

Canine Vaccines in Use at Kyle Animal Hospital

Rabies—A viral disease that causes encephalitis (infection in the brain) of all mammals. This disease is considered 100% fatal, in dogs as well as humans. State and Hays county law allows vaccinating pets every 3 years for rabies in some situations. Individual cities or counties may require it more frequently. We will issue 3-year vaccination certificates where appropriate, but it is the responsibility of the individual pet owner to ensure compliance with local laws.

DHP/P* (Distemper Hepatitis Para influenza Parvovirus)-- We recommend an initial series of vaccines one month apart, generally 3 for puppies and 2 for adult dogs. We recommend at least 2 vaccines after the puppy is 12 weeks old. We then recommend vaccinating after 1 year, and every 3 years thereafter.

***Distemper**— A viral disease that causes pneumonia, vomiting, diarrhea, and often encephalitis in dogs and ferrets. Distemper is fatal in approximately 50% of cases. We also recommend vaccinating ferrets for this disease.

***Hepatitis**— Also known as adenovirus, this is a viral disease that affects the liver. It also sometimes affects the front part of the eye, causing a syndrome known as “blue eye.”

***Parainfluenza**—A respiratory viral disease, this is one of the most common agents involved in “kennel cough” in dogs. (This is NOT “Canine Influenza”—see below)

***Parvovirus**—A highly contagious, highly fatal (especially in puppies) viral disease that causes vomiting and diarrhea.

Leptospirosis—A highly fatal bacterial disease that affects the kidneys and often the liver. The leptospirosis vaccine is the most commonly implicated in serious vaccination reactions, especially for small dogs. Leptospirosis is contagious to humans. We try to identify at-risk dogs (dogs that spend a lot of time outdoors, swim, etc.) We use a vaccine that protects against four strains of the bacteria (the most currently available), many veterinarians only use two-serovar vaccines. An initial series of 2 vaccines is needed, for dogs over 12 weeks old, followed by annual boosters.

Bordetella—A respiratory bacterial disease, this is another of the most common agents involved in “kennel cough” in dogs. We recommend annual vaccination for all dogs, as it is transmitted by airborne means and not just in boarding situations. One vaccine per year is generally sufficient.

Snakebite Vaccine—A vaccine does exist that has been shown to reduce illness and mortality in the event of a snakebite from Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes. We only recommend this as a special use vaccine, and will only use it after a thorough examination and owner consultation.

Canine Influenza Vaccine—Canine Influenza is an emerging disease in veterinary medicine. We do carry a vaccine for “doggie flu” but, like the snakebite vaccine, reserve it to “Special Use” status and will use it after a thorough examination and owner consultation.

Lymes—A bacterial disease carried by ticks, causing arthritis as its main symptom. The vaccine has been associated with serious side effects, including arthritis. This is not an endemic area for Lymes disease, and we do not recommend or offer this for routine vaccination.

Feline Vaccines in Use at Kyle Animal Hospital

Rabies—A viral disease that causes encephalitis (infection in the brain) of all mammals. This disease is considered 100% fatal, in cats as well as humans. State and Hays county law allows vaccinating pets every 3 years for rabies in some situations. Individual cities or counties may require it more frequently. We will issue 3-year vaccination certificates where appropriate, but it is the responsibility of the individual pet owner to ensure compliance with local laws. We recommend a special type of rabies vaccine for cats called “non-adjuvanted”. A thorough discussion is beyond the scope of this paper, but short answer is that certain cancers have been linked to standard vaccines; non-adjuvanted vaccines reduce the cancer risk but are more expensive. An internet search of “adjuvanted vaccine cancer cats” will return more information.

FVRCP* (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis Calicivirus Panleukopenia)- We recommend an initial series of vaccines one month apart, generally 3 for kittens and 2 for adult cats. We then recommend vaccinating after 1 year, and every 3 years thereafter.

***Rhinotracheitis**—A viral upper respiratory disease that may progress to pneumonia. Rhinotracheitis is caused by a herpes virus, but is not transmissible to other animals. Infected cats never get rid of the herpes virus, but may only intermittently show symptoms.

***Calicivirus**—Similar to Rhinotracheitis, this viral disease causes upper respiratory disease that may progress to pneumonia. Similar to herpes above, infected cats may remain persistently infected and only intermittently show symptoms.

***Panleukopenia**—This is the feline form of parvovirus. It is a highly fatal (especially in kittens) virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.

Feline Leukemia—Often abbreviated FeLV, this is a highly fatal viral disease of cats. This virus is transmitted by bites, grooming each other, or sharing food/water bowls. This vaccine is highly incriminated in causing serious reactions, including vaccine-associated tumors. This risk is minimized by using recombinant vaccines with no adjuvant (the only ones we use). However, because of the reaction possibility, we recommend vaccinating “at-risk” cats only. “At-risk” cats are kittens, those that go outside, live with an outside cat, live in a multi-cat (usually over five) household, or live with a leukemia-positive cat. Vaccination is an initial series for cats over 12 weeks old of 2 at one month intervals, then an annual booster, then every three years thereafter. Recent evidence shows that cats over four years old often have natural immunity, but we do not depend on this at this time. Like with rabies, we recommend non-adjuvanted vaccines for Feline Leukemia.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis—Often abbreviated FIP, this is also a highly fatal viral disease of cats. The mode of transmission is uncertain, and most current thoughts are that the vaccine offers zero protection. We do not recommend or offer routine vaccination for any cats.

Chlamydia—Also known as “pneumonitis”, this bacteria causes upper respiratory disease similar to Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. This bacterium most often causes disease only in catteries with high populations. This vaccine is highly incriminated in causing serious reactions. We only recommend vaccinating cats in catteries with a history of Chlamydia infection, and do not recommend or offer routine vaccination for any cats.

FIV –Also known as Feline AIDS, a vaccine does exist. Because of potential side effects, widespread doubt about the efficacy of the vaccine, and interference with future FIV tests, we do not recommend or offer routine vaccination for any cats.