



Veterinary Protocol including Vaccinations

Below is MARS protocol for the vetting and vaccination of rescue dogs. For all dogs, you must comply with your state laws and regulations. In many cases, only proof of rabies vaccination is required and all else should follow this protocol, unless you have obtained permission from the Area Coordinator.

Vaccinations

1. For all dogs, comply with your state laws and regulations.
2. For adult dogs with no previous vaccine history, rabies, DHPP, and Bordetella vaccines should be given.

Note that sick animals should NOT be vaccinated for anything, including rabies. To do so may cause severe reactions and possibly the death of the animal.

Routine Vet Check

1. Dogs without a known veterinary history should be given an age evaluation and scanned for a microchip.
If the dog does not have a microchip, MARS will provide one to be implanted by a veterinarian.
2. All dogs should be checked for kennel cough, and treated accordingly. (ALWAYS refer to MDR1 Problem Drugs List, <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/drugs.aspx>, and strictly avoid any drugs on that list.)
3. Request a fecal test for parasites and treat accordingly.
4. Have the eyes and ears examined. (Note that any Aussie with excessive white on the head should be examined for hearing and sight impairment.)
5. Request a simple dental exam – do not authorize teeth cleaning without contacting a MARS representative.
6. Request a manual examination for hip dysplasia and patella problems. Do not authorize x-rays without contacting a MARS representative.
7. Request a test for heartworm (if in an area that has heartworm). Dogs testing negative with unknown histories should be placed on the preventative Heartgard monthly for 12 months as a precaution, regardless the area or weather conditions.
After this time, if they still test negative, they can begin with the protocol of Heartgard for the months needed for their area. For dogs testing positive – see MARS Heartworm Treatment Protocol.
8. Test for Lyme in problem areas and treat accordingly. DO NOT give the Lyme vaccine.

9. Request a flea check. Dogs with fleas should be given Capstar to kill existing fleas. For flea prevention in problem areas, MARS suggests Frontline Plus. Areas where fleas are less of a problem and ticks are more problematic, MARS recommends Frontline Top Spot.

IN EMERGENCY CASES, use your best judgment and seek treatment. HOWEVER, always refer to the MDR1 Problem Drug List (<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/drugs.aspx>) and avoid the use of all drugs listed therein regardless how you are counseled by your veterinarian – unless you know definitively that the dog being treated has tested Normal/Normal for the MDR1 genetic mutation.

Drug Sensitivities in Australian Shepherds

Due to a mutation in the multidrug resistance gene (MDR1 gene), many herding dogs, including Miniature Australian Shepherds, can be highly sensitive to a number of drugs. Please refer to the information and drug list provided by MARS, and found at <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/drugs.aspx>, concerning dogs with the mutated MDR1 gene. Unless a dog has been tested and proven Normal/Normal for the gene mutation, NONE of the drugs on the list should be given to any MARS dog.

Authorization for Treatment

Any deviations from this MARS Veterinary Protocol, except in the case of serious emergency, will require authorization. Please note that MARS will not financially reimburse for any unauthorized treatments.