

## **DOG VACCINATIONS**

Vaccination helps to control infectious disease in our pets. Puppies are born with some protective antibodies acquired from their mother's milk but need to be vaccinated in order to mount their own immune response.

### Puppy vaccination

We recommend a course of three vaccinations to protect your puppy against the most common infectious diseases. The **first vaccination** should be given **between 6 and 8 weeks of age**. The **second vaccination** is given at **12 weeks** and the **third vaccination** given at **16 weeks**. We advise avoiding off-leash areas or contact with other dogs of unknown vaccination status until this series of vaccines is completed.

### Adult vaccination

Annual health checks and vaccination boosters help to provide the best protection against disease. We use a triennial (3 yearly) core vaccine which protects against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus; and a yearly kennel cough vaccine which protects against Bordetella and Parainfluenza.

### Infectious disease that we vaccinate against

**Canine Parvovirus** is a potentially fatal gastroenteritis, which is most serious in young pups and older (unvaccinated) dogs. The virus attacks the intestines causing severe bloody diarrhoea and vomiting. Treatment is often ineffective with affected animals dying of dehydration despite intensive care. Parvovirus is very persistent in the environment so direct contact with other dogs is not necessary for the disease to spread.

**Canine Distemper** is a viral disease which can cause respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological disease. Treatment is often ineffective and surviving dogs may have permanent brain damage.

**Canine Hepatitis** is a viral disease which may cause death within 24-36 hours. The symptoms include fever, depression, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Dogs which survive the disease may develop lifelong liver and kidney issues.

**Canine cough** comprises of a number of bacterial and viral diseases similar to the cold or flu in humans. We vaccinate yearly against two of the more common diseases, Bordetella and Parainfluenza. The disease manifests as a harsh, hacking cough and in severe cases in unvaccinated dogs may develop into pneumonia.

### Additional available vaccines

Leptospirosis and coronavirus vaccinations are also available. For more information give us a call.