

About Canine Vaccinations

** Indicated items are vaccines we recommend annually for all dogs.*

Many of the serious diseases of dogs can be prevented by vaccination. With over 50 million pet dogs in the United States alone, your pet is bound to come in contact with an infectious disease at some time. Even if you always keep your pet indoors, your dog can be exposed to viruses carried in the air, in dust, or on clothing. Vaccination is inexpensive protection against costly treatment, or even premature death of your dog.

*** DISTEMPER:**

Distemper is one of the two most important diseases of dogs. It is very widespread, and nearly every dog will be exposed to distemper within the first year of life in our area. Signs include coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, fever, and discharges from the eyes and/or nose. "Squinting" of the eyes is often the first sign observed. Once the virus enters the nervous system, convulsions, twitches, or partial paralysis become evident. It is spread through all body secretions and is highly contagious. It is usually fatal.

*** INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS:**

Canine hepatitis affects the dog's liver. The culprit is the Canine Adenovirus-2. Spread through an infected dog's urine, exposure can mean anything from a mild infection to death. Puppies are at the most risk with this disease. Vaccination has controlled this disease for several years, making it rarely seen by the veterinarian today.

*** PARVOVIRUS:**

Since its devastating worldwide appearance in 1978, most dog owners have heard of parvo. It is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog's feces. A dog that recovers from the disease remains a "carrier" spreading the virus in its bowel movements for 13 months. Signs include vomiting, fever, depression, and diarrhea, which often will contain large amounts of blood. There is another form where the virus attacks the heart muscle causing a heart attack and death. The younger the pet, the GREATER the chance of death. The death rate is very high in dogs under 46 months of age.

Dogs remain susceptible to Parvovirus infection until two **WEEKS AFTER THE LAST INJECTION** in the vaccination series. This is the **MOST SERIOUS** and **FATAL** disease we see today.

*** PARAINFLUENZA:**

Parainfluenza virus causes upper respiratory symptoms of coughin, sneezing, wheezing, nasal discharge as well as fever and lethargy. Serious illness and death may occur if pneumonia develops. This virus is different from the Canine Influenza (H3N8) you may have heard about.

*** LEPTOSPIROSIS:**

“Lepto” is a bacterial infection that affects the dog’s kidneys. It can reside as a lowlevel infection for months or years, infecting other dogs while weakening your pet. It is controlled by vaccination. Leptospirosis is transmitted via ingestion of contaminated urine from animals who are shedding the organism (usually wild animals). Infection is serious and can cause rapid decline of liver and renal function resulting in death.

*** CANINE COUGH COMPLEX:**

Technically known as “tracheobronchitis,” or sometimes called “kennel cough,” this is an upper respiratory infection with the major sign being a persistent, dry, hacking cough. It often lasts several weeks and is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** to other dogs at that time. It is caused by several viruses and bacteria. The typical vaccine given is called Bordetella, named for the pathogen that is commonly a cause of infectious bronchitis. While this vaccine is helpful in protecting against canine cough complex, it may not completely prevent all infections – it will help decrease severity of symptoms and shorten the duration of symptoms.

*** RABIES:**

Rabies is a **FATAL INFECTION** of the nervous system that attacks all warmblooded animals, including humans. Rabies has become synonymous with the image of a vicious dog. Rabies is a public health hazard and a personal risk to all pet owners. Many states require vaccination against rabies, and most veterinarians recommend vaccination for all dogs and cats, regardless of state law. Rabies can be transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Even dogs kept indoors can come in contact with a rabies carrier in a basement, garage, or attic. Because there is no cure for rabies, vaccination is your pet’s only protection

About Feline Vaccinations

** Indicated items are vaccines we recommend annually for all cats.*

Many serious infectious diseases of cats can be controlled by vaccination. With over 20 million pet cats in the U.S., your cat is quite likely to come in contact with an infectious disease at one time or another. Even indoor cats can be exposed to viral diseases carried in the air, in dust, or on clothing. Vaccination is inexpensive protection against costly treatment, or even the premature death of your cat! A series of the initial injection is necessary to build the antibody protection needed to help your cat develop a high degree of immunity against these diseases.

*** FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA: (part of the FVRCP Vaccination):**

Is a highly contagious and often fatal disease in young cats. It is easily transmitted from cat to cat. Signs include depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea.

*** FELINE RESPIRATORY DISEASES include several different infectious agents. (Part of the FVRCP Vaccination):**

These diseases include: Rhinotracheitis virus and Calicivirus. They are all highly contagious viruses and are widespread. High death rates occur in young cats and “old” cats. Signs of these diseases include sneezing, fever, nasal discharges, runny nose, coughing, conjunctivitis (eyelid infections), mouth ulcers, and general depression. Sneezing, etc easily spread from upper respiratory infections. Even a stray cat that seems outwardly to be healthy may be a “carrier” infecting your pet, even through a screen window.

*** CALICIVIRUS: (Part of the FVRCP Vaccination):**

Another upper respiratory virus in cats. This is sometimes included in the FVRCP vaccine as an additional component.

*** RABIES:**

A fatal viral infection of the nervous system that attacks all warm-blooded animals, including humans. Cats have outnumbered dogs in reported cases since 1981. Rabies is a public health hazard and personal risk to you. It is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Even

indoor cats may be infected through contact with a carrier in a basement, garage, or attic. There is no cure! Vaccination is very important for your safety, as well as the safety of your pet.

*** FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS (FELV vaccination):**

Unknown 20 years ago, but is now considered to be one of the leading cause of death in cats. It is a cancer-causing virus that often suppresses the ability to fight other infections. Kittens can be born with the virus. Cats can have the leukemia virus for years before showing signs of the disease. Feline Leukemia is not transmissible to humans or dogs. There is no successful cure once signs develop!

FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV or Feline AIDS):

This virus is transmitted usually via bite wounds from another infected cat. This devastating virus impairs the cat's immune system and suppressing the ability to fight other infections. Cats can be infected for years before showing symptoms. There is no cure for this infection. There is a vaccine for FIV available. However, it is NOT recommended in cats because the antibodies created in response to the vaccine can interfere with later testing for the virus and cause false positive. In other words, the only tests available at this time can't tell the difference between a vaccinated cat and an infected cat. If you prefer to vaccinate your cat for FIV, it is very important to document a negative result to the FIV test before vaccinating.

***NOTE:** Feline Rhinotracheitis virus and Calicivirus are included in one injection, called the FVRCP vaccine. Feline Leukemia can be included with the FVRCP as a Combo vaccine. A series of injections during kitten-hood are required to develop the high level of immunity required in our area. Rabies must be given as a separate injection.*