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VACCINES FOR PUPPIES

PUPPIES

Puppy owners are often warned to keep their puppies home until “they’ve had all their shots.” However, the risk of under-socialization from avoiding puppy classes and low-risk public environments is much greater than the risk of disease. Good healthcare support through diet and supplements will ensure that your puppy’s risk for health problems (whether from exposure to disease or vaccines) is low. See our *Extra Care for Puppies* handout for details on supporting them through this process.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE SIGNS OF VACCINE REACTION

- Immediate reaction: collapse, seizure, anaphylaxis.
- Immediate (within 24-48 hrs) rash or skin eruption at or near vaccination site.
- Severe and sudden behavior changes
- Chronic digestive problems
- Chronic infections



DEXTER SUGGESTS

Check out these books:

- *Shock to the System*
- *DVD – In Search of the Truth About Dogs*
- *Vaccine Guide for Dogs and Cats*
- *The New Holistic Way for Dogs & Cats*

Dr. Jean Dodds’ Dog Vaccine Schedule 2014

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Note: The following vaccine protocol is offered for those dogs where minimal vaccinations are advisable or desirable. The schedule is one I recommend and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice.

Age	Vaccine Type
9-10 weeks	Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (e.g. Nobivac DPV)
14 weeks	Same as above
16-18 weeks (optional)	Same as above (optional)
20 weeks or older, if allowable by law	Rabies
1 year	Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (optional = titer)
1+ year	Rabies, killed 3-year product (give 3-4 weeks <i>apart</i> from distemper/parvovirus booster)

Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, or more often, if desired. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request.

*MLV= Modified Live Vaccine

ANOTHER PUPPY VACCINE SCHEDULE OPTION FROM DR. PAUL MCCUTCHEON, DVM

Puppies should get vaccinated for Distemper and Parvovirus. They should get vaccinated twice. The first should be at 9 weeks, or at least two weeks after nursing ends, whichever comes later. The second should be at 16 weeks, or seven weeks after the first vaccination, whichever comes later. (he doesn’t discuss Rabies, but it would seem reasonable to use the same 7 week waiting period after their last distemper/parvo) It can be difficult to get Distemper and Parvo vaccines *not* combined with other vaccines (the common DHLLP). If you cannot get them separately, this reduced schedule should help mitigate problems.



QUESTIONS FOR YOUR VET

- Do you offer titer testing? (answer should be Yes, VacciCheck is preferred for quick results)
- What is your philosophy on vaccinations?
- Do you offer recombinant DNA vaccines (Merial Recombitek)? (Yes)
- Do you offer distemper and parvo vaccines without the other vaccines? (Yes)
- Since challenge studies show that adult dogs vaccinated against Distemper and Parvo maintain immunity for over 5 years, will you respect my request to NOT re-vaccinate my adult dog more frequently? (Yes)
- Are you familiar with the AAHA guidelines on vaccinations? What is your opinion on the *non-core* and *not recommended* vaccines as discussed in those guidelines?
- If my pet has a bad reaction to a vaccine, will you make a note in the file that my pet should NOT be vaccinated in the future? (Yes)

WHAT IF YOUR PUPPY HAS ALREADY HAD SOME VACCINES?

You can still adapt the rest of their vaccination schedule using the McCutcheon model. If you get a puppy that has already had a vaccination at six or seven weeks of age, you still want to do a vaccination close to the nine-week age. Wait at least 3 weeks after their early vaccination to do another distemper/parvo (so they might get vaccinated at 10 weeks instead). Then wait seven weeks to vaccinate again for distemper/parvo (as the McCutcheon schedule recommends).

REQUEST RECOMBINANT DNA VACCINES (RECOMBITEK BY MERIAL)

This type of vaccine is definitely safer, and will result in a higher immune response.

WHY AVOID THE ADENOVIRUS VACCINE FOR YOUNG PUPS?

This vaccine can suppress the immune system for up to ten days. Because puppies are often shipped, adopted, or experiencing other stressful situations at a young age it is best to delay this vaccine until they are older. If you bought a puppy who already had this vaccine, use the guidelines of our *Extra Care for Puppies* handout to build their immune system.

DON'T VACCINATE SICK ANIMALS

This guideline is one that is ignored all too often, even though the vaccine companies themselves warn of the dangers. An animal whose immune system is already compromised should not have the extreme immune challenge of a vaccine too. This can cause a cascade of problems and can even develop into chronic illness. The convenience of taking care of it during a visit for another problem is not worth the risk. Animals should also not be vaccinated at the time of surgery or when on corticosteroids for the same reasons. An animal that has had an adverse reaction to a vaccination in the past should never have that vaccination again.

TITER TESTING

This tests the antibody levels in the bloodstream that result from vaccinations. This should become a standard part of pet care because this test gives you the information you need to decide whether to revaccinate your adult dog. You should use a vet that offers titer testing as a part of your pet's annual checkup instead of vaccines that may not be needed. More information is in our *Vaccine Safety* handout.

TALK TO YOUR VET

American Animal Hospital Association guidelines point out that vaccinations are a medical procedure and that vaccination decisions should always be made on an individual basis depending on risk and lifestyle factors. Talk to your vet about your concerns.

LOOKING FOR A VET? HERE'S A GOOD TEST QUESTION

Call your prospective vet before you even schedule an appointment and ask them "What do you charge for titer testing?" They should have this in their regular pricing chart. If they cannot answer this question, or worse, don't know what titers are, you should find another vet because this is an indication that they are not staying current with new vaccination information. Dexter's get's recommendations from customers if you need help finding a vet that will work with you.

"Be wise and immunize, but immunize wisely."