



**FEMA**

## **US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2015-085**

August 19, 2015

**FOR:** National Urban Search & Rescue Response System  
Task Force Representatives

**FROM:** Dean Scott, Chief  
Operations Section  
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

**SUBJECT:** US&R General Memorandum 2015-085 – Canine Medical Examination  
Guidelines

This General Memorandum provides the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) with guidelines for voluntary annual canine medical examinations.

These guidelines will help ensure that the health status of System canine resources are monitored and maintained. While there is no requirement that System canines have annual medical examinations, often there are recommended post-mission veterinary checks based on response specific concerns. In order to facilitate the routine maintenance of System canines' physical condition, the attached medical recommendations are provided for certified System canines.


It is estimated that an exam encompassing the attached guidelines will cost approximately \$500 per year, per canine. This exam would be within scope of the task force Readiness Cooperative Agreement and an allowable cost for certified System canines, provided that the canine's task force has budgeted for this expense within the appropriate year's Cooperative Agreement.

**Attachments:**

Canine Medical Examination Guidelines

**cc:**

US&R Strategic Group  
US&R Advisory Group  
US&R Branch Staff  
FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

|   |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
|  | <b>FEMA National Urban Search &amp; Rescue Response System</b> |                              |
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|   | <b>DISTRIBUTION:</b><br>System wide                            |                              |
|   | <b>ISSUED BY:</b> Dean Scott, Chief, Operations Section        |                              |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b> Canine Medical Examination Guidelines                             |  |                              |

### 1. Complete Physical Examination – Annual

- Based on the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) recommendations, this includes a patient’s history, temperature, attitude, hydration, mucous membrane color, capillary refill time, eyes (including pupils and retinas), ears, nose, mouth/throat, peripheral lymph nodes, heart, pulses, lungs/respiration, abdomen, urogenital system, skin, perineal and rectal exam, musculoskeletal system, and neurologic system.

### 2. Blood Work – Annual

- CBC, biochemical profile, heartworm test

### 3. Additional Testing – Annual

- Urinalysis, fecal exam

### 4. Preventive Medications – Annual

- Heartworm Preventative
- Flea and Tick Control

### 5. Vaccinations – Guidelines as per AAHA

- **Core Vaccines - Required**
  - Canine Parvovirus (CPV-2, MLV)
  - Canine Distemper Virus (CDV, MLV) or recombinant rCanine Distemper Virus (rCDV)
  - Canine Adenovirus-2 (CAV-2, MLV parenteral)
  - Rabies 1-year (killed) or 3-year (killed) as per state legislation
- **Non-Core Vaccines – Based on Individual Considerations and Recommendations from Local Veterinarian**
  - Parainfluenza Virus (CPIV, MLV-parenteral)
  - Bordetella bronchiseptica (killed bacterin or cell wall antigen extract, parenteral)
  - Borrelia burgdorferi (Lyme borreliosis killed whole bacterin or rLyme borreliosis[OspA])
  - Leptospirosis (killed bacterin) - serovar specific for endemic types:
  - Leptospira interrogans with canicola and icterohaemorrhagiae
  - Also available with serovars grippityphosa and Pomona

**NOTE: Exam includes any necessary further testing based on abnormalities found during a medical examination.**

**Vaccine Schedules as Recommended by AAHA**

| Vaccine  | Initial Puppy Vaccination (<16 weeks old)  | Initial Adult Vaccination (>16 weeks old) | Revaccination Booster   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Canine Parvovirus (CPV-2, MLV)   | Give at 6-8 weeks old then every 3-4 weeks until 12-14 weeks old   | 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart                  | Booster at 1 year then every 3 years unless label says otherwise                    |
| Canine Distemper Virus (CDV, MLV) or rCanine Distemper Virus (rCDV)                      | Give at 6-8 weeks old then every 3-4 weeks until 12-14 weeks old   | 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart                  | Booster at 1 year then every 3 yrs unless label says otherwise                      |
| Canine Adenovirus-2 (CAV-2, MLV parenteral)  | Give at 6-8 weeks old then every 3-4 weeks until 12-14 weeks old   | 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart                  | Booster at 1 year then every 3 yrs unless label says otherwise                      |
| Rabies 3-year (killed)   | Give one dose as early as 3 months   | Administer as a single dose               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> rabies 1 year after initial dose, then every 3 yrs per the area law |
| Parainfluenza Virus (CPIV, MLV-parenteral)   | Give at 6-8 weeks old then every 3-4 weeks until 12-14 weeks old   | Administer as a single dose               | Booster at 1 year then every 3 yrs unless label says otherwise                      |
| Bordetella bronchiseptica (killed bacterin) parenteral                                   | Give one dose at 6-8 weeks old, one dose at 10-12 weeks old  | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart                | Annual booster or more often in high-risk animals                                   |
| Bordetella bronchiseptica (cell wall antigen) Parenteral                                 | Give one dose at 8 weeks old and one dose at 12 weeks old  | Two doses, 4 weeks apart                  | Annual booster or up to every 6 months in high-risk environments                    |
| Borrelia burgdorferi (Lyme borreliosis killed whole bacterin or rLyme borreliosis[OspA]) | Initial dose at 9 or 12 weeks old (per manufacturer) then 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 2-4 weeks later                     | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart                | Annual booster; revaccinate prior to start of region tick season                    |
| Leptospirosis (killed bacterin) serovar specific for endemic types                       | Give one dose at 12 weeks and another at 14-16 weeks. For best response do not give to dogs less than 12 weeks old | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart                | Annual booster, not for toy breeds restricted to areas of high risk                 |