



## VACCINATIONS

**Many of the serious diseases of dogs can be prevented by vaccination.** With over 50 million pet dogs in the United States alone, your pet is bound to come in contact with an infectious disease at some time. Even if you always keep your pet indoors, your dog can be exposed to viruses carried in the air, in dust, or on clothing. Vaccination is inexpensive protection against costly treatment, needless suffering, or even premature death of your dog.

### **DISTEMPER: ( Yearly Vaccine)**

Distemper is one of the two most important diseases of dogs. It is very widespread, and nearly every dog will be exposed to distemper within the first year of life in our area. Signs include coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, fever, and discharges from the eyes and/or nose. “Squinting” of the eyes is often the first sign observed. Once the virus enters the nervous system, convulsions, twitches, or partial paralysis become evident. It is spread through all body secretions and is highly contagious. It is usually fatal. Raccoons are the most common carrier of this disease.

### **PARVOVIRUS: ( Yearly Vaccine)**

Since its devastating worldwide appearance in 1978, most dog owners have heard of parvo. It is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog’s feces. A dog that recovers from the disease remains a “carrier” spreading the virus in its bowel movements for 1-3 months. **The virus can lay dormant in the environment for up to 6 months.** Signs include vomiting, fever, depression, and diarrhea, which often will contain large amounts of blood. There is another form where the virus attacks the heart muscle causing a heart attack and death. The younger the pet, the GREATER the chance of death. The death rate is very high in dogs under 4-6 months of age.

Dogs remain susceptible to Parvovirus infection until two weeks after the last injection in the vaccination series. This is the **MOST SERIOUS** and **FATAL** disease we see today.

### **INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS: ( Yearly Vaccine )**

Canine hepatitis affects the dog’s liver. Spread through an infected dog’s urine, exposure can mean anything from a mild infection to death. Puppies are at the most risk with this disease. Vaccination has controlled this disease for several years, making it rarely seen by the veterinarian today.

### **LEPTOSPIROSIS: ( Yearly to Twice Yearly Vaccine )**

“Lepto” is a bacterial infection that affects the dog’s kidneys and liver. It can reside as a low-level infection for months or years, infecting other dogs while weakening your pet. Transmitted by rodent urine & wildlife urine Leptospirosis is usually fatal. It is controlled by vaccination. **This disease is contagious to people coming into contact with infected urine.**



### **BORDETELLA: ( Vaccine Given Every 6 Months )**

Technically known as “tracheobronchitis,” or “kennel cough”, it is an upper respiratory infection with the major sign being a persistent, dry, hacking cough. It often lasts several weeks and is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS**. It is caused by several viruses and bacteria. Treatment for this disease is extensive and costly. It is recommended that all canines be vaccinated every 6 months for Bordetella.

### **CORONAVIRUS:**

Corona virus is an intestinal infection resulting in diarrhea, vomiting, and depression. It is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS** and can be **FATAL**. Research shows it often co-exists with “Parvo” at the same time in many dogs.

### **RABIES:**

Rabies is a **FATAL INFECTION** of the nervous system that attacks all warm-blooded animals, including humans. Rabies has become synonymous with the image of a vicious dog. Rabies is a public health hazard and a personal risk to all pet owners. Many states require vaccination against rabies, and most veterinarians recommend vaccination for all dogs and cats, regardless of state law. Rabies can be transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Even dogs kept indoors can come in contact with a rabies carrier in a basement, garage, or attic. Because there is no cure for rabies, vaccination is your pet’s only protection

### **LYME DISEASE:**

Lyme disease is transmitted by the bite of a tick. If you are in a tick borne area, this vaccine is highly recommended. It is a yearly vaccination. In recent years, this disease has increased exponentially in our area.

### **RATTLESNAKE VACCINE:**

**This vaccination does not replace anti-venom and the pet should still receive emergency treatment from the nearest veterinarian.** The vaccine builds antibodies to the venom. This allows more time, less pain and less anti-venom for required for treatment. ( Anti-venom costs about \$400 per vial. It usually takes a minimum of 2-3 bottles to treat a 50lb dog!) This vaccination has shown excellent efficacy against the Western Diamondback (most common in our region ).

### **Vaccine Reactions:**

It is known that less than 5% of all canines will exhibit a reaction to a particular vaccination.

This reaction presents in three forms: anaphylactic, generalized, or local.

Anaphylactic reactions will occur almost immediately after the vaccine is administered. You will still be in our hospital at this time, and quick action will be taken with steroid and antihistamine injections. Hospitalizaion may be required. (This occurs in <1% of the dog population)

Generalized reactions can occur 10-15min or up to 6-8 hours after the vaccine is administered. Swelling around the face, hives, lethargy, vomiting or fever may occur. If this happens, please call our office immediately.



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*Localized reactions* are reactions occurring at the site of the injection. A small lump will form under the skin. This is generally not a problem, and will go away in a couple of days. If the pet seems painful or if there is seepage from the lump, please notify our hospital staff.

**Please note that Pearland Animal Hospital extensively researches every vaccine administered in our facility to ensure that your pet is receiving the safest vaccine available.**

Please call with any questions or problems concerning your pet's vaccinations.

**281-485-2496**