



### **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ENTIRE STAFF AT MAZE ANIMAL HOSPITAL!**

Make it your New Year's resolution to take your K9 family member to the new **Modesto Dog Park**. The dog park is located 601 West Morris Avenue. Your dog will thank you.

Also, let's make sure we are all being responsible pet owners. Be sure to have your dog(s) on adequate parasite control and up-to-date on vaccines before taking them to the park, especially our adorable puppies. Puppies should complete all their booster vaccines prior to visiting any public park or dog park locations.

### **LET'S TALK PARVO**

Parvovirus is unfortunately seen in abundance within the Central Valley. It's a virus that affects puppies/young dogs and causes **vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy**. The diarrhea is often bloody and

very foul smelling. Parvovirus infections are potentially fatal.

### **PARVOVIRUS IS EASILY PREVENTED.**

All you have to do is make sure your new puppy receives its scheduled distemper-parvo combination vaccines. Puppy vaccines start at 6-8 weeks of age and continue until 16 weeks of age. If your puppy receives all of his/her boosters, the puppy is protected.

### **HOW IS PARVO TREATED?**

Fluid therapy and antibiotics are at the core of any treatment for Parvo infections. Hospitalization with intravenous (IV) fluids, antibiotics and anti-nausea medications will give your puppy the best chance of survival.

### **PARVO IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

Dogs with parvovirus shed large amounts of virus into the environment and the virus can survive for 2-3 years in the right conditions. Parvovirus can be found in the soil, on the carpet and bedding, etc. We can carry the virus on our hands and clothing as well. If you have had a Parvo positive pup in your house/yard, disinfect thoroughly and **do not** bring unvaccinated puppies into your house/yard.

### **AND SPEAKING OF PUPPIES...**

Let's talk in more depth about puppy vaccines. As mentioned above, puppy vaccines start at 6 weeks of age at the earliest. Any vaccine given prior to that is unlikely to be effective. Vaccines are usually given every 2-3 weeks with the last being given at 16 weeks of age.

## WHICH VACCINES ARE ADMINISTERED?

The core vaccines for this area include the DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza) and Rabies vaccines. The DHPP should be started at 6-8 weeks and boosted every 3 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks of age. The Rabies vaccine is administered at 16 weeks or after in California. Other vaccines may be recommended depending on your dog's potential exposure. Consult your veterinarian about what vaccines your dog needs.



## FUN ANIMAL FACTS:

- 1) Some ancient Egyptians used to mummify their beloved pet cats for their passage to the next world. They would mummify mice as well so their cats would have nourishment for the journey.
- 2) If water is available, raccoons will often wash their food prior to eating it.
- 3) Cows do not actually have four stomachs, but four compartments to their stomach.
- 4) Frogs have to close their eyes when they swallow. This is because they cannot chew their food or use their tongue to assist in swallowing, so their eyes sink down into their skull to help push their food to the back of their throat.