



## Canine Diseases & Vaccinations

Vaccinating your pet against major diseases is one of the most important steps you can take to see that it enjoys a healthy life. As your pet's health care provider, we will recommend when your pet should be vaccinated and which diseases to vaccinate against.

**RABIES** (RAY-bees): Of all animal diseases, rabies is probably the most feared. The rabies virus attacks the brain and is almost always fatal. Most pets are exposed to rabies by bites from wild animals, particularly skunks, raccoons, bats, and foxes. The disease can be transmitted to all warm-blooded animals, including humans, mainly through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. Vaccination of all dogs and cats is the most effective means of control. All states have laws that require vaccination against rabies to protect both pets and their owners.

**CANINE DISTEMPER** (dis-TEM-per): This widespread, highly contagious, and often fatal viral disease is found wherever dogs are found. It affects the respiratory and nervous system and is characterized by diarrhea, fever, seizures, skin lesions, lethargy, and watery discharge from the eyes and nose. Primary vaccination should begin at 6-12 weeks of age since dogs often contract the disease at an early age.

**CANINE PARVOVIRUS** (PAR-vo-VY-rus): This highly contagious viral disease usually causes severe diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration in dogs of all ages but is especially deadly in puppies. Parvovirus protection is included in our distemper vaccine.

**CANINE CORONAVIRUS** (ka-ROW-na-VY-rus): Coronavirus is highly contagious and can weaken dogs by causing severe diarrhea and vomiting. The disease is sometimes confused with parvovirus. The two diseases may occur simultaneously in which case symptoms are more severe. Coronavirus protection is included in our distemper vaccine for puppies.

**CANINE PARAINFLUENZA** (PAIR-a-in-floo-EN-za): This viral respiratory disease is often partly responsible for "kennel cough" in dogs. Infection can be severe in young puppies. It is characterized by mild fever, nasal discharge, reddened tonsils, and a harsh, non-productive cough. Parainfluenza protection is included in our distemper vaccine.

**CANINE ADENOVIRUS TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2** (ADD-no-VY-rus): Canine Adenovirus Type 1 infection causes infectious hepatitis which may lead to severe kidney and/or liver damage. Type 2 can be a complicating factor in kennel cough. Adenovirus is included in our distemper vaccine.

**CANINE BORDATELLA** (board-e-Tell-a): This highly contagious bacteria causes respiratory disease and is the most common contributor to canine cough (also referred to as kennel cough) and pneumonia. Signs of infection include a dry, hacking cough or coughing spasms followed by retching or gagging.

**LYME DISEASE** (lime): Lyme Disease is a complex illness that affects wild and domestic animals, as well as humans. The bacterium responsible for the disease is spread by the bite of an infected deer tick. Signs of infection include sudden lameness, evidence of severe pain, swollen joints, depression and a total reluctance to move. Minnesota is a high risk area for this disease. Yearly vaccinations have proven to be effective and safe.