

VACCINATION PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULE

Every veterinarian will have a preferred protocol for vaccinating puppies and for follow-up vaccinations. In addition, protocols change because of new research findings for the duration of the vaccine's immunity. Here is a general vaccine protocol for your puppy. Consult a veterinarian to learn what's best for your puppy. Your puppy will have received the first combination vaccine at 8 weeks old and we will provide you with his/her shot records at pick-up. Although all veterinarians agree vaccines are necessary, the frequency in which they're given is debated. In order to ensure the existence of duration of immunity, titer testing may be used.

- ✓ **8-10 weeks of age:** Administer first combination vaccine (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza). Combination vaccine* without leptospirosis. (Dreamydoodles NW gave your puppies first vaccine at 10 weeks)
- ✓ **13 weeks of age:** Administer second combination vaccine.
- ✓ **16 weeks of age:** Administer the third combination vaccine, include leptospirosis in the combination vaccine if in an area where it occurs or if traveling to an area where it is a concern. Puppies should be fully vaccinated at this point however some Vets will recommend even one more set. I recommend you titer test before doing a 4th injection of the core vaccines.
- ✓ **12 to 16 weeks of age:** Administer rabies vaccine. The timing of this vaccine may depend on the laws in your area (since this can be a human disease, too). Confirm with your veterinarian and check your local and state laws.

PRIMARY VACCINATIONS NEEDED

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

FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE PUPPY VACCINATION SCHEDULE

The age at which puppies can effectively be immunized is related to the amount of antibodies the puppy received from its mother. When high levels of maternal antibodies are still present in the puppies' bloodstream, they will block the effectiveness of a vaccine and it will not work. Only when the maternal antibodies drop to a lower level in the puppy will immunization by commercial vaccines be effective so the same shot is given 3 times in an attempt to catch the magic window of time when the maternal antibodies wear off and the puppies need to kick in.

Another factor to keep in mind is that state laws govern the administration of the rabies vaccine. Some areas require yearly rabies vaccination. Other areas call for vaccines every three years. But no matter where you live, 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.

Dog Vaccines: The Importance of Exercising Caution

Since the introduction of dog and cat vaccines, the traditional view of their use has been that they are safe and can be given as frequently as once or twice a year. This approach, tragically, has caused a tremendous amount of suffering for millions of pets.

As the truth about the dangers of vaccines slowly emerges, even traditional veterinary organizations and practitioners are acknowledging that vaccines are not the benign, "better safe than sorry" veterinary tools they were thought to be.

Most importantly, I do not recommend automatic re-vaccinations at prescribed intervals. You can have what's called a titer test done to see if the initial vaccines worked so that you do not need to uslessly re-vaccinate your puppy and take a risk of making them sick.

Why Titer test?

Blood antibody titer testing (a simple blood test) is the best way to determine if an animal or human has received immunity from vaccination. (Just giving a vaccine proves only that you've given it, not that it worked.) Over Vaccinating your puppy can be dangerous. Research Vaccinosis.

The parvovirus/distemper test can help you determine if your dog requires additional vaccination, and may save your dog from unnecessary and sometimes dangerous shots. It is especially useful when determining if puppies have received immunity from vaccinations.

How often should I test titers for parvo and distemper?

You're going to have to decide for yourself. Some vets recommend testing yearly, but this can be expensive. Others test every three years. Still others test five to seven years after vaccination. Why? Challenge tests show that successful vaccination against parvovirus gives most animals at least seven years of immunity. Distemper provides immunity for at least five to seven years.*

To get an accurate test, you must wait *at least* 14 days after vaccination before testing.

Your Pet's Individual Risk of Vaccinosis

The strength and balance of every animal's immune system is different, so there's no way to predict – unless your dog has had a reaction in the past -- how much danger your pet is in from exposure to the modified virus contained in any given vaccine or the many toxic ingredients it contains. **That's why I strongly encourage pet owners to avoid all unnecessary vaccines and re-vaccinations.**