

# ALTA VIEW VETERINARY CLINIC

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## CANINE DISEASES AND VACCINATIONS

### What you need to know:

**CANINE DISTEMPER:** Distemper is a highly contagious and often fatal viral infection of dogs. It infects various tissues in the dog's body producing diarrhea, fever, nasal and ocular discharge, respiratory disease, appetite loss and neurologic signs such as muscular spasms and paralysis.

**PARVOVIRUS:** Parvovirus is a viral disease of dogs that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting. Depression and loss of appetite are also clinical signs. The virus is spread through the feces, which easily contaminates the environment and is readily spread between animals. Parvovirus can be fatal due to dehydration, a loss of appetite, or a decrease in the white blood count that leaves the dog at risk for secondary infections. Puppies are at greatest risk of death because they have limited body reserves.

**PARAINFLUENZA AND CANINE ADENOVIRUS TYPE-2 OR CAV-2:** Parainfluenza is a viral disease of dogs that cause upper respiratory clinical signs. Upper respiratory disease can limit the dog's activity and progress to pneumonia which can be life-threatening. These viruses are easily transmitted in the air or by direct contact, especially in kennels, at the groomer, dog park, dog training/shows, or doggy day care. CAV-2 is closely related to CAV-1 (the virus that causes infectious canine hepatitis). For this reason vaccination against CAV-2 cross protects against CAV-1.

**LEPTOSPIROSIS:** Lepto is a bacterial disease your dog can pick up from contact with infected wild life, urine from infected dogs or contaminated food or water. The bacteria infects the kidneys and liver often putting them into failure. Dogs with Lepto can become dehydrated, run a fever, be nauseated, lose their appetite, become lethargic or have generalized pain. There are several different types of Leptospira bacteria that we vaccinate for. Leptospirosis is also contagious to humans.

**BORDETELLA BRONCHISEPTICA:** Bordetella is a bacterial cause of infectious tracheobronchitis or "kennel cough". It causes a harsh dry cough often caused by a viral infection complicated by bordetella. It is also easily transmitted in the air or by direct contact. Dogs boarded in kennels, going to the dog park, dog training/shows or groomer are especially at risk for contracting Bordetella.

**RABIES:** Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all warm-blooded mammals, including dogs, cats, wildlife and humans. The virus infects cells of the nervous system, producing incoordination and behavioral abnormalities, such as unusual aggression or withdrawal. Once the signs of rabies appear, the disease is always fatal. Rabies is usually transmitted by bite wounds, often from infected wildlife. Rabies vaccination is required by most states including Wisconsin.

**LYME:** Lyme disease is a bacterial infection (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) spread by the deer tick (*Ixodes* sp.) bites. Lyme disease can present as intermittent pain or lameness, fever, depression or with kidney disease. Owners of dogs that have Lyme disease may have been exposed to Lyme disease as well and should contact their own physicians.

### RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH VACCINATIONS:

Swelling or pain at the injection site, mild cough, fever, lethargy, or anorexia. These reactions generally last 24 hours. You should contact your vet if they last longer than 24 hours or if you have concerns.

More serious reactions such as blood disorders, anaphylaxis, swelling of the muzzle, vomiting, weakness, wobbliness, shock and very rarely death can occur. If any of these occur, you should contact your vet immediately.