

DOG VACCINATIONS

Many dangerous infectious diseases can be prevented or lessened in severity with a proper vaccination program. No vaccine is 100% effective, but regular vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent such diseases. Approved vaccines are available for the following diseases:



DISTEMPER COMBO

A "distemper shot" is actually a combination vaccine (DA2PP) which protects against a group of diseases:

- Infectious canine **distemper** is a highly infectious viral disease that attacks the lungs and affects the brain and spinal cord in somewhat the same way polio affects people.
- Canine **adenovirus** type 1 and 2 can cause liver or respiratory disease. The respiratory virus is a contributor to "kennel cough". The liver disease (hepatitis) can damage the liver, kidneys, eyes and blood vessels.
- **Parainfluenza** causes respiratory disease and can also contribute to "kennel cough".
- Canine **parvovirus** attacks the lining of the intestinal tract, and in very young puppies, damages the heart. This highly contagious virus is transmitted by oral contact with infected feces, can survive in the environment for long periods of time and can be transmitted on toys, bowls, and clothing, as well as in the soil. For this reason, prevention of exposure is almost impossible. The signs of disease are seen approximately 5 days after exposure and include: severe, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, high fever, lethargy and loss of appetite. Puppies less than 5 months old are often the most severely affected. Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when bringing their pet to areas where young puppies congregate (parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, and groomers). Do not allow your puppy or dog to come into contact with the fecal waste of other dogs while walking or playing outdoors.
- **Coronavirus** is very similar to the Parvovirus, can be very severe, but has a somewhat different effect on the intestinal tract and generally is not fatal.

BORDETELLA

A common cause of "kennel cough", **bordetella** is a severe but rarely fatal respiratory disease. Because it spreads through the air in confined areas, kennel cough is common even in clean, well run boarding kennels. If your dog will be going to a groomer, attending obedience classes, boarding kennel, or anywhere that they will be exposed to large numbers of dogs, it is wise to protect against the disease. Most boarding kennels require it. For dogs that don't need year 'round protection, the best time to administer the vaccine is two to four weeks before exposure to other groups of dogs.

LEPTO

Leptospirosis causes kidney and liver damage. The disease can affect any mammal, including people, and is spread by urine contamination from infected animals such as raccoons, opossums, rats, coyotes, foxes or other dogs. The newer **Leptospirosis** vaccine includes four strains of the disease, however, many more strains exist.

LYME

Spread by ticks, dogs that roam in brushy areas and get lots of ticks should be vaccinated. Those restricted to their own immediate area and never get ticks probably don't need it. Immunization is given as an initial series of two injections three weeks apart followed by an annual booster. Signs of Lyme disease include lethargy, joint pain and swelling, lameness and fever. More serious signs include kidney failure and heart problems.

RABIES

Spread by animal bites or through the saliva of an infected animal, rabies is always fatal. Because infected pets can give the disease to people, rabies immunization is something you don't want to ignore. Rabies shots are started at 12 weeks of age, boosted a year later, and every three years after that. By law all dogs are required to be up to date on their rabies vaccinations. Rabies is spread by bites or scratches (blood or saliva) of affected animals, and attacks the nervous system tissue (brain and spinal cord). Any animal suspected to have rabies must be euthanized for testing.

VACCINATING YOUR DOG

All pets are different – thus vaccine decisions should be made by you and your veterinarian based on your dog's age, breed, health status, vaccination history, and potential exposure to infectious diseases. Vaccine reactions are always possible though infrequent. As with any medical procedure, the benefits must be balanced against the risks.



What possible risks are associated with vaccination?

Pain, swelling, redness and irritation can occur at the injection site, generally within 30 minutes to 1 week of the vaccination. **Injection site abscesses and skin eruptions** are generally not caused by infection, but by the body's over-reaction to the vaccine. If signs persist, or are severe, contact our veterinary dept: 608.242.2140 ext 3, then 6.

Mild fever, decreased appetite and depression may be observed for 1-2 days following vaccination, most commonly when modified live vaccines are used. Generally no treatment is warranted.

Anaphylaxis is a rare, life-threatening, immediate allergic reaction which occurs within minutes to hours (less than 24) of the vaccination. If untreated, it results in shock, respiratory and cardiac failure and death. Dr. Ronald Schultz of the University of Wisconsin College of Veterinary Medicine estimates that about one case of anaphylaxis occurs for every 15,000 doses of vaccine administered.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis are the sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, [coma](#) and death. The animals' gums will be very pale, and the limbs will feel cold. **Anaphylaxis is an extreme emergency. If you think your dog is having an anaphylactic reaction, seek emergency veterinary assistance immediately.** Epinephrine should be given as soon as possible - we are talking within a few minutes. IV fluids, oxygen, and other medications are given as needed.

Alert your veterinarian before each revaccination if your dog has ever had a reaction to a vaccine. In some cases, certain vaccines may be excluded from your dog's vaccination regimen, a different type of vaccine will be used, or certain drugs, including antihistamines may be given prior to vaccination. Depending on the situation, your dog may need to remain in the veterinarian's office for a period of 30 minutes to several hours. Once home, the dog should be kept under observation for several additional hours. Even with these precautions, life-threatening reactions could still occur.

VACCINATION SCHEDULE

Age	Vaccine
8 Weeks	Distemper Combo Bordetella
12 Weeks	Distemper Combo Rabies (1 year) Fecal Exam
16 Weeks	Distemper Combo w/Lepto
18 Weeks	Lyme
22 Weeks	Lyme
Annual Boosters	Distemper Combo w/Lepto Lyme Bordetella Rabies (then every 3 years) Fecal Exam Heartworm & Lyme Test

