

The Ultimate Guide to Canine Vaccinations:

Protecting Your Dog For Lifelong Health

Vaccinating your dog is vital to their health and well-being, regardless of how far they roam. Vaccines protect against serious illnesses such as Canine Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, and Rabies. Keeping your dog's vaccinations up-to-date not only safeguards their health but also protects other animals they may encounter.

This simple preventative measure is essential for ensuring your dog remains healthy and safe.

CORE VACCINATIONS:

Core vaccines are recommended for all dogs, regardless of their lifestyle.

DAP (Distemper, Adenovirus, and Parvovirus) Vaccine: The DAP vaccine is a vital immunization for dogs, protecting them against three diseases: Distemper, Adenovirus, and Parvovirus. These illnesses can lead to severe health complications and even death, making vaccination essential for your dog's well-being.

Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic animals affecting the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. It spreads through respiratory secretions and contact with contaminated surfaces, with symptoms ranging from fever and coughing to seizures and paralysis. It is incurable and often fatal.

Adenovirus causes infectious Canine Hepatitis, primarily affecting the liver. It spreads through contact with infected urine, feces, or saliva, leading to symptoms like fever, inappetence, vomiting, and jaundice, and can result in liver failure.

Parvovirus primarily affects puppies and unvaccinated dogs, causing severe gastrointestinal illness and attacking the white blood cells of the patient. The primary source of the virus is the feces of infected dogs. It spreads through contact with infected dogs or contaminated environments, with symptoms including severe vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy.

Administered during puppyhood with follow-up boosters, the DAP vaccine is essential for your dog's health and helps to prevent disease outbreaks in the canine community.

Rabies Vaccine: The Rabies vaccination is mandatory for all pet cats, dogs, and ferrets, even if they live exclusively indoors. Rabies is a fatal virus spread through the bite wounds or contact with the saliva of an infected animal. Since Rabies is transmissible to humans, vaccinating your dog is essential for their safety and the well-being of everyone in your household and community.

LIFESTYLE VACCINATIONS:

Lifestyle vaccines are elective and are chosen based on your dog's exposure risks and lifestyle.

Bordetella/Parainfluenza (Kennel Cough) Vaccine: Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRDC) is caused by a number of pathogens, two of which, Bordetella and Parainfluenza virus, are protected by our oral Kennel Cough vaccine. This condition often leads to a persistent cough, which can progress to Pneumonia or other respiratory complications.

Vaccination is recommended for all puppies and adult dogs that have social interactions with other dogs through play, grooming, boarding, or visits to dog parks.

Please note that kennel cough is caused by a complex of different viruses, mycoplasma and bacteria, with Bordetella Bronchiseptica and Parainfluenza virus being two of the primary culprits. The vaccine protects against specific strains, but your dog may still be exposed to other pathogens not covered by the vaccine.

Leptospirosis Vaccine: Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease with serious health consequences. It is caused by Leptospira bacteria, which can be found in water, soil, and the urine of infected animals, including rodents, livestock, raccoons, and other wildlife. Dogs can contract the disease through direct contact with contaminated water, soil, or the urine of infected animals. Symptoms can range from mild to severe and may include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, jaundice, and kidney or liver failure. As a zoonotic disease, Leptospirosis can also be transmitted to humans, posing a risk not only to infected dogs but also their owners and other animals.

For dogs who frequently come into contact with standing water, puddles, and wildlife habitats, annual vaccination is highly recommended.

Lyme Disease Vaccine: Lyme disease is a serious tick-borne illness caused by the Borrelia Burgdorferi bacteria, primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected Black-Legged tick. Dogs may exhibit a range of symptoms, from no clinical signs to lameness, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, joint pain and swollen lymph nodes. Lyme disease can lead to kidney damage that may become life-threatening. Vaccination is an important part of the recommended prevention strategy for at-risk dogs.

Monthly tick prevention is also essential in reducing the risk of infection and preventing your dog from bringing ticks into contact with humans in the household. Regular blood parasite screening can be helpful in detecting this illness.

If you have any questions about which vaccines are best for your dog, feel free to reach out to us. We're here to help you make informed decisions and ensure your dog stays happy, healthy, and protected!

**Sincerely,
Veterinarians and Staff of Ilderton Pet Hospital**