

# Vaccination Recommendations for Dogs

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Vaccines are now being divided into two classes. 'Core' vaccines for dogs are those that should be given to every dog. 'Noncore' vaccines are recommended only for certain dogs. Whether to vaccinate with noncore vaccines depends upon a number of things including the age, breed, and health status of the dog, the potential exposure of the dog to an animal that has the disease, the type of vaccine and how common the disease is in the geographical area where the dog lives or may visit.

The AVMA Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents' Report on Cat and Dog Vaccines has recommended that the core vaccines for dogs include [distemper](#), [canine adenovirus-2](#) (hepatitis and respiratory disease), and [canine parvovirus-2](#).

Noncore vaccines include [leptospirosis](#), [coronavirus](#), canine parainfluenza and *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (both are causes of '[kennel cough](#)'), and *Borrelia burgdorferi* (causes [Lyme Disease](#)). Consult with your veterinarian to select the proper vaccines for your dog or puppy.

## AVMA Vaccination Recommendations for Dogs

Component	Class	Efficacy	Length of Immunity	Risk/Severity of Adverse Effects	Comments
<a href="#">Canine Distemper</a>	Core	High	> 1 year for <a href="#">modified live virus (MLV) vaccines</a>	Low	
Measles	Noncore	High in preventing disease, but not in preventing infection	Long	Infrequent	Use in high risk environments for canine distemper in puppies 4-10 weeks of age
<a href="#">Parvovirus</a>	Core	High	> 1 year	Low	
<a href="#">Hepatitis</a>	Core	High	> 1 year	Low	Only use canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2) vaccines
<a href="#">Rabies</a>	Core	High	Dependent upon type of vaccine	Low to moderate	

<a href="#">Respiratory disease from canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2)</a>	Noncore	Not adequately studied	Short	Minimal	If vaccination warranted, boost annually or more frequently
<a href="#">Parainfluenza</a>	Noncore	Intranasal MLV - Moderate Injectable MLV - Low	Moderate	Low	Only recommended for dogs in kennels, shelters, shows, or large colonies; If vaccination warranted, boost annually or more frequently
<a href="#">Bordetella</a>	Noncore	Intranasal MLV - Moderate Injectable MLV - Low	Short	Low	For the most benefit, use intranasal vaccine 2 weeks prior to exposure
<a href="#">Leptospirosis</a>	Noncore	Variable	Short	High	Up to 30% of dogs may not respond to vaccine
<a href="#">Coronavirus</a>	Noncore	Low	Short	Low	Risk of exposure high in kennels, shelters, shows, breeding facilities
<a href="#">Lyme</a>	Noncore	Appears to be limited to previously unexposed dogs; variable	Revaccinate annually	Moderate	

A possible vaccination schedule for the 'average' dog is shown below.

### Dog Vaccination Schedule

#### Age Vaccination

5 weeks **Parvovirus**: for puppies at high risk of exposure to parvo, some veterinarians recommend vaccinating at 5 weeks. Check with your veterinarian.

6 & 9 weeks **Combination vaccine\*** without leptospirosis.

Coronavirus: where coronavirus is a concern.

12 weeks or older **Rabies**: Given by your local veterinarian (age at vaccination may vary according to local law).

12 & 15 weeks\*\* **Combination vaccine**

**Leptospirosis**: include leptospirosis in the combination vaccine where leptospirosis is a concern, or if traveling to an area where it occurs.

**Coronavirus**: where coronavirus is a concern.

**Lyme**: where Lyme disease is a concern or if traveling to an area where it occurs.

Adult (boosters)<sup>§</sup> **Combination vaccine**

**Leptospirosis**: include leptospirosis in the combination vaccine where leptospirosis is a concern, or if traveling to an area where it occurs.

**Coronavirus**: where coronavirus is a concern.

**Lyme:** where Lyme disease is a concern or if traveling to an area where it occurs.

**Rabies:** Given by your local veterinarian (time interval between vaccinations may vary according to local law).

\*A combination vaccine, often called a 5-way vaccine, usually includes adenovirus cough and hepatitis, distemper, parainfluenza, and parvovirus. Some combination vaccines may also include leptospirosis (7-way vaccines) and/or coronavirus. The inclusion of either canine adenovirus-1 or adenovirus-2 in a vaccine will protect against both adenovirus cough and hepatitis; adenovirus-2 is highly preferred.

\*\*Some puppies may need additional vaccinations against parvovirus after 15 weeks of age. Consult with your local veterinarian.

§ According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, dogs at low risk of disease exposure may not need to be boosted yearly for most diseases. Consult with your local veterinarian to determine the appropriate vaccination schedule for your dog. Remember, recommendations vary depending on the age, breed, and health status of the dog, the potential of the dog to be exposed to the disease, the type of vaccine, whether the dog is used for breeding, and the geographical area where the dog lives or may visit.

**Bordetella and parainfluenza:** For complete canine cough protection, we recommend Intra-Trac II ADT. For dogs that are shown, in field trials, or are boarded, we recommend vaccination every six months with Intra-Trac II ADT.

Researchers at the Veterinary Schools at the University of Minnesota, Colorado State University, and University of Wisconsin suggest alternating vaccinations in dogs from year to year. Instead of using multivalent vaccines (combination vaccines against more than one disease), they recommend using monovalent vaccines which only have one component, e.g., a vaccine that only contains parvovirus. So, one year your dog would be vaccinated against distemper, the next year against canine adenovirus-2, and the third year against parvovirus. Then the cycle would repeat itself. Other researchers believe we may not have enough information to recommend only vaccinating every 3 years. Manufacturers of dog vaccines have not changed their labeling which recommends annual vaccinations. Again, each dog owner must make an informed choice of when to vaccinate, and with what. Consult with your veterinarian to help you make the decision.

## Breeders' Frequently Asked Questions

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### **How old does my dog have to be before they can be bred? Please answer for both males and females.**

Typically, males reach sexual maturity before females, meaning some males can sire a litter when they are six months old or less. Females take a little longer to mature. But the best answer to this question is to wait until both are fully mature so you can assess their physical traits and find the best mate to breed away from any faults. You should also wait for your dog to fully mature so that you can perform any necessary health checks on them to make sure that they won't pass on any heritable diseases or conditions.

### **Should all females be bred once?**

No, this is a fallacy. A female dog does not need to be bred. And, if you don't plan on breeding your dog, early spaying can help reduce the occurrence of various forms of cancer.

### **Does breeding a female make her more docile?**

No, breeding or raising puppies has no permanent effect on the female's temperament.

### **What do the terms line breeding, inbreeding, outcrossing mean?**

The terms line breeding, inbreeding and outcrossing refer to different ways breeders plan breedings in order to produce quality puppies and breed out physical faults. For more information, please read the article "[Planning a Breeding.](#)"

### **I have a male dog. How do I get people to breed their females to him?**

This is a question many people have when they want to breed their males. Some people even call people up and ask them to breed their females to their dog because they have a nice dog. There are many factors that partake in the breeding process, so this is not a good choice in finding a lady mate for your stud. The best way to get your dog out there and recognized as a stud is advertisement. Knowledgeable people like to see health testing, titles, or even programs like the Performance or Merit Sire program. Make sure to list his health testing, show information, hunt information, pictures, pedigrees, programs, or any sort of information one would need or want in preparing breeding information. Basic places to advertise would be newspapers, magazines through an organization, a breeders list, and websites. Some people even post articles at their local pet store.

### **Is it OK to do a brother/sister breeding?**

It is generally not a good idea. A brother/sister breeding is considered inbreeding. While it can be used in some cases to solidify certain traits in the puppies, it also can reinforce faults that can be very hard to eliminate for generations.

### **When is a female too old to be bred? Male?**

The watchword in this instance is condition, meaning the physical condition of the female. If an older female still has regular seasons and is in excellent physical condition, she may be able to withstand the rigors of carrying a litter and nursing the puppies. It would be wise to get the opinion of your veterinarian before such an undertaking.

Males can sire a litter as senior citizens and don't have to worry about things like nursing puppies. However, before breeding to a senior dog it would be wise to get him tested by your vet and getting his opinion.

## Should I Breed My Dog?

If you are reading this article, you are probably considering breeding your dog in the near or distant future. First of all, I wish to commend you for researching this sometimes controversial topic. Secondly, if you decide to breed your dog, please commit to providing the very best care for your dog and the puppies. As a breeder you will need to recognize this commitment extends to placing the puppies in trustworthy and loving homes.

This article is not intended to discourage an individual who is wholeheartedly determined to breed a better specimen of their particular breed. It is however, meant to discourage the individual who may look at their dogs as easy money making opportunity. Consider the time, money and effort involved in producing a litter and make sure you are physically, emotionally and financially ready to begin a breeding program.

Please make sure you are starting out with the healthiest male and female possible, spend time researching your breed, are there certain lines that live longer and have fewer health issues than other lines? Familiarize yourself with you breed's written standard, make sure you understand what the terms mean that are used in your breed's written standard.

As you breed and develop your bloodline, please make sure you place pups that should not be bred in homes that will spay or neuter. Always be responsible for the puppies you are creating. Commit to making yourself available to the families you place your puppies with, following these guidelines will help you become a responsible breeder.



## Thoughts on Breeding – Ethics and Success

*by Joe Maitland*

For several years I have pondered the mysteries - the why and how of coonhound breeding. Over the years I've tried, what I believe, a representative hound of each the family strains within my breed of choice. Because my opinions are limited to the few individuals I have experience with and, to a certain extent, success in the Nite Hunt sport is indirectly correlated with "political correctness" (i.e., "I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine"), I will refrain from mentioning any certain names or breeding.

[Read more here](#) ▶



## Breeding Problems In The Bitch

*by Albert H. Markway, DVM*

Before we get into too many complicated things, let's cover the simple things. If you're planning on breeding your bitch, first make sure that she's in good body condition and worm-free. An undernourished or wormy bitch is less likely to breed and, if she does breed, is more apt to have weak pups. By the same token, an obese bitch is also a little less likely to breed and a lot more likely to have problems in delivering pups and lactating normally.

[Read more here](#) ▶

