

Vaccination Information & Worming

Newborn puppies receive immunization against diseases from colostrums contained in their mother's milk while nursing (assuming the bitch was properly vaccinated shortly before the breeding took place). Initially, during their first 24 hours of life, maternal antigens (passive immunity) are absorbed through the pup's intestines that are very, very thin during those first few hours (this is why it is so important that puppies nurse from the mother during that critical time). After the colostrum ceases (a day or so later), the maternal antigens decline steadily.

During this time, puppies cannot build up their own natural immunity because the passive immunity gets in the way. As the passive immunity gradually declines, the pup's immune system takes over. At this time, the pups should be given their first immunization shots so they can build up their own antibodies against them. However, there is no way to tell when passive immunity is gone. This is why pups are given several series of shots at different intervals. (I give 4 weeks apart and a series of three shots, the last being at 15-16 weeks of age).

The first shot should consist of Distemper, Measles, and CPI. The second shot should be DHLPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Para influenza and Parvovirus). This is at minimum: you may need to add other vaccinations appropriate to your area, such as Lyme, Kennel Cough and Rabies. Heartworm medication is given by mouth, not an injection. You should keep your puppy away from all strange dogs and areas where dogs/people frequent. If you know that a particular dog is current on its shots and not carrying disease, then go ahead and let your puppy socialize. The same holds true for people who have not been in "doggie areas". Worms can present a serious problem to puppy health. There is no good way to prevent puppies from having worms, for a variety of reasons. You should take your puppy in regularly for worm testing. Worms can interfere with the puppy's growth if left unchecked. Since it is very common for puppies (even from the best breeder) to have round worms from the dam, you must take care to have your puppy checked regularly when young.

Distemper is a widespread, highly contagious disease. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, high fever, nasal discharge, coughing and convulsions.

Adenovirus Type 2 (CAV2) is one of the viruses involved in the "kennel cough" complex. It is seldom fatal but can be a nuisance. CAV2 provides cross protection against CAV1 (Hepatitis).

Leptospirosis (Lepto) causes kidney and liver damage. This disease may also be transmitted to man.

Para-influenza (CPI) is an important virus in the "kennel cough" complex - a hacking cough lasting up to 3 weeks. Many kennels require vaccination for CPI before boarding your dog.

Parvo Virus symptoms may include profuse diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration. It is usually fatal.

Corona Virus has symptoms similar to Parvo Virus and only a laboratory test can tell the difference. Not fatal.

Bordetella Bronchiseptica - (kennel cough) principle bacterial pathogen in infectious Tracheobronchitis

Lyme Disease (*Borrelia Burgdorferi*) is a tickborn disease spread to dogs, humans, horses and other warm-blooded animals mainly by the deer tick. It can produce fever, lameness, lethargy, poor appetite, weight loss, seizures, and behavioral changes. It can be fatal if left untreated.

Rabies infects all warm-blooded animals, including man. Rabies attacks the central nervous system, causing death. Ask your local & state government about the rabies laws in your area.

Heartworm Preventative - Give monthly, all year round, especially in warm winter areas. This is deadly and is carried by mosquitoes. I suggest using Heartguard Plus

Flea and Tick Preventative - Give monthly, all year round, especially in warm winter areas. I suggest using Frontline Plus or Adventix.