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## **VACCINATIONS FOR DOGS**

Vaccinating your dog has long been considered one of the easiest ways to help him live a long, healthy life. Your veterinarian can determine a vaccination regime that will provide the safest and best protection for your individual dog. Here are answers to some of your most frequently asked questions regarding vaccines:

### **\*What Exactly Are Vaccines?**

Vaccines help prepare the body's immune system to fight the invasion of disease-causing organisms. When the vaccine is introduced to the body, the immune system is mildly stimulated. If a dog is ever exposed to the real disease, his immune system is now prepared to fight it off entirely or reduce the severity of the illness.

### **\*How Important Are Vaccines to the Health of My Dog?**

Bottom line—vaccines are very important in managing the health of your dog. That said, not every dog needs to be vaccinated against every disease. It is very important to discuss with your veterinarian a vaccination protocol that's right 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.

DO NOT WALK your puppy if he/she has NOT had any vaccinations. Parvo Virus is a devastating and usually deadly disease they can catch from feces (poop) left on the ground on the street.

### **\*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. A TAG should be on his collar at all times.

### **\*When Should My Puppy Be Vaccinated? Always check with a vet first!**

#### **Puppies (6 weeks to 1 year)**

6 – 8 weeks..... first puppy shot (DH2PP)  
11 –12 weeks..... second puppy shot (DH2PP)  
15-16 weeks..... third puppy shot (DH2PP)  
over 4 months..... Rabies ( repeat 1 year later)

#### **Adult Dogs (after 1 year)**

DH2PP..... Yearly  
Heartworm Test..... Yearly  
Rabies..... Every three years (after 2nd shot)  
Bordatella (if you board your dog)..... Yearly

### **\*Are There Any Risks Associated With Vaccines?**

Immunizations mildly stimulate an animal's immune system in order to create protection from specific infectious diseases. Additionally, rabies vaccinations have saved the lives of countless dogs—and many humans as well. As with any medical procedure, there is a small chance of side effects. 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, difficulty breathing, seizure. \*\*\*\*\*If you suspect your dog is having a reaction to a vaccine, call your veterinarian or go to Vet Hospital immediately\*\*\*\*\*

