



EASTGATE VETERINARY CENTRE

133 Eastgate
Pickering
N. Yorkshire
YO18 7DW

Vaccinating your Dog

We recommend annual vaccination for all dogs and puppies. Vaccination gives immunity to a number of often fatal diseases that are very difficult or impossible to treat if caught. Vaccination is the only effective way to protect your pet from these conditions. Annual vaccination also allows your dog to have a check up for general health, and gives you the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns you might have about your pet with a vet.

Starting Vaccinations

Vaccinations can be started from 8 weeks of age in puppies, and any age in adults. Dogs that have not been vaccinated or whose vaccinations have lapsed by a significant amount are required to have an initial course of two injections 2 weeks apart. Vaccinations take a short amount of time to work, so we recommend leaving a week between the initial course of vaccination and allowing your dog out to mix with other dogs. Annual boosters are required to maintain good immunity throughout your pet's life.

Boosters

Immunity to disease doesn't last indefinitely, and will gradually fade, leaving your dog at risk. Annual boosters are required to give ensure your dog maintains life-long protection. Some of the diseases require a booster only every three years, but others required annual vaccination. Your vet will choose the correct vaccination your dog requires each year.

Record of vaccination

On completion of your dog's primary course, you'll be given a certificate that contains a record of the vaccination and tells you when the next booster is due. Kennels, dog shows, training classes and vets will need to see this certificate, so always keep it in a safe place.

What diseases do we vaccinate against in the UK?

Canine Parvovirus

A hardy virus that can survive for long periods in the environment. Cause many symptoms, but commonly vomiting and dysentery. Pregnant bitches that are infected can give birth to deformed puppies. Usually fatal.

Canine Distemper (Hard Pad)

Another severe, usually fatal disease. Causes diarrhoea, vomiting, respiratory problems, nervous signs and fits.

Infectious Hepatitis

A virus which causes acute liver failure.

Leptospirosis

Contracted from the urine of rats and/or other dogs. Canals and rivers can be contaminated, and forms of the disease are widespread in the UK. Can also cause severe disease in humans (Weil's disease). Usually results in acute kidney failure and permanent kidney damage in those lucky enough to survive.

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Are there any additional vaccinations available?

Kennel cough

A gagging cough-like throat infection, usually transmitted in places where dogs gather together (kennels, shoots, shows and also parks where lots of dogs are walked). Usually just a mild transient condition, but the disease may occasionally be life threatening in young puppies. Requires a separate single vaccination given up your dog's nose from 3 weeks of age, and no starter course is required. All kennels should request this.

Rabies

A fatal disease, not found in the UK. Vaccination is mandatory if you plan to take your dog abroad.