

## Which Shots Do Puppies Need?

Going to the vet over several months for a series of puppy vaccinations—and then for boosters or titers throughout your dog's life—may seem inconvenient, but the diseases that vaccinations will shield our puppies and dogs from are dangerous, potentially deadly, and, thankfully, mostly preventable.

### Parvovirus

[Parvo](#) is a highly contagious virus that affects all dogs, but unvaccinated dogs and puppies less than four months of age are at the most risk to contract it. The virus attacks the gastrointestinal system and creates a loss of appetite, vomiting, fever, and often severe, bloody diarrhea. Extreme dehydration can come on rapidly and kill a dog within 48-to-72 hours, so prompt veterinary attention is crucial. There is no cure, so keeping the dog hydrated and controlling the secondary symptoms can keep him going until his immune system beats the illness.

That said, here is a generally accepted guideline of the puppy vaccination schedule for the first year.

Please do not miss a dose of the DHPP – it is very costly if your dog gets sick and very likely may not survive.

6-8 weeks – DHPP (Distemper, parvovirus)

9-11 weeks – DHPP (Distemper, parvovirus)

12-14 weeks – DHPP & Bordetella (Kennel Cough)

15-17 weeks – DHPP & Rabies & Influenza

12-16 months – DHPP (Distemper, parvovirus)

Every 6 months to 1 year add the vaccine Bordetella

Every 1-2 years add the vaccine – DHPP (after initial doses)

Every 1-3 years add the vaccine Rabies (required by law)