

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

## Vaccines

Clients often ask “How many vaccines does my puppy or kitten need to be fully vaccinated?” Unfortunately, the answer is not simple nor cut and dried. The number of vaccinations required to make a pet fully immunized varies due to the type of vaccine, the age of the pet, the immune status of the pet, and breed specific diseases.

For instance, the DHLPP (stands for distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus) vaccine requires that the puppy get vaccinated every 2-4 weeks until the pet is 16 weeks of age. So if your puppy started getting vaccines at 7 weeks of age from the breeder, he or she may end up getting 5 vaccinations. However, if your puppy is 18 weeks old when they receive their first DHLPP, they will only receive 2 vaccines in order to be completely immunized. This has to do with the ability of the immune system to be fully functional in creating lasting protection. Also, because certain breeds such as Rottweilers are more predisposed to parvovirus infections, your veterinarian may require vaccination until they are 18 weeks or older.

The first rabies vaccine only requires a single vaccination that lasts 1 year. This has to do with the type of vaccine and the way it interacts with the immune system. The rabies vaccine is then boosted annually or every three years depending on the pet and type of vaccine given.

If you have questions regarding your pets' vaccination status, please contact your veterinarian.

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