

DETERMINING A VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR YOUR PET

(2004)

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<http://www.greytdogsagility.com>

Back in 1998 when my English Shepherd, Katie, was initially diagnosed with lymphoma, practically the first words out of her oncologist's mouth after she had started chemotherapy were that she was NEVER to have another vaccination during her lifetime as it was possible a vaccination of any kind could bring her out of remission. Since Katie was only 6 years old and traveled a great deal to agility trials, I was extremely concerned. When I voiced that concern, her oncologist casually commented that at age six she likely had lifetime immunity anyway. At the time I was too concerned with the lymphoma to give his comment a great deal of thought. But as time passed I began to wonder why, if at age 6 Katie likely had lifetime immunity, I was vaccinating all of my dogs on an annual basis. Thus began my research into this very complicated issue.

Your local veterinarian is your best resource to develop a vaccination program tailored for your dog. The health status and infectious disease risks of your pet should be considered in the selection of a vaccination program. After a number of conversations and a great deal of research on my part, my veterinarian and I have put in to place a vaccination program for each of my dogs which we feel best meets their individual needs.

Should you decide to approach your veterinarian on this subject, you might want to do some research. The following are some of the URL's I visited during my search for information:

UC Davis VMTH Canine and Feline Vaccination Guidelines
<http://www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/vmeth/clientinfo/info/genmed/vaccinproto.html>

Principles of Vaccination
(Approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association Executive Board, April 2001)
<http://www.avma.org/policies/vaccination.htm>

Report of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Canine Vaccine Task Force:
2003 Canine Vaccine Guidelines, Recommendations, and Supporting Literature
http://www.dogs4sale.com.au/AAHA_Special_Report.htm

Colorado State University's Small Animal Vaccination Protocol
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/vth/SAVP2.HTM>

Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
Vaccination Guidelines for Dogs and Cats 2001
<http://www.vet.upenn.edu/schoolresources/communications/publications/bellwether/48/vaccination.html>

Alt Vet Med (Vaccine article)
<http://www.altvetmed.com/pages/articles.html>

dvm The Newsmagazine of Veterinary Medicine
Vaccine protocols: Are you on schedule? (2001)
<http://dvm.adv100.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=2956&&pageID=1>