

## When should your dog be vaccinated?

Very young puppies are usually temporarily protected against the important infectious diseases by antibodies received through their mother's milk. Puppies should then receive a course of vaccinations, usually **starting from 6-8 weeks of age**. Following the puppy course, your veterinarian will advise when **booster vaccinations** are due.

## It's no vacation without vaccination

When staying in boarding facilities, dogs are at higher risk of infectious diseases, so it is important to ensure your dog is protected. Before your dog visits a boarding facility make sure that vaccinations are up-to-date. **Please don't leave this to the last minute** as the development of immune protection takes time. If you have any questions about vaccination and boarding please talk to your veterinarian.



## Vaccination aftercare

**Vaccines are safe and effective**, and play an important role in keeping our pets healthy. Like all medicines however, they can occasionally result in side effects. These are usually mild (e.g. lethargy, loss of appetite, or tenderness at the injection site) and usually last no longer than a few days.

If you are concerned about any signs which develop after vaccination, please contact your veterinarian immediately.

See your vet today

Brought to you in the interest  
of healthy, happy dogs



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# Vaccinating your dog



Protecting  
your dog from  
infectious  
disease

# Vaccinating your dog helps to protect against several serious and life-threatening infectious diseases.

It is a critical part of a proper preventative healthcare programme.

A vaccine is a preparation designed to provide protection against a specific infectious disease. Vaccines work by stimulating an immune response that will protect your dog if it is subsequently exposed to the infection.

## Canine parvovirus

Canine parvovirus is a severe and frequently fatal cause of gastroenteritis. The disease is more common and severe in young puppies, but unvaccinated dogs of all ages can be infected. Affected dogs may develop severe vomiting and diarrhoea, often containing blood, and usually appear depressed. Intensive veterinary care is usually required, however some dogs will die despite this.

Canine parvovirus is common in many parts of Australia. The virus is highly contagious and can survive for long periods in the environment.

Vaccination against this virus is highly effective and plays a critical role in protecting dogs against infection.

## Canine infectious hepatitis

Canine infectious hepatitis is caused by the virus canine adenovirus type 1. Dogs of any age can become infected although disease is more likely in dogs less than one year of age. Infected dogs may develop signs including fever, depression, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea. In severe cases death can occur rapidly within 24 to 48 hours. Dogs which survive can spread the virus for many months and the virus can survive for months in the environment.



## Canine distemper virus

Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect dogs of any age, with young dogs being at highest risk. Infected dogs may develop a range of signs including fever, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and depression. Some dogs will develop neurological signs such as seizures. Canine distemper is potentially fatal.

## Canine cough

**Also known as:** *kennel cough*

Canine cough is a common infectious disease which can be easily spread wherever dogs congregate, such as parks, groomers, obedience schools and boarding kennels. There are many different types of bacteria and viruses which can cause canine cough, including *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, canine parainfluenza virus and canine adenovirus type 2. *Bordetella bronchiseptica* can survive in the environment for several weeks, so your dog may be at risk even if it does not come into direct contact with other infected dogs.

The most common sign seen with canine cough is a dry hacking cough which may persist for several weeks, but other signs such as sneezing and nasal discharge may also be present. In some cases more severe disease can develop (e.g. pneumonia).



## Canine coronavirus

Canine coronavirus is highly contagious and spreads rapidly through susceptible dog populations. In general, disease in young dogs is more severe than in adults. Clinical signs may include lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration.

## Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease which can affect many different species, including dogs and humans. Leptospirosis is spread in the urine of infected animals, with the leptospira types affecting dogs being transmitted mainly by rats. Dogs may become infected from exposure to contaminated water, food, soil or bedding, or from direct contact with rats (e.g. a rat bite). Infected dogs may develop problems such as liver disease, kidney disease and bleeding disorders. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, which means that it can potentially be spread from animals to humans.