



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

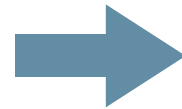
In 2011, the AAHA updated their Canine Vaccination Guidelines once more to “every 3 years or more” with the following comment:

“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 ...

“ This is supported by a growing body of veterinary information and well-developed epidemiological vigilance in human medicine that indicates immunity induced by vaccination is extremely long lasting and, in most cases, lifelong. ”

As Dr Ford stated, compromises are clearly being made, judging by the AAHA's arbitrary and slow-to-evolve revaccination recommendations.



What could be holding the AAHA back from making stronger statements and why don't they enforce these guidelines?

The AAHA is sponsored by four vaccine manufacturers: Merck, Merial, Pfizer and Boehringer Ingelheim. Furthermore, the veterinary members of the task force certainly have a vested financial interest in how often vaccines can be delivered.



... Is this a potential conflict of interest and could this create bias in the task force recommendations?

Regardless,

**60% of vets today
still vaccinate more
often than the
AAHA guidelines**

➔ So 60% of vets are vaccinating three times more often than their college recommendations ... which already encourage over-vaccination and ignore current research.



If there was any scientific precedent for revaccination, the AAHA's careful and gradual move away from this annual vaccination would be understandable.

But the only research behind vaccines shows a duration of immunity of at least seven years for the core vaccines ...

... there is and never has been any evidence to the contrary.

MINIMUM DURATION OF IMMUNITY FOR — CANINE VACCINES —

DISTEMPER	7 years by *challenge / 15 years by *serology
PARVOVIRUS	7 years by *challenge / 7 years by *serology
ADENOVIRUS	7 years by *challenge / 9 years by *serology
CANINE RABIES	3 years by *challenge / 7 years by *serology

* **CHALLENGE** is immunity proven by exposing dogs to the disease.

* **SEROLOGY** is immunity proven by high levels of protective antibody.

“Vaccines for diseases like distemper and canine parvovirus, once administered to adult animals, provide lifetime immunity.”

“Are We Vaccinating Too Much?”

- Concludes Dr. Schultz
JAVMA, No. 4, August 15,



As dog owners – the people who are financially and emotionally responsible for the effects of over-vaccination – we deserve better than this. Until the AAHA stops compromising and catches up to current vaccine research, the most important compromise could be our dogs' health and welfare.

In the meantime, Dr Schultz's research shows that over 95% of puppies vaccinated at 16 weeks of age or later will be protected FOR LIFE.

TABLE 1

2011 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines* for the General Veterinary Practice

Vaccine [†]	Initial Vaccination (<16 wk of age)	Initial Vaccination (>16 wk of age)
CDV (MLV) or rCDV	Puppies should be vaccinated every 3–4 wk between the ages of 6 and 16 wk (e.g., at 6, 10, and 14 wk, or 8, 12, and 16 wk). To minimize the risk of maternal antibody interference with vaccination, the final dose of the initial series should be administered between 14 and 16 wk of age, regardless of the product used.	One dose is considered protective and acceptable. Revaccination is recommended every ≥ 3 yr after completion of the initial vaccination, regardless of the product used.

FROM THE AAHA GUIDELINES:

“Because dogs older than 14–16 wk of age are not likely to have interfering levels of MDA*, administration of a single initial dose of an infectious vaccine to an adult dog can be expected to induce a protective immune response. The administration of a single, initial dose of infectious vaccine to dogs 16 wk of age is considered protective and acceptable.”

* *Maternally derived antibodies, which are passive immunity the mother dog passes to her puppies.*

“The truth is the majority of vets are not going to change until they are forced to – which is not likely to happen due to politics and due to the lack of concern by the one entity that could protect the public and ensure animal welfare: the individual state veterinary medical boards ...”

Says Dr Patricia Jordan

“This change will have to come from the public, they have to stop allowing the over servicing.”

Are You Vaccinating Too Often?

This is where you come in. You can protect your dog from the harm unnecessary vaccines can cause. Use the chart on the next page determine how many more vaccines than Dr Schultz's scientifically proven schedule your dog is getting.



GUIDE TO VACCINATION SCHEDULES

SCIENTIFICALLY
PROVEN SCHEDULE
(BASED ON RONALD SCHULTZ'S
BODY OF RESEARCH)

PUPPIES
(NUMBER OF VACCINES*)



+

ADULT DOGS
(NUMBER OF VACCINES*)



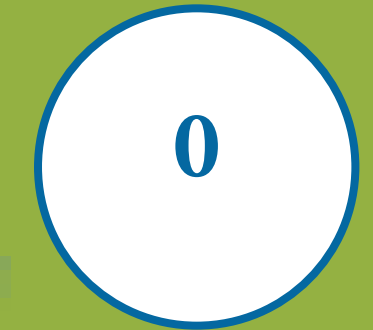
=

TOTAL
(NUMBER OF VACCINES*)



>

**UNNECESSARY
VACCINES***



2011 AAHA
GUIDELINES
"VACCINES ARE EXPECTED TO
INDUCE A SUSTAINED PROTECTIVE
IMMUNE RESPONSE LASTING AT
LEAST 5 YR."



+



=



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ANNUAL
VACCINATION
(REPORTEDLY PERFORMED BY 60%
OF ALL PRACTICING VETS)



+



=



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*Based on a 15 year old dog

"A practice that was started many years ago and that lacks scientific validity or verification is annual revaccinations. Almost without exception there is no immunologic requirement for annual revaccination." Dr Ronald Schultz



Nearly thirty years after Dr Schultz's initial research, the AAHA failed to recognize the long lasting immunity the core vaccines could provide and merely changed their revaccination recommendations from "revaccination every 3 years is considered protective" to "revaccination every 3 years or more is considered protective."

Today, Dr Schultz continues with his research and his results are repeated time and time again. In the meantime, research is increasingly showing the harmful effects of vaccines and this has not escaped the AAHA's notice.



Check out page 8 to see a list of common to severe reactions.



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