

**Jefferson Animal Hospital &
Regional Emergency Center**
4504 Outer Loop / P.O. Box 19378
Louisville, KY 40219
Phone 502.966.4104
Fax 502.966.3904
Email jahdoctor@aol.com

Jefferson Animal Hospitals
www.jeffersonanimalhospital.com

Jefferson Animal Hospital East
5400 Del Maria Way
Louisville, KY 40291
Phone 502.499.6535
Fax 502.495.6325
Email jaheast@aol.com

Don't Over Vaccinate Your Dog

Jefferson Animal Hospitals' doctors and staff are dedicated to providing your pet with optimum healthcare. Recent research has shown that most dogs maintain good immunity to some diseases for longer than one year. It is still vital for your dog to have an annual physical exam.

Why Vaccinate?

Vaccines perform the vital function of preventing many diseases that otherwise could bring severe illness and premature death to our pets. Because vaccines are so important in preserving and protecting the health of our pets, our goal is to vaccinate sufficiently without risking possible side effects or immune compromising diseases unnecessarily.

Potential Problems

Any vaccination can cause mild to moderate reactions such as fever, lethargy, hives, facial swelling, vomiting, and diarrhea. Call your veterinarian right away if these symptoms occur. In rare instances, moments after the vaccine is given, severe reactions can occur such as anaphylactic shock and cardiac arrest—which are potentially fatal. A lump appearing at the injection site can also indicate a problem. If your pet has a history of any reaction to a vaccination, there are precautions that must be taken. Many times, pre-medicating with oral or injectable antihistamines is needed to help avoid a reaction. Your veterinarian can help with this by giving specific recommendations for your pet.

Puppies

Puppies under 16 weeks of age will undergo a series of boosters. It takes multiple vaccinations in a series to develop proper immunity to these diseases.

Core Vaccinations

The AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) and AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) has determined through intensive research that the Rabies vaccination and the DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus) vaccine) are the Core Vaccinations to be given to all healthy dogs. Other vaccinations such as the Bordetella, Lyme disease and Leptospirosis vaccines should only be given to those dogs that have potential for exposure. When your dog is examined at Jefferson Animal Hospital, our doctors will consider your dog's individual health condition, age and lifestyle to determine his or her vaccine needs. Over-vaccinating your dog can be dangerous to his or her health.

Vaccination Necessity Table

Vaccine	Why Vaccinate?	Who Needs This Vaccine?
Rabies	Fatal disease for all warm-blooded animals including humans. Due to human health concerns vaccinating all dogs is required by law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Healthy Dogs over 4 months of age. • 1-Year or 3-Year (after 1 yr. of age) Rabies.
Distemper/ Hepatitis/ Parainfluenza/ Parvo (DHPP)	All of these viruses can cause symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, severe dehydration, immune suppression; all of which can be fatal. Viruses are highly contagious, and Parvo virus can even live in the soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppy series beginning at 6 weeks old • Adult indoor dogs given every 2 to 3 years (over 3 yrs of age) • Outdoor or kenneled dogs – every 2 to 3 years after 3 years of age.
Bordetella	Tracheobronchitis (Kennel Cough) is highly contagious with any contact with another infected dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs that are kenneled or groomed or exposed to any other dogs which might be infected (e.g. in the park).
Lyme	Tick-bourne disease. Symptoms are vague as pain, lethargy, fever & lameness. Some infected dog do not show symptoms for over one year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs with any exposure to ticks such as wooded areas, lakes or even high grassy areas.
Leptospirosis	Disease is transmitted in the urine of dogs (not cats), deer, raccoons, cattle & horses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs with any exposure to farm ponds, raccoons, roadside rest stops, parks or any grassy areas.