

How Does Vaccination Work?

Vaccination helps prevent, not cure, disease. Vaccines contain disease-causing viruses or bacteria that have been chemically changed so they don't cause disease. When your dog is injected with a vaccine, the animal's immune system produces special substances called antibodies that work against the viruses or bacteria that cause the disease. Later, if your pet is exposed to that disease, these antibodies will help destroy those viruses or bacteria.

In many cases, vaccines against several diseases are combined, reducing the number of shots your pet must have. Despite progress to make vaccination as comfortable as possible, substances in some vaccines can occasionally sting when injected.

The protection provided by a vaccine gradually declines after a pet is vaccinated. Annual revaccination is recommended for some dogs. However, in most dogs a DHLPP vaccine may be given every 3 years to adult dogs. Your doctor will help decide if this is appropriate for your pet.

Why Do Puppies Require a Number of Shots?

A nursing puppy receives antibodies from its mother's milk (called maternal antibodies) that protect it from disease during the first months of its life. Unfortunately, these antibodies can also keep a vaccine from being effective.

These maternal antibodies gradually decrease during the first few months of the puppy's life. That's why puppies are given a series of vaccinations until they are 16 weeks of age or older. That way, if maternal antibodies interfere with early vaccinations, later doses will still stimulate the puppy to produce its own antibodies to the disease.

DISTEMPER

Distemper is a highly contagious disease of dogs, wolves, coyotes, raccoons, mink and ferrets. It is easily spread through the air and by contaminated objects. Signs can range from that of a bad cold and fever to severe diarrhea, vomiting, seizures and pneumonia. Though the disease occurs more often in young dogs, those of any age may contract distemper. Death is common.

HEPATITIS

Infectious Canine Hepatitis is a serious viral disease that affects the liver, kidneys, lymph nodes, eyes and other organs. This virus is spread by contact with an infected animal or its stools or urine. It is characterized by high fever, loss of appetite, and increased thirst. In some cases, there is bloody diarrhea. The virus may be present in any body secretion and may be present in the urine for up to 6-9 months after an apparent recovery. Hepatitis is most serious in very young animals. Recovered animals may be afflicted with chronic illnesses.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

This disease can be caused by either of two organisms called spirochetes. Some strains are contagious to humans and can be transmitted by contact with urine of an infected dog. Leptospirosis attacks the liver and kidneys and was a deadly killer before the vaccine was developed. Recovered animals may shed the organism in their urine for up to 1 year. Infected rats are a common source of leptospirosis.

PARVOVIRUS

Dogs become infected with parvovirus through contact with the stool of an infected dog or a contaminated environment. The virus is very hardy and remains infective in the environment for a long period of time. Puppies are most susceptible to parvovirus infections. Parvovirus causes severe and often bloody vomiting and diarrhea. Infected animals rapidly dehydrate. Severe cases progress to shock and death. Fatalities occur mostly in puppies less than 12 weeks old. Prompt veterinary care is essential to recovery, but there is still a great likelihood of death.

BORDETELLA (Parainfluenza)

Kennel cough is a stubborn respiratory infection that can keep dogs coughing for weeks or months. Canine respiratory disease isn't usually fatal unless pneumonia develops. It can cause appetite loss, lack of energy and poor appearance in addition to coughing. When infected dogs cough, disease-causing organisms get into the air and can easily infect other dogs. Animals kept at boarding kennels, shelters, pet shops, grooming shops, dog shows and veterinary clinics are considered at higher risk. A wide variety of viruses and bacteria can be involved in canine respiratory disease. The three most commonly involved are: Canine Parainfluenza Virus, Canine Adenovirus Type 2 (CAV-2) and Bordetella Bronchiseptica bacteria. For best results, dogs should be vaccinated at least one week prior to being placed in group confinement or exposure to potential canine cough disease syndrome conditions.

RABIES

Rabies is a fatal disease caused by a virus. All warm-blooded animals are susceptible. The disease is usually spread when an infected animal bites another animal or person. The bitten animal or person will not become infected unless the saliva of the sick animal contains the rabies virus at the time of the bite. The bat, skunk and fox are the most commonly infected wild animals. Dogs and cats are the most commonly infected domestic animals. A virus that attacks nerve tissue causes rabies. The disease develops slowly over 10 days to several months. Death always occurs once a rabies-infected animal shows signs of disease. If a suspected rabid animal bites a person, the animal should be quarantined for 10 days. If the animal develops signs of rabies or dies, tissues must be sent to a laboratory for examination. Since rabies is such a threat to people and other animals, affected animals are not treated. Euthanasia is mandatory.

LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease is a complex illness that affects wild and domestic animals and people. Ticks in their larval stage feed on mice and other animals from which they pick up the Lyme disease. The most common problem is fever and arthritis. Some dogs with Lyme disease will develop life-threatening kidney complications. Dogs can be infected with Lyme disease even if they never leave their own backyard.

PUPPY WELLNESS EXAM - UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

VACCINATIONS: Refer also to the inoculation schedule sheet...

DHPP (temp) DHLPP I DHLPP II BORDETELLA (I/II) LYME I LYME II RABIES

INTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL

MICROSCOPIC PARASITE EXAMINATION recommended yearly for all dogs. Detects intestinal parasites (hookworms, whipworms, roundworms) as well as coccidia and giardia. Transmission occurs from the mother to puppies as well as from the environment. Due to the overwhelming incidence of roundworms in puppies and the serious risk of people becoming infected, we strongly recommend prompt removal of stool from the yard after each deposit or at least on a daily basis.

DEWORMING PROTOCOL

The CDC reveals that millions of children and adults develop parasitic diseases from pets yearly! "Strategic Deworming" done at 2 week intervals until 12 weeks is recommended.

Drontal Plus = eliminates adult hooks, whips, rounds and some tapes

Interceptor Tablets = kills "immature" parasites (heartworms, hookworms, whipworms, roundworms), we strongly recommend its use throughout life. A **yearly** test for heartworm and Lyme disease is recommended
SPCA studies show about 36% of all shelter dogs have parasites!

GREAT WEB SITES : *capvet.org and growingupwithpets.com*

EXTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL

(In this area, we recommend tick prevention to help keep Lyme disease carrying ticks out of your home.)

ADVANTAGE (fleas) rapid kill (dogs 7 weeks & older/cats 8 weeks & older)

ADVANTIX (fleas & ticks) combines flea-killing chemical with a tick and mosquito repellent. (dogs 7 weeks & older)

FRONTLINE (fleas & ticks) waterproof (dogs 8 weeks & older/cats 8 weeks & older)

REVOLUTION (fleas, American Dog ticks *only*, ear mites, heartworms, sarcoptic mange.) (dogs 6 weeks & older/cats 8 weeks & older)

SPAY /NEUTER

We recommend a pet be spayed or neutered by six months of age. Under some circumstances, it may be done even younger. Your doctor will recommend the most appropriate time for your pet's surgery.

Spaying will eliminate all heat cycles, reduce the number of unwanted pets, and reduce her chances of developing mammary cancer, uterine infections, and difficult or dangerous pregnancies later in life. Obesity is less likely to occur if done at an early age.

Neutering your male will eliminate undesirable reproductive behaviors such as wandering, marking territory, and aggression as well as prevent prostatic disease and the risk of testicular cancer and infections.

TATTOO or MICROCHIP is recommended at the time of spay/neuter. These can both act as a lifetime license for the state of PA.

Tattoo: is applied on the inside of the right thigh

Microchip: It is a safe, simple, and permanent form of pet identification. It consists of a small transponder, no bigger than a grain of rice that contains a unique ID code that can be read by a scanner.

NUTRITION

Offer 3 meals per day (if your schedule allows it), at the same times each day, and allow 15-20 minutes for the puppy to consume.

Consistent feeding times will create a foundation for successful housetraining. If a puppy eats, sleeps, and plays at the same time every day, urinations and BM's will be much more predictable.

We recommend a good quality puppy food (vs. a generic brand) for the first 6 months to 1 year of age. If any diet changes are done, they should be done gradually.

CRATE TRAINING

Not only is a crate ideal for housetraining, it has many other advantages. It offers safety and security, prevents costly damage due to chewing and elimination, and it makes traveling, boarding, or hospitalization much easier.

BEHAVIOR

We've compiled several informative training and **behavior handouts** for you. Please take time in the next few weeks to read over them and we can discuss them again with the next puppy visit and answer any questions you may have.

A **great investment** "**The Ultimate Puppy Toolkit**" provides a step-by-step guide to raising a happy and well-adjusted dog. It contains information on socialization, housetraining, obedience, and more.

WEB SITES: *Myshilohvet.com and growingupwithpets.com*

BRIEF TECH EXAM

Ears: if we suspect a problem with the ears (infection, mites) we may lightly swab the inside of the ear canal to obtain a sample to examine under the microscope.

Skin/Fleas: if we want to determine if there are fleas on your pup, we'll run a flea comb through the coat, looking for live fleas or flea dirt.

Nails: at home, you should massage and handle the puppy's feet frequently, so that they get used to having their feet touched.