

I have heard many different things about vaccinations for my dog, what should I do?

All of our pets have different needs and lifestyles so no one vaccination program is right for every pet. Choices must be made based on age, overall health and risk of exposure to disease. How often your pet should be vaccinated should also be tailored to your dog's specific needs there is no one right vaccination schedule that fits all dogs. Regardless of schedule chosen, all dogs should be vaccinated for the following diseases:

Canine Distemper Virus- Very widespread in the canine population, this virus can be fatal especially to young puppies.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis- This virus is spread primarily through infected urine. The virus attacks organs throughout the dogs body.

Canine Parvovirus- Viral diarrhea is spread quickly in the canine population. Millions of viral particles exist in a very tiny amount of infected feces that can easily be brought home to your pet on your shoes or clothing even if your dog never left the house.

Canine Parainfluenza Virus- Canine respiratory disease is caused by a number of viruses and bacteria, but parainfluenza virus sure plays a role. When infected dogs cough they spread infected organisms into to air which are easily transmitted to other dogs.

Rabies Virus: All warm-blooded animals, including humans, can be infected with rabies virus. The virus attacks nervous tissue and once signs are seen, the disease is fatal. In humans, treatment started in the early stages of the disease can be lifesaving, but treatment is costly and unpleasant to say the least. Both dogs and cats, indoors or out, must be vaccinated. Once an animal reaches adulthood a rabies vaccine that lasts for multiple years may be given.

Many other vaccines are available for your dog. Based on your pet's particular needs other recommendations may be made. Annual physical examinations and a good preventative health care program including proper vaccinations, help your pet live a long, happy life. If you have any questions about what's right for your pet just ask, veterinarians are always here to help.