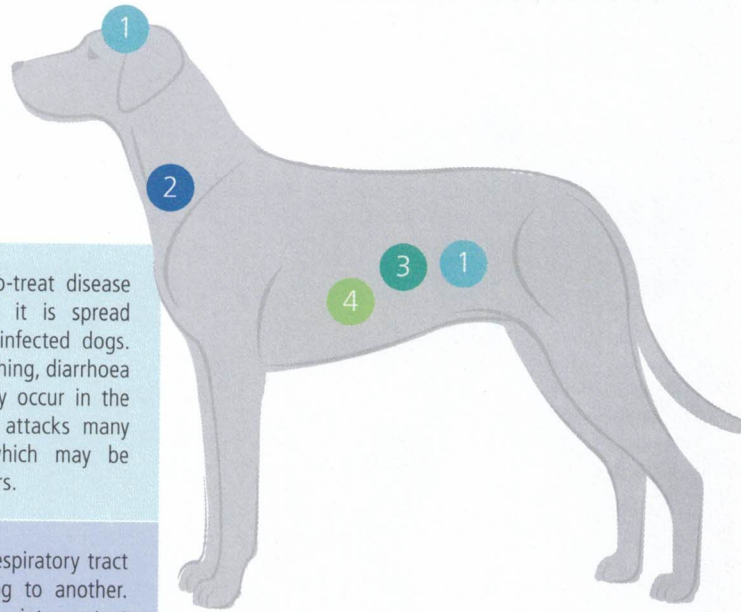


# Canine diseases and vaccination

## How do vaccines work?

Vaccines contain small quantities of modified live or killed viruses, bacteria and/or other disease-causing organisms. When administered, they stimulate your dog's immune system to produce disease-fighting cells and proteins called antibodies to protect against disease.



<p><b>1 CANINE DISTEMPER</b></p>	<p>Vaccination against this often fatal, hard-to-treat disease is absolutely essential. Highly contagious, it is spread by discharges from the nose and eyes of infected dogs. Symptoms can include listlessness, fever, coughing, diarrhoea and vomiting; convulsions and paralysis may occur in the disease's final stages. The distemper virus attacks many organs, including the nervous system, which may be permanently damaged, even if the dog recovers.</p>
<p><b>2 CANINE TRACHEOBRONCHITIS (CANINE COUGH)</b></p>	<p>Just as with the human common cold, this respiratory tract infection is easily transmitted from one dog to another. Vaccination is imperative if your pet will come into contact with many other dogs in such situations as obedience training or boarding at a kennel. It is caused by various airborne bacteria and viruses, including Canine Parainfluenza virus, Canine Adenovirus Type 2 and <i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>, you'll first notice its onset by your dog's dry, hacking cough.</p>
<p><b>3 CANINE PARVOVIRUS</b></p>	<p>Very contagious, debilitating and widespread, the disease caused by this virus emerged in many parts of the world in 1978. Spread through infected faeces, the highly resistant virus can remain in the environment for more than a year. Symptoms include fever, listlessness, vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. Vaccination is the only certain method of preventing this potentially fatal disease, which is most severe in young pups and elderly dogs.</p>
<p><b>4 INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS</b></p>	<p>Caused by Canine Adenovirus Type 1, this disease is transmitted among dogs by contact with secretions, such as saliva, infected urine or faeces. Its symptoms are similar to those of the early stages of distemper. Causing liver failure, eye damage and breathing problems, the course of this disease can range from mild to fatal. Vaccination remains the best protection.</p>

## How effective is vaccination?

Like any drug treatment or surgical procedure, vaccinations cannot be 100% guaranteed. However, used in conjunction with proper nutrition and a clean environment, vaccination is clearly your pet's best defence against disease. Plus, when you consider what treating a serious illness can cost you and your beloved dog in terms of both money and distress, prevention through vaccination is extremely cost-effective.

## Other vaccinations

After evaluating your dog's particular situation and risk factors, your veterinarian may also recommend vaccination against other infectious diseases. These might include:

**LEPTOSPIROSIS**, is a bacterial disease in some geographical areas, of which certain strains can damage the kidneys and liver.

## Comments

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