



Animal Hospital of Pasco

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Canine Vaccination Recommendations

Handout H-308

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Vaccinations are a critical part of your dog's preventative care. The vaccines we administer contain portions of infectious pathogens that have been killed or otherwise inactivated; they allow the dog's immune system to generate antibodies to fight off a disease without suffering its ill effects. Some vaccines are crucial for every dog. Others are only needed if the dog will be exposed to certain environments.

So which vaccines does your dog need? And when should they be given?

The most important vaccine for any dog is what we call **DA2P/CPV**. This stands for Distemper, Adenovirus type 2, Parainfluenza, and Canine Parvovirus. You might also hear this vaccine referred to as distemper/parvo or DHPP (the Adenovirus type II vaccine also protects against CAV-1 and ICH, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, hence the DHPP abbreviation). Parvovirus is especially dangerous because it's highly contagious and, if left untreated, usually fatal (mortality >90%).

We recommend every dog receive the DA2P/CPV vaccine at ages 8 weeks and 12 weeks, plus a parvo-only booster at 16 weeks. Then an additional DA2P/CPV booster one year later. After that, if protective titers are adequate, boosters can be given once every three years.

Another important vaccine is the one for **rabies**. While rabies is fairly rare in our state, it's such a serious disease that vaccination is strongly recommended (and may be required by law). We recommend it be given when the dog is 6 months old, then one year later, and once every three years thereafter.

Next we have **bordetella**, also called "kennel cough." It's usually not as serious as the diseases mentioned above, but as an airborne illness it is very contagious. It should be given if your dog will be exposed to many other strange dogs, like at a boarding facility, professional groomer, dog show, and so on. Each vaccination lasts for one year and can be given as an intra-nasal spray or injection (if injected, it should be boosted 4 weeks later).

And lastly, **leptospirosis** ("lepto"). Dogs can pick up this microbe by drinking contaminated water or coming in contact with the urine of an infected animal. Infection can lead to liver damage, kidney failure, and meningitis. This vaccine should be given yearly and is recommended for dogs that go anywhere that wild animals frequent; hunting, camping, rivers, etc. Leptospirosis vaccine is sometimes included with distemper/parvo and is indicated by an "L" in the abbreviation (e.g. DA2PL/CPV, DHPPL).

If your dog is likely to come in contact with rattlesnakes, we also recommend the rattlesnake vaccine (crotalus atrox toxoid).

What about vaccine reactions?

Occasionally, a dog will have a reaction to a vaccine. In the vast majority of cases, this reaction is mild. Most are local reactions which present as a small bump at the injection site. Some are delayed hypersensitivity reactions which cause signs like swelling, rash, and itching (these sometimes require an antihistamine). And in rare cases a dog may have an anaphylactic reaction; this can present as vomiting, shock, and wheezing. Anaphylactic reactions usually occur within several minutes of the vaccination and require immediate treatment. If you think your dog is having a reaction to a vaccine, call our office.

Vaccination Records

We maintain records for every dog we vaccinate. You can request your dog's vaccination status statement or his/her rabies certificate by phone or email. We can usually mail, fax, or email these records to you within one business day.



Still have questions?

Call us at **545-9949**

or email support@pascovets.com