



To All New Puppy Owners

The Pet Welfare Alliance is an alliance of pet owners and veterinarians, formed as a watchdog for the pet products industry.

Your puppy breeder is a valued member of the pet welfare community, in a key position to positively influence the lives of the puppies they breed. This document has been prepared by the Pet Welfare Alliance to help your breeder share the latest science regarding booster vaccination, giving the puppy in your care the very best chance at living a long and healthy life.

So many health conditions are blamed upon so-called 'irresponsible breeders', but many dog lovers fail to appreciate that over-vaccination is a major contributory factor in canine ill health. For example, vaccines are known to cause autoimmune diseases – with or without a genetic predisposition, as well as cancer and brain damage.

Should a dog come down with an autoimmune disease (such as lupus, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, autoimmune thyroiditis, Addison's disease, atopic allergy, atopic dermatitis, thrombocytopenia, cancer, Cushing's, type I diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and a long list of others) it has now been established (but isn't widely known) that there doesn't need to be a genetic predisposition. It's not necessarily the dog's genes at fault ... autoimmunity can be caused by vaccines on their own. And then it goes down the line ...

The core vaccines provide immunity for many years, and probably for life

Veterinary vaccine guidelines groups around the world have introduced reduced vaccination schedules in response to increasing questions about vaccine safety and frequency. The Pet Welfare Alliance supports these guidelines and welcomes a reduction in the number of vaccines given to companion animals.

Leading edge veterinary associations (American Veterinary Medical Association, World Small Animal Veterinary Association, American Animal Hospital Association, American Association of Feline Practitioners, American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association and the Australian Veterinary Association) and many top veterinary schools, divide vaccines into "core" vaccines (which they say all pets should receive) and "noncore" (which should be given only when a specific risk exists).

The current known science is that dogs and cats, once immune to the core viral diseases, remain immune for years, and possibly for life. Therefore annual vaccination is not necessary for the core diseases. The core diseases for dogs are parvovirus, distemper and adenovirus (CPV, CDV and CAV2). Over 95% of dogs will be immune to these diseases for life if vaccinated as a puppy between 14-16 weeks of age.

Please see official guideline documents at the following links:

Canine Vaccine Guidelines from the American Animal Hospital Association:

<https://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/CanineVaccineGuidelines.pdf>

World Small Animal Veterinary Association Vaccine Guidelines:

<http://www.wsava.org/PDF/Misc/VaccinationGuidelines2010.pdf>

Non-Core Vaccines

Leading veterinary bodies class 'non-core' vaccines as optional, and advise that they should only be administered if there is a known disease risk in the area. For example, leptospirosis and kennel cough vaccines for dogs are non-core/optional. The leptospirosis vaccine is not very effective, but it is the vaccine most associated with severe adverse reactions. Leptospirosis is also a very rare disease. Please see this article - The problem with the leptospirosis vaccine - by Dr Patricia Jordan at this link:

<http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/vaccine-research.html>. The kennel cough vaccine is also fairly ineffective and can cause kennel cough in vaccinated dogs. The vaccinated dog can then infect other dogs.

Why we should not over-vaccinate pets

At one time, it was thought that annual pet vaccination was a fairly harmless procedure. However, mounting research shows that this is not the case. Over-vaccination is associated with allergic and immune-mediated diseases, neurological disease, and with cancer and leukaemia. Please see the file 'vaccine science research' at the following link <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/vaccine-research.html> for scientific references to vaccine adverse effects in dogs and cats.

As a result of known adverse reactions to vaccines, top veterinary organisations recommend that we vaccinate against the core diseases no more frequently than three yearly. Many informed vets are going further and advising clients to give puppy shots and to never vaccinate again. Other vets are still persisting with unnecessary annual shots. You are welcome to show this document to your vet if he or she says your dog needs to be vaccinated annually.

Dr Ronald Schultz, a world-renowned expert and member of the WSAVA vaccine guidelines group, lists the following potential effects of pet over-vaccination, some of which are life-threatening:

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 (skin reactions)
- Weight loss
- Reduced milk production
- Lameness
- Granulomas/Abscesses
- Hives
- Facial Edema (swelling)
- Atopy (hereditary allergies)
- Respiratory disease
- Allergic Uveitis (Blue Eye)

Severe Reactions triggered by Vaccines:

- Vaccine injection site cancer (in dogs and ferrets as well as cats)
- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction which can result in death)
- Arthritis, polyarthritis
- HOD hypertrophy osteodystrophy
- Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia
- Immune Mediated Thrombocytopenia (IMTP)
- Hemolytic disease of the newborn (Neonatal Isoerythrolysis)
- Thyroiditis
- Glomerulonephritis (a kidney disease)
- Disease or enhanced disease which the vaccine was designed to prevent
- Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)
- Post vaccinal Encephalitis (brain damage) or polyneuritis (nerve damage)
- Seizures
- Abortion, congenital anomalies, embryonic/fetal death, failure to conceive

The Titer Test Option

Dr Ronald Schultz has performed duration of immunity (DOI) tests since the 1970s. From this, he is able to conclude:

“Only one dose of the modified-live canine ‘core’ vaccine (against CDV, CAV-2 and CPV-2) ... when administered at 16 weeks or older, will provide long lasting (many years to a lifetime) immunity in a very high percentage of animals ([Schultz, 1998], [Schultz, 2000] and [Schultz, 2006]).”

He further states:

“Core vaccines should not be given any more frequently than every three years after the 12 month booster injection following the puppy/kitten series, because the duration of immunity (DOI) is many years and may be up to the lifetime of the pet. In order to ensure the existence of duration of immunity, titer testing may be used.” (Ronald D Schultz, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin; Member of WSAVA and AAHA vaccine guideline groups)

Instead of offering triennial core revaccination, leading-edge veterinary practices are now offering the alternative of triennial serological (antibody) testing. At one time this was a fairly difficult and expensive procedure, with blood samples being sent to a lab and involving a relatively lengthy time delay. However, modern in-practice testing kits are now available to veterinarians, and the Pet Welfare Alliance is writing to veterinary practices to alert them to this development. If you would like your own veterinary practice to receive this information, please go to this link on our website: <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/send-a-letter.htm>, and fill in their contact details. You can then print the letter off and send it to your vet in the post. The letter comes from the Pet Welfare Alliance.

You might also like to look at articles on this link: <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/vaccine-research.html>, including, ‘*What We Need To Know About Vaccines and Titer Testing*’ from Professor Michael J Day of Bristol University, and ‘*Considerations for the Titer Testing of Core Canine Vaccines*’ from Professor Ronald D Schultz. (Both are members of the WSAVA vaccine guidelines group.)

Natural Rearing

Many breeders and informed dog owners are going further, and choosing not to vaccinate their puppies or adult dogs at all. They believe that the health risks associated with canine vaccines outweigh the risk of viral disease.

No-one would, however, advise you to leave your dog unprotected against viral disease. Natural rearers feed biologically appropriate food instead of pet food to support their dogs’ immune systems and their ability to respond to viral disease. Many give the homoeopathic nosode instead of vaccines, and others use natural products such as Transfer Factor, garlic, olive leaf extract and other natural anti-virals in place of vaccines.

If you are interested in this way of rearing your puppy, please take the time to study the www.petwelfarealliance.org website.

Under ‘free stuff and resources’ we offer a free downloadable booklet on natural feeding. There are also links to animal advocates, holistic veterinarians, and organisations around the world, all of which are seeking to improve the health of animals through natural means. Also, you’ll find many groups and individuals on the internet who advocate natural rearing and complementary healthcare options for pets – do take a look!

We hope very much that this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or wish to talk further.

You may wish to add your name to the supporters list on the Pet Welfare Alliance website. This will enable you to receive our regular free email newsletters, packed with information that will help you keep your puppy and adult dogs healthy. You can also join Canine Health Concern which has existed since 1994 to help dog owners raise long-lived and healthy pets. See www.canine-health-concern.org.uk. CHC has materials (such as leaflets, books, and a DVD) that can help you make informed choices on behalf of your puppy and adult dogs.

Finally, we wish you many happy years with your new family friend.