

Canine Vaccination Recommendations

Vaccines work by teaching your dog's immune system how to recognize and fight certain disease agents.

Core vaccines are vaccines against some of the most common diseases and diseases that are a human health concern. It is important that all dogs are properly vaccinated against these diseases. Non-core vaccines are vaccines that we have available, and recommend based on a dog's specific risk or lifestyle.

For any vaccine to provide lasting immunity, the vaccine must be given to a healthy dog and boosted appropriately. Not all vaccines have the same booster schedules, and booster schedules will vary based on the age of initial vaccination. These booster vaccines are like reminders for the immune system, and if not given at appropriate times, the immune system may 'forget', thus leaving the dog un-protected against the disease.

After the appropriate booster series, all of the core vaccines should be repeated in one year. After that time, each vaccine varies in the frequency which it needs to be repeated. Your veterinarian will tell you when each of these vaccines should be repeated.

Core Vaccines

These vaccines are recommended for all dogs in our practice area.

DHPP: This vaccine is most commonly used during a puppy vaccination series.

D = Distemper: This virus causes neurologic, respiratory and gastrointestinal problems.

This virus can be shed by outwardly healthy looking dogs and some wildlife.

H = Hepatitis virus (Canine Adenovirus): This virus can cause many clinical signs including neurologic, GI, upper respiratory and death. This virus can be shed by outwardly healthy looking dogs.

P = parvovirus: This highly contagious virus can survive prolonged periods free in the environment and is thus a serious risk to all unvaccinated dogs. This virus causes severe GI signs and can lead to death.

P = Parainfluenza: This virus is part of the kennel cough complex.

DHLPP= same as DHPP, added L. This vaccine is given as an annual vaccine to most adult dogs.

L = Leptospira: This is a bacteria that can infect not only dogs but many other species including people.

This bacteria is known to exist in water sources in this part of the country so we recommend all dogs be vaccinated not only to protect their health, but to limit the possibility that they bring this disease home to their owner. This disease is associated with many serious clinical signs, the most common of which is kidney failure.

Bordetella: This bacteria is part of the Kennel Cough complex. Vaccination is recommended for all dogs, as this bacteria can be found in many places other than just kennels as the name suggests.

Rabies: This deadly virus is always fatal, and can infect all mammals. This virus is transmitted most commonly via bites. That is why it is so important that pets be vaccinated.

Dogs should be vaccinated for many reasons:

- Prevent your pet from becoming infected
- Public health concern
- Required for licensing or shipping
- Quarantine rules for non-vaccinated dogs that bite someone can be very costly for owners
- If an unvaccinated dog bites someone and that dog becomes sick, that dog may have to be euthanized for testing.

This vaccine only requires an initial vaccine, a second one year later, then every three years. This vaccine must be given by a veterinarian. A certificate of rabies vaccination is required for a dog license.

Non Core Vaccines

These vaccines are recommended for some dogs depending on their lifestyle.

Influenza: Influenza is a respiratory virus that has become a problem in some dog populations in this area. Disease usually presents as lethargy, fever, and respiratory signs. A dog may be at increased risk of infection if he /she: Will spend time at a shelter or rescue, kennel or boarding facility, or any facility with stressed dogs sharing a single airspace. Also note, this virus can be carried on skin and clothing so if the dog's owner spends time at a rescue or boarding facility, then they should consider vaccinating their dogs for influenza.

Borrelia Burgdorferi (Lyme Disease): This is a disease transmitted by tick bites. If an infected tick feeds on the dog it may transmit Borrelia. Once infected the dog may develop a rash at the bite site, followed by fever, lethargy, lameness and if left untreated may lead to death. Dogs that are at increased risk spend time in areas where they are more likely to be bitten by ticks such as wooded areas, hiking, hunting etc. Any owner that knows their property has ticks or takes their dog to areas that might have ticks should consider vaccination for Lyme disease.

Rattlesnake vaccine: There is a vaccine available to help minimize the effects of rattlesnake envenomation. This is rarely a problem in this area, however if your dog spends time in areas with rattlesnakes, ask a veterinarian for a vaccine protocol.