



YOUR HEALTHY DOG VANGUARD[®] vaccines:



: **KNOW THE FACTS**

Be sure to read this booklet before your dog receives a Vanguard[®] vaccine. You should also review it each time your dog receives the same vaccine.

This booklet is only a summary. It does not replace what your veterinarian has told you. To learn more about Vanguard[®] vaccines, talk to your veterinarian.

: **VANGUARD[®] VACCINES HELP KEEP YOUR DOG HEALTHY**

Protecting your dog from a disease is better than treating a disease once it occurs. That is why many veterinarians and dog owners rely on vaccines. They work so well that some dog diseases are rarely seen anymore. This is because most dogs have developed protection by receiving the right vaccine for the right disease at the right time. Your veterinarian is the best source to help you determine what Vanguard vaccines your dog needs and when to get them.

Vanguard[®] vaccines help protect your dog against these common diseases:

- **Distemper:** Distemper is widespread and most dogs will come in contact with the virus sometime during their lives. The distemper virus spreads easily from dog to dog, and is often fatal in poorly vaccinated dogs. The signs include diarrhea, fever, runny nose and eyes and coughing.

Other signs are loss of appetite, nervous conditions such as convulsions, and death.

- **Parvovirus:** Parvovirus can cause stomach and intestinal disease. Infected dogs may have diarrhea (often with blood in it), vomiting, and reduced activity. Other signs can be loss of appetite, severe depression and death (especially in puppies). Parvovirus infection is often fatal when left untreated. Dogs with parvovirus disease who are treated are usually in the hospital for a long time. These viruses spread from dog to dog very easily and are all over the environment. This means that your dog can get sick without ever coming in direct contact with a sick dog but by being somewhere that a sick dog had been.
- **Coronavirus:** Coronavirus is mostly a problem for dogs when they also have parvovirus disease because it may make that disease much worse. Coronavirus also spreads from dog to dog very easily and is all over the environment.
- **Infectious canine hepatitis (ICH):** This disease is caused by canine adenovirus. ICH is a worldwide disease of dogs that affects the liver, kidneys, and lungs. Signs include fever, bleeding, and death. Canine adenovirus is spread from dog to dog through contact and can be spread indirectly through the environment.

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- **Parainfluenza:** Parainfluenza is one of the common causes of upper respiratory tract disease in dogs. Signs include a deep cough that suddenly appears and may last for weeks. This cough will often occur when your dog is excited or active. In rare cases, your dog can come down with pneumonia. This virus can spread through the air and is easily passed from dog to dog, when dogs interact—at dog parks, boarding, grooming, and doggy day care.
- **Leptospirosis:** Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that affects the kidneys and the liver. Signs include fever, loss of appetite, and pain throughout the body. Other signs are loss of activity, depression, and death. These bacteria are spread through the environment by both wild and domestic animals. These bacteria usually live in wet areas such as ponds, puddles and slow-moving streams. People can get leptospirosis too.

: HOW DO VACCINES WORK?

Vaccines help your dog fight off certain viruses and bacteria that cause disease. The vaccine does this by showing your dog's immune system what the viruses and bacteria look like. Vaccines are made from a harmless form of the virus or bacteria. This "trains" your dog's immune system to recognize and to fight off the virus and bacteria if it comes in contact with it in the future.

Some vaccines help prevent your dog from getting the disease altogether and others help reduce how sick your dog will get if it becomes infected.

If your dog is infected with a disease before he or she is vaccinated, a vaccine will not treat or cure the infection. This fact is especially important in puppies, so contact your veterinarian before or immediately after you get your puppy; to discuss how to keep your pet healthy.

: HOW EFFECTIVE ARE VACCINES?

Vaccines work very well—but they are not 100% effective. Some dogs may not be protected by a vaccine if they have another disease or illness at the time of vaccination. Other dogs may not be protected due to stress. These conditions may weaken your dog's immune system and keep the vaccine from doing its job. Because of these factors, it is important to follow your veterinarian's recommendation for what and when vaccines should be given to your dog.

Situations that may cause your dog stress:

- A new dog or new pet in the house
- Moving to a new house, or major home improvements
- Poor diet
- A family member gone from home more often than usual
- Traveling
- Other illness

Ask your veterinarian about other things that may cause stress in your dog. And let him or her know if you think your dog is stressed now.

: HOW OFTEN SHOULD MY DOG BE VACCINATED?

Puppies A puppy's own immune system is not fully developed at birth, and it receives protection through its mother's milk. This protection decreases gradually over the first few weeks of life. How quickly this happens depends on the puppy, but in most puppies, the protection is gone by 16 weeks of age and sometimes earlier. While the mother's protection helps prevent disease in the puppy, it also may interfere with the puppy's ability to respond to the first few vaccines it gets. This is why your puppy needs several vaccinations over the first few months of life to become protected. Follow your veterinarian's directions about when to vaccinate your puppy.

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Adult dogs Many veterinarians suggest that adult dogs receive a vaccine once a year after they have received their first series. You will see this stated on many vaccine labels. Other veterinarians think that the protection from vaccination lasts longer than one year. For this reason, they may recommend a vaccine every 3 years instead of every year. There is no one answer that applies to all dogs.

Your dog may have different risks for different diseases. Make sure you talk to your veterinarian about this. Be sure to ask how often your dog should be vaccinated. Always follow the advice you receive. Your veterinarian is the best person to help you understand the healthcare needs of your dog.

: ARE THERE ANY POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINATION?

From time to time, dogs may have side effects from a vaccine. Some dogs may seem tired, feel warm to the touch, or lose interest in food. These signs are often caused by a low-grade fever. In many dogs, this is a natural response to the vaccine's effect on the immune system.

These side effects often start within a day or so after vaccination. They should go away on their own within a day or two. If these signs don't go away after several days call your veterinarian.

Some vaccines may cause a little sting when they are given and may hurt for a moment or two. In some cases, there may be swelling, warmth, or redness where the vaccine was injected. This is a normal response for some dogs. These signs often go away quickly but some may take a few days or weeks to completely disappear after the injection is given. You should check the area where the vaccine was given every so often.

That way you can see if these signs have gone away. If you are concerned, call your veterinarian.

Ask your veterinarian about the possibility of side effects before your dog is vaccinated.

: ARE THERE OTHER, LESS COMMON SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINATION?

Yes, but they are rare. No one can say for sure if they will happen to your dog or not. Here is a list of these rare side effects:

Anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) can occur within minutes to hours after the vaccine is given. The dog may vomit, get diarrhea, have trouble breathing, or collapse. Sometimes their face or body may begin to swell or get hives as if stung by a bee. Your pet may hide, lie down in a corner, and not feel like moving. In most cases, these side effects can be treated successfully. In rare cases, they may be fatal. If you see these signs in your dog, be sure to call your veterinarian right away.

There is scientific debate about whether or not immune system disorders can be caused by vaccination. We do know that immune system disorders suspected of being associated with vaccination are very rare. When they occur these diseases may cause harm to the dog's blood cells, platelets, eyes, or kidneys. When this happens, the dog may be very slow or weak. It may also eat less or be extra thirsty. Some dogs may urinate more or bleed and bruise easily.

If your dog has any of these, or other unusual signs after getting a vaccine, call your veterinarian.

These effects are serious and important for you to understand. But you should also know that the diseases vaccines help protect against are much more common—and

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in some cases, they cause death. Most veterinarians and dog owners feel that protecting their pet against these serious diseases is worth the small risk of getting a vaccine-related side effect.

: SHOULD SOME DOGS NOT BE VACCINATED?

In some cases, dogs should not receive a vaccine. So be sure to tell your veterinarian if

- you think your dog is sick
- your dog is pregnant or nursing, or you plan to breed your dog soon
- vaccines have caused any problems for your dog in the past
- your dog has been around any sick animals lately
- your dog has—or had—medical problems or allergies
- you are giving, or plan to give, medicines to your dog (this includes medicines and products that you can get without a prescription)

You and your veterinarian can decide if your dog should get a vaccine today. Please talk to your veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns.