

## Facts and Myths About Canine Vaccination

**Myth:** Diseases that we vaccinate against are rare; the chances of my dog getting distemper, parvovirus, or rabies is so small that it isn't worth my money.

**Fact:** Without vaccination, veterinarians would see these diseases much more frequently. Distemper and parvovirus are in the environment, just waiting for your unvaccinated dog to come strolling by. And if your dog bites somebody, the law says the victim may force an expensive quarantine on the dog if it has not been vaccinated for rabies.

**Myth:** My dog doesn't go outside much, so it's not going to get these diseases.

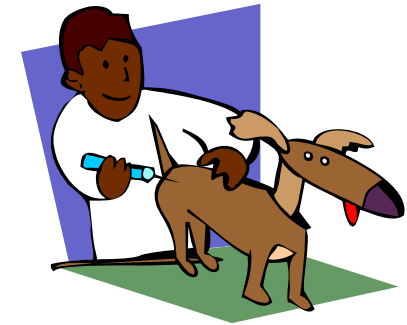
**Fact:** You can bring these diseases in to your dog. While humans can't get sick from distemper or parvovirus, you can carry the virus on your clothing and skin, and your unvaccinated dog would be helpless to defend itself.



	6-8 weeks old	10-12 weeks old	14-16 weeks old	Rest of Life
DHPP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yearly until at least eight years
Rabies			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	One year later, then every other year
Lyme			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (OPTIONAL)	Booster two weeks later, then yearly
Bordatella			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (OPTIONAL)	Every 12 months



## Vaccinating Your New Puppy



Serving the healthcare needs of pets and their families in West Duluth and the Arrowhead region since 1985.

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## Vaccination Schedule for Puppies

Congratulations on your new puppy! Puppies are wonderful creatures, but just like baby humans, they require a higher degree of medical attention in their first year of life. The purpose of this handout is to discuss the vaccines your new puppy needs, and why they are important.

### **What vaccines does my new puppy need?**

Just as human babies are susceptible to life-threatening diseases like polio, dog babies are at risk for contracting dangerous viral diseases unless they are vaccinated for them. These diseases are very deadly and vaccination is an easy way to minimize the danger to your new puppy:

**Distemper:** This is a neurologic and respiratory viral disease of young dogs. The virus is present in the environment and can be carried by other canids, including raccoons. There is no cure for distemper. The few dogs that recover are often weak and listless for the rest of their life.

**Parvovirus:** This is a gastrointestinal virus of dogs. Parvovirus (called "parvo" for short) is naturally present in the environment, and is more concentrated in areas where dogs frequent. The disease is characterized by severe vomiting and diarrhea, with blood in both. Dogs which become sick from Parvovirus can be saved, but the cost of hospitalization and therapy often runs anywhere from \$700 to \$1100.

**Rabies:** Rabies is the best-known canine disease. Vaccination is required by law because: A) there is no treat-

ment, B) it is always fatal, and C) it is transmissible to humans, for whom it is also untreatable and fatal. Dogs which develop signs of rabies are required by law to be euthanized.

### **What other diseases should my puppy be vaccinated against?**

We offer at-risk vaccines for three other diseases. The best known of these diseases is Lyme Disease, which is carried by ticks. *Bordatella Bronchiseptica* is better known as Kennel Cough. Some dogs may be at risk for Leptospirosis as well. Talk to your veterinarian if you have questions as to whether your new puppy will need these vaccines.

### **When should my puppy be vaccinated?**

Puppies receive antibodies against all of these diseases from their mother's milk. Therefore, they are protected from these diseases for the first six to eight weeks of life. Around four weeks of age, the concentration of these antibodies starts to fall within the puppy's bloodstream. It is shortly after this time the pup needs its first vaccination, its first Distemper-Hepatitis-Parainfluenza-Parvovirus (DHPP) shot. The vaccine is nearly 100% effective in preventing Distemper, Hepatitis (Adenovirus), and Parainfluenza. It is about 95-98% effective in preventing Parvovirus.

The remaining antibodies from the pup's mother will interfere with the vaccine, preventing the puppy from developing full immunity to these diseases. The maternal antibodies are not completely cleared from the pup's body until it is 14-16 weeks old. What this means is that the pup will need booster shots to pro-

vide further immunity until the maternal antibodies have worn off. Therefore, a second DHPP booster will be necessary at 10-12 weeks of age, and a final DHPP booster which will provide immunity for a full year should be given at 14-16 weeks of age. The DHPP vaccination must be boosted yearly to protect the dog from diseases such as distemper and parvovirus.

Only one rabies vaccination needs to be given during the pup's first year. The law will recognize a dog as vaccinated against rabies if it is given after 12 weeks of age. Therefore, this vaccine is usually given at the same times as the dog's final DHPP booster. The rabies vaccine must be boosted one year after the initial vaccination. It then can be given every two years after that.

The Lyme vaccination requires a pair of boosters given two weeks apart. These can be given at the time of the third DHPP booster, or they can be given at another date. After the initial two-booster series the Lyme vaccine needs to be boosted yearly. If the dog goes more than 15 months without the booster, it must receive the two-booster series again to be protected from this disease.

The Bordatella vaccine only needs to be given a single time, but then requires boosters every six months to be effective.

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