



# PUPPY VACCINATIONS

A carefully thought out and followed vaccination programme is one of the most important things you can do for your pup. A typical vaccination programme will protect your pup against Parvovirus, Distemper and Infectious Canine Hepatitis. We can also vaccinate against Kennel Cough, and Leptospirosis (common in Northland, especially if there are rats, pigs or cattle near by).



The recommended programme is an initial vaccination at six weeks of age.

This is with a high quality vaccine specially developed to give pups the maximum possible protection against Parvovirus, which is the main risk at this age.

The first vaccination just “sensitises” the pup’s immune system and must be followed with boosters at three to four weeks intervals with a final shot at 16 weeks of age (World Small Animal Veterinary Association recommendations Jan 2016) to ensure good protection. By ten days after the last vaccination, virtually all pups should be able to produce their own antibodies to “street” virus that they might come into contact with, and thus be protected from developing those diseases.

To protect against leptospirosis, two shots are required 2 to 4 weeks apart. These can easily be added into the second and third booster vaccination. Pups can be given intranasal kennel cough vaccine from six weeks of age in high challenge situations.

If your pup is older than six weeks old, don’t panic, we can start the course at any age, giving the initial sensitising vaccination, and following it three to four weeks later with a booster vaccination. Commonly pups are presented at eight to ten weeks of age so an initial sensitising vaccination is given, then one booster four weeks later. We consider pups to be fully protected ten days after they have completed their full course of vaccinations.

To ensure dogs remain protected against these diseases throughout their life, they should be given a booster vaccination each year for Lepto and Kennel Cough, and every three years for the core vaccines.

Just like people, dogs need an annual health check to check for any health issues developing heart problems, dental disease and dietary requirements (which change as they age). Older dogs are more susceptible to many diseases so their annual health checks are critical to maintaining good health. Your dog’s annual health check is also an ideal time for their check their vaccinations are all up to date.