

Best Practices for Vaccination of Dogs

1. In accordance with fundamental medical principles and vaccine manufacturers' recommendations, vaccinate only healthy dogs. If there is a health condition present, it should be addressed, and the vaccine administered at a later date, when the condition is resolved.
2. If blood testing, such as 4Dx test or a complete blood count and body chemistry profile, is being run, wait for results before vaccinating the dog. If results are abnormal, resolve the abnormality before vaccinating.
3. Do not administer more than one vaccine at a time.
4. When spreading out vaccines, use a 4-week interval between them.
5. A puppy's initial vaccine should be administered no earlier than 10 weeks of age.
6. Take appropriate precautions with a puppy's exposure to disease, especially parvovirus, prior to proving immunity with a titer.
7. Do not vaccinate females in season. Hormonal changes can alter a normal response to vaccines.
8. Do not vaccinate at times of stress, such as during boarding, grooming, or at the time of surgery. Do not vaccinate dogs with a previous history of adverse reactions, autoimmune disease, or cancer. Utilize titers to assess immune system function.
9. Kennel cough (Bordetella) is not a vaccine preventable disease. Vaccination does not prevent disease, nor have action against all causative agents.
10. Canine influenza is typically a mild and self-limiting disease. Vaccination does not prevent disease, but may lessen the severity. Vaccination for one strain does not protect against others. Vaccination is not indicated for most dogs.



Recommended Vaccination Protocol

<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>
10 weeks	Parvovirus
14 weeks	DAP (Distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus)
17 weeks	Distemper/Parvovirus titer. If inadequate, repeat DAP and re-titer in 4 weeks.
22 weeks	Rabies
1 year post last vaccination	Distemper/Parvovirus titer
1 year post initial Rabies vaccination	Rabies Vaccine 3 year, according to applicable laws

Perform vaccine titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, if desired. However, a “low” titer in a dog who previously had protective antibody levels is not necessarily an indication for revaccination, as memory cells likely persist. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to applicable state laws.

As common sense and good medical practice would dictate, do NOT vaccinate females during heat, pregnancy or lactation. Do not vaccinate during times of stress such as: surgery, travel, boarding, grooming, illness or infection. Do not vaccinate puppies earlier than 8 weeks.

Note: This schedule is one I recommend. All protocols should be tailored to the individual patient’s needs and/or situation. Take appropriate precautions with a puppy's exposure to disease, especially parvovirus, prior to proving immunity with a titer.



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