



PUPPY IMMUNIZATIONS

The following is a recommended guideline explaining the vaccination schedule for your new puppy. This is a general protocol guideline and the Veterinarian may choose to alter the protocol based on the health, age, and breed, risk of disease or previous vaccine history.

Vaccination 101

Puppies, like children, lack the ability to fight disease and illness if their body's immune system is not properly armed. When puppies nurse, they receive some antibodies from mom. The level of antibodies is dependent on the health status of the mother. The antibodies slowly decrease until they are gone at 16 weeks of age. We stimulate the puppy's body to build an immune system response towards certain diseases and illnesses by administering vaccines.

Just like children, puppies require a "series" of vaccines. Again, this is primarily because we do know when the mother's antibodies will interfere with the puppy's vaccine response. Also, their bodies need to be "primed and conditioned" to fight disease, illness and infection by providing a high level of antibodies (gained by booster vaccines). It is also important to point out that vaccines are not 100%. The vaccine is designed to protect against disease by stimulating antibody production. The antibodies help the puppy or adult dog fight off the disease without becoming ill.

We cannot stress the importance of learning detailed information from you about what kind of lifestyle you and your pet will have. Do you travel frequently, and are you required to kennel your pet? Does your pet make frequent trips to the groomer? Are you and your pet going to enjoy the mountains, lakes, parks or other outdoor activities? This type of information will allow us to design a complete immunization plan for your pet, as well as allow us to address important nutritional concerns. If your pet frequents a boarding kennel or "beauty salon", those businesses will more than likely require a "kennel cough" vaccine. Requiring a vaccine allows their business to assure all pets are protected. In cases such as these, it is important to note that just because your pet was vaccinated yesterday or last week does not mean the vaccine in your pet's body is capable of fending off illness if exposed. Please keep in mind that vaccinations take 3 to 30 days to be effective depending on the type and number of vaccine received.

3 weeks of age: Comprehensive Wellness Examination
Deworming
Stool Examination for parasites

6-7 Weeks of age: Brief Examination/ Comprehensive exam if has not been seen yet
DA2PP
Deworming
Stool Re-Examination for parasites (if previously positive)
Start Heartworm Preventative

9-10 Weeks of age: Brief Examination
DA2PP
Deworming
Continue Heartworm Preventative
Start Flea/Tick/Mosquito Preventative

12-14 weeks of age: Brief Examination
DA2PP
Risk assessment for any non-essential vaccines
Deworming
Continue heartworm and flea/tick/mosquito Preventative

16-18 weeks of age: Brief Examination
DA2PP - final booster
Deworming
Continue Heartworm and Flea/Tick/Mosquito Preventative

The Rabies Vaccination will be given to puppies anytime between the ages of 12 and 16 weeks. For puppies that are 10 lbs or less, we will give the Rabies Vaccination one week after OR prior to the 16 week puppy visit.

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