

**“Core” Canine Vaccinations** (updated January 2011)

Currently, vaccination is a hot topic in veterinary medicine. The trend is toward decreasing the number of vaccinations your pet receives while maximizing his or her protection from the numerous viruses or bacteria that can cause harm.

At Baker Animal Hospital, we tailor each protocol according to your pet’s age, health, indoor/outdoor status, and potential risk. We strive to keep up with current medical recommendations in the area of vaccines, and promise to do our best to offer the most up-to-date practices. Some of our vaccinations are becoming possible to booster only every three years. This is wonderful and will hopefully bring about the need for only one vaccine per year in the future.

However, please do not forget that the purpose of your pet’s visit is not solely to get a “shot”, but rather to have an annual **comprehensive physical examination**. Your pet’s overall health is the emphasis of every yearly check-up.

Vaccines are broken into “core” vaccines and “non-core” vaccines. **All dogs require a “core” set of vaccinations**. These vaccines are given in a series as puppies, then boosted at 1 year of age. After that, some of these vaccine intervals may be able to be spread to two or three years.

In dogs, the core vaccines include **D**istemper, **A**denovirus, **P**arainfluenza, **P**arvovirus (DAPP) and rabies.

The distemper, adeno, para, and parvo components (DAPP) are given in a combination vaccine. In puppies, these are given as a series of vaccinations at 6-8 weeks, 9-11 weeks, 12-14 weeks, and 15-17 weeks.

Rabies cannot be given until the puppy is at least 12 weeks. Most often this is given around 16 weeks, with the last distemper vaccination.

**“Core” Puppy Vaccination Schedule**

6 weeks	9 weeks	12 weeks	15 weeks	<b>1 year</b> after last puppy vaccinations
DAPP <sub>1</sub>	DAPP <sub>2</sub>	DAPP <sub>3</sub>	DAPP <sub>4</sub>	DAPP <sub>A</sub>
			Rabies <sub>1</sub>	Rabies <sub>3</sub>

**“Core” Adult Vaccination Schedule**

2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 yrs	7 yrs	8 yrs	9 yrs	10 yrs	11 yrs	12 yrs	13 yrs
DAP			DAP			DAP			DAP		
	Parvo			Parvo			Parvo			Parvo	
		Rabies			Rabies			Rabies			Rabies

**Rabies** – Caused by a virus, rabies is transmitted through the saliva by the bite of an infected animal. Rabies attacks the central nervous system, especially the brain. Pets usually become infected by bites from raccoons or bats, but any mammal can transmit the disease. Infection is almost always fatal, and

vaccination is the best method of control. Vaccination may also save your pet from being destroyed in the event of a biting incident.

**DAPP** – Distemper/Adenovirus/Parainfluenza/Parvovirus. Distemper is a highly contagious virus that affects the respiratory and nervous systems. It can be fatal, and vaccination should begin as close to six weeks of age as possible. Adenovirus can cause liver and respiratory damage. Parainfluenza is a virus that attacks the respiratory system and is partially responsible for the kennel cough complex. Parvovirus is a potentially fatal virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea. It is extremely contagious among very young puppies.