



EMERY & CARBON ANIMAL HEALTH

Canine Vaccination Guidelines

Many pet owners know that their dog needs vaccinations. Vaccinations expose the immune system to small parts of a virus so that it can form antibodies that will help fight off the same disease when the body comes in contact with the natural infection. Figuring out what vaccinations should be given can be complex. Deciding what vaccinations are needed is done on an individual basis. The need for certain vaccinations changes depending on a pet's environment, age, travel plans, and what work it does. This handout is to help give some basic idea of what vaccinations are needed in our area.

Puppies are given vaccinations more frequently than adults. This is to help them form antibodies of their own while antibodies they have received from their mother, that had been protecting them, degrade and do not function. Puppies should begin vaccinations around 6 weeks of age and continue to receive them every three to four weeks with the final dose between 14 to 16 weeks of age.

Vaccinations they should have are (core vaccines):

- Canine distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza and parvovirus. (Every 3 to 4 wks until 14 to 16 wks of age)
- Rabies. Once after 12 wks of age.

Vaccinations they may be given (non-core):

- Bordatella Bronchiseptica (kennel cough). (Two starting at 9 wks spaced 3 wks apart).
- Leptospira 4 (4 different types of lepto.). (Two doses given 3 wks apart starting after 12 wks of age.)

Young adult dogs are given boosters of the above vaccinations one year after the puppy series ends. This is usually about 16 months of age.

Other dogs should be seen for a life stage wellness exam yearly and every 6 months after 7 years of age. At this exam, beneficial vaccinations will be decided and given. A basic schedule is as follows.

- Dogs should be vaccinated against canine distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza and parvovirus every 3 years after the puppy and young adult vaccinations.
- Dogs should be given rabies every 3 years after the puppy and young adult vaccinations.
- Dogs being given Bordatella should receive it once yearly to every 6 months. Dogs that are frequently around other dogs, such as at the groomer or boarding need this vaccination every 6 months to remain protected.
- Dogs being given Leptospira 4 should have it yearly.

*There are other possible vaccinations that may be given when considering individual circumstances.

<https://www.aahanet.org/Library/CanineVaccine.aspx> (Reference American Animal Hospital Association 2011 Canine Vaccination Guidelines)