

Middletown Animal Hospital
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Vaccination of Your Dog

Young puppies are susceptible to many infectious, potentially fatal diseases. Fortunately there are safe, effective vaccines that when properly administered at the correct ages will prevent or limit many of these common diseases. Below are the recommended vaccines and the diseases they help prevent.

1. **DHLPP Vaccine** -- Always recommended. It requires a series of injections to initially vaccinate starting as early as 6 weeks of age. A yearly booster is required after the initial series. This vaccine provides protection against the following:

Distemper -- A widespread, highly contagious, usually fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.

Hepatitis -- A contagious, usually fatal viral disease affecting primarily the liver.

Leptospirosis -- An often fatal bacterial disease of the kidneys and liver, which can be contagious to people.

Parainfluenza -- A highly contagious viral disease causing tracheobronchitis (one of several agents causing "kennel cough").

Parvovirus -- A highly contagious, often fatal viral disease causing gastroenteritis (vomiting and diarrhea) that is often bloody.

2. **Rabies Vaccine** -- A fatal viral disease that is also contagious to and fatal to people. The vaccine is required by law for licensing. It is given to all puppies over 12 weeks of age and lasts one year. A booster is given one year later and then lasts for three years. If the initial vaccine was given elsewhere then written proof of the previous vaccine is required. State law requires written proof of previous vaccination before the booster will be good for 3 years.

3. **Bordatella (Intra-Trac II) Vaccine** -- Recommended for all dogs at least 1 week prior to boarding at a kennel. This vaccine helps prevent "kennel cough" (an upper respiratory infection). It is one dose and provides protection for 1 year.

4. **Lyme Vaccine** -- A bacterial disease transmitted by ticks. Vaccination requires two doses of vaccine starting as young as 9 weeks of age. Vaccine must be boosted annually.

The doctors and staff of the Middletown Animal Hospital wish you and your dog a happy and healthy lifetime together. Please feel free to ask any questions concerning vaccinations or other preventative medical procedures.