

## MODEL CANINE CORE VACCINE DISCLOSURE FORM

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Vaccines have played a significant role in enabling animals to live longer and healthier lives. Thorough evaluations of the risks of the disease, and those potentially associated with the vaccine, compared to the benefits of vaccination for the patient, are necessary in crafting optimal health recommendations that include vaccination.

The proper application of vaccines to animal populations has enhanced their health and welfare, and prolonged their life-spans. The risks to animal health from non-vaccination are significant. However, vaccination is a potent medical procedure associated with both benefits and risks for the patient. Adverse events, including some that are potentially severe, can be unintended consequences of vaccination. Because vaccinating an animal which is already immune to a disease does not increase their immunity, but does expose them to the risk of adverse reactions, it is important to avoid overvaccination. Blood titers can help determine whether an animal's antibody count is at protective levels.

The risks associated with the core canine diseases are as follows:

1. **Distemper** – high rates of morbidity and mortality from respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological abnormalities; a widespread disease
2. **Parvovirus** – high rates of morbidity and mortality resulting primarily from gastrointestinal disease; this disease has worldwide distribution;
3. **Canine Adenovirus** – high rates of morbidity and mortality from liver dysfunction
4. **Rabies** – nearly universally fatal neurological disease. Infected animals are a potential source for human infection, thus vaccination is mandated by law in most states.

The risks associated with vaccination are as follows:

Possible adverse events from vaccination include failure to immunize, anaphylaxis, immunosuppression, autoimmune disorders such as hyper/hypothyroidism, polyarthritis, allergies, transient infections, and/or long-term infected carrier states. In addition, a causal association in cats between injection sites and the subsequent development of a malignant tumor is the subject of ongoing research.

Optimal immune responses are obtained by vaccines administered singly three to four weeks apart rather than in combination shots. Single vaccine administration also reduces the likelihood of adverse events as well as increasing the animal's immune response. Only healthy animals should be vaccinated.

Except for the rabies vaccine, manufacturers' labeled revaccination recommendations are based on limited scientific data and do not contain information on the vaccine's maximum duration of immunity. The tables below contain the minimum duration of immunity data from the canine vaccine studies performed by Dr. Ronald Schultz, Professor and Chair of the Pathobiological Sciences Department at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, which form the scientific base of the American Animal Hospital's *2003 Canine Vaccine Guidelines, Recommendations, and Supporting Literature*.

If your animal experiences any of the following symptoms after vaccination, you should contact your veterinary care provider immediately: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, uncontrollable trembling, lack of coordination, seizures or a hard lump at the vaccination site which doesn't disappear after a couple of weeks.

**Table 1: Minimum Duration of Immunity for Canine Vaccines**

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Minimum Duration Of Immunity</b>	<b>Methods Used to Determine Immunity</b>
<b>Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)</b>		
<b>Rockborn Strain</b>	<b>7 years/15 years</b>	<b>challenge/serology</b>
<b>Onderstepoort Strain</b>	<b>5 years/9 years</b>	<b>challenge/serology</b>
<b>Canine Adenovirus-2 (CAV-2)</b>	<b>7 years/9 years</b>	<b>challenge-CAV-1/serology</b>
<b>Canine Parvovirus-2 (CPV-2)</b>	<b>7 years</b>	<b>challenge/serology</b>
<b>Canine Rabies</b>	<b>3 years/7 years</b>	<b>challenge/serology</b>

Data from *Duration of Immunity to Canine Vaccines: What we know and Don't Know* by Dr. Ronald D. Schultz, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.

**Note:** Challenge studies are those in which an animal is vaccinated, isolated for a number of years, and then injected with high doses of virulent virus to test its immunity to disease. Serology is the method of counting antibody levels in the blood to determine an animal's immunity.