

## Best Practices for Vaccination of Dogs

1. In accordance with fundamental medical principles and vaccine manufacturers' recommendations, vaccinate only healthy dogs. If there is a health condition present, it should be addressed, and the vaccine administered at a later date, when the condition is resolved.
2. If blood testing, such as 4Dx test or a complete blood count and body chemistry profile, is being run, wait for results before vaccinating the dog. If results are abnormal, resolve the abnormality before vaccinating.
3. Do not administer more than one vaccine at a time.
4. When spreading out vaccines, use a 4-week interval between them.
5. A puppy's initial vaccine should be administered no earlier than 10 weeks of age.
6. Do not vaccinate females in season. Hormonal changes can alter a normal response to vaccines.
7. Do not vaccinate at times of stress, such as during boarding, grooming, or at the time of surgery. Do not vaccinate dogs with a previous history of adverse reactions, autoimmune disease, or cancer. Utilize titers to assess immune system function.
8. Kennel cough (Bordetella) is not a vaccine preventable disease. Vaccination does not prevent disease, nor have action against all causative agents.
9. Canine influenza is typically a mild and self-limiting disease. Vaccination does not prevent disease, but may lessen the severity. Vaccination for one strain does not protect against others. Vaccination is not indicated for most dogs.



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