

CLIENT VACCINE INFORMATION SHEET

Vaccines are essential for keeping your pet healthy and alive.

Many of the diseases that vaccines protect against are not only deadly but also have no cure. Timely and early vaccination is critical to protecting your pet's health and preventing the spread of dangerous illnesses. This document is intended for informational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for a veterinary examination or professional medical advice

Here are some frequently asked questions:

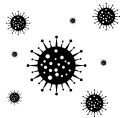


What are core vs. non-core vaccines?

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) categorizes vaccines into two groups: core and non-core.

Core vaccines are recommended for all pets, regardless of lifestyle, unless there is a specific medical reason not to vaccinate. Examples of core vaccines include rabies, canine DHPP (distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza), and feline FVRCP (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia).

Non-core vaccines are recommended based on a pet's lifestyle, geographic location, and risk of exposure. Examples include the canine leptospirosis vaccine, canine Bordetella vaccine, canine Lyme vaccine, canine influenza vaccine, and the feline leukemia (FeLV) vaccine.



What diseases are vaccinations preventing?

Canine

DHPP - Core Vaccine

The DHPP vaccine protects dogs against four serious viruses: canine distemper, adenovirus (hepatitis), parainfluenza, and parvovirus.

- Canine Distemper is a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems. Common symptoms include fever, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. In severe cases, neurological signs such as stumbling, muscle twitching, seizures, paralysis, and death can occur.
- Canine Adenovirus causes respiratory symptoms such as eye cloudiness, nasal and ocular discharge, and coughing. It can be especially dangerous in puppies, leading to fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, swelling, and death. Treatment typically involves hospitalization, fluids, and medications to manage symptoms.
- Canine Parainfluenza is a highly contagious respiratory virus transmitted through the air. Symptoms include coughing, nasal discharge, low energy, decreased appetite, and low-grade fever. If left untreated, it can lead to more serious respiratory infections.
- Canine Parvovirus attacks the heart and gastrointestinal tract. It causes lethargy, high fever, severe vomiting, diarrhea, arrhythmias, and often death. Prompt treatment—including hospitalization, IV fluids, and antibiotics—is critical for survival.

Leptospirosis - Non-Core Vaccine

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused by a spirochete bacterium found in soil and standing water.

Unvaccinated dogs can contract the disease through contact with contaminated water or animal urine, typically through broken skin or ingestion. The bacteria primarily attack the kidneys and liver, leading to symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, swelling, and blood in urine or stool. In severe cases, it can result in organ failure and death. Leptospirosis is zoonotic, meaning it can be transmitted from animals to humans through direct contact with an infected pet or their bodily fluids.

Bordetella – Non-Core Vaccine

Bordetella bronchiseptica is the bacterium most commonly responsible for “kennel cough,” a contagious respiratory illness that causes inflammation of a dog’s upper respiratory system. *Bordetella* is typically contracted in environments where many dogs congregate, such as boarding facilities, dog daycares, dog parks, and training classes. It is highly contagious and spreads easily through direct contact, airborne particles, or contaminated surfaces. Cats, rabbits, and ferrets can also become infected if exposed to an affected animal.

Canine Influenza Virus – Non-Core Vaccine

Canine influenza is a contagious respiratory disease caused by the canine influenza virus, which is similar to the flu virus in humans. It spreads through the air via respiratory secretions (coughing, sneezing) or by contact with contaminated objects such as water bowls, toys, or bedding. Symptoms of canine influenza include: Coughing (moist or dry), Sneezing, Nasal discharge, Runny eyes, Fever, Lethargy, and Difficulty breathing. Treatment is typically supportive and may include fluids to maintain hydration and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to reduce fever and discomfort.

Rabies – Core Vaccine

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that affects the central nervous system. It is transmitted through the bites or scratches of infected animals and can be spread to both humans and other animals. Common signs of rabies include sudden behavioral changes such as increased agitation, extreme fearfulness or aggression, and a fear of water (hydrophobia). As the disease progresses, affected animals typically fall into a coma and eventually die. While rabies is untreatable once symptoms appear, preventive treatment is available for humans who are exposed before symptoms develop. If you are ever bitten or scratched by a wild animal or one with an unknown vaccination status, seek medical attention immediately.

Lyme Disease – Non-Core Vaccine

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by ticks and can affect both animals and humans. Once inside the body, the bacteria can damage joints and internal organs. Symptoms of Lyme disease are fever, loss of appetite, reduced energy, shifting leg lameness, stiffness, discomfort, or pain, and swelling of joints. If left untreated, complications can occur like kidney failure, and serious cardiac effects.

Feline

FVRCP – Core Vaccine

The FVRCP vaccine protects against three serious feline diseases:

- Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR)
- Calicivirus (C)
- Panleukopenia (P)

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (feline herpesvirus-1) is an upper respiratory virus that causes inflammation of the nasal passages, sneezing, watery eyes, coughing, and nasal discharge. In severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia. Calicivirus also affects the upper respiratory tract and causes symptoms similar to FVR. However, it commonly results in ulcers in the mouth and on the tongue, and infected cats are at risk for gingivitis and stomatitis (inflammation of the mouth and gums).

Panleukopenia, caused by feline parvovirus, is a highly contagious and often fatal disease, particularly in kittens. It suppresses white blood cell production, weakening the immune system. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite.

FelV (Feline Leukemia Virus) – Non-Core Vaccine

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is transmitted through close contact with an infected cat, often through saliva, grooming, shared food bowls, or bites. If your cat goes outdoors, lives with a cat that goes outdoors, or lives with a FeLV-positive cat, vaccination is strongly recommended. FeLV targets and invades a cat’s immune cells, compromising the immune system and potentially leading to cancer, such as lymphoma. There is no cure for FeLV. Once a cat is infected, treatment is limited to symptom management, and most cats eventually die or require euthanasia due to complications from the disease.

Rabies- Core Vaccine

Rabies affects cats in the same way as dogs. [See Rabies section under “canine”](#)



Puppy Vaccinations:



DHPP - Core

- Must have series of 3-4 vaccines starting no earlier than 6 weeks of age
- Last vaccine in series must be at 16+ weeks of age (high risk puppies' final dose at 18-20 weeks at age)
- Vaccines in series must be given every 2-4 weeks for series to be complete
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete

Leptospirosis - Noncore

- Must have series of 2 vaccines starting no earlier than 8 weeks of age
- Vaccines in series must be given 2-4 weeks apart for series to be complete
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete

Bordetella Intranasal or Oral - Noncore

- Must be given at 8 weeks of age or later
- Vaccine is good for 1 year

Bordetella Injectable - Noncore

- Must have 1 oral vaccine starting no earlier than 13 weeks of age
- Vaccines in series must be given every 3-4 weeks for series to be complete
- Vaccine is good for 1 year

CIV (Canine Influenza Virus) - Noncore

- Must have series of at least 2 vaccines starting no earlier than 11 weeks of age
- Vaccines in series must be given every 3-4 weeks for series to be complete
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete

Rabies - Core

- Must be given at 16 weeks of age or later (no earlier than 12 weeks of age)
- Vaccine is good for 1 year
- This vaccine may be required by state/local/provincial laws:
 - To house pet
 - To license pet
 - To travel with pet across state lines

Lyme - Noncore

- Must have series of 2 vaccines starting no earlier than 8 weeks of age
- Vaccines in series must be given 2-4 weeks apart for series to be complete
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series complete

Adult Dog Vaccinations:



DAPP - Core

- First time given; vaccine must be boosted 3-4 weeks after initial vaccine
- Vaccine is good for 1 year or 3 years once series is complete, depending on product.
- OVERDUE: If pet had initial 2-3 vaccine series at some point, 3-year vaccine will be good for 3 years, 1-year vaccine will be good for 1 year

Leptospirosis - Noncore

- First time given; vaccine must be boosted 2-4 weeks after initial vaccine
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete

Bordetella Intranasal or Oral - Noncore

- Vaccine is good for 1 year

Bordetella Injectable - Noncore

- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete

CIV (Canine Influenza Virus) - Noncore

- First time given; vaccine must be boosted 2-4 weeks after initial vaccine
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete
- OVERDUE: (over 3 weeks overdue), must start series over

Rabies - Core

- First year given; vaccine is good for 1 year
- Subsequent vaccine is good for either 3 years or 1 year depending on vaccine
- This vaccine may be required by state/local/provincial laws:
 - To house pet
 - To license pet
 - To travel with pet across state lines

Lyme - Noncore

- First time given; vaccine must be boosted 2-4 weeks after initial vaccine
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series complete
- If vaccine is NOT CURRENT (over 3 weeks overdue), must start series over

*****Rabies and DAPP are considered core vaccinations for all. Remainder of vaccines to be recommended dependent upon risk factors of the pet, the local geographical region and areas of pet travel. *****

Kitten Vaccinations:



FVRCP - Core

- Must have series of 2-3 vaccines starting no earlier than 6 weeks of age
- Last vaccine in series must be given every 3-4 weeks for series to be complete
- Vaccine is good for 1 year or 3 years once series complete, depending on product.

FelV - Noncore

- STRONGLY RECCOMEND NEGATIVE FeLV test before vaccine can be given the first time
- Must have series of at least 2 vaccines starting no earlier than 8 weeks of age
- Two doses 3-4 weeks apart
- Once series is complete
 - Vaccine is good for 1 year and should be boosted at 1 year of age, dependent upon risk
- Should be given as a kitten, even if cat will be indoor only

Rabies - Core

- Must be given at 16 weeks of age or later
- Vaccine is good for 1 year
- This vaccine may be required by state/local/provincial laws:
 - To house pet
 - To license pet
 - To travel with pet across state lines

Adult Cat Vaccinations:



FVRCP - Core

- First time given; vaccine must be boosted 3-4 weeks after initial vaccine
- Vaccine is good for 1 year once series is complete
- OVERDUE: If pet had initial 2-3 vaccine series at some point, vaccine will be good for 1 year

FelV - Noncore

- STRONGLY RECCOMEND NEGATIVE FeLV test before vaccine can be given the first time
- Must be boosted 3-4 weeks after initial vaccine
- Once series is complete:
 - Vaccine is good for 1 year
- OVERDUE: More than 6 weeks past due
 - Must STRONGLY RECOMMEND FeLV test before vaccine can be given
 - Vaccine good for 1 year
- Not necessary for indoor only cats
 - UNLESS: if indoor only cat lives in a household with cats who go outdoors, consider giving vaccine to indoor only cat

Rabies - Core

- First year given; vaccine is good for 1 year. Always follow manufacturer recommendations
- Vaccine is good for 3 years if using 3-year vaccine, and 1 year if using 1-year vaccine
- This vaccine may be required by state/local/provincial laws:
 - To house pet
 - To license pet
 - To travel with pet across state lines