



ARE YOU VACCINATING YOUR DOG TOO MUCH?

A QUICK GUIDE TO COMPARING YOUR DOG'S
VACCINE SCHEDULE TO CURRENT RESEARCH.

It's recently been reported by the senior brand manager of Boehringer Ingelheim that the majority of vets are vaccinating more often than necessary. Unnecessary vaccines place your dog at unnecessary risk for vaccine related health issues. This quick guide will help you decide if your dog is being vaccinated more often than research shows is necessary.

Quick History

In the 1970s, all vaccines, with the exception of rabies vaccines, were licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on challenge studies performed for just a few weeks to a few months after vaccination.

All the vaccine labels included the statement **“Annual Revaccination Recommended”** without really knowing whether the true duration of immunity (DOI) was a year or a lifetime. So vets vaccinated yearly, even though field observation suggested that immunity after both natural infection and vaccination was long lived.

In the mid 1970's, veterinary immunologist Dr Ronald Schultz and his cohorts questioned this and began researching how long vaccines really lasted.

“My interest in vaccine DOI (duration of immunity) was stimulated by several factors ...

Says Dr Schultz

1 The observation that dogs who had recovered from canine distemper and cats who had recovered from panleukopenia were completely resistant to experimental viral challenge many years later

2 That my three children were receiving a series of vaccinations that would end about the time they entered school with most of the vaccines never being given again

3 A veterinarian in the US Army Veterinary Corps asked me to design a vaccination program for dogs and cats that did not require yearly revaccinations

4 It was not known if yearly vaccinations were necessary for dogs and cats, but most experts I consulted believed they probably were not needed.



Research was initiated at this time to prove Dr Schultz's suspicions and dogs were challenged with exposure to distemper, adenovirus and parvovirus, anywhere from 1 to 11 years after vaccination.

THE RESULTS:



Every single dog was protected when exposed to the virus.

Based on this research, Dr Schultz and Scott recommended triennial revaccination (every three years) instead of annual revaccination.

"The results from this limited group of dogs clearly demonstrated the Norden modified live vaccines provided immunity for at least 11 years against CDV (distemper) and CPV-2 (parvovirus)"

- Dr Schultz



... The AAHA Vaccine Guidelines Are Created

These early recommendations prompted the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) to assemble a task force. In 2003, the AAHA Canine Vaccine Task Force evaluated the data from these challenges and serological studies and, **while noting that the core vaccines had a minimum duration of immunity of at least seven years**, compromised in 2003 with this statement:

“ **Revaccination every 3 years is considered protective.** ”

Task force member Dr Richard Ford, Professor of Medicine, North Carolina State University, said that the decision to recommend a 3 year revaccination schedule for core vaccines was a compromise.

“IT’S COMPLETELY ARBITRARY” HE SAID. “I WILL SAY THERE IS NO SCIENCE BEHIND THE THREE-YEAR RECOMMENDATION...”

After the 2003 task force, all of the major veterinary vaccine manufacturers completed their own studies showing a minimum three year duration of immunity on the core vaccines -- **distemper, parvovirus and adenovirus.**

LIFELONG IMMUNITY PROVEN



Dr Schultz continued with his work and by 2006, had completed several additional studies on over **1,000 dogs** and repeated the same results over and over again, effectively showing that dogs were protected for much longer than three years and most likely for the life of the dog.

In fact, so sure was Dr Schultz of his work, that his own vaccination protocol for his dogs was one shot of distemper, parvovirus and adenovirus and none thereafter.

COMMON REACTIONS

LETHARGY
HAIR LOSS, HAIR COLOR
CHANGE AT INJECTION SITE
FEVER
SORENESS
STIFFNESS
REFUSAL TO EAT
CONJUNCTIVITIS
SNEEZING
ORAL ULCERS

MODERATE REACTIONS

IMMUNOSUPPRESSION
BEHAVIORAL CHANGES
VITILIGO
WEIGHT LOSS (CACHEXIA)
REDUCED MILK PRODUCTION
LAMENESS
GRANULOMAS/ABSCESSSES
HIVES
FACIALEEDEMA
ATOPY
RESPIRATORY DISEASE
ALLERGIC UVEITIS (BLUE EYE)

SEVERE REACTIONS

ANAPHYLAXIS
ARTHRITIS, POLYARTHRITIS
IMMUNE MEDIATED THROMBO-
CYTOPENIA
HEMOLYTIC DISEASE OF THE
NEWBORN
THYROIDITIS
GLOMERULONEPHRITIS
DISEASE OR ENHANCED DIS-
EASE WHICH WITH THE VACCINE
WAS DESIGNED TO PREVENT
MYOCARDITIS
POST VACCINAL ENCEPHALITIS
OR POLYNEURITIS
SEIZURES
ABORTION, CONGENITAL
ANOMALIES, EMBRYOIC/FETAL
DEATH, FAILURE TO CONCEIVE



The risks of vaccination (why you don't want to give any more vaccines than necessary)

- From Schultz , 2007

In 2011, the AAHA updated their Canine Vaccination Guidelines once more to “every 3 years or more” with the following comment:

“Among healthy dogs, all commercially available [core] vaccines are expected to induce a sustained protective immune response lasting at least 5 yr. thereafter”

But despite their recommendation of no more than every three years, the AAHA Task Force admitted vets that vaccines protect for a much longer period of time ...