* Puppies, kittens, young, and older pets all need regular vaccinations to stay strong and healthy. Routine visits to your family veterinarian will help your pet get the right vaccinations for their lifestyle.
* Some vaccines only need to be given every 3 years. Talk to your family veterinarian about which vaccines may be able to be given less often.
* Yearly examinations for younger pets and twice-yearly examinations for older pets are recommended. Your family veterinarian’s history and physical examination skills can catch disease early and thus be treated more effectively.
* Though exceedingly rare (1 in 10,000 cats), injection-associated fibrosarcomas can be a serious problem. Injection-site fibrosarcomas are a type of tumor that can grow under the skin at injection sites. Vaccinations in cats are given lower on the leg for this reason.
* Use the 1-2-3 rule when your cat gets any injection: any vaccine/injection site reaction/swelling that has been growing for more than 1 month, is greater than 2cm, or is still present after 3 months should be removed and biopsied.
* There are many vaccines that are recommended to keep our canine and feline companions healthy and disease-free, but all of them may not make sense for your individual pet’s circumstances. Your family veterinarian can help you decide which ones make sense for your furry friend.
* Dogs love to be social with other dogs and people. Keep them vaccinated to prevent them from catching viruses from other dogs or the soil at parks. Parvovirus, for example, can live for more than a year in soil!
* Rabies, due to its invariably fatal nature and risk to pets AND humans, is legally a MANDATORY vaccine! See your veterinarian to make sure they are up-to-date on their Rabies vaccine!
* Some dangerous diseases like Leptospirosis and worms are zoonotic. A zoonotic disease can affect multiple species like dogs and humans. This is one reason why fecals and vaccinating your pet are so important!