
A Simple Guide to Canine Vaccines

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At the Animal Hospital of Lynnfield, we make specific recommendations as to what vaccines your dog will need based upon the risks of exposure to the diseases. We give vaccines to help prevent your dog from getting any one of these life threatening diseases.

Like any medication, there are some risks associated with giving vaccines. For dogs, some of the risks are:

Allergic or Hypersensitivity Reactions

After vaccination, some dogs will run a mild fever for a day or two following vaccination and experience some soreness at the site. Risks of serious vaccine reactions in dogs are rare, but can occur. More serious reactions that require immediate attention by your veterinarian are severe lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, hives or facial swelling and difficulty breathing. Your dog can also have an immune-mediated disease within a short time after vaccination. These are all serious reactions that can result in death if not properly treated. If you suspect your dog to be having a vaccine reaction, return to the clinic immediately. If it is after hours, you should call or go to Massachusetts Veterinary Referral Hospital (781)932-5802 or Essex County Veterinary Emergency Hospital (978)725-5544. Keep in mind, all these reactions are extremely **rare**, but **can** occur.

Your dog will receive vaccinations for some, if not all, of the following diseases:

Distemper, Adenovirus, Coronavirus, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus (DHCPP) Vaccine:

Canine Distemper is a disease that effects the respiratory, digestive and nervous systems. Similar to distemper, parainfluenza is a viral infection of the respiratory system. Parvovirus is a viral infection that causes deadly cases of vomiting and diarrhea. Coronavirus is a viral disease that will cause severe diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration. The adenovirus causes infectious hepatitis which can result in severe liver and kidney damage. All of these are highly contagious and are prevalent in shelters or kennels.

Rabies Vaccine:

Rabies is a viral disease that is transferred by being bitten, transferring through the saliva. Rabies can infect all mammals, but mostly wildlife are the source of infection. If your pet is bitten by an unfamiliar or wild animal, it should be reported to your veterinarian.

If the vaccine has not expired when given the second time, the vaccine is valid for 3 years. State law does require dogs to be vaccinated against rabies to prevent the spread to the public.

Bordetella (Kennel Cough) Vaccine:

Kennel cough is a bronchitis usually associated with a harsh hacking cough. It is similar to a chest cold in humans, but can be serious in puppies. The vaccine is only given to dogs that will be in obedience classes, boarded, groomed or in contact with multiple dogs.

Lyme Vaccine:

Lyme disease is a disease transmitted by ticks and is a debilitating joint disease. It can also cause a high fever or kidney failure. This vaccine is recommended for any dogs that travel to the North Shore, the Cape or frequent woodsy tick-infested areas.