

## Thoughts on Vaccines

There is a growing movement against over vaccinating dogs. Many vets agree that we vaccinate our dogs more than is necessary. Consider your own vaccine history. Many of your childhood shots were given once, or with boosters years apart. So, why must we vaccinate dogs annually? An interesting question! And there are many articles available on the subject, should you wish to investigate.

Whether or not to vaccinate is a personal decision. You need to do what makes sense to you. If you live in an area with high instances of particular disease; you might be better off to vaccinate. If you live in an area with low incidence of those same diseases, you might opt to skip those particular vaccines. (For instance, in some countries, Malaria pills are taken to prevent Malaria. Here in New England, we do not have Malaria nor do we take the pill!)

Some vets claim that we need only to give puppies their series of traditional puppy shots, with boosters at one and two years of age. Then, We can stop vaccinating. To be sure your dog is protected, you can check titers annually after age two. Others feel that vaccines are unhealthy, and they choose not to vaccinate at all. They feel that most diseases we vaccinate against are not deadly, and they prefer to take their chances.

If you put a deposit on a puppy & you wish for that puppy not to receive vaccines, I will abide by your decision for that animal. Please be advised that the Rabies vaccine you will be due to give at 13-16 weeks, is required by law.

### Our Current Vaccine Policy

While we respect your decisions regarding your new puppy, we feel very strongly that it unhealthy to over vaccinate young puppies.

We do not vaccinate our own puppies prior to 14 weeks old. At that time, we give distemper/parvo with no additional vaccines. Two weeks later, we give the initial Lyme vaccine.

We have now stopped vaccinating our litters at 6-8 weeks as was common in the past. We will only offer your puppy a vaccine if you specifically want one,

or if you will be taking puppy to a high risk area.

\*We feel so strongly that it is bad for a puppy to have the stress of a move to a new home & then have his/her system loaded with vaccines during the first week; we have developed a new policy. IF YOU VACCINATE YOUR PUPPY WITH A MULTIPLE COMPONENT VACCINE WITHIN ONE WEEK OF PURCHASE YOUR ENTIRE WARRANTY ON THIS PUPPY IS VOID.\*

We encourage you to talk to your vet ahead of time & discuss a vaccine schedule. If you feel you must vaccinate prior to 14 weeks and do a series of shots, as was typical in the past, please wait until you have had the puppy for 1 week and settled him in.

Also note; a sick puppy who does not feel well should not be vaccinated at that time!