



## **Canine Wellness Examination and Vaccinations**

A wellness exam involves a comprehensive physical check-up of your pet from head to tail. Our veterinarians will inspect your pet's eyes, ears, nose, mouth, lymph nodes, heart, lungs, abdomen, joints, body condition, coat and skin, tail, and hind end. We will also inquire about your pet's routine, including appetite, thirst, urination, bowel movements, diet, and behaviour. This physical exam is vital for detecting early signs of illness and ensuring your pet is healthy enough to receive their vaccines.

The vaccines your dog requires depend on their environment, lifestyle, and habits. Since these can change over time, it is important to review your dog's vaccinations each year.

**Core vaccines: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza (DAPP), and Rabies.** They provide protection against highly contagious and often fatal diseases, including severe gastrointestinal issues from Parvo, which can also lead to death, especially in puppies. They can also prevent liver failure caused by Hepatitis and neurological or respiratory problems from Distemper. These vaccines require initial doses for puppies and booster shots for adults to maintain immunity. They are recommended regardless of a dog's living environment or lifestyle.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that affects a dog's central nervous system and can spread to humans through bites from infected animals. Symptoms start with behavioural changes and aggression, then progress to paralysis and death. Vaccines make rabies preventable and are legally mandatory in Ontario. Rabies remains a serious threat to unvaccinated dogs, even those mostly kept indoors, especially with increasing cases of bat rabies.

**Leptospirosis:** Leptospirosis is caused by bacteria transmitted through the urine of infected dogs or wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, coyotes, and deer. Your dog can catch it from contact with these animals' urine, even without direct contact. Wildlife may enter your yard, and puddles, lakes, or other bodies of water can also be sources of infection. If your dog swims, spends time near water, or drinks from puddles, he may be exposed to it. Leptospirosis mainly causes kidney disease and can be fatal if not treated promptly. It is also transmissible to humans.

**Kennel cough:** The kennel cough vaccine protects against a respiratory disease caused by viruses or bacteria. Dogs that interact with other dogs—such as on walks, in dog parks, at grooming salons, or in kennels—should be vaccinated.

**Lyme disease:** Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transmitted through tick bites. Not all ticks are infected, but many in our area are. Your dog can become infected if a tick attaches to its skin. Ticks can be easy to overlook, especially on medium- to long-haired dogs or when they attach in hard-to-see spots. Dogs in wooded areas or tall grass are at higher risk, but any dog with outdoor access could be exposed. The vaccine doesn't entirely prevent Lyme disease, but it helps protect your dog. It's advisable to test your dog each spring and remove any ticks promptly.

Our team may recommend booster vaccinations for your pet. These are time-sensitive, and if the recommended timelines are not followed, additional boosters may be required at an extra cost to the client.

You can discuss these vaccines with our team members. We will provide you with a treatment plan that includes the Examination and the vaccines you have chosen for your pet.