

# Best Practices for Vaccination of Dogs

1. In accordance with fundamental medical principles and vaccine manufacturers' recommendations, vaccinate only healthy dogs. If there is a health condition present, it should be addressed, and the vaccine administered at a later date, when the condition is resolved.
2. If blood testing, such as 4Dx test or a complete blood count and body chemistry profile, is being run, wait for results before vaccinating the dog. If results are abnormal, resolve the abnormality before vaccinating.
3. Do not administer more than one vaccine at a time.
4. When spreading out vaccines, use a 4-week interval between them.
5. A puppy's initial vaccine should be administered no earlier than 10 weeks of age, or as determined by a maternal nomograph (university of Wisconsin Veterinary College).
6. Do not vaccinate females in season. Hormonal changes can alter a normal response to vaccines.
7. Do not vaccinate at times of stress, such as during boarding, grooming, or at the time of surgery. Do not vaccinate dogs with a previous history of adverse reactions, autoimmune disease, or cancer. Utilize titers to assess immune system function.
8. Kennel cough (Bordetella) is not a vaccine preventable disease. Vaccination does not prevent disease, nor have action against all causative agents.
9. Canine influenza is typically a mild and self-limiting disease. Vaccination does not prevent disease but may lessen the severity. The H3N8 canine influenza virus (CIV) is considered extinct in the United States, with the last known cases reported in 2016. Vaccination for this strain or use of the combination H3N2 and H3N8 product is not indicated. The disease is not endemic in the United States, but rather is limited to localized outbreaks and die offs, per the CDC.



## Recommended Vaccination Protocol for Puppies

<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>
10 weeks	Parvovirus
14 weeks	DAP (Distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus)
18 weeks	Distemper/Parvovirus titer. If inadequate, repeat DAP and re-titer in 4 weeks.
22 weeks	Rabies
1 year post last vaccination	Distemper/Parvovirus titer
1 year post initial Rabies vaccination	Rabies Vaccine 3 year, according to applicable laws

Perform vaccine titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, if desired. However, a “low” titer in a dog who previously had protective antibody levels is not necessarily an indication for revaccination, as memory cells likely persist. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to applicable state laws.

As common sense and good medical practice would dictate, do NOT vaccinate females during heat, pregnancy or lactation. Do not vaccinate during times of stress such as: surgery, travel, boarding, grooming, illness or infection. Do not vaccinate puppies earlier than 8 weeks.

Note: This schedule is one I recommend. All protocols should be tailored to the individual patient’s needs and/or situation.



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## Recommended Vaccination Plan for New Adults

Most newly acquired adult dogs will have had previous vaccinations. Most shelters or rescue organizations will administer rabies and a DAPP upon intake at their facility. Many will also give Bordetella (kennel cough). Unless there is a record of previous rabies vaccination, the rabies vaccine will legally require re-dosing a year from when it was given.

If the DAPP was given to an adult dog, many veterinarians would consider it effective for 3 years. Some will recommend a booster dose 4 weeks after the first dose is given, especially in a dog with no health history. I prefer to do a titer 4 weeks after the initial DAPP to determine protection. If below laboratory standards I recommend administering the booster. It is important to remember a lot of physical and mental stress and other medical procedures may result in a sub-optimal response by the dog's immune system. If you have to do a booster dose, repeat a titer to verify immunity.

Perform vaccine titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, if desired. However, a "low" titer in a dog who previously had protective antibody levels is not necessarily an indication for revaccination, as memory cells likely persist. Discuss this with your veterinarian. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to applicable state laws.

As common sense and good medical practice would dictate, do NOT vaccinate females during heat, pregnancy or lactation. Do not vaccinate during times of stress such as: surgery, travel, boarding, grooming, illness or infection. Do not vaccinate puppies earlier than 8 weeks.

Note: This schedule is one I recommend. All protocols should be tailored to the individual dog's needs and/or situation.



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