



Washington Veterinary Medical Clinic

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Canine Vaccinations

Vaccinations protect your dog from infectious diseases. They do not cure the diseases, but stimulate immunity, so they must be given prior to exposure. Your dog's vaccination schedule depends on several factors: the age and health of your dog, and conditions in your dog's environment.

Puppies should be vaccinated beginning at 8 weeks of age and every 2-4 weeks thereafter until the puppy is 16 weeks of age. Our protocol includes vaccinations at 8wks, 10wks, 13wks, and a final booster at 16wks. It is very important to keep your puppy away from other dogs during this time in their lives. Adult dogs are then boosted annually. The annual vaccination your dog receives actually protects from a combination of diseases.

- **Distemper** – is a highly contagious, often fatal disease that effects the respiratory and nervous systems. It is not transmissible to humans or other non-canine companions.
- **Hepatitis** – is an infectious viral disease of the liver. Canine Hepatitis is not transmissible to humans or other non-canine companions.
- **Leptospirosis** – is a bacterial infection that causes kidney disease. It is transmitted by rodents or wild animals. Canine Leptospirosis may be transmissible to humans.
- **Parvo** – is an often fatal viral disease that destroys the lining of the intestinal tract. It is spread through contact with contaminated stool. Parvo is not transmissible to humans or kittens.
- **Parainfluenza** – is an upper respiratory infection that causes Kennel Cough. Puppies and older dogs are at greater risk of serious complications. Parainfluenza is not transmissible to humans or other non-canine companions.
- **Bordetella** – (8wks/annually) is a bacterial infection often present when a dog has Kennel Cough. Bordetella is not transmissible to humans or other non-canine companions.
- **Lyme Disease** – (13wks booster at 16wks/annually) is a complex disease that affects the immune system. This disease is transmitted by the deer tick. Lyme disease affects wild and domestic animals as well as humans.
- **Rabies** – (4 months of age) is caused by a virus that attacks the brain. It is prevalent in wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Rabies is readily transmissible to humans and pets by the bite of an infected animal and is required by law.
- **Influenza** – (10wks booster at 13wks/annually) is an upper respiratory virus that can lead to death in puppies and older dogs.
- **Heartworm** – preventive is given once every thirty days. Heartworm is a disease spread by infected mosquitoes. Adult dogs must be blood tested prior to receiving medication.

