

Vaccinating Your Dog

Why Should I Vaccinate My Dog?

Vaccinations are a relatively inexpensive and simple way to prevent, or reduce the severity of, many major and sometimes life-threatening diseases in our domestic animals. It is recommended that all dogs are vaccinated annually. Vaccines now have components that provide several years of protection against some diseases. An annual health check with your veterinarian will help them ensure your pet has the necessary vaccination to remain protected against the relevant diseases. A description of the C5 vaccination can be found below.

What Diseases Can Be Vaccinated Against?

A C5 vaccination protects against:

1. *Canine parvovirus*— a very common and often deadly infection causing severe vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. Prevention of this disease is paramount, as treating a severe parvovirus case can cost \$1000 to \$2000, and even with the best treatment, the chance of survival is only around 50%.
2. *Canine distemper*—a deadly and highly contagious disease causing neurological damage, discharge from the eyes and nose, and even convulsions and paralysis. Even if an infected animal survives, it may have permanent disabilities.
3. *Infectious canine hepatitis*—which can cause both mild and severe disease resulting in liver damage, and corneal oedema leading to vision impairment.
4. *Canine parainfluenza*—a common viral component on canine cough, also known as 'kennel cough'.
5. *Bordetella bronchiseptica*—a bacterial component of canine cough (kennel cough), that can cause severe upper respiratory disease and pneumonia.

Vaccinations are also available against *tetanus* and *leptospirosis*; however, most dogs are not at significant risk of these diseases. Your vet will discuss these with you if it is believed your dog may be at risk. If your dog has close contact with cattle or pigs, please mention this to your veterinarian, as your dog may be at risk of contracting *leptospirosis*.

Are There Any Risks Associated with Dog Vaccinations?

Vaccination like any medical treatment cannot be 100% guaranteed. Side effects from vaccination are rare, however, and usually mild. It is normal for dogs, and particularly puppies, to be a little lethargic for 24 hours post vaccination. Side effects could include vomiting, or in rare cases, an allergic reaction. If you believe your dog may be having an adverse reaction, please contact your vet.

If you have any questions or concerns about vaccinating your dog, please discuss them with your veterinarian.