What are Vaccines?

Vaccines are products designed to trigger protective immune responses and prepare the immune system to fight future infections from disease-causing agents. Vaccines stimulate the immune system’s production of antibodies that identify and destroy disease-causing organisms that enter the body. Vaccines provide immunity against one or several diseases that can lessen the severity or prevent certain diseases altogether.

**5 Reasons to Vaccinate your Pet**

**1.** Vaccinations prevent many pet illnesses.

**2.** Vaccinations can help avoid costly treatments for diseases that can be prevented.

**3.** Vaccinations prevent diseases that can be passed not only from animal to animal but also from animal to human.

**4.** Diseases prevalent in wildlife, such as rabies and distemper, can infect unvaccinated pets.

**5.** Many areas, local or state ordinances require certain vaccinations of household pets.

**Recommended Canine Vaccination Schedule**

Age Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 weeks | 1st round of Deworming (ex. Nemex) |
| 4 weeks | 2nd round of Deworming (ex. Nemex) |
| 6 weeks | 1st set of vaccinations (Da2PPV) and Intestinal Parasite check. Deworm if necessary |
| 9 weeks | 2nd set of vaccinations (Da2PPV for small puppies/dogs or Da2PPV+4L for larger puppies/dogs and Bordetella) Intestinal Parasite check. Deworm if necessary. |
| 12 weeks | 3rd set of vaccinations (Da2PPV or Da2PPV+4L and Rabies) Intestinal Parasite check. Deworm if necessary. |
| 16 weeks | 1st Rattlesnake vaccination |
| 20 weeks | 2nd Rattlesnake vaccination booster |

**Da2PPV**

* **Canine Distemper**- Usually fatal viral disease that causes respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems problems
* **Hepatitis**- Viral disease of the Liver
* **Parvovirus**- Dangerous and sometimes fatal intestinal disease (especially in puppies)
* **Parainfluenza**- Virus that is part of the group of viruses and bacteria known to cause kennel cough. The canine equivalent to a human cold.

**Da2PPV+4L**

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* **Leptospirosis-** This potentially serious bacterial disease attacks the kidneys and liver of infected dogs and can be transmitted to humans.

**Bordetella**

* Bordetella bronchiseptica is a bacterium that causes respiratory disease in dogs. It is one of the most common bacterial causes of canine infectious tracheobronchitis, which is also sometimes called kennel cough**.** Bordetella is highly contagious, easily transmitted through direct contact or the air, and resistant to destruction in the environment.

**Rabies**

* 100% fatal nervous system disease of mammals. Because there is no effective treatment and the disease can also infect humans, vaccination against the rabies virus is required by law in most states.

**Rattlesnake**

* Specifically designed to produce antibodies against the venom of the western diamondback rattlesnake. The vaccine may also be effective against other snakes with similar venom, such as the sidewinder, timber rattlesnake, and copperhead. The vaccine does not protect against the venom of water moccasins or coral snakes. The vaccine works by creating protective antibodies that help neutralize venom, so dogs experience less pain and swelling after a snake bite. Dogs that are bitten may also require less antivenin, which can be fairly costly and may produce side effects. Factors that can influence the effectiveness of the vaccine include the location of the bite, the type of snake, and the amount of venom injected.

**Recommended Feline Vaccination Schedule**

Age Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8 weeks | 1st set of vaccinations (Felovac/Leukemia combo). Intestinal parasite check, deworm if necessary |
| 12 weeks | 2nd set of vaccinations (Felovac/Leukemia combo and Rabies). Intestinal parasite check, deworm if necessary |

**Felovac/Leukemia**

* **Rhinotracheitis**- Upper Respiratory disease
* **Calicivirus**- Highly contagious virus that causes acute upper respiratory infection
* **Panleukopenia-** Virus also know of Feline Distemper
* **Chlamydia-** Chylamydiosis refers to a bacteria based chronic respiratory infection
* **Leukemia-** Disease that impairs the immune system and causes certain types of cancer

**Rabies**

* 100% fatal nervous system disease of mammals. Because there is no effective treatment and the disease can also infect humans, vaccination against the rabies virus is required by law in most states.