

“Non-Core” Canine Vaccinations (updated January 2011)

Non-core vaccines are not necessary in all pets. These may also be considered as “optional”. They are strongly recommended for some patients. For others, it is strongly recommended that they **not** be given.

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and the Canine Vaccination Task Force Committee have established guidelines for vaccinating dogs. The doctors at Baker Animal Hospital work very hard to follow these guidelines.

Non-core vaccines require tailoring to your dog’s specific needs:

Dogs that have any exposure to wildlife (such as raccoon, opossum, or deer) or water sources (such as lakes, ponds, creeks, or streams) should be vaccinated for **Leptospirosis**.

Dogs that go to groomers, boarding facilities, obedience classes, puppy kindergarten, shows, or any place where several dogs come together in a confined environment should be vaccinated for **Bordetellosis** (kennel cough). Dogs that get groomed frequently (ie. every 4-8 weeks) should have their Bordetella boosted every 6 months.

Dogs that hunt or are used for field trials may need to be vaccinated for **Lyme’s disease**.

According to the guidelines mentioned above, vaccination for Leptospirosis should not be given until a puppy is at least 12 weeks old. Since the Lepto vaccine must be boosted in 2-4 weeks, a likely vaccine schedule for a young puppy that will get to go camping with its owners would be as follows:

“Non-Core” Puppy Vaccination Schedule

6 weeks	9 weeks	12 weeks	15 weeks	1 year after last puppy vaccinations
DAPP ₁	DAPP ₂	DAPP ₃	DAPP ₄	DAPP _A
			Rabies _{1 yr}	Rabies _{3 yr}
		Lepto ₁	Lepto ₂	Lepto _B
		Bord		Bord

Leptospirosis – Caused by bacteria, *Leptospira* is easily transmitted to dogs through contaminated water sources or other infected animals. Leptospirosis can cause severe kidney and reproductive damage.

Bordetella – Caused by a bacterium, *Bordetella* attacks the respiratory system to cause coughing. In addition to Bordetella, the respiratory viruses distemper, adenovirus, and parainfluenza cause what is known as kennel cough. It is recommended that dogs groomed or boarded frequently be vaccinated every six months. Boosters should be given a minimum of 72 hours prior to boarding or grooming (ie. **not** the day before!).

Lyme’s Disease – Caused by a bacterium which is transmitted by the bite of a tick. Symptoms include muscle stiffness/lameness, loss of appetite, depression, and fever. Vaccination is recommended for pets that hunt, live in the country, or have known exposure to ticks.