

# CANINE VACCINATION PROTOCOL

## **Puppies**

Remember, young puppies also have young immune systems and are susceptible to contagious diseases, do your best to keep them away from a lot of exposure until their immune system gets older and more effective. This means limited trips to the park or walks in the neighborhood. It is important to socialize your puppy but do not expose her/him to dogs or places that might be highly contagious.

Puppies over eight weeks of age should receive the combination Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvo (DHP) vaccination three to four weeks apart until fifteen to sixteen weeks of age.

The rabies\* vaccination can be given as early as twelve weeks old but I prefer to vaccinate between four to six months of age. (The county requires that it be given by four months of age<sup>+</sup> ) The first rabies vaccination given is a one year vaccine.

## **Adult dogs**

One year after the last puppy DHP vaccine your dog should receive a 3 year DHP vaccination. Then one month, or more, later a three year rabies vaccine can be given.

Dogs older than one year, who are up to date on their vaccinations, can receive a DHP vaccine every three years or we can run titers (blood antibody levels) to determine his/her immunity and vaccinate as needed. We can discuss, and decide together, the pros and cons of both options.

A Rabies vaccination will need to be given every three years unless it is demonstrated that your pet has a serious illness directly related to vaccination(s) at which point a one year medical exemption can be issued. Both Hillsborough and Pasco counties allow medical exemptions for county licenses. An antibody titer can be run done to determine the level of protection but this test is not recognized by the county in lieu of vaccination.

## **Other Vaccines**

I generally do not recommend the bordatella (kennel cough) vaccination unless your pet is going to be at a facility that requires it (boarding kennel, groomers, show circuit or training facility). (There is a homeopathic nosode that may give a temporary level of protection.)

I recommend the K9 Influenza, Corona virus, Leptospirosis, and Lyme vaccinations ONLY for an animal that will be at high risk of exposure. We can discuss your pet's risk factors and make this decision together. I do not, at this point, suggest the Giardia or Ringworm vaccines.

## **Other important info**

I do suggest physical exams, heartworm tests and fecal tests be done on a yearly basis and that heartworm prevention be given on a monthly basis. I recommend the monthly preventatives Heartgard Plus, Interceptor or Advantage Multi. I do not trust Revolution to protect against intestinal parasites nor do I trust the homeopathic heartworm nosode to protect against heartworm infection.

Remember, the best protection is a HEALTHY IMMUNE SYSTEM and minimal exposure to viruses, either via vaccines or by natural exposure. High quality nutrition, toxin free air and water, exercise and a loving home environment are essential components of a healthy life.

---

\*Homeopathic Lyssin 30C is given to any patient receiving a rabies vaccine to 'protect' them from the potential harm that homeopathic theory believes the rabies vaccine can cause. (Or constitutional homeopathic treatment can be started after vaccines are stopped.)

<sup>+</sup> Remember, because rabies is a potential threat to human health, and therefore can be a legal issue, we need to follow acceptable protocol as closely as possible.