

Dog Vaccinations

8–10 minutes



Dog Vaccinations

Everything You Must Know About Vaccinating Your Dog

Dog vaccinations play a critical role in protecting your [dog from many dangerous and even fatal diseases](#). While state law requires all dogs are vaccinated for rabies, there are a number of other vaccinations that can protect your dog from serious diseases that are easily preventable.

At 4 Paws Veterinary Care we have spent years educating people about the benefits of dog vaccinations. This includes what vaccines are necessary and how they should be scheduled. Over the years we have been asked every question possible about dog vaccinations and we have compiled some of the most frequently

asked ones for you here. This is only meant to be a general introduction dog vaccinations. At your dog's next veterinary appointment, we will be happy to help you understand the vaccination recommendations for your dog.

What Are Dog Vaccines And Why Are They Important?

Vaccines help prepare a dog's immune system to defend itself from any invasion of disease-causing organisms. Vaccines contain antigens, which mimic disease-causing organisms in a dog's immune system, but don't actually cause disease. The purpose of puppy vaccines and dog vaccines is to mildly stimulate the immune system by having it recognize the antigens present. This way, if a dog becomes exposed to the real disease, it's immune system will recognize it, and therefore be prepared to fight it off, or at least reduce its effects.

What Are The Core Dog Vaccinations?

Core puppy vaccinations and dog vaccinations are considered vital to all canines based on a universal risk of exposure, the severity of disease, and the risk of transmission to other dogs, as well as other animal species including human beings.

The American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Task Force considers the following dog vaccinations to be core:

- Canine Parvovirus
- Canine Distemper
- Hepatitis

- Rabies

Non core - vaccines include

- Bordetella
- Canine Influenza (dog flu)
- Lyme vaccine
- Leptospirosis

Although these vaccines are not considered Core, they are very important for most dogs who may be exposed to these infectious diseases. At your dog's next appointment, we will be happy to review which of the above make the most sense for your dog and make the appropriate recommendations.

Rabies vaccinations are required by law in most states, including NY. Owners must periodically have their dogs and puppies vaccinated against rabies, but the specific time frames for puppy vaccinations and dog vaccinations vary by state. In NY, puppy rabies vaccine is generally given at 14-16 weeks (no earlier than week 12), and the rabies vaccination is good for one year. For adult dogs, the rabies vaccination is good for three years and should be addressed at the time of the first visit for new patients. For example, a puppy would receive the rabies vaccine at 14 weeks, 1 year and then again at age 4.

Are There Optional Dog Vaccines?

Although puppy vaccines and dog vaccinations are very important to the overall health and wellness of your canine companion, not every puppy or dog needs to be vaccinated against every disease. Some canine vaccinations should only be administered depending

upon factors including:

- Age
- Medical history
- Environment
- Travel habits
- Lifestyle

Therefore, it is very important for us to discuss the vaccination protocol that's right for your canine companion at your next appointment.

When To Start Puppy Vaccinations

In general, [a puppy](#) should start vaccines as soon as you get the puppy (this is usually between 6 and 8 weeks) and then every two weeks until approximately four months of age when it will receive the final round. Generally, if the puppy's mother has a healthy immune system, it will most likely receive antibodies in the mother's milk while nursing. After a puppy has been weaned off of the mother's milk, vaccinations should begin.

Puppy Vaccination Schedule

We typically recommend the following vaccination schedule for puppies:

- 6-10 weeks: DA2PP, Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
- 11-14 weeks: DA2PP, Leptospirosis, Canine Influenza, Lyme Disease
- 16 weeks: DA2PP, Leptospirosis, Canine Influenza, Lyme Disease,

Rabies

****NOTE:*** Puppies should never be given more than 2 vaccines at one visit. Smaller puppies may only receive one vaccine at a time.

** DA2PP - distemper, adenovirus type 2 (hepatitis), parvovirus, parainfluenza.*

It is important to stay current with your puppy vaccine schedule. Puppy vaccinations have been medically proven to combat many preventable diseases and illnesses that can occur without proper immunizations. Adhering to a puppy vaccine schedule is synonymous with responsible puppy care. Your puppy deserves every chance to be healthy and happy for life and vaccinations play an important role. Don't run the risk of your puppy contracting one of these terrible diseases, when they are so easily preventable.

Dog Vaccination Schedule

Once your puppy reaches adulthood, and all of the core puppy vaccines have been administered, [your veterinarian](#) can begin implementing an adult dog vaccination schedule. A dog vaccination schedule consists of periodic adult boosters*, which are combinations of the same type of DA2PP vaccine administered to puppies, along with several other additions.

When dogs come in for their first one year visit, we recommend boosting their DA2PP, Lyme, Canine Influenza, Bordetella, Leptospirosis, and Rabies vaccines depending on the lifestyle of the dog.

The Amount Of Time Each Vaccination Is Effective

Is As Follows:

- DA2PP - 3 years
- Rabies - 3 years
- Leptospirosis - 1 year
- Canine Influenza - 1 year
- Lyme Disease - 1 year
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough) - 1 year

Side Effects And Risks Associated With Dog Vaccinations

The benefits of vaccinations far outweigh any risks. Adverse reactions to dog vaccines are rare. However, as with any medication or immunization protocol, puppy vaccinations and dog vaccinations can cause some side effects. We do recommend that you have your puppy or dog vaccinated at time when when you can monitor them after the vaccination.

If your dog does experience any reaction to vaccinations, symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Sluggishness
- Loss of appetite
- Facial or paw swelling and/or hives
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

- Pain or swelling around the injection site
- Collapse, difficulty breathing, and seizures (anaphylactic shock)

Just as with human vaccines, mild symptoms can be ignored and are a sign of immune response. The majority of reactions are mild and short lived. If you suspect a more severe reaction to puppy vaccines or dog vaccines, such as facial swelling, vomiting or lethargy, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

Scheduling An Appointment For Dog Vaccinations

A puppy vaccination schedule should be established during your first veterinarian visit, which should take place within a week of receiving your new puppy. An adult dog vaccination schedule, which includes periodic booster immunizations, can be scheduled after the puppy vaccination schedule has been completed, or immediately upon welcoming an adolescent or adult dog into your family.

As with any other immunization protocol, a dog vaccination schedule should be adhered to without deviation, in order to ensure your canine companion remains healthy, happy and well for the duration of his or her life. Schedule an appointment for your canine companion to receive their vaccinations today.

[Schedule An Appointment To Get Your Dog Vaccinated Today!](#)

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