

# Vaccination Recommendations

- Today it seems that there are many different vaccination choices for pet owners. Not all pets need to be vaccinated with everything, and some vaccines may confer protection longer than recommended. Your Veterinarian should be able to help you sift through the information and make a good recommendation about your pet's immunization plan. Below is a questionnaire that will help your Veterinarian with a recommendation.
- Please print and bring in for your annual visit.

Do you live in a house\_\_\_\_\_ or Apartment?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet go outdoors?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet eat Grass?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet Hunt other animals?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet go in lakes or rivers?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet go to dog parks, kennels, or areas that multiple animals congregate?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet go to Northern Minnesota or Wisconsin?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet go to any other states or countries?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your dog get fleas or ticks?\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have more than one pet? \_\_\_\_\_ How many?\_\_\_\_\_

Has your pet had any adverse reaction to previous Vaccinations.\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet have Allergies?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet have and immune related disease?\_\_\_\_\_

Is your pet on any immunosuppressive medications?\_\_\_\_\_



environment, travel habits and lifestyle. Most vets highly recommend administering core vaccines to healthy dogs.

## What Are Core Vaccines?

In 2006, the American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Task Force published a revised version of guidelines regarding canine vaccinations. The guidelines divide vaccines into three categories—core, non-core and not recommended.

- Core vaccines are considered vital to all dogs based on risk of exposure, severity of disease or transmissibility to humans. Canine parvovirus, distemper, canine hepatitis and rabies are considered core vaccines by the Task Force.
- Non-core vaccines are given depending on the dog's exposure risk. These include vaccines against *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Leptospira* bacteria.

Your veterinarian can determine what vaccines are best for your dog.

## What Vaccines Should My Puppy Get?

Puppies should receive a series of vaccinations with a combination vaccine product that protects against parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis. Your puppy must also be vaccinated against rabies. There are a variety of other vaccines that may or may not be appropriate for your pet.

## Are Any Vaccines Required By Law?

Each state has its own laws governing the administration of the rabies vaccine. Some areas require yearly rabies vaccination. Other areas call for vaccines every three years. An up-to-date canine rabies vaccination is a legal requirement. Be sure to keep proof of your dog's rabies vaccines with his medical records.

## How Often Should My Adult Dog Be Vaccinated?

Your veterinarian can best determine a vaccination schedule for your dog. This will depend on the type of vaccine, your dog's age, medical history, environment and lifestyle. Some adult dogs might receive certain vaccines annually, while other vaccines might be given every 3 years or longer.

## When Should My Puppy Be Vaccinated?

If his mother has a healthy immune system, a puppy will most likely receive antibodies in mother's milk while nursing. Puppies should receive a series of vaccinations starting at six to eight weeks of age. A veterinarian should administer a minimum of three vaccinations at three- to four-week intervals. The final dose should be administered at 16 weeks of age.

## Are There Any Risks Associated With Vaccines?

Immunizations mildly stimulate an animal's immune system in order to create protection from specific infectious diseases. This stimulation can create mild symptoms, ranging from soreness at the injection site to fever and allergic reactions. Another less common side effect is the development of immune mediated disease following vaccination.

That said, it is important to realize that vaccines have saved countless lives, and play a vital role in the battle against canine infectious disease. Additionally, rabies vaccinations have saved the lives of countless dogs—and many humans as well. In some developing countries, hundreds of people die each year due to rabies contracted from dog bites.

As with any medical procedure, there is a small chance of side effects. In most cases, the risks are much smaller than the risks of disease itself. But it is important to talk to your veterinarian about your dog's medical history before he is vaccinated.

## What Symptoms Should I Look For?

Most dogs show no ill effect from vaccination. Vaccine reactions may be minor and short-lived or require immediate care from a veterinarian. Clinical signs include:

- Fever
- Sluggishness
- Loss of appetite

- Facial swelling and/or hives
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pain, swelling, redness, scabbing or hair loss around the injection site
- Lameness
- Collapse
- Difficulty breathing
- Seizures

It is best to schedule your dog's appointment so that you can monitor him for any side effects following administration of the vaccine.

### What Should I Do if I Think My Dog Is Having an Adverse Reaction to a Vaccine?

If you suspect your dog is having a reaction to a vaccine, call your veterinarian immediately.