

# Hollywood Insider 2017

2017



## Vaccines are Vital

Vaccinations are intended to protect us from diseases. Humans receive vaccines to protect us from Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), Hepatitis, Flu, Tetanus, Meningitis, and the list goes on.

Pet vaccines are just as important. Just as we protect ourselves, we should protect our pets. We want to protect them for their safety, but also for the safety of the general pet population. In a perfect world, if all pets were to be vaccinated, diseases would be less and less frequent, until they became non-existent. Of course, diseases are always changing, and research is coming up with newer and better ways to prevent diseases, so vaccination regimens may change some over time. There could even be new diseases that are discovered, and new vaccines to prevent those. Also, the prevalence of certain diseases in our area can change over time as well. We may introduce a new vaccination, as we did with Leptospirosis when it became more prevalent in our region. Or, we may stop giving a vaccination, as we did with Corona Virus a couple of years ago.

PetStar follows AAHA's core vaccination guidelines, and then we look at vaccinations recommended for our area. For dogs and cats, these are very different. We will go through each one so that you can fully understand what we are vaccinating your pets for.

### Rabies Virus

We left this one in a category of its own because both dogs and cats receive a Rabies Vaccine. Rabies is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be spread across species. Including humans. Rabies Virus attacks the nervous system and ultimately causes death. There is no treatment for Rabies in pets. Rabies vaccination is required by law for domesticated animals. Lincoln Parish requires vaccination for Rabies once every 3 years, after a 1 year booster requirement has been met.

### Canine Vaccines

DHPPL4 = Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Parvo Virus, Parainfluenza, Leptospirosis (4 strains)

*Distemper* – Distemper attacks the nervous system, causing symptoms including lethargy, diarrhea, fever, coughing, and discharge from the eyes and nose. Severe cases will experience

convulsions and paralysis in later stages, and ultimately death.

*Hepatitis/Adenovirus* – This is a disease of the liver, spread by contact with urine of infected animals.

*Parvo Virus* – One of the more common viruses that we see, Parvo is known to affect very young, unvaccinated puppies, but can also affect older, unvaccinated animals. Parvo attacks the gastrointestinal tract, causing vomiting and diarrhea (often with blood), lethargy, and shock in later stages. Parvo is often deadly, especially if not treated. The virus can live in the environment for a very long period of time.

*Parainfluenza* – This disease affects the respiratory system, causing tracheobronchitis. It is highly contagious, especially in stressful environments such as boarding or grooming facilities. It is one of the common diseases known as "kennel cough."

*Leptospirosis* – This disease attacks the liver and kidneys, causing symptoms such as lethargy, fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, coughing, and increased urination. It is most commonly spread by wildlife, through contaminated ground water. This disease is also contagious to humans. Our vaccine protects against four different strains of Leptospirosis.

*Bordetella* – This disease also causes tracheobronchitis, and is another common disease known as "kennel cough." It is highly contagious, especially in stressful environments such as boarding or grooming facilities. Our vaccination is an oral vaccination which lasts for 6 months.

### Feline Vaccines

RCCP = Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, Chlamydia, Panleukopenia

*Rhinotracheitis and Calici Virus* – These diseases are also known as Feline Herpes Virus, and are responsible for 80-90% of infectious feline upper respiratory tract diseases. These diseases cause symptoms such as eye and nasal discharge (often severe), sneezing, and trouble breathing. Some cats become carriers of the disease once they have been infected, and can serve as a major

source of infection to other unvaccinated cats.

*Chlamydia* – This disease affects the respiratory system as well. This is not the same strain of Chlamydia that affects humans, and this strain is not contagious to humans. Symptoms of feline Chlamydia include severe conjunctivitis with thick green nasal discharge. Cats also affected by FIV or Leukemia can develop Chlamydia pneumonitis, a severe lung infection.

*Panleukopenia* – This disease is also called Feline Distemper, and is highly contagious and deadly among cats. Symptoms include lethargy, depression, inappetence, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. This disease can survive in the environment for long periods of time.

*Leukemia* – Feline Leukemia (FeLV) is currently the leading infectious killer in cats. It is spread through simple contact with an infected cat; nose-to-nose touch, sharing a water bowl, and mutual grooming. It is an autoimmune disease, causing symptoms such as weight loss, fever, immune-mediated diseases, reproductive problems, enlarged lymph nodes, and others. All outdoor and indoor/outdoor cats should be vaccinated. It is recommended to keep indoor cats vaccinated as well, as there is always a chance of the cat getting outside and coming in contact with another cat. This type of Leukemia is not contagious to humans.

At PetStar, we require an exam in order for our veterinarians to give vaccines. Animals must be healthy in order to receive vaccinations. Please call us or visit our website for a quote.

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Website:  
<http://ruston.petstar.net>

## The Bark Around Town

Join us at the  
**Louisiana Peach Festival**  
Parade June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am!

PetStar will have a float this year, and we will be throwing out some goodies for the pets!

For other festival events, visit the website  
<http://louisianapeachfestival.org/MainEvents.html>

## Feline FIV and Leukemia

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia are two very common and very contagious diseases in cats. They are both immune-suppressing diseases. This means that cats with one or both of these diseases can get sick much more easily than other cats, and may take longer to get well.

FIV is spread through bite wounds and scratches. It is commonly found in cats who are allowed outdoors and prone to cat fights. It is also widespread in stray cat populations, and any cats exposed to stray cats are at risk. We recommend testing once a year if your cat is allowed outdoors.

Feline Leukemia is spread through simple contact such as sharing a water bowl, nose-to-nose touch, mutual grooming, or sneezing (aerosolized). We vaccinate against Feline Leukemia every year. However, cats who are allowed outdoors may

still be exposed, as this disease is also widespread in the stray cat population. We recommend testing once a year for this as well, even if your cat is vaccinated yearly.

Testing for FeLV and FIV is very simple. We use an in-house test called IDEXX Feline Triple Snap Test. It tests for FeLV, FIV, and heartworms (bonus)! It gives results in less than 10 minutes. We always recommend testing new kittens and cats before introducing them into your household if you have other cats. We also recommend testing yearly if your cat ever goes outdoors and potentially comes in contact with other cats.

Cats who test positive for FeLV or FIV can live with the disease, but we recommend either having a single-cat household (never introducing a new cat to the household as long as you have a cat with either of these diseases), or keeping that cat

separated from cats who test negative. Also, cats with FeLV or FIV should never be allowed outdoors, because of the risk of infecting other cats they may come in contact with.

There is currently no treatment for FeLV or FIV. However, cats with FeLV or FIV can live a relatively normal life, but they are at a higher risk of catching other diseases that cats with a healthy immune system could more easily fight off. Simple things such as an upper respiratory infection could quickly become more serious in a cat with a weakened immune system. They must be treated by a veterinarian as soon as possible. If you would like to have your cat tested, please call us and we will be happy to set up an appointment for you!



We recommend testing once a year, especially if your cat is outdoor only or indoor/outdoor.

## Flea Prevention

Fleas are abundant in Louisiana, and very difficult to get under control. Fleas love sandy shaded yards, carpeted homes, and pets. Ticks like wooded areas. Both are a nuisance. This article will hopefully give you some recommendations to help prevent a flea infestation or eradicate a flea infestation in your environment.

First, you need to get your pets on a good flea/tick prevention. Bravecto is a 3 month chewable tablet that prevents fleas and ticks. Simparica is a 1 month tablet that prevents fleas and ticks. Bravecto and Simparica both require a yearly exam. Our over-the-counter option is the Seresto collar. One collar lasts 8 months and prevents fleas and ticks.

The trick to flea prevention for your pets is CONSISTENCY. The pet must be on flea prevention for at least three months consecutively in order to be effective against all stages of the flea life cycle.

This brings us to the second part of this topic – the flea life cycle.

### *Flea Eggs*

This is the first stage of the life cycle. Flea eggs are laid by adult female fleas, after taking a blood meal. They are microscopic, about 0.5mm in length. Flea eggs are normally laid on the animal's skin, but can fall off, infecting the environment wherever the animal travels. Eggs hatch in about 14-28 days, depending on environmental conditions. Flea eggs account for approximately 50% of the flea population.

### *Flea Larvae*

This is the second stage of the flea life cycle. Larvae are about 2-5mm in length. They do not like light, so they stay deep in soil, grass, carpet, and other types of environments that are dark.

### *Flea Pupae*

This is the third stage of the life cycle. The larvae create a cocoon which is sticky and serves as camouflage in the environment. In the right conditions, pupae become adult fleas in 5-10 days. The adults will emerge from the cocoon once stimulated by physical pressure, heat, or carbon dioxide. Adults in the cocoon can survive up to 9 months. However, once they emerge, they will only live for a few days unless they are able to feed.

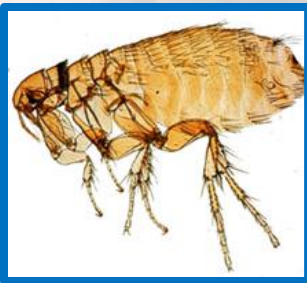
### *Flea Adult*

This is the final stage of the flea life cycle. The adult likes light and will travel to the surface and hope to encounter a host to feed on. Females lay eggs after feeding. Adults live up to three weeks, and females lay approximately 40 eggs per day.

The entire life cycle lasts about 14-28 days. But, you can see how quickly fleas can get out of control. The problem is when you treat once for fleas, and then new fleas hatch later. So, you have to treat once, and then again, and then AGAIN to make sure you are attacking the fleas at all life stages, and killing new adults as they hatch.

Treating the environment is also very important (if it is feasible). We carry Siphotrol products, including premise sprays for your home, foggers for your home, and yard sprays.

Stop by and chat with our knowledgeable staff to determine which products will be right for you and your pets!



Adult Flea

Photo from Lifelearn, Inc.

## Ask the Vet!

**Q:** *Is it ever too late to have my dog fixed? Is there an age limit?*

**A:** No; it is never too late! Ultimately, we recommend spaying patients that are not intended for breeding prior to their first heat cycle. This drastically decreases their chances for developing mammary cancer as they age. With each successive heat cycle dogs go through, their chances for developing malignant mammary cancer increases. There are no studies to support any health benefits associated with allowing a dog to go through her first heat cycle. Even though we recommend it at an early age, spaying dogs at any age will eliminate the chance for ovarian cancer, and it also will prevent uterine diseases including a life-threatening disease called pyometra. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus that is often fatal if left untreated; all intact females are at risk for this disease.

~Dr. Kristi Laffitte

## An "Eye"-Mergency!

Eye conditions can be slow to develop or can happen suddenly. All eye injuries should be considered serious, and require veterinary attention as soon as possible. We want you to be prepared in case this ever happens with one of your own pets, so that you know what is an "eye"mergency and what to do.

Dogs and cats can develop many eye problems, and many of them are similar to conditions that occur in humans. These can include conjunctivitis, corneal ulcers, KCS (dry eye), glaucoma, uveitis, and others. Some of these are more emergent than others.

### EMERGENCY

If you see your pet holding his eye shut, this means that it is very painful. This needs to be seen right away.

If your pet's eye is copiously draining, this could be indicative of an eye

problem. A little discharge is not a big deal, but excessive discharge needs to be seen, especially if it is only from one eye.

If your pet's eye appears larger than the other or is bulging out of the eye socket, this is an emergency and needs to be seen immediately. This condition is extremely painful and can cause serious health consequences. A bulging eye is usually from either glaucoma or dental disease causing an abscess.

If the eye has any hemorrhage, or red patches (blood) in the white part (sclera) of the eye, this needs to be seen as soon as possible.



Corneal Ulcer seen via fluorescent stain uptake under Woods Lamp (the glowing green area of the eye)

### NON-EMERGENCY

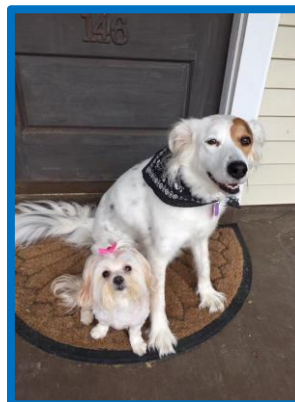
Some eye conditions need to be seen as soon as possible (that day, if possible), but are not considered an emergency.

Greenish discharge and pinkish-tinged eyes are bothersome, but not an emergency. This is likely some type of conjunctivitis, either allergic in nature or bacterial.

If your pet is pawing at his eyes or rubbing his face across the carpet or the furniture as if his eyes are itchy, this needs to be addressed but is not an emergency.

We hope these guidelines will help you determine what eye symptoms are more severe than others. Typically, the sooner we can start treatment, the better the outcome for the patient.

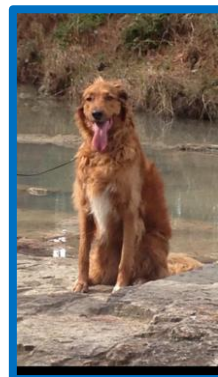
## Photo Showcase!



Emma & Gypsy Hopkins



Willow Joe



Ranger Sadler

Like us on Facebook and submit your favorite pet pictures for your chance to be in our newsletter!



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*Give Your Pet the STAR  
Treatment*



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At PetStar, our primary focus is to provide you with the most advanced and compassionate veterinary care. Our dedicated veterinary team members cater to your pet's needs in a new, state-of-the-art facility. We have three staff veterinarians supported by a team of well-trained and caring assistants and administrative staff. PetStar offers a unique combination of general veterinary care and boarding, as well as advanced procedures in small animal medicine, surgery and dentistry.

The PetStar Newsletter is dedicated to each of our friends that we have lost along the way. It has been a pleasant journey, and you will always be a part of the PetStar family. You will remain forever in our hearts.

## Coming Next Month...

- Summer Heat Danger
- Hot Spots
- Vacation & Travel Tips
- Meet the Miniature Poodle!



## Meet the Saluki!

The Saluki is an interesting breed indeed. This breed derived in the Middle East and was originally used to hunt gazelle, rabbits, and fox.

The Saluki are part of the sighthound family, along with the Greyhound, Afghan Hound, and Whippet). It is one of the oldest known selectively bred dog breeds.

They are known to be very clean dogs, and tend to not shed. That being said, their hair does grow long on their ears and tail and will need to be brushed.

This breed does not bark much, and is very loyal with a calm and gentle distemper. They do require vigorous daily exercise and space for running. They have a strong natural prey desire and will chase almost anything, including other pets and children.

Salukis are a generally healthy breed, with an average lifespan of 12 years (more than many other breeds). They come in a variety of colors including cream white, red golden, black and tan, fawn, and tricolor. They have very long legs and a deep chest. Salukis are a beautiful breed of dog.



### Breed Characteristics:

Life expectancy: 12 years  
Weight: 31-55 lbs  
Height: 22-28 inches  
Colors: cream white, red golden, black and tan, fawn, tricolor  
Group: companion, hunting