

CANINE VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Why do our dogs and puppies need to be vaccinated?

Vaccinating your dog or puppy will help protect them against many common infectious diseases which could cause serious illness or even death. These vaccines prepare the immune system for fighting off contagious viruses and bacteria. If you are thinking about boarding your dog or puppy, most facilities require all pets to be up to date on their vaccinations to ensure the safety of all pets staying at the facility.

Which vaccines do our dogs and puppies need?

Woodinville Veterinary Hospital promotes customized vaccine protocols for our patients, depending on the potential exposure and lifestyle of each individual pet.

DA2PP (Parvo/distemper)

Some of the disease organisms listed below can survive in the environment for months or years, infecting susceptible dogs that walk through the area. Therefore this vaccine is considered a core vaccine – recommended for all canines.

Distemper: a highly contagious virus causing neurologic, gastrointestinal, and respiratory disease. Often fatal.

Adenovirus: A viral liver disease. Usually referred to as “hepatitis.”

Parvovirus: A highly contagious virus causing serious gastrointestinal disease. Potentially fatal.

Parainfluenza: A viral respiratory disease.

The parvo/distemper vaccine is typically given to all puppies as a series of two or three vaccines, then again one year later, and then every three years for life.

Rabies (ZONOTIC – transmissible to humans)

This vaccine is legally required by King County for all dogs and cats. This disease is a virus that causes severe neurological disease and certain death in all mammals – dogs, cats, livestock, bats, and wildlife. Rabies is also transmissible to people, usually via bite wounds, resulting in human death. In the event that your pet bites someone, proof of vaccination against this virus will help protect you, your family, and your pet.

Rabies is given first to puppies at 3-4 months old, then one year later, then every three years for life.

Leptospirosis (Lepto) (ZONOTIC – Transmissible to humans)

Leptospirosis is a bacterial organism called a spirochete, and is found in uncontrolled water sources such as lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and drainage ditches. It can infect dogs, livestock, and wildlife, including rodents, and is also transmissible to people. Lepto usually infects the urinary tract of animals and often causes kidney failure and death. Cases of lepto have been reported in King County.

This vaccine is not considered a core vaccine, but rather is recommended for dogs with potential exposure to wetlands, especially if those wetlands are frequented by wildlife such as raccoons.

Lepto is given as an initial series of two vaccines, then yearly.

Bordetella (Kennel Cough, Infectious Tracheobronchitis)

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious respiratory illness usually caused by the bacteria Bordetella and the parainfluenza virus. Bordetella usually causes disease in the trachea and upper airways, but severe cases can potentially progress into pneumonia. It is spread from dog to dog through the air via sneezing and coughing, much like the common cold in humans.

This vaccine is not considered a core vaccine, but is recommended for dogs that visit dog parks, boarding facilities, or grooming facilities.

Similar to the human flu virus, there are many strains of Bordetella, and the vaccine cannot cover all of them. As a result, it is still possible for your dog to contract kennel cough even after being vaccinated, but the course of illness is much shorter and less severe.

Bordetella is given every year for dogs with casual dog contact, and every six months for dogs with intensive dog contact. Most boarding facilities will require a Bordetella vaccine within the past six months prior to boarding.