big Three" are probably THE most important procedures to include in your "pet care arsenal".

✓ Vaccinations

Vaccinations are your pets' best defense against an array of deadly and highly contagious diseases. The rabies vaccine, given either annually or every 3 years, is required by law. Equally important are vaccines protecting against feline leukemia (for cats), distemper, parvovirus, leptospirosis, hepatitis, and other serious diseases.

Baby animals require 3 to 4 rounds of boosters in order to build up sufficient immunity to these diseases. (It is very important that puppies and kittens be kept in a controlled environment, to minimize potential exposure to disease.)

While vaccination protocol can vary somewhat from veterinarian to veterinarian, it is essential that you, as a pet owner, find the veterinarian you feel confident working with. Additionally, there are many low-cost vaccination clinics in the DFW area.



✓ The "Big Snip"

Spaying (females) and neutering (males) are simple and very common medical procedures, performed while the animal is under anesthesia. These surgeries prevent animals from being able to reproduce. Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT necessary for a female to go through a heat cycle or have a litter of puppies or kittens prior to being spayed.

Animals can reproduce as young as 6 months of age, so it is very important to spay or neuter your pet by that time. Spaying and neutering can help protect your pets from multiple health threats, such as certain types of cancers, as well as potentially fatal uterine infection in females. Veterinarians and trainers, alike, can also attest to the behavioral benefits of spaying/neutering.



✓ Heartworm Prevention

Heartworm is a potentially fatal parasitic disease that has been diagnosed in all 50 states. The disease is transmitted from animal to animal by mosquitoes. A single bite from an infected mosquito is all it takes to infect your dog or cat. An animal can be infected with heartworm disease for a long period of time without showing any physical symptoms. Even animals who are considered "indoor pets" are at risk for contracting heartworms. The only way to know for sure if your pet is heartworm-negative is to have a simple blood test performed by your vet.

Heartworms are very difficult to treat in dogs. The treatment itself can carry serious complications. There is currently no treatment approved in the U.S. for cats. The good news is that heartworms are very easy and inexpensive to prevent. Heartworm prevention is prescribed by your vet, either in a topical solution or a tasty chewable. Either form is administered monthly, for the pet's entire life. This simple step is all it takes to keep your pet safe from heartworms.



Each of the precious animals featured in this ad died prematurely, due to PREVENTABLE illness. Their innocent faces touch us. Their stories haunt us. Please practice preventative veterinary care and give your pet the best possible chance at a long, healthy life.

American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Camp Wolfgang (German Shepherd Dog Rescue)
214.520.7000; www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumane.org; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrescue.8m.com; 972.994.1133

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

DFW Tzus And More Rescue
www.dfwtzusandmore.org; 888.290.3335

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumane.org; 972.498.8980

Great Dane Angel Rescue
817.361.9855; www.daneangelnetwork.org

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Humane Society of Flower Mound
www.fmhs.org; 972.691.7387

Labrador Retriever Rescue of North Texas
www.labrescuenorthtexas.org; 972.480.LABS (5227)

Legacy Boxer Rescue
www.saveitheboxers.com; 1.877.5BOXERS

Protective Animal League (PAL)
www.onepetatatime.org; 972.881.1981

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Sparky's Pals Humane Education
www.sparkypals.org; 214.823.PALS (7257)

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org; 214.550.2648

Texas Tailwaggers Village Rescue
txtailwaggers@aol.com; txtailwaggers.petfinder.org

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

Rescue Friends Coalition
www.rescuefriends.org; rescuefriends@verizon.net