

Show you care



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DON'T FORGET:

- Regular boosters are vital to maintain protection
- Your record of vaccination is an important document. Please keep it in a safe place
- Consult your veterinary surgeon if your dog appears unwell – you could save its life

More information

For further information please don't hesitate to contact your veterinary surgeon or visit our website



61646 • June2008/BLP/125K



Produced by: Intervet UK Limited,
Walton Manor, Walton, Milton Keynes MK7 7AJ

Item code: 048000



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*The importance
of vaccination
for your dog*



A number of dangerous diseases can still affect dogs in the UK, and one of these can even be transmitted to humans.

Vaccination is the only safe way to provide immunity against all these diseases. If carried out regularly according to your vet's advice, it can protect your pet for life.



Immunity and vaccination

Immunity is the body's natural ability to fight infection. Vaccination confers immunity by exposing the body to a small but entirely harmless dose of the disease in question.

Immunity in puppies

Puppies are usually protected during the first few weeks of life, thanks to immunity passed through the mother's first milk (colostrum). However, this immunity fades rapidly, leaving the puppy susceptible to disease within a few weeks. At this point, vaccination can take over from the mother in providing protection.

The puppy's first vaccination

The first time a puppy is vaccinated, a course of two injections is usually given, separated by two or more weeks. This primary course can be started as early as six weeks of age – but since most are already older than that when they're bought, it's vital to talk to your vet as soon as possible about vaccination timings. The vet will also want to give your new puppy a general check-up.

When can my puppy meet other dogs?

It's important for young puppies to socialise with other animals – it improves their behaviour in later life. Vaccination doesn't work immediately; it takes a week or so for immunity to develop. Your vet will advise you on when it's safe to let your puppy meet others.

Re-vaccination

Immunity to disease may fade, leaving your dog at risk. For some diseases, boosters may be needed every 3 or 4 years but for some others annually. An annual visit to your vet will allow for a general health check and for necessary boosters to be given.

Record of vaccination

You'll be given a certificate that contains a record of the vaccination and tells you when the next booster is due. Boarding kennels, training classes and, of course, your vet will need to see this certificate, so always keep it in a safe place.

What diseases do we vaccinate against?

Canine Parvovirus

A hardy virus that can survive for long periods in the environment. Caused major epidemics in the 1970s and remains widespread in pockets throughout the UK. Usually fatal.

Canine Distemper (Hard Pad)

Another severe, usually fatal disease, mercifully rare in the UK in recent years due to vaccination. However, major outbreaks have occurred in Europe.

Infectious Hepatitis

Still exists in the UK, although now rare due to vaccination. Often fatal.

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).

Kennel cough

Extremely unpleasant whooping cough-like infection, usually transmitted in places where dogs gather together (kennels, shows and also parks where lots of dogs are walked). The disease may occasionally be life-threatening in young puppies.

Rabies

Fatal disease, not found in the UK. Vaccination is required if your dog is travelling abroad.