



## Guide Dogs for the Blind

# Health Care & Reimbursement Guidelines

Veterinary care for puppies will be provided based on the type of illness and symptoms a puppy presents:

- **Tier 1:** Care is for mild illnesses and conditions. Total treatment cost for Tier 1 conditions should not exceed \$150. Treatment for Tier 1 conditions does not require preauthorization from Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB).
- **Tier 2:** Any treatment that is estimated to cost more than \$150 is considered Tier 2. In addition, any conditions that are chronic or recurring are considered Tier 2. Treatment estimated to cost more than \$150 must be submitted for authorization prior to scheduling the medical procedure.

Our veterinary clinics are open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm. For reimbursement questions, please call (800) 295-4050 (press 2 for Support Center, then press 2 for VFA).

### Vaccinations

Vaccinations are Tier 1 and no pre-authorization is required. Guide Dog for the Blind (GDB) puppies leave our campus having been given the following vaccinations and anti-parasitic treatments:

- 2 weeks - Pyrantel
- 3 weeks - Ponazuril
- 4 weeks - Pyrantel
- 6 weeks - DA2PP, Intranasal Bordetella, Pyrantel and Ponazuril
- 8 weeks - DA2PP, Heartgard Plus and Ponazuril
- 10 weeks - if a puppy is still on campus when it is 10 weeks old it will be given an additional DA2PP booster

When puppy raisers receive the puppy, they are instructed to continue with the following schedule:

- 12 weeks - DA2PP, Leptospirosis #1
- 16 weeks - DA2PP, Rabies, Leptospirosis #2
- Puppies are considered fully covered 5 days after this vaccination
- 18 weeks - Influenza, bivalent #1 (OPTION 1)
- 20 weeks - DA2PP and Influenza, bivalent #2 (OPTION 1) or Influenza, bivalent #1 (OPTION 2)
- 23 weeks - Influenza, bivalent #2 (OPTION 2)
- *GDB does not recommend or reimburse for Corona virus or Lyme disease vaccines*
- ANNUAL BOOSTERS – Rabies, DA2PP, Intranasal Bordetella, Influenza & Leptospirosis: all dogs should receive their Rabies booster up to 30 days prior to the due date. Rabies vaccinations should **never** be given past the due date. Additional vaccine boosters should be given when due as well; these can be combined with the Rabies booster if they are also due within 30 days.

**NOTE:** we understand that some veterinarians will prefer to administer the influenza vaccination series three weeks apart instead of two. If that is your policy, the second option is to administer the first influenza vaccination at 20 weeks and the second at 23 weeks.

We do not recommend Corona virus or Lyme disease vaccines. If you have any questions about the administration of one of these vaccinations, please contact the GDB Veterinary Clinic. The puppy's first adult Rabies and DA2PP vaccination boosters will be due at approximately 16 months of age.

It is critical that we receive documentation of all vaccines the puppy receives prior to recall. The GDB Vet Clinic is to be notified in the event that a puppy has an allergic reaction to a vaccination. Raisers may ask to

save the vials that their puppy's vaccination originated from or will ask to write down the following information: brand of vaccine (i.e. Ft. Dodge), components (i.e. distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, parvo virus) and the lot number.

### **Heartworm Preventative**

GDB provides the initial supply of Heartgard Plus heartworm preventative for each puppy. Raisers are instructed to administer heartworm preventative to their puppy once a month at the beginning of the month.

### **Fleas and Ticks**

Each raiser receives a year's supply of Frontline Plus topical flea & tick treatment or Nexgard, and is instructed in how to administer these products to their puppy. If you notice external parasites on the GDB puppy you are examining, please confirm the raiser's use of the provided product.

### **Females in Season**

When female GDB puppies come into season, they can either stay in a raiser's home for the duration of their season or be boarded at a professional boarding kennel at the raiser's expense. For in-house boarding, raisers need to consult their leader and Community Field Representative for approval and guidelines.

### **Spay/Neuter**

Never spay or neuter a GDB puppy without authorization from Guide Dogs for the Blind. The Puppy Raising Department sends an official spay/neuter letter to raisers to give to their veterinarian. When having a puppy spayed or neutered, no reimbursement authorization is necessary as long as the cost for the procedure falls within the existing guidelines (neuters:\$200; spay: \$250). Immediately upon completion of the altering procedure, please complete and return the spay/neuter certificate provided to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### **Emergency Care**

In the event of an emergency, GDB consents to stabilizing treatment. As soon as a puppy's condition is stabilized, GDB veterinarian staff must be notified before further care is provided. In cases of more involved or prolonged care, guide dog puppies may be transported to a GDB facility.

### **Reimbursement Procedures**

To request reimbursement for veterinary care, veterinarians must complete the Veterinary Expense Reimbursement Request Form and return to:

Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Attn: Accounting Department  
P.O. Box 151200  
San Rafael, California 94915-1200

If you have never requested reimbursement from GDB in the past, please also fill out the enclosed W9 form to ensure prompt payment.

When you help GDB and guide dog puppies, you're helping your community. We greatly appreciate veterinarians who help strengthen our mission by offering discounted or donated services. Thank you!