



319 A Street ♦ PO Box 138
Grand Coulee, WA 99133
509-633-0711

CANINE IMMUNIZATIONS

Many of the serious diseases of dogs are preventable by immunization. Even if you always keep your dog indoors, he/she can be exposed to viruses or bacteria carried in the air, in dust, or on clothing. Immunizing your pet is inexpensive protection against costly treatment, or even premature death of your dog.

DISTEMPER

Distemper is one of the two most important diseases of dogs. Signs include coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, fever, and discharges from the eyes and/or nose. Once the virus enters the nervous system convulsions, twitches, or partial paralysis can occur. The virus is spread through all body secretions and is highly contagious. It is usually fatal.

PARVOVIRUS

“Parvo” is another very important disease of dogs. It is transmitted through direct contact with an infected dog’s feces or vomit as well as through objects such as shoes and clothing. Signs include vomiting, fever, depression, and diarrhea, which often will contain blood. There is another form where the virus attacks the heart muscle causing a heart attack and death. The younger the pet, the GREATER the chance of death. The death rate is very high in dogs under 4-6 months of age. Dogs remain susceptible until two weeks after the last immunization in the series. It is an extremely serious and potentially fatal disease.

INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS

Canine hepatitis affects the dog’s liver. Spread through an infected dog’s urine, exposure can mean anything from a mild infection to death.

Puppies are at the most risk with this disease. Vaccination has controlled this disease for several years, making it rarely seen by the veterinarian today.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis, commonly known “Lepto”, is a bacterial infection that affects the dog’s kidneys and/or liver. It can reside as a low-level infection for months or years, infecting other dogs while weakening your dog. It is often, but not always, seen in dogs that spend time in marshy areas. The disease can be prevented by immunization. **IT CAN BE CONTAGIOUS TO HUMANS**

CORONAVIRUS

Corona virus is an intestinal infection resulting in diarrhea, vomiting, and depression. Corona is most dangerous to very young puppies. It is highly contagious and can be fatal. Research shows it often co-exists with “Parvo” in many dogs.

KENNEL COUGH COMPLEX

Technically known as “infectious tracheobronchitis,” this is an upper respiratory infection with the major sign being a persistent, dry, hacking cough. It often lasts several weeks and is **HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS**. It is caused by a combination of a virus and bacteria, which are included in the immunization. It is an important immunization if your dog is going to a boarding kennel, frequently visits a grooming parlor, will be attending dog shows or puppy classes, or will be going into pet stores.

RABIES

Rabies is a fatal infection of the nervous system that attacks all warm-blooded animals,

including humans. Rabies has become synonymous with the image of a vicious dog. Rabies is a public health hazard and a personal risk to all pet owners. Many states require vaccination against rabies, and most veterinarians recommend vaccination for all dogs and cats, regardless of state law. Rabies can be transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Even dogs kept indoors can come into contact with a rabies carrier (such as bats, raccoons, skunks) in a basement, garage, or attic. Because there is no cure for rabies, immunization is your pet's only protection

RATTLESNAKE

An immunization is available for those dogs at high risk of rattlesnake bites (such as hunting dogs, dogs living in areas with rattlesnakes). This product stimulates the dog to produce antibodies against the toxic components of rattlesnake venom. The immunization will help decrease the seriousness of a rattlesnake bite; it does not completely protect the dog. Dogs immunized with the rattlesnake vaccine that are bitten by a rattlesnake still need to receive prompt medical care.

IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

It is very important that your dog receive a complete series of immunizations as a puppy. As is said—an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The cost of a complete series can save you the heartache and expense of an ill pet in the future.

At Grand Coulee Veterinary Clinic, the doctors and staff do their best to provide you with the most up to date immunization recommendations and the best possible care

for your pet. Therefore, our clinic recommends the follow plan for puppies and adult dogs.

It is very important that your puppy and adult dog receive their booster at the appropriate time. Even a few weeks lapse between immunizations can make your dog open to becoming sick.

PUPPY SERIES

Puppies require a series of 4 immunizations 3 to 4 weeks apart

<u>Age</u>	<u>Immunization</u>
6 weeks	DHPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, Coronavirus) Deworming Fecal Examination
9 weeks	DHPPC Deworming
12 weeks	DHPPC Deworming
16 weeks	DHPPC Rabies

Puppies receiving the rattlesnake vaccine need two immunizations given 1 month apart before the start of rattlesnake season.

Puppies receiving the Kennel Cough vaccine need to be immunized at least 2 weeks before being boarded or visiting the groomer.

Puppies receiving the Leptospirosis vaccine (hunting dogs) need two doses given 1 month apart. This is usually done during the 12 week and 16 week appointments.

ADULT SERIES

Adult dogs require yearly physical examinations as well as immunizations in order to provide the best health care

<u>Age</u>	<u>Immunization</u>
1 year	DHPPC Rabies Kennel Cough, Leptospirosis and/or Rattlesnake (if recommended)
2 years and Up	DHPPC Rabies every 3 years Kennel Cough, Leptospirosis and/or Rattlesnake (if recommended)

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Remember, you can always count on the doctors and staff at Grand Coulee Veterinary Clinic to provide you and your pet with the best possible care and service.