

Vaccinating your Dog

Vaccinations are vital in providing your dog protection from a variety of life threatening diseases. We vaccinate your dog against Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Canine Parvovirus, Canine Parainfluenza and Leptospirosis via injection, and Kennel Cough intranasally.

The initial vaccination course, protecting against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza and Leptospirosis, consists of two injections given 3 weeks apart. Thereafter, subsequent booster injections are given annually. The brand of vaccine we use is Versican.

The vaccination for kennel cough involves a small drop of liquid being administered intranasally and this is recommended to be given annually. The brand of vaccine we use is Canigen.

Canine Distemper

Canine Distemper is an infectious virus that can affect the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems, as well as the nose, footpads and conjunctiva.

This disease is most commonly seen in unvaccinated 3-6 month old puppies, and outbreaks normally occur in areas when there is a high density of dogs, such as rescue centres, housing estates and cities.

The virus is shed most commonly in respiratory exudates as well as in urine, faeces, saliva, vomit and ocular discharges, up to 60-90 days post-infection.

Symptoms of the virus include: depression, a high temperature, off food, conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, coughing, vomiting, diarrhoea, dehydration, weight loss, skin rashes, thickening of the nose and/or footpads, tooth enamel damage in puppies under 6 months old and neurological signs.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis

Infectious Canine Hepatitis is an infectious virus that localises in the tonsils and regional lymph nodes before disseminating to other parts of the body and localising in the liver and vascular endothelial cells.

The virus is spread via ingesting or inhaling the virus. Infectious dogs shed the virus in all bodily secretions and from around 10 days post-infection will shed the virus in their urine for at least 6 months. Dogs younger than 1 year are usually affected, but unvaccinated dogs of any age can be affected.

Symptoms of the virus include: a high temperature, depression, vomiting and diarrhoea, off food, abdominal pain, jaundice, corneal oedema (blue eye),

neurological signs and severely affected dogs may die suddenly without displaying any clinical sign

Canine Parvovirus

Canine Parvovirus is an extremely resistant virus that can survive in the environment for years and is resistant to routine disinfectants.

Parvovirus is shed in the faeces and is spread by direct or indirect contact with infected dogs or their faeces.

It is highly contagious with a high mortality rate without appropriate treatment. Young puppies are most susceptible; however, unvaccinated dogs of any age can potentially be affected.

The severity of the disease depends on the age, immune status, stress and concurrent infections of the animal. The virus targets rapidly dividing cells such as the gastrointestinal track, bone marrow and the myocardium (muscle of the heart) in puppies under 4 weeks old.

Symptoms of the virus include: depression, lethargy, off food, vomiting and foul-smelling haemorrhagic diarrhoea, a high temperature, shock, dehydration, hypothermia and sudden death.

Canine Parainfluenza

Canine Parainfluenza is a highly contagious virus that is one type of microorganism that can cause kennel cough.

Parainfluenza is a respiratory virus that is spread by direct dog-dog contact. It can induce the classic goose-honking cough that is dry and unproductive, and may be associated with retching.

Parainfluenza is highly infectious but mortality rate is low.

Symptoms of the virus include: a goose-honking cough and retching. If the condition is complicated by bronchopneumonia, a high temperature, off food, depression, increased respiratory rate and in severe cases breathing difficulties could arise.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease meaning that people are at risk and can contract it. Leptospirosis is an infectious disease that can affect the kidneys and liver.

Transmission occurs through contact with infected urine, contaminated water sources, food, soil or bedding. Exposure to farm animals and rats also increases the risk. Leptospirosis penetrates through mucous membranes or damaged skin, and spreads throughout the body and infects many tissues. Young animals are usually more severely affected but there is a spectrum of disease from mildly affected cases to sudden death. Mortality rates can be high, with sudden death or rapid deterioration within a few hours.

Symptoms of this disease include: off food, a high temperature, depression, dehydration, vomiting & diarrhoea, abdominal pain, jaundice, bleeding from the gums, renal enlargement and pain, increased urination & increased drinking or difficulty passing urine.

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is a highly contagious airway infection that causes an unpleasant cough in dogs. Kennel cough can be caused by a number a different viruses and bacteria and is most common in areas with a high population of dogs.

Kennel cough is spread by direct contact between dogs, in the air and on surfaces. Dogs with Kennel Cough should be kept away from other dogs and public spaces while they are coughing, and for two-three weeks afterwards.

Symptoms of kennel cough include: a goose-honking dry cough and retching. In severe cases secondary infections may arise and induce a high temperature or inappetence.