



Vaccination Protocol

Effective Date: 2/15/25

Revision History: 12/22/24

Approved by: Dr. Chaligoj and Dr. Sandy

Persons Affected: intake staff/volunteers, fosters, liaisons, OP director, DVM, medical coordinator

Background

Vaccinations are medically essential tools to control disease in a cost-effective manner. For puppies and kittens, It's important to continue the vaccine series until the risk of maternal antibody interference is minimal, which occurs at 16-20 weeks of age. This allows individual immunity development post-vaccination.

NOTE: Vaccine boosters can be given as early as 2 weeks but NO LATER than 4 weeks after the initial vaccine. If the 4 week period is exceeded, the vaccination series will need to be restarted. The level of immunity provided by said vaccine cannot be guaranteed if the booster is not given within the appropriate time frame.

Resources

2020 AAHA/AAFP Feline Vaccination Guidelines

2022 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines

2018 Toronto Humane Society Shelter Vaccination Protocol

Definitions

Puppy/kitten: <20 weeks old

Adult: >20 weeks old

Initial series: completed puppy/kitten series, or vaccinated at >20 weeks of age with revaccination 2-3 weeks and 1 year later.

Proof of current vaccination

- Written documentation from a veterinarian or trusted shelter at the time of intake is sufficient proof of current vaccination for DHPP, Bordetella or FVRCP.
- Do not delay vaccination while waiting for vaccine records if unsure.
- A signed certificate from a veterinarian is required as proof for current rabies vaccination.

Feline Vaccination Protocol

FVRCP	<20 weeks of age at first dose	>20 weeks of age at first dose
<i>Attenuated live vaccine</i> <i>Parenteral, administered SQ over right front leg</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose at intake • Additional doses are given every 3 weeks until 16-20 weeks of age. • After kitten series, revaccinate in 1 year • Kittens receive first dose no earlier than 4 weeks of age (<i>approximately 1 lb</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinate at intake with a booster in 2-3 weeks (no later than 4 weeks after the initial vaccine) • Revaccination in 1 year • All animals should be vaccinated unless severely debilitated. • Nursing queens are not vaccinated until kittens are born. Place in foster care and isolate from other animals in the home.
Rabies	12 weeks of age or older	
<i>Recombinant inactivated</i> <i>Parenteral, SQ over right rear leg by licensed DVM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If cat is not current on vaccination, a single dose is given at clinic or time of spay/neuter • Next dose is scheduled for 1 year. 	

Canine Vaccination Protocol

DHPP	<20 weeks of age at first dose	>20 weeks of age at first dose
<i>Modified live vaccine</i> <i>Parenteral, administered SQ over right front leg</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose at intake • Puppies receive first dose no earlier than 6 weeks of age • Additional doses are given every 2-3 weeks until 18-20 weeks of age. • After puppy series, revaccinate in 1 year 	Vaccinate at intake with a booster in 2-3 weeks (no later than 4 weeks after the initial vaccine) Revaccination in 1 year All animals are vaccinated unless severely debilitated. Dogs with an unknown vaccination history should receive a booster 2-3 weeks after the initial vaccine.
<i>B. bronchiseptica</i>	6 weeks of age or older	
<i>Avirulent live</i>	Single dose at intake Next dose scheduled for 1 year	
Rabies	12 weeks of age or older	
<i>Recombinant inactivated</i> <i>Parenteral, SQ over right rear leg by licensed DVM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If dog is not current on vaccination, a single dose is given at clinic or time of spay/neuter • Next dose is scheduled for 1 year 	

Overdue vaccination

- Animals with unknown or undocumented vaccine histories should be assumed to be not current, and should follow the above protocol.
- Puppy/kitten: considered overdue if >4 weeks since last vaccination. Give at least 2 vaccinations 2-3 weeks apart, and continue until the puppy/kitten series is complete.
- Adults that last received vaccination as a puppy/kitten should use the above protocol as if they were previously unvaccinated.
- Adults that have been previously vaccinated as an adult
 - Cat (>20 weeks)
 - Completed initial series, *and*
 - Previously vaccinated as an adult < 1 year ago: current. Revaccinate 1 year from previous vaccine.
 - Previously vaccinated as an adult > 1 year ago: vaccinate once, then every 1 year.
 - Dog (>18 weeks)
 - DHPP
 - Previously vaccinated as an adult < 3 years ago: current
 - Previously vaccinated as an adult > 3 years ago: revaccinate, then every 1 year.
 - Bordetella
 - Had bordetella >1 year ago: vaccinate once, then every year