

Dog vaccination guide



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Animal Health



Vaccinations: why & when?

Protecting your best friend

One of the most important things you can do to help your dog live a long and healthy life is to ensure that he or she is vaccinated. Your veterinarian will know the vaccinations your dog needs in order to stay protected.

Why does my dog need to be vaccinated?

In their first few weeks, puppies receive disease-fighting antibodies from their mother's milk, which provides immunity from disease. These antibodies quickly decline, so vaccines are needed to create longer-lasting antibodies to protect your dog.

When should my dog be vaccinated?

Your puppy should begin their vaccination schedule as soon as your veterinarian recommends, which, in some cases, can start as early as 4 weeks old. Vaccinations are typically repeated every 2 to 4 weeks until your puppy is 16 weeks of age or older. Your dog will require repeat vaccinations at regular intervals for the rest of his or her life in order to remain protected.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines stimulate your dog's immune system to produce disease-fighting cells and proteins – or antibodies – to protect your dog against disease.



Which vaccinations should my dog receive?

Veterinarians agree that your pet should be protected against common diseases that are highly contagious and cause serious illness. Your veterinarian may recommend additional vaccinations based on your dog's environment and lifestyle.

Is vaccination safe?

There is a small chance of side effects with vaccination. Common side effects are mild and include soreness or swelling at the injection site, fever, or decreased appetite. Risks of side effects are much smaller than risks posed by disease. Rare side effects, such as allergic reactions, may occur within hours. If this happens, call your veterinarian immediately.



Custom vaccination schedules for unique lifestyles

Your dog will benefit from regular checkups with your veterinarian, including visits for vaccinations. Your veterinarian should understand your dog's lifestyle to determine the best vaccination schedule for them based on risk factors. Some important information that your veterinarian will want to know includes:

Geographic location
(prevalence of ticks, etc)

Age and spay/neuter status

Social activity
(boarding, dog parks, groomer, etc)

Outdoor activity
(hunting, roaming)

Water-based activity
(drinking from or swimming/wading in rivers or lakes; drinking from puddles)

Help your veterinarian determine what vaccines are right for your dog.

Describe your dog's lifestyle with your veterinarian. This will help them decide which vaccines your dog needs.



FREE SPIRIT | Is your dog:

A hunting dog, or do you live in or near a rural area?

Likely to eat or drink from unknown sources?



URBAN SOCIALITE | Is your dog:

Exposed to other dogs in areas such as doggie daycare or dog parks?

Exposed to areas frequented by rodents?



PAMPERED POOCH | Is your dog:

Treated to frequent trips to the groomer?

Taken on social outings like shopping or to other public places?



HOMEBOODY | Is your dog:

Never exposed to any other animals, known or unknown?

Under strict control of their activities and not allowed access to unknown food or water?



Canine diseases

Canine Distemper

This often-fatal, hard-to-treat disease is highly contagious. The distemper virus attacks many organs, including the nervous system. It is most commonly spread through airborne droplets during coughing and sneezing.

Canine Parvovirus

The disease caused by this virus is very contagious, debilitating, and widespread. Spread through infected feces, the highly resistant virus can remain in the environment for many years.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis

This disease is transmitted by contact with secretions, such as nasal discharge, urine, or feces of infected dogs. In mild to moderate cases it causes respiratory disease and eye damage. In more severe cases this virus can potentially cause pneumonia, liver failure and eye damage.

Rabies

Rabies affects the central nervous system of almost all mammals, including humans. It is spread through contact with the saliva of infected animals through bites or breaks in the skin. The most common carriers of rabies are bats, skunks, raccoons, and foxes. There is no cure for rabies. For this reason, many municipalities require that all dogs receive regular rabies vaccinations.





Canine Influenza (Dog Flu)

Canine influenza virus causes a respiratory infection in dogs that is also known as dog flu. The infection is very contagious to other dogs. Most dogs have a mild form of the infection, but some dogs may develop pneumonia and have a more serious disease course that requires hospitalization.

Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (Canine Cough)

A highly contagious infectious disease of the upper respiratory tract, canine cough is spread through coughing and sneezing from other dogs. Co-infection of *Bordetella* bacteria commonly causes canine cough as well as respiratory viruses, such as canine parainfluenza virus and canine adenovirus type 2.

Leptospirosis

An infectious disease that can affect many animals, including wildlife, rodents, and dogs. It is a zoonotic disease, which means it can spread between animals and people. Your dog can contract the organism through direct contact with another infected animal, by eating infected meat, or most commonly through contact with anything that has been contaminated by the urine of an infected animal.

Lyme disease

A disease transmitted by ticks to both dogs and humans, which may result in arthritis. This disease is more common in the northern parts of the United States.



Merck Animal Health, the maker of Nobivac[®] vaccines, is committed to making a difference



Every purchase of Nobivac[®] vaccines helps provide ongoing support and vaccine donations to Mission Rabies and Rabies Free Africa.



For more information visit afya.org

TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN TODAY ABOUT WHAT VACCINATIONS HE OR SHE RECOMMENDS.

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