



What You Need To Know About Dog Vaccines

As soon as you get a dog, the vaccines should begin. Your veterinarian becomes your best friend after 4-5 visits within the first 6 months. During each visit, your puppy is examined and given a series of shots. And then visits continue every year. But, are all these vaccines really necessary? And, what are we vaccinating for anyway? Here is a list of canine vaccines, the diseases they fight, and the recommendations of Deerfield Veterinary Clinic.

DAP (Referred to as the “Distemper Combo”)

- Protects against three very contagious diseases
- Distemper is a viral disease that affects the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems and can often be fatal
- Adenovirus causes hepatitis
- Parvovirus strikes quickly, causing damage to the gastrointestinal tract and may cause sudden death in some cases
- Should be repeated 3 times in puppies and every three years after the initial booster given at one year

Rabies

- Neurological disease of all warm-blooded mammals
- Deadly and untreatable if contracted
- Infection can come from a bite wound from an infected animal
- All puppies legally must receive this vaccine after 12 weeks of age and every three years after the initial booster given at one year



4-Way Leptospirosis

- A bacteria transferred through nasal secretions, saliva, or urine of infected animals which may collect in bodies of water
- Can cause permanent kidney damage
- This vaccine should be given to any dog that may run in the woods, go camping, or play near any lakes or streams in the wild.
- Should be given twice to all dogs receiving it for the first time and once a year after the initial vaccine

Lyme

- Transferred by ticks (80% of ticks in New Hampshire carry this disease)
- May cause swollen and painful joints, fevers, and depressions and may cause irreversible kidney disease
- Should be given twice to all dogs receiving it for the first time and once a year after the initial vaccine

Bordetella (Referred to as Kennel Cough)

- Airborne bacterial respiratory infection
- Given every year to dogs who attend puppy classes, daycare, grooming facilities, dog parks, or boarding facilities