



THE PURPOSE OF VACCINATION AND VACCINATION TIMING FOR CANINES

Vaccines present the immune system with a harmless portion of a virus or bacteria and allow it to make protective antibodies. These antibodies are then able to stick to the “real” virus or bacteria when it enters the body. Antibodies help prevent germs from causing tissue damage. If we don’t have enough antibodies to a certain virus or bacteria, it may set up shop in the lungs, liver or GI tract and start destroying these organs. Over time, antibody levels gradually fall below protective levels. Therefore, booster vaccines are needed periodically to prod the memory cells into action. If our pets are exposed to these germs before the antibodies have had a chance to build up, they are susceptible to sometimes fatal infectious diseases such as pneumonia, liver or kidney failure or severe vomiting and diarrhea.

Usually it takes about 7 – 10 days to produce enough antibodies for adequate protection against distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, parvovirus, leptospirosis and rabies. Intranasal bordetella is quicker than injectable in that protection is achieved in 3 – 5 days.



Core Vaccines – what do all those abbreviations mean?

Vaccine Name	Virus or Bacteria	Mode of Transmission	Severity of Illness	Frequency of Adult Vaccination
DAPP “Distemper”	Distemper Virus	Airborne/ Droplets	Fever, pneumonia, Vomiting/diarrhea, Seizures – often fatal	Every 3 years
	Adenovirus Type I	Feces and Urine	Fever, tonsillitis, corneal opacity, bleeding, hepatitis – may recover with supportive care	
	Adenovirus Type II	Airborne/ Droplets	Cough – self limiting 3 – 5 days	
	Parainfluenza Virus	Airborne/ Droplets	Cough – self limiting 3 – 5 days	
	Parvovirus	Feces and Environment	Vomiting/diarrhea, fever – may recover with supportive care	
L “Lepto”	Leptospirosis Bacteria	Urine, slow moving water	Kidney and/or liver failure – may recover with antibiotics and supportive care	Yearly
Bordetella Kennel Cough	Bordetella Bacteria	Airborne/ Droplets	Cough – usually recover on own or with antibiotics	Every 6 – 12 months
Rabies	Rabies Virus	Saliva	Neurologic signs – always fatal	Every 3 years