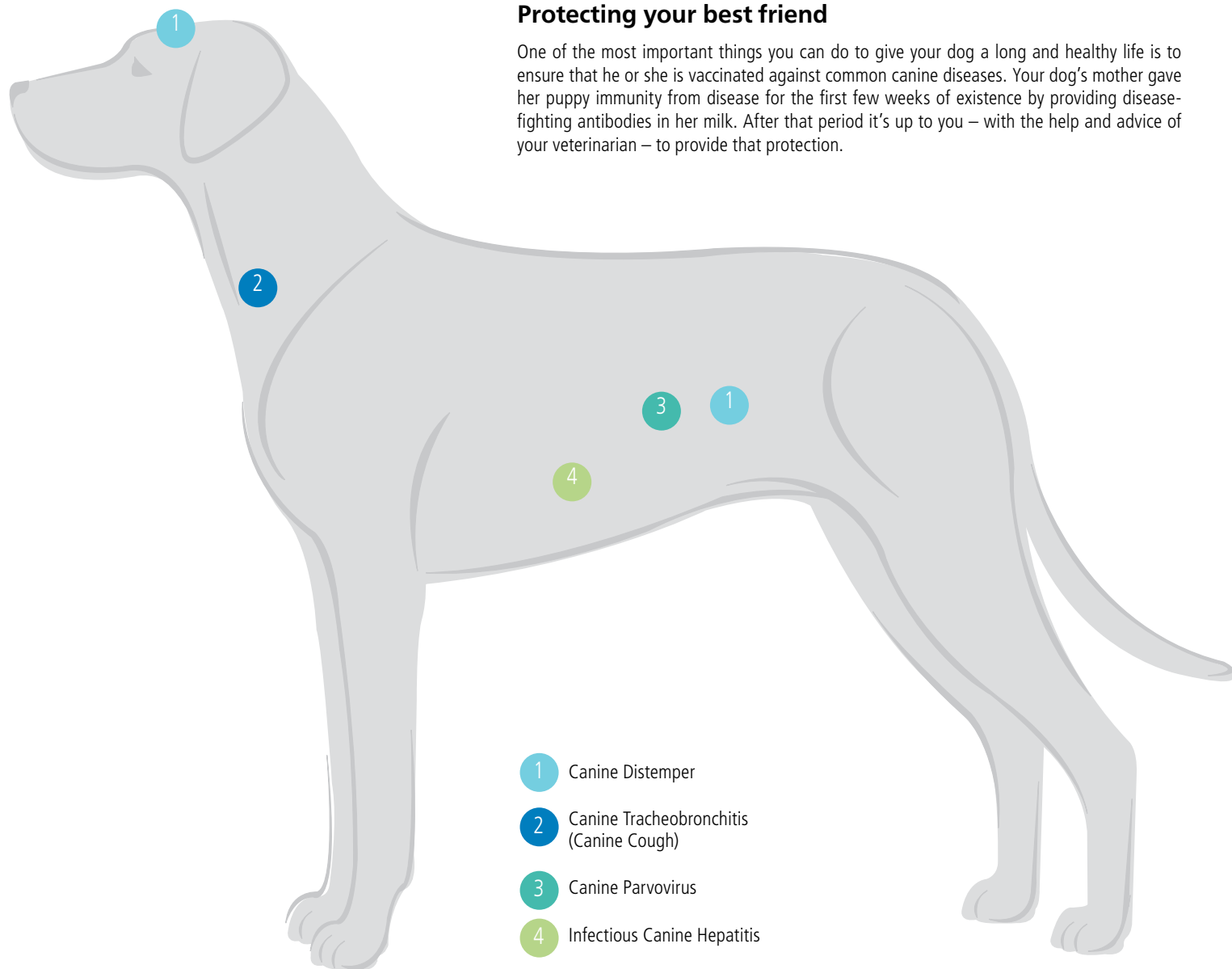


Canine diseases and vaccination



Protecting your best friend

One of the most important things you can do to give your dog a long and healthy life is to ensure that he or she is vaccinated against common canine diseases. Your dog's mother gave her puppy immunity from disease for the first few weeks of existence by providing disease-fighting antibodies in her milk. After that period it's up to you – with the help and advice of your veterinarian – to provide that protection.

- 1 Canine Distemper
- 2 Canine Tracheobronchitis (Canine Cough)
- 3 Canine Parvovirus
- 4 Infectious Canine Hepatitis

When should my dog be vaccinated?

The immunity that a puppy gains from its mother's milk begins to diminish sometime after 6 weeks of age. It is then time to begin the initial vaccinations, usually a course of 2 or 3 injections given 3 to 4 weeks apart. Thereafter, your dog will require repeat vaccination at regular intervals for the rest of his or her life. As vaccines vary in the duration of immunity they provide, above all, follow the vaccination schedule recommended by your veterinarian.

Which vaccinations should my dog receive?

Most veterinarians believe that your pet should be protected against those diseases which are most common, highly contagious and which cause serious illness. Such diseases could include Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Canine Parvovirus and Canine Tracheobronchitis (Canine Cough). Other vaccinations may be recommended, based on your veterinarian's evaluation of the risks posed by such factors as your dog's environment and lifestyle.

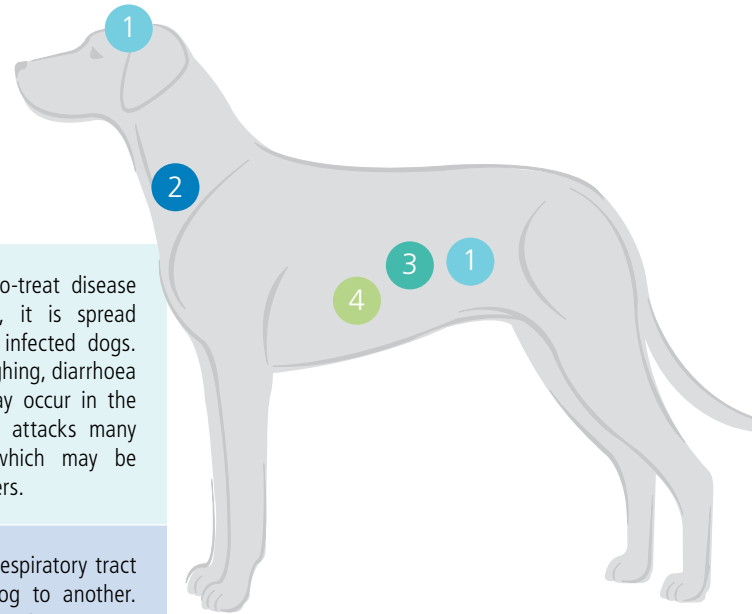


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How do vaccines work?

Vaccines contain small quantities of modified live or killed viruses, bacteria and/or other disease-causing organisms. When administered, they stimulate your dog's immune system to produce disease-fighting cells and proteins called antibodies to protect against disease.

1 CANINE DISTEMPER	Vaccination against this often fatal, hard-to-treat disease is absolutely essential. Highly contagious, it is spread by discharges from the nose and eyes of infected dogs. Symptoms can include listlessness, fever, coughing, diarrhoea and vomiting; convulsions and paralysis may occur in the disease's final stages. The distemper virus attacks many organs, including the nervous system, which may be permanently damaged, even if the dog recovers.
2 CANINE TRACHEBRONCHITIS (CANINE COUGH)	Just as with the human common cold, this respiratory tract infection is easily transmitted from one dog to another. Vaccination is imperative if your pet will come into contact with many other dogs in such situations as obedience training or boarding at a kennel. It is caused by various airborne bacteria and viruses, including Canine Parainfluenza virus, Canine Adenovirus Type 2 and <i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i> , you'll first notice its onset by your dog's dry, hacking cough.
3 CANINE PARVOVIRUS	Very contagious, debilitating and widespread, the disease caused by this virus emerged in many parts of the world in 1978. Spread through infected faeces, the highly resistant virus can remain in the environment for more than a year. Symptoms include fever, listlessness, vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. Vaccination is the only certain method of preventing this potentially fatal disease, which is most severe in young pups and elderly dogs.
4 INFECTIOUS CANINE HEPATITIS	Caused by Canine Adenovirus Type 1, this disease is transmitted among dogs by contact with secretions, such as saliva, infected urine or faeces. Its symptoms are similar to those of the early stages of distemper. Causing liver failure, eye damage and breathing problems, the course of this disease can range from mild to fatal. Vaccination remains the best protection.



How effective is vaccination?

Like any drug treatment or surgical procedure, vaccinations cannot be 100% guaranteed. However, used in conjunction with proper nutrition and a clean environment, vaccination is clearly your pet's best defence against disease. Plus, when you consider what treating a serious illness can cost you and your beloved dog in terms of both money and distress, prevention through vaccination is extremely cost-effective.

Other vaccinations

After evaluating your dog's particular situation and risk factors, your veterinarian may also recommend vaccination against other infectious diseases. These might include:

LEPTOSPIROSIS, is a bacterial disease in some geographical areas, of which certain strains can damage the kidneys and liver.

