



# Vaccines and Boosters for Dogs

Vaccines create immunity and are intended to reduce the severity of an illness and/or prevent a disease entirely

## VACCINE SCHEDULE

### Wellness Exams with Doctor:

**6 to 8 weeks:** DHPP, De-wormer, Primary Bordetella

**11 to 12 weeks:** 2DHPP, Lepto, Final Bordetella

**15 to 17 weeks:** Final DHPP, Final Lepto, Rabies

### MICROCHIP AT ANY TIME

## BOOSTERS

**Rabies** booster one year after first vaccine. After that, boosters are given every three years.

**Lepto** annually

**Bordetella** every six-to-twelve months

**DHPP or DA2PP** Adult dogs receive a booster one year after the initial series, then every three years.

## WHY DO PUPPIES NEED VACCINES?

Puppies are born with antibodies and receive some antibodies from their mother while nursing. However, these maternal antibodies slowly decline over time. A vaccine ensures that puppies develop their own antibodies to replace the ones from their mother.

## HOW DOES A VACCINE CREATE IMMUNITY?

When the immune system “sees” an unfamiliar microbe (bacteria or virus) as part of a vaccine, it “learns” how to produce antibodies to combat those microbes. Antibodies help the body fight infection and protect it from getting the same illness again. If the immune system “sees” or is exposed to the same microbe in the future (e.g., by natural infection), produce antibodies faster. Vaccinations are intended to reduce the severity of the illness and/or prevent the disease entirely by creating immunity.

## WHY ARE BOOSTERS IMPORTANT?

In most properly vaccinated pets, the immunity provided by a vaccine should last more than a year. However, immunity declines with time. To “boost” a pet’s antibody levels, revaccinations have proven very successful.

Think of the immune system like a charging station with each vaccine being a different device that needs to be charged according to its own schedule. For some vaccines, the charge might hold for 2-3 years before boosters are needed. For others, yearly recharging is recommended.



## CORE VACCINES FOR DOGS

**Rabies:** Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system of mammals, including humans. It is almost always fatal once symptoms appear. The virus is transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, typically via bites.

**Leptospirosis (Lepto):** This is a serious disease carried wildlife like raccoon, coyote, fox, rodents and deer. It is also carried by cattle. Dogs usually become infected by drinking, swimming or walking through contaminated water. Dogs usually get sick one to two weeks after exposure. Illness can last days or weeks and may include fever, chills, vomiting, muscle aches or diarrhea.

**Bordetella bronchiseptica (Kennel Cough):** If your dogs are social they should have this vaccine. Recommended for dogs that are frequently boarded, attend doggy daycare, or are otherwise exposed to many other dogs.

### DHPP or DA2PP Vaccine is a combination of Distemper, Adenovirus/Hepatitis, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza

- **Distemper:** Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that affects a dog’s respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. Symptoms can include fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, and seizures.
- **Adenovirus (Canine Hepatitis):** Canine adenovirus type 1 causes infectious canine hepatitis, a viral infection that affects the liver, kidneys, spleen, and lungs. Symptoms can include fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and jaundice.
- **Parvovirus:** Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious virus that affects the gastrointestinal tract of dogs, leading to severe vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration. The virus is spread through direct contact with an infected dog or contaminated feces, environments, or objects.
- **Parainfluenza:** Canine parainfluenza virus (CPIV), is a highly contagious respiratory virus that affects dogs. It is one of the primary agents responsible for causing kennel cough, a condition characterized by a persistent, dry cough. Parainfluenza spreads through respiratory secretions, such as when an infected dog coughs or sneezes. It is highly contagious, particularly in environments where many dogs are in close contact, such as kennels, dog parks, grooming facilities, and shelters.

## ADDITIONAL VACCINES FOR DOGS

While the above are the core vaccines, there are also non-core vaccines that may be recommended based on a dog’s lifestyle and risk factors.

**Canine Influenza:** Recommended for dogs that have frequent contact with other dogs, such as those in kennels or dog shows.

**Rattlesnake Vaccine:** Designed to help reduce the severity of symptoms if a dog is bitten by a rattlesnake. While it doesn’t provide complete immunity, it can help a dog’s body mount a better response to the venom, potentially reducing the pain and damage caused by the bite. Dogs typically receive two doses of the vaccine, spaced about one month apart.