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VACCINATION IN DOGS

When should my puppy/dog be vaccinated?

Generally puppies are vaccinated for the first time at 6-8 weeks with a second dose given at 10-12 weeks. Some puppies will require a third dose at 14-16 weeks depending on the brand they received for their first dose. A puppy will not be fully protected until 14 days after their final puppy vaccination.

Adult dogs receive their first adult vaccination at about 15 months then each year they will receive a canine cough vaccine and every 3 years they will receive a distemper/hepatitis/parvovirus vaccine in addition to their canine cough vaccine.

Diseases covered by vaccination

- **Canine Parvovirus** – a severe gastroenteritis that causes severe vomiting and bloody diarrhoea in dogs. It is spread via faeces and is highly contagious, contact with a sick dog is not required and the virus lives a long time in the environment. You can bring it home on your shoe, flies can bring it to your yard and it can be already present in the soil. This disease is very unpleasant for the dog and usually fatal if left untreated especially in young puppies. It is a common disease and vaccination against this disease is essential for all dogs.
- **Canine Infectious hepatitis (adenovirus)** – this is a severe liver disease that often results in death. It is very uncommon now mostly due to widespread vaccination against it but ongoing vaccination is required to keep it this way.
- **Canine Distemper Virus** – this is a severe neurological disease that usually results in a slow death. It is very uncommon now mostly due to widespread vaccination against it but ongoing vaccination is required to keep it this way.
- **Canine parainfluenza virus & Bordetella Bronchyseptica** – these two diseases are part of the canine cough disease. In most cases canine cough is simply an irritating cough that lasts a few weeks without making the dog particularly sick. However in some cases it may lead to pneumonia and can therefore occasionally be fatal. It is highly contagious so any dogs that have contact with other dogs especially in a kennel or training situation need to be vaccinated against it.

Additional vaccines

- **Tetanus** – dogs are usually quite resistant to tetanus but if they do contract it it is usually fatal. Deep puncture wounds and puppies teething are the most common situations related to dogs getting tetanus. Vaccination against this disease is recommended for any dogs in environments they may sustain contaminated puncture wounds and is beneficial to any dog but not essential.