



## Dog Vaccinations

One of the most important things you can do as a responsible pet owner is to get your dog vaccinated. Vaccines work by stimulating your dog's immune system so that the dog can create protection against these specific diseases if it is encountered in the future. Vaccinations are important as they can prevent life threatening diseases and at each vaccination allows your veterinarian to give your dog a general check over. For every year that goes by in human years, your dog will age approximately 7 years and a lot can change in 7 years.

This article will go through the vaccinations offered at the Cooper Street Veterinary Hospital and the Temora Veterinary Clinic. Vaccinations vary between veterinary clinics based on their geographical location and what diseases are more prevalent in their area.

The diseases that dogs are vaccinated against are:

- Parvovirus – This horrible disease mainly affects puppies but can affect any dog of any age. The virus attacks the cells of the intestines causing fever, lethargy, vomiting and diarrhoea. Without intensive hospitalisation and treatment this disease can be lethal.
- Distemper – This fatal and highly contagious disease attacks the nervous system of dogs. Thankfully the vaccine is very effective and the disease is rarely seen these days.
- Infectious Canine Hepatitis – This disease is caused by Canine Adenovirus type 1 which can cause potentially irreversible damage to the liver and other organs.
- Canine Cough – This highly contagious disease is caused by a combination of viruses (Canine Parainfluenza) and Bacteria (*Bordetella bronchiseptica*) and although rarely life threatening can cause a dry hacking cough that may last weeks and can predispose to secondary respiratory infections
- Leptospirosis – This bacteria causes damage to the kidneys and liver. The disease is spread most commonly through rat and mice urine and wherever there is rodent urine there is a risk of infection. With the mouse plagues experienced in the Riverina in 2011 there has been a spike in cases of Leptospirosis
- Coronavirus – This is the less deadly sibling of Parvovirus and causes similar signs including diarrhoea and vomiting.

## Dog vaccination protocol

1. Initial general health check over and vaccination at 6 to 8 weeks for: Parvovirus, Distemper, Infectious canine hepatitis, Coronavirus and Leptospirosis
2. Second puppy vaccination at 10 – 12 weeks of age for: Parvovirus, Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Coronavirus and Leptospirosis. A second vaccination is required for puppies to ensure they have sufficient immunity against the deadly diseases.
3. Third puppy vaccination at 16 weeks of age may be required in certain circumstances
4. Then annually after the last puppy vaccination. Booster vaccinations are required to maintain your dog's level of immunity against these diseases. At the annual check over and vaccination your veterinarian will discuss what vaccination is required for your dog depending on your circumstances. At this consultation your dog will have a complete physical examination and allow the veterinarian to discuss other important aspects of your dog's health including heartworm prevention, intestinal worming and diet.

If you have any questions then do not hesitate to talk to your Cooper Street veterinarian at your next visit.