



Recommended Vaccination Guidelines for Dogs and Puppies

A widespread canine vaccination program has played a crucial role in the prevention of infectious diseases in veterinary medicine. As pets have assumed a different role in the modern family and risk factors have changed the vaccination schedule has changed accordingly. We seek a compromise between maximizing immunity to diseases and minimizing possible short and long-term side effects from vaccines. The risks versus benefits of using certain vaccines or of administering multiple vaccines at the same visit need to be strongly reconsidered. It is now known that some vaccines may be unnecessary and that their use may increase the risk of adverse reactions. In addition, there are studies that now show the duration of immunity from many vaccines is much longer than one year. When we consider if and when a dog needs to be vaccinated its health, age, risk of exposure, lifestyle, and past medical and vaccination history are important variables to assess.

The following vaccine protocol is our recommendation to meet the requirements of the City of Minneapolis but it may be modified. It includes the “core” vaccines and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended are not valid. It is a matter of professional judgment and choice.

8 weeks of age	Distemper, Parvo, Parainfluenza, Adeno (DAPP)
12 wks	DAPP
16 wks (if needed)	DAPP
16 wks or older	Rabies
1 year of age	DAPP (3 yr duration)
1 year of age	Rabies (3 yr duration)

Adult dogs:

As long as we can establish a previous rabies vaccine has been given, subsequent rabies vaccines are given every 3 years as required by law. Similarly we recommend the DAPP be given every 3 years. In some circumstances it may be wise to consider a vaccine titer that can serve as a measure of your pet’s immunity to these diseases. This is a conversation best had with your veterinarian.

We recommend vaccination for Lyme disease, leptospirosis, and kennel cough. The first 2 diseases are life-threatening and all 3 are common, and we are happy to discuss the merits of each during your appointment. Always tell us about your dog’s environment, travel, and medical history so that we can make an informed decision about vaccines.



Recommended Vaccination Guidelines for Cats and Kittens

A widespread feline vaccination program has played a crucial role in the prevention of infectious diseases in veterinary medicine. As pets have assumed a different role in the modern family and risk factors have changed the vaccination schedule has changed accordingly. We seek a compromise between maximizing immunity to diseases and minimizing possible short and long-term side effects from vaccines. The risk versus benefit of using certain vaccines or of administering multiple vaccines at the same visit every year needs to be strongly reconsidered.

Cats in particular can have an uncommon and poorly understood reaction to certain components in vaccines which in the worst cases can result in the formation of a cancerous tumor. In addition, there are studies that now show the duration of immunity from many vaccines is much longer than one year. When we consider if a cat should be vaccinated its health, age, risk of exposure, lifestyle, and past medical and vaccination history are important variables to assess.

The following vaccine protocol is our general recommendation but it may be modified. It includes the “core” vaccines and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian are not valid. It is a matter of professional judgment and choice.

8 weeks of age	Panleukopenia, Rhinotracheitis, and Calicivirus (RCP)
12 wks (if needed)	FVRCP and (if needed) FeLV
16 wks (if needed)	FVRCP and (if needed) FeLV
16 wks or older	Rabies
1-1½ year of age	FVRCP (3 yr duration)
1-1½ year of age	Rabies (1 yr duration)

Adult cats:

We strongly recommend the Imrab Purevax (1-year) rabies vaccine because it is free of the additives they are thought to contribute to side effects in cats. We no longer recommend the previously used 3-year rabies vaccine for cats.

RCP should be given only once every 3 years for most adult cats where there is an established vaccine history. Circumstances may arise in which we recommend it be discontinued altogether.

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV): All kittens and cats with an unknown FeLV status should be tested for this disease. Feline leukemia is a risk to cats that go outdoors and/or are exposed to infected cats. Kittens with risk of exposure should be given a FeLV vaccine at 12 and 16 weeks, and then every 1-3 years depending on risk and age.