



Dog Vaccination

The Importance of Vaccinating Your Dog

Shaping the future
of animal health

Virbac



Does my dog need to be vaccinated?

Yes! Just like us, our dogs are exposed to many harmful diseases throughout their life.

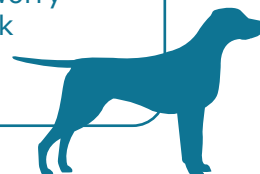
Vaccination is very important for dogs - it protects them from all sorts of nasty diseases that could make them very ill and in some cases can even be fatal.

Each day the inquisitive nature of our dogs will inevitably expose them to the risk of serious infection. A primary vaccination course, followed by regular boosters, will help protect your dog from this risk, allowing them to enjoy life and providing you with peace of mind.

What is a vaccine?

Vaccines contain specially adapted viruses and other infectious agents that help to train your pet's immune system to fight diseases that they won't have encountered before.

If your dog hasn't been vaccinated yet, don't worry - just make sure you talk to your vet about it as soon as possible.



What can my dog be protected against?



Canine Distemper (D)



A potentially fatal virus that puts younger dogs at risk - especially in cities. Transmitted via direct contact with the saliva of an infected dog via coughs and sneezes. Distemper can also be transmitted through contact with infected urine.



Clinical signs include coughing, vomiting, runny nose/eyes, loss of appetite and diarrhoea. Later on, fitting can occur.

Canine Hepatitis (H)



A potentially fatal virus that damages the liver. Dogs under one year old are at the greatest risk. Hepatitis is transmitted via contact with bodily fluids, such as blood, urine, faeces, saliva and nasal discharge.



Vomiting, pale gums, very high temperature, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, diarrhoea. Skin can become yellow as disease progresses.

Canine Parvovirus (P)



Often fatal and extremely hardy virus that can remain in the environment for several years. Transmitted via the faeces and can be carried on the soles of shoes.



Rapid deterioration, vomiting, refusal to eat and drink, rapid dehydration, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhoea.

Kennel Cough (Bordetella bronchiseptica & parainfluenza)



Highly infectious airborne disease that is often transmitted in environments such as dog kennels and puppy classes. Severely debilitating.



Persistent and harsh coughing, often followed by retching. Clinical signs may appear up to 10 days after infection, and a dog may remain infectious for a few weeks after recovery.

Leptospirosis or Weil's Disease (L)



There are multiple strains. In extreme cases, death can occur within hours. More information about Leptospirosis can be found on the next page.



Sleepiness, high temperature, severe thirst, urinating often, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhoea and yellowing of skin, eyes and gums.



What is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis (also known as Weil's disease) is a potentially fatal disease in dogs that is transmitted by rat urine and infected water (rivers, ponds, lakes, canals etc.) and other hosts such as pigs and horses.

By vaccinating against it, you can help protect your dog from this potentially devastating disease.

This vaccine needs to be given every year. There are a number of leptospirosis vaccines available in the UK, and your vet may use 'Lepto 2' or 'Lepto 4' depending on which strain your dog may be at risk from. 'Lepto 2' is the mainstay vaccine in the UK and covers the two main strains which exist throughout the UK.

The Lepto 4 vaccine covers two additional strains, giving extended protection - particularly if you are travelling abroad.

Will a vaccine protect my dog forever?

No, not forever - your dog will need regular booster vaccines to make sure they stay protected. Different vaccines have a different duration of immunity; your dog's vaccination record will detail when your dog is next due a vaccination.

Keeping a record of vaccination

Whenever you take your dog to the vet for his or her booster vaccination, it is important that you remember to take along your vaccination record. Your vet will want to see it to ensure that the correct vaccinations are being given at the appropriate time and you will need to have the document updated if you intend to put your dog into kennels.

Putting your dog into kennels

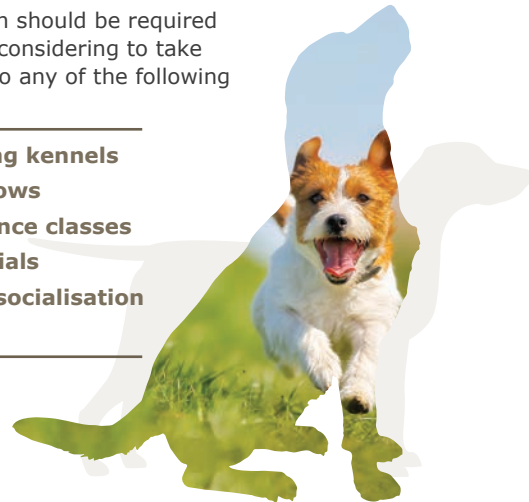
All reputable kennels will require proof that your dog is up to date with their vaccines. The same applies to dog training classes, puppy parties, and dog shows. These environments are where diseases often spread.

Where is my dog most at risk?

Simply, everywhere! Diseases can be airborne or in the environment so even dogs that have no direct contact with other dogs can become infected. Places where lots of dogs congregate will often only accept dogs that have been vaccinated to protect all of the dogs - including yours. You might be refused entry if you cannot provide evidence of vaccination.

Vaccination should be required if you are considering to take your dog to any of the following places:

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- **Boarding kennels**
 - **Dog shows**
 - **Obedience classes**
 - **Field trials**
 - **Puppy socialisation groups**
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What happens if my dog misses a year?

A. Vaccine doses are designed to provide the optimum protection for your pet given that it will receive a regular booster. While there is an allowance for a certain amount of "overlap protection", its effectiveness reduces with time, increasing your dog's risk of infection. Your dog may then need to restart their primary vaccine course.

Q. Does it hurt?

A. Some dogs don't feel anything, but some may feel a small pinch. But it won't be for long and after a bit of fuss from you, your dog will have forgotten all about it.

Q. Does my dog need protection against rabies?

A. Thankfully, the UK is clear of rabies, so if your dog is resident in the UK rabies vaccination will not be necessary. However, speak to your vet if you are planning to take your dog abroad.

Q. If my dog catches a disease, will a vaccination cure it?

A. No. Vaccination is a preventative measure, not a cure. Your dog must be healthy at the time the vaccine is administered.



Vaccines aren't so scary!

Your vet will use a combination of vaccines as the basis of providing your dog with immunity against all the major infectious diseases faced by dogs in the UK. Your vet can also provide specialist protection against other diseases your dog may be at risk from if it travels abroad or visits places such as boarding kennels.



New Puppy?

Puppies are given some protection during their first few weeks through antibodies in their mother's milk. However this protection fades after 4-6 weeks, making them vulnerable. It is not recommended for your puppy to venture out into public areas until they have completed their primary vaccine course.

A primary vaccine course is often used to refer to the series of vaccinations a puppy requires during the first few months of life. Once this has been completed, your puppy will need an annual booster vaccination to ensure they stay protected.

Don't Forget...

It usually takes at least a week after final vaccination for your puppy to develop sufficient immunity, so make sure you plan ahead if you intend to take your puppy to a high risk environment, such as boarding kennels or training classes.

If you are planning to take your pet abroad, your dog may also need some additional vaccinations - your vet will be able to advise what may be necessary.



*For more information
on protecting your dog
from potentially deadly
diseases, talk to your vet*

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