**Puppy Shots: Vaccination Considerations and Disease Prevention Reflections**

To vaccinate or not vaccinate, how many vaccines, which vaccines to give is a matter of personal choice. Please consider what is best for your pet’s health and life. The information here is to inform you that you have options includes links for you to make your own educated decision. This is not intended as veterinary advice, neither can I be held responsible for the decision you decide to make for your pet. I present this information because I have experienced, seen and heard of negative reactions from vaccinations and feel people are very uninformed of the risks and that alternative care is possible. Your pets are worthy of this research.

The choices I see we have are:

1. No vaccination – completely rely on boosting immunity internally with nutrition
2. One and done vaccination – beneficial for puppies who live in a protected environment and have little chance of getting viruses.
3. Two – Three vaccine protocol by Jean Dodds as described below.
4. Conventional approach which could damage our pet’s health more than the risk of exposure.

The conventional approach for many breeders and vets is to give multiple vaccines within a few weeks consisting of: Distemper, Parvo, Parainfluenza, Adeno2 or Hepatitis, ParaInfluenza, Lepto, Corona at 6,9,12 and 16 weeks of age; Rabies at 16 weeks; Booster annually of all listed for life.

Studies show that **over vaccinating** a pet affects its immune system and makes it more susceptible to many issues such as diabetes, allergies, inflammation, arthritis, personality changes, hypersensitivity, encephalitis, epilepsy, brain damage, as well as a shortened life and in my case death. The same 1 ml dose given to a 1# puppy is given to a 100# adult dog. Holistic vets take a different approach which is to build the immune system with natural and holistic methods, high nutrition and quality supplements. Build a vaccine protocol based on science, not fear and just because that is the way you have always done.

<http://wolfcreekranch1.tripod.com/animal_vaccines.html> They have practiced holistically and naturally for many years. They were first to encourage me to change what I had always thought. They explain how to boost immunity without vaccines but if you choose to vaccinate, they recommend Dr. Jean Dodds Protocol of 2 vaccinations as listed at the bottom.

<http://wolfcreekranch1.tripod.com/puppy_health.html> Wolf Creek Ranch’s recommendations in raising a healthy puppy naturally. I on occasion refer back to this page for a holistic natural approach to a situation. Be sure to read their Diatomaceous Earth recommendations which I also use.

<http://www.caberfeidh.com/HHC.htm> Holistic Health Index. Read the articles: Puppy Shots and Revaccinations

<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/taking-the-risk-out-of-puppy-shots/> Give only one vaccine between 12 – 16 weeks of age

### [Considerations In Designing Effective And Safe Vaccination Programs ...](http://www.bogartsdaddy.com/bouvier/documents/effective_safe_vaccination_programs_by_rd-schultz.pdf)

[www.bogartsdaddy.com/.../effective\_safe\_vaccination\_programs\_by\_rd-schultz.pdf](http://www.bogartsdaddy.com/.../effective_safe_vaccination_programs_by_rd-schultz.pdf) - Dr. Schultz’s protocol

The following vaccine protocol is one I have recommend to owners who decide to give vaccines and whose dogs are minimally exposed. Since this protocol recommends giving the first shot after most of our pets go home, I give owners the option of their puppy getting its first shot in our care (Distemper and Parvovirus). Then the vet will give the next shot at 12 weeks and a 3rd at 16 weeks. Most vets will likely not carry just the distemper and parvo vaccine but rather the 5 way DA2PP vaccines. They may carry Parvo-only but few have Distemper only or the 2 way combo. I have seen and heard of small dogs reacting to Lepto and Corona virus vaccines; therefore, I recommend not giving these two (Lepto and Corona). You may have to call around to different vets and possibly consider a holistic vet if one is in your area to get the care you want for your puppy. Sadly, the rabies shot is required by law annually in Georgia.

**2016 Dodds Vaccine Protocol for Dogs:**

http://drjeandoddspethealthresource.tumblr.com/post/147595920886/dodds-vaccination-protocol-dogs-2016#.WBvlIPnx7IU

**9 - 10 weeks of age:** Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV  (e.g. Merck Nobivac (Intervet Progard) Puppy DPV)

**14 – 15 weeks of age:** Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV

**18 weeks of age:** Parvovirus only, MLV (Note: New research states that last puppy parvovirus vaccine should be at 18 weeks old.)

**20 weeks or older, if allowable by law:** Rabies – give 3-4 weeks apart from other vaccines (Mercury-free (thimerosol-free, TF)

**1 year old:** Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV This is an optional booster or titer. If the client intends *not* to booster after this optional booster or intends *to* retest titers in another three years, this optional booster at puberty is wise.

**1 year old:** Rabies – give 3-4 weeks apart from other vaccines. Give the 3-year product if allowable by law; mercury-free (TF)

Perform vaccine antibody titers for distemper and parvovirus every three years thereafter, or more often, if desired. Vaccinate for rabies virus according to the law, except where circumstances indicate that a written waiver needs to be obtained from the primary care veterinarian. In that case, a rabies antibody titer can also be performed to accompany the waiver request. Visit [The Rabies Challenge Fund](http://t.umblr.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rabieschallengefund.org&t=OWUzZDY2NzBjZWU1Yzk4ZjIwMTNjYjE2ZDcyMDZhNzY5ZDZkOGViNCxwU0EwMVB4SA%3D%3D&b=t%3A2PGwnMFdfWUbHfhGfy-plA&m=1) for more information.

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[Hemopet](http://t.umblr.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hemopet.org%2F%3Futm_source%3Dtumblr%26utm_medium%3Dsign%26utm_campaign%3D2016-vaccine-protocol&t=ZDViZTg1ZGU2Yzk0MzA0Mzg3MGVjZTRlYWY2ZTg2MTZlYjlkYTczNCxwU0EwMVB4SA%3D%3D&b=t%3A2PGwnMFdfWUbHfhGfy-plA&m=1) / [NutriScan](http://t.umblr.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nutriscan.org%2F%3Futm_source%3Dtumblr%26utm_medium%3Dsign%26utm_campaign%3D2016-vaccine-protocol&t=ZDIwOGUyZjU1MjdmYmVlODRiNjlmNjZlNDExNmQxZmM4ZmM3ODE3ZCxwU0EwMVB4SA%3D%3D&b=t%3A2PGwnMFdfWUbHfhGfy-plA&m=1" \t "_blank)

Does Your Pet Really Need That Rabies Shot:

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2011/06/21/expert-proof-most-pets-are-vaccinated-way-too-often.aspx>

Pat McKay’s free eBook: **Natural Immunity ~ Why You Should NOT Vaccinate** is now out of print but the author has made it available for free. It is an excellent starting point for anyone who has ever questioned the practice of vaccination. <http://animalhomeopathy.org.tripod.com/www.animalhomeopathy.org/id23.html>

Concluding thoughts: In adopting a pet, owners take on the responsibility in providing a loving, enriched life and provide good health for their fury family. This is so whether you choose to follow the conventional routine or whether you choose a natural holistic approach or something in between. There is not a one size fits all. Thankfully, we have choices to follow our own consciences. I wish you the best health and life for your fury family.

Cindy and the Tzu Crew