

## Vaccinations

It is imperative and required that you keep your puppies inoculations current up through the first year. That means a 2nd vaccination at 12 weeks and a 3rd at 16 weeks. I STRONGLY suggest you have a titer test run at 18 weeks to make sure your puppy is immunized. We can never be sure when Mom's antibodies stop trumping the vaccine. It's a small price to pay for the assurance your puppy is covered. Then vaccinate at a year. After that run a "titers" test to check for antibodies, rather than just vaccinating unnecessarily. This will tell you the levels of antibodies still in your puppies system, thus letting you know if they need to be vaccinated or not. It may be that your dog never needs another vaccine! Titers tell what's needed. There's no guess work here.

You need to vaccinate your puppy against rabies, parvovirus and distemper. The rabies vaccination is required by law in all states, as well as Canada. If you want to take your dog across the border you are required to have a copy of the certificate in your possession.

Parvovirus and distemper can be fatal diseases for puppies. We now know "less is best". Pups don't necessarily need yearly vaccinations – have a titers test done instead after the first yearly booster. The latest literature from Colorado State University Veterinary School indicates that vaccinating for corona, bordetella and lepto are optional. Once again, I reiterate there are several ideas on when, what, and how often to vaccinate your puppy. I think it is important to research the newest data on canine vaccines. The leading expert in the country is Dr. Ronald Shultz. For over twenty years, he has said we are over-vaccinating our dogs. Dog owners are starting to listen. Over-vaccinating is directly related to compromised immune systems in dogs. It is also a contributor to the high incidence of cancer and other diseases in Golden Retrievers.