



Canine Vaccine Recommendations

Based on the 2024 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines

Why vaccines matter

Vaccines help protect dogs from serious and potentially life-threatening diseases. Vaccination also supports public health, particularly for diseases like rabies that can affect people as well as pets.

Core vaccines - recommended for all dogs:

➤ **Distemper (DAPP)**

This combination vaccine protects against Distemper, Adenovirus (infectious hepatitis), Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza. These are highly contagious viral diseases that can cause severe illness or death, especially in unvaccinated puppies or dogs.

➤ **Rabies**

Rabies is a fatal viral disease and a public health concern. Vaccination is required by law and is essential for protecting pets, people, and wildlife. Proof of vaccination is also required for many boarding, grooming, and training facilities. Many countries require rabies vaccination for importation of dogs.

➤ **Leptospirosis**

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease spread through wildlife urine and contaminated water or soil. It is common in our region and can infect both dogs and people. Because of its prevalence and public health importance, leptospirosis is now considered a core vaccine in the AAHA guidelines.

Lifestyle vaccines - *recommended for some dogs:*

- **Bordetella (kennel cough complex)**
- **Canine Influenza**

Your dog may benefit from these respiratory vaccines if they attend group activities with other dogs like boarding, daycare, grooming, training classes, or dog parks.

- **Lyme Disease**

Lyme Disease is a tick-borne bacterial infection. It can cause joint pain, kidney failure, and other systemic illness. Ticks are common in tall grass, woods, and places frequented by deer and other wildlife. Ticks are hardy in the environment year-round.

Typical vaccination schedules

Puppies

Vaccines typically begin as early as 6–8 weeks of age and are given every 2–4 weeks until the core vaccines are complete.

Adult dogs

After the initial puppy series, core vaccines are boosted at appropriate intervals based on the vaccine type, your dog's age, lifestyle, and health status. Some vaccines are given yearly, while others provide longer-lasting protection.

Individualized care

No two dogs are exactly alike. Age, medical history, lifestyle, travel, and local disease risk all matter when creating the right vaccine plan. At Good Life Veterinary Care, our goal is always to protect your dog while avoiding unnecessary treatments.

We would be happy to recommend a tailored vaccine plan for your dog!

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