

Amherst Animal Hospital

Modern Medicine. Traditional Values.

Canine Vaccine Recommendations

Core vaccines are essential to your dog's health. These are the “basic” vaccines that all dogs should receive. These vaccines are administered on a regular schedule to minimize the risk of disease.

Non-Core vaccines are given depending upon the lifestyle of your dog (mostly indoor vs. outdoor/hiking/hunting/etc.) or according to the recommendations of your veterinarian.

Canine Distemper Vaccine (DHPP) – Core Vaccine:

- This vaccine protects against serious viral infections in dogs: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza

Rabies Vaccine – Core Vaccine:

- This vaccine is required by NH state law for all dogs.

Kennel Cough Vaccine (*Bordetella bronchiseptica*) – Non-Core Vaccine

- Bordetella is a common cause of kennel cough. Infected dogs spread this infection by coughing and sneezing.
- Kennel cough vaccinations are recommended for all dogs that come in contact with other dogs (grooming, boarding, training, day care, neighborhood contact).

Lyme Vaccination (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) – Non-Core Vaccine

- Lyme disease is transmitted by ticks and up to 25% of the dogs in our area are infected. Not all infected dogs show signs of illness. We recommend vaccinating all dogs.
- We advise annual testing for exposure to Borrelia. Vaccination is not harmful in a previously infected dog.

Leptospirosis and Canine Influenza Vaccinations – Non-Core Vaccines

- Leptospirosis is transmitted through contaminated water and soil contaminated by wildlife urine.
- Canine Influenza is passed from an infected dog by coughing or sneezing. Please consult with your veterinarian about these vaccinations for your dog.

Preventative Healthcare:

- Year round heartworm and internal parasite preventative.
- Flea and tick preventative for the months April to December.
- Annual fecal examinations and blood testing for parasites.
- Screening bloodwork and urine testing as recommended by the doctor.

Our vaccination program is provided as part of an ongoing effort to improve our services and support the bond between you and your pet.

Recommended Canine Vaccination Schedule

8 weeks:	DHPP #1*
should be	(*If first DHPP vaccine is given prior to 8 weeks, a series of 3 additional DHPP vaccines given beginning 3-4 weeks after first vaccine.)
12 weeks:	DHPP #2 Rabies 1 Year Lyme #1 (optional) Leptospirosis #1 (optional)
16 weeks:	DHPP #3 Lyme #2 (optional) Leptospirosis #2 (optional) Bordatella (optional) Canine Influenza #1 (optional)
20 weeks	Canine Influenza #2 (optional)
One year:	DHPP 2 year Rabies 3 year 4DX Test (Heartworm/Lyme/Anaplasma/Ehrlichia Lyme Annual (optional) Leptospirosis Annual (optional) Bordatella Annual (optional) Canine Influenza (optional)
Annually:	4DX Test Lyme (optional) Leptospirosis (optional) Bordatella (optional) Canine Influenza (optional)
Every 3 years:	DHPP Rabies

For unvaccinated adult dogs, follow the above protocol starting with the 12 week series. Note, the DHPP initial series needs only two vaccines in an adult dog.