

Vaccine Schedule for Puppies

6-8 Weeks Old

Distemper Vaccine

What is distemper?

Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic dogs and other animals such as ferrets, skunks and raccoons. It is an incurable, often fatal, multisystemic disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems. Distemper is caused by the *canine distemper virus* (CDV).

How is the disease spread?

The disease is spread mainly by direct contact between a susceptible dog and a dog showing symptoms. Coughing and sneezing can spread the virus over short distances.

What are the clinical signs?

As with all infectious diseases, clinical signs can vary. The main clinical signs are diarrhea, vomiting, a thick yellow discharge from the eyes and nose, cough and, in severe cases, seizures and neurological signs. Dogs that recover from the disease are often left with persistent nervous muscular twitches (*chorea*) and recurrent seizures.



9-11 Weeks Old

Distemper Vaccine

12-14 Weeks Old

Distemper with Leptospirosis Combo Vaccine

What is leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease of dogs and other mammals that primarily affects the liver or kidneys. *Leptospira* are known as "aquatic spirochetes": the organism thrives in water and they have a helical or spiral shape with a characteristic hook on one or both ends. There are many species and serovars of *Leptospira*, some of which cause disease in dogs. There is no evidence that Leptospirosis causes clinical disease in cats.

How are dogs infected?

Leptospira bacteria are carried mainly by rats and other rodents, but can also be carried by almost any mammalian species, including people. Infected or recovered "carrier" dogs may act as a source of the infection. Ingestion of infected urine or rodent-contaminated garbage is the most important means of transmission, but some forms of the bacteria can penetrate damaged or thin skin. For instance, when dogs swim in contaminated water, they may become infected through their skin. The incubation period (from infection to onset of clinical signs) is usually four to twelve days.



Bordatella (Kennel Cough) Vaccine- optional



What is Kennel Cough?

Kennel Cough is a broad term covering any infectious or contagious condition of dogs where coughing is one of the major clinical signs. It is also referred to as *infectious tracheobronchitis*. The term *tracheobronchitis* describes the location of the infection in the trachea or "windpipe" and bronchial tubes.

How does a dog get kennel cough?

Kennel cough is very contagious, and dogs can readily transmit it by casual contact such as sniffing each other when on a walk, playing or sharing water dishes.

Canine Influenza Vaccine- optional

What is canine influenza?

The H3N8 equine influenza virus has been recognized in horses for more than 40 years. In 2004, the H3N8 influenza virus or "flu" appears to have "jumped" from horses to dogs. The virus had mutated into a form known as canine influenza virus (CI virus) that is highly infective for dogs.

How is canine flu spread?

The canine influenza virus is easy to transmit. The CI virus is spread through respiratory secretions (e.g., sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge) and contaminated objects such as kennel walls and floors, food and water bowls, collars, and leashes and on the clothing and skin of people who come in contact with infected dogs. The canine influenza virus can survive on skin and hands for 12 hours, on clothing for 24 hours, and on surfaces for up to 48 hours. Because canine influenza is a new disease for dogs, all dogs are susceptible to infection. There is no naturally acquired or other immunity. This means that if your dog is exposed to the virus, there is a high probability that it will become infected and develop clinical signs.

Lymes Vaccine- optional



What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is transmitted to dogs through the bite of a tick. Once in the blood stream, the Lyme disease organism is carried to many parts of the body and is likely to localize in joints. It was first thought that only a few types of ticks could transmit this disease, but now it appears that several common species may be involved. The most common type of tick to carry Lyme disease is the Deer Tick.

What are the clinical signs?

Many dogs affected with Lyme disease are taken to a veterinarian because they seem to be experiencing generalized pain and have stopped eating. Affected dogs have been described as if they were "walking on eggshells." Often these pets have high fevers. Dogs may also begin limping. This painful lameness often appears suddenly and may shift from one leg to another. If untreated, it may eventually disappear, only to recur weeks or months later.

15-17 Weeks Old

Distemper with Leptospirosis Combo Vaccine

Lymes Booster

Canine Influenza Booster

Rabies Vaccine



What is Rabies?

Rabies is one of the most devastating viral diseases affecting mammals, including dogs and humans. The danger of a bite from a rabid dog was described in writings dated from the 23rd century BC.

How is the virus transmitted?

Rabies virus does not survive long outside a mammal's body. The infection is transmitted when one infected animal bites another. In Europe, foxes are the main reservoir while in North America the skunk, fox, raccoon and bat are important sources of infection. In Asia, Africa and Latin America the main reservoir is not wildlife but stray dogs. In these areas, human infection and fatalities are more common.