

Dog Vaccinations

Vaccines are extremely important in protecting your dog from infectious disease. Not only are they highly effective, they are the best preventative measure you can take in protecting your pet.

Young puppies are highly susceptible to infectious diseases and should be vaccinated against them as soon as they are old enough to build an immunity. These diseases include: Distemper, Infectious Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus and Rabies.

Other infectious diseases which vaccines are available include Bordatella bronchiseptica and Lyme disease. Bordatella bronchiseptica is an intranasal vaccine that protects a dog from Kennel Cough. While not apart of the routine vaccination series, it is advisable, especially for high risk dogs including show dogs, boarded dogs, and dogs living in kennel situations. Lyme disease is caused by the spirochete bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is acquired by the bite of an infected tick. Lyme disease is now regarded as the most common tick-borne illness. While not apart of the routine vaccination series, it is advisable, especially for dogs living in high risk areas. Discuss these vaccine options with your veterinarian.

All dogs including puppies, adults and seniors are all susceptible to these infectious diseases. To be effective and to provide the best protection, vaccinations must be kept current. There is subject to debate about the timing of booster vaccinations. Based on growing evidence, it is now believed that the protective response to vaccines for distemper, parvovirus and rabies most likely persists for several years following the initial vaccinations series, and that booster injections may be given every 3 three years instead of every year. On that same note, evidence also suggests that vaccines for parainfluenza, bordatella broncheseptica and leptospirosis fail to protect for the full year, thus these vaccinations should be given twice a year, rather than annually. The best advice, until these studies have been accepted, is to follow the current vaccination protocols or the advice of your personal veterinarian.

It is important to note that not all vaccinations will prove effective as vaccine failures can occur. Causes for vaccine failure can include improper storage and handling, incorrect administration, and the inability of a dog to respond due to a debilitated condition or concurrent illness that stresses the immune system. Giving too many vaccinations at the same time can cause immune system overload and thus a failure for the body to produce antibodies. Stretching out vaccines by dividing a single dose between two dogs may not give the protection needed, thus rendering the vaccine ineffective. Finally, if a dog is already infected with a infectious disease, vaccinating it will not alter the course of the disease.

The following is a suggested vaccination schedule. It should be noted that vaccination protocols will vary from veterinarian to veterinarian, as the age of your dog, the route of administration and the type and brand of the vaccine, can influence the vaccine's effectiveness. Be sure to follow your veterinarian's recommendations.

Suggested Vaccination Schedule

| Age of Dog | Vaccine Recommended |
|-------------------|--|
| 6 to 8 Weeks | 1st Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus Given in a combination vaccine: DHLPPC or DA2PPC Bordatella broncheseptica |
| 12 Weeks | 2nd Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus 1st Lyme disease |
| 16 Weeks | 3rd Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus 1st Rabies 2nd Lyme disease |
| Annually | Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus Bordatella broncheseptica Lyme disease |
| Every Three Years | Rabies |
| | Check with your Veterinarian in regards to their Vaccination Protocol |