

Canine Courier

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Which Vaccines Does Your Dog Need?

Vaccine Articles and News /
By Julia Henriques

NOTE: Make sure you grab the [free downloadable chart](#) from this article AND the [free DNM Vaccine Guide!](#)

Do you know the difference between so-called “Core” and “Non-Core” vaccines for your dog, and what those terms mean?

Do you sometimes wonder, “How often do I need to vaccinate my dog?” Or which vaccines are absolutely necessary and which are not? And what’s required by law?

It can get confusing. A lot of veterinarians give out misleading information to get you to keep vaccinating your dog regularly.

So we’re providing a [handy downloadable chart that you can save](#) as a reference.

Then, when you get that card in the mail from your vet reminding you that your dog’s due for his annual physical

Continued

exam and vaccinations, you’ll be prepared, knowing what your dog does and doesn’t need to remain protected from disease – and stay out of trouble with the law!

This is important information to have, because 60% of vets today are vaccinating pets more often than the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) recommends (which is already too often). And, as you’ll see below, that can be very harmful to your dog.

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Core Vs Non-Core

Core vaccines are the ones most vets recommend your dog should have as a puppy. These vaccines all protect against dangerous viral diseases, and they are:

Rabies Distemper Parvovirus Adenovirus (Canine Hepatitis)

The Non-Core vaccines include:

Bordetella Lyme Disease Leptospirosis 4-way (this is sometimes included in combination vaccines with core vaccines, but it is a non-core vaccine and should be considered separately) Canine Influenza Parainfluenza Adenovirus Intranasal

Several of the non-core vaccines (Bordetella, Lyme and Leptospirosis) are bacterial vaccines. Bacterial vaccines have low efficacy rates coupled with high incidence of adverse reactions. This means they should rarely be used, and then, only after careful consideration of all the risks of vaccinating vs not vaccinating against these diseases.

But if you do plan to give your dog any of these vaccines (or you already have), you’ll need to know how long they last.

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How Long Vaccines Last

When you [check out the downloadable chart](#), you'll see two parts, one for Core and one for Non-Core vaccines.

First, for core vaccines ... you'll see the Minimum Duration of Immunity of the Core Vaccines. Protection against disease from these vaccines has been proven by clinical studies to last from 7 to 15 years (depending on the vaccine). The core vaccine information in the chart is based on clinical studies by Ronald D Schultz PhD and you can read more about his work in [this article](#).

If your dog has had any of the core vaccines at 16 weeks of age or older, he's most likely protected for life and doesn't need to be vaccinated again.

Your veterinarian may not agree with this. Unless your veterinarian is truly holistic, she will probably at least follow the AAHA guidelines.

Your veterinarian may imply that the core vaccines are required by law. But, except for rabies, they're not.

Next, for non-core vaccines, you'll see we've focused on the three main non-core vaccines that your vet's likely to recommend: Bordetella (kennel cough), Lyme Disease and Leptospirosis. Since we don't advocate any of these vaccines, the chart lists some issues with these vaccines that you should consider before vaccinating your dog.

Why You Shouldn't Over-Vaccinate Your Dog

Vaccinating your dog more often than necessary can be very dangerous for him. All vaccines have potential adverse reactions. These can range from fairly mild reactions like lethargy or soreness, to really severe ones like anaphylactic shock, autoimmune diseases and even death. The vaccine can also cause the disease it's intended to prevent!

When your dog is protected by the vaccines he's already had, vaccinating him again does not make him "more immune."

Vaccines also contain other ingredients that are potentially harmful for your dog.

Ingredients in Vaccines

Most vaccines include toxic ingredients that add to the risks of vaccinating your dog.

Two of these are:

Thimerosal

This is a mercury based additive used as a preservative. Mercury toxicity is well known and repeatedly proven in studies. Yet it's still contained in most veterinary vaccines today. Even some vaccines that claim to be [thimerosal-free](#) may still contain small amounts of thimerosal. That's because it can be used in processing but not added as an ingredient, so the manufacturers don't have to disclose it.

Gentamicin

This is an antibiotic. [According to the FDA](#) (US Food and Drug Administration), antibiotics are in vaccines to prevent bacterial infection during manufacturing. So when your dog gets a vaccine, he's getting antibiotics whether you like it or not.

What To Do At The Vet's Office

Do your homework and [read our chart before you go](#).

For Core Vaccines

If your veterinarian presses you to over-vaccinate your dog with core vaccines, you can draw her attention to Dr Schultz's research

. Dr Schultz's studies show the minimum duration of immunity that likely protects your dog for life once he's had his core vaccines as a puppy or adult.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

10 SEKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING CLUBHOUSE
7PM

23 WINTER SESSION OF CLASSES BEGIN

FEBRUARY

11 WKC MASTERS AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIP

13 WKC MASTERS OBEDIENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

13-14 WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

14 VALENTINE'S DAY

14 SEKC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CLUBHOUSE
7PM

17 SEKC AWARDS BANQUET HOLIDAY INN CITY
CENTRE

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hard to believe that the year has almost disappeared and I for one don't know how that happened so fast. As a club, we have had a busy year thanks to so many members giving so much of their time. The Summer Show, Agility Trial, Fall Show, Meet the Breeds not to mention the fun things like the Summer Picnic and helping Animeals and we are coming up on the Christmas Party and helping the Humane Society. Try to take a deep breath during the rush and just enjoy your family and friends. If you are traveling, be safe. We get so busy with all the holiday preparations that we sometimes forget that the most important thing is to take a deep breath and enjoy your family and friends and don't worry if all the "jobs" don't get done. A new year will be starting and it will be busy for the club so try and catch a little rest. Have a great Christmas and see you soon.

Paula A. Spielman, President

A thank you from member Nancy Meyers

A big thank you to Brian, Cassie, and Cindy for a great Basic Obedience Skills class! I haven't had a dog to take through a class for over 10 years, so it was interesting to see how training techniques have changed. My dog improved so much over the six classes, from barking and howling at the other dogs the first day of class, to calmly meeting and greeting other dogs with their handlers by the sixth class. All the trainers were patient and encouraging. I appreciate that we have members willing to give of their time and experience so that our club can offer

If your vet needs more convincing, you can ask for titers to confirm your dog's protected. Some vets charge an exorbitant amount for titers (perhaps because they really don't want to do them) and some may even refuse.

If that's the case, you can ask your vet to draw the blood for you (usually about a \$15 to \$20 charge) and then send it yourself to Hemopet for testing.

You can submit your titer request on [Hemopet's website](#). A distemper and parvo titer costs only \$52 and you can ship the vial of blood for about \$6 via a US Postal Service Small Flat Rate Box.

For Non-Core Vaccines

Your vet is likely to recommend Bordetella and Leptospirosis vaccines, as well as Lyme if you live in an high tick area. All of these vaccines carry high risk for your dog and don't work very well. Check the vaccine issues listed on the chart, and also consider these points before vaccinating your dog.

Bordetella: If you board your dog, try to find a kennel that doesn't require Bordetella. If your kennel does, ask to sign a waiver accepting the risk of your dog getting kennel cough on their premises ... that's what worries them. Or better yet, have a pet-sitter come to your home and then you don't need to worry about vaccination requirements.

Leptospirosis: If you think your dog is at risk for lepto, make sure you find out from your local health authority what strains of lepto are in your area. The vaccine covers the L. canicola, L. icterohaemorrhagiae, L. grippityphosa and L. pomona serovars. If these strains aren't prevalent where you live, there is no point in taking the risk of vaccinating your dog.

Also note that some vets give the Leptospirosis vaccine in conjunction with core vaccines. You may see a vaccine called something like DHLPP. That "L" is leptospirosis ... make sure you know what vaccines your vet is using.

Your dog could still get the lepto shot.

Lyme: if your dog's not out in the woods picking up ticks, he's probably not at risk for Lyme disease. If you do take your dog into tick-infested areas, use [natural protection methods](#) to keep the ticks away. Check him thoroughly for ticks when you get home. Removing the ticks promptly will help prevent the tick from infecting him.

So which dog vaccines are necessary? That's a question only you can answer!

[Read more about the problems with these non-core vaccines for dogs.](#)

Now ... [download our chart](#) so you have it handy next time you get that vaccination reminder postcard in the mail!

[NOTE: Make sure you grab the [free downloadable chart](#) from this article AND the [free DNM](#)

Brags

Ch. Samkota's Cozi Up (Ch.Samkota's Champagne Wishes X
GCH Samkota's Hushabye Baby)
Samoyed bred, owned and handled by Ken and Cheryl Lundin

Sioux Empire Kennel Club 2016

Working Group 4 (Fri)
Owner Handler Working Group 1 (Sat)
Working Group 4 (Sat)
Working Group 1 (Sun)

Ember earned her THDN (Therapy Dog Novice) title on
11/5/2016. Ember is Owned loved and handled by Cassie
Benson

Carol Everetts' three Golden Retrievers all qualified for National Rally
Championship and National Obedience Championship in 2017

Fargo Moorhead Kennel Club show November 18 – 20, 2016
DICKENS perfect score 100 for 1st in Rally Novice class!
DINO finished **RAE4** title and High Combined Rally Dog to
finish 42 RAE legs in a row!
DAVY won two High Combined Obedience awards by winning
Utility B and placing 2nd in Open B !!

SEKC
PO Box 719
Sioux Falls SD
57101

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

At the Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club Trial, October
13-16, SoDak Vanguard Bagpiper of the Clan
MacTavish qualified in Excellent Fast, placing 1st;
Time to Beat, placing 2nd; Master Standard, placing 2nd;
Excellent Fast, placing 1st and earning her Title; and
qualified in Master Jumpers with Weaves, placing 2nd.
She earned a Double Q and 42 points towards her
MACH.

At the St. Paul Dog Training Club, November 11-13,
Piper qualified in Timed to Beat placing 1st and earning
her Title; Master Jumpers with Weaves, placing 4th;
Time to Beat, placing 2nd. Piper earned 11 more title
points towards her MACH.

Piper's very proud team mate is Pat Turner.

Hirdler Hill's Life in the Fast Lane CDX RA BN GN
OAJ OA CGCU earned his excellent jumpers legs 3
and 4 under judge Christie Bowers at the TCVESSA
agility trial held in Ham Lake MN on Oct 21-23 2016

Rev also earned his first excellent standard leg under
Christie Bowers at the TCVESSA agility trial held in
Ham Lake MN. Rev is owned trained and Loved by
Brian Schaffer

