



Health and Vaccination Protocol for Puppies to attend classes

DISCLAIMER: We are not veterinarians. Please consult your veterinarian and follow their advice. This information has been assembled because recommendations vary from one veterinarian to another and we found it confusing. This document explains the protocol that Pooch Pawsitive follows and what is required for your puppy to attend Puppy Classes, Puppy Socials, Puppy Preschool and Dog Daycare at our Center. We have determined this protocol after consultation with professionals in the veterinarian field. If you are not sure about any of this, please discuss this with your veterinarian.

What is required to attend Puppy classes?

Pooch Pawsitive requires that your puppy have received at least one DHPP/DA2P shot and proof (from your vet) of a negative fecal (poop) test that screens for Giardia and Coccidia.

It is also recommended that your pup receive the Bordatella vaccine at least 3 days prior to attending any classes. Pups can be as young as 9 weeks to start classes as long as they have received their first shot and have a negative fecal test.

If your dog is older than 6 months of age, the Rabies vaccine is also required in addition to the above negative fecal and DHPP/DA2P vaccine.

We recommend that you bring your new puppy to the veterinarian during his first week at home to ensure a clean bill of health from wherever you adopted your pup (breeder or rescue). Bring a poop sample, and discuss your veterinarian's vaccination protocol.

What if my veterinarian instructs me to wait until my puppy has had ALL his shots?

We recommend that you and your veterinarian read the Position Paper about Puppy Socialization from the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviorists. The article recommends that puppies get started on their vaccination series but also get started with socialization as early as 7-8 weeks of age.

You can download the article here <https://avsab.org/resources/position-statements/>



The following is a discussion of the various vaccines and rationale for our protocol.

Core Vaccinations

It is our understanding that the following vaccinations are considered “Core” and given to all puppies: DHPP/DA2P (Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Parvo, Parainfluenza) and Rabies.

DHPP/DA2P vaccinations are generally given 3 times, once per month starting when the puppy is about 7-8 weeks old. Prior to this time, puppies generally have immunity from their mother. Some veterinarians recommend a booster at one year of age.

Your puppy must have had at least ONE DHPP/DA2P shot to attend classes at Pooch Pawsitive.

The other Core vaccine is **Rabies**. This is required by law and must be given before the pup is six months old. Rabies vaccinations are not required for pups under 6 months of age to attend classes. Dogs over 6 months of age must have proof of Rabies vaccination. Discuss with your veterinarian at what age your puppy should receive the Rabies vaccine.

Non-Core Vaccinations

These vaccinations are not “required.” These vaccinations are given depending upon your dog’s lifestyle and activities (i.e. you live in the woods where there is wildlife (deer, ticks etc.) or plan to go swimming in ponds, or plan to go to dog parks or dog classes. You should discuss with your veterinarian whether you need these vaccines or if they are optional in your case.

Kennel Cough (**Bordatella**) – This vaccine is generally recommended if you plan to go to public dog parks, dog daycare or dog classes. Like the flu, there are new strains every year and it does not guarantee that your dog will not get kennel cough. Kennel cough is spread through air and surfaces. It tends to be more prevalent as the weather gets nicer and you and your dogs are outside more.

There are generally three types of Bordatella vaccines: intranasal, injection or oral. We have heard that the “Bordatella Modified Live Intranasal” vaccine is more effective, however, because it is a modified live virus vaccine, that means that the modified live virus can shed in the environment. For this reason, **if you choose to receive the Bordatella modified live intranasal vaccine, you must wait 72 hours (3 days) before you attend a puppy class at Pooch Pawsitive.** We don’t want the virus to shed in our classroom and have it spread to other pups.

The second and third types of Bordatella vaccine is a killed virus via injection or given orally. If you receive the Bordatella vaccine by injection, you could receive two injections spaced 2-3 weeks apart and should wait a week (after the first injection) to attend classes before that vaccine begins to offer protection. If you choose the Bordatella vaccine orally, it is usually given in one dose and is effective in 2 days.



Lepto vaccine is a non-core vaccine and is generally recommended if your dog will be swimming in lakes or in areas where there is wildlife. Lepto is spread through bacteria and in the urine of wildlife. You should discuss with your veterinarian whether your dog will need this vaccination based on your lifestyle.

Lyme vaccine is a non-core vaccine and generally recommended if your dog will be in an environment where there are ticks. You should discuss with your veterinarian whether your dog will need this vaccination based on your lifestyle.

Canine Influenza vaccine is a non-core vaccine and is recommended if your dog is in an area prone to this flu. You should discuss with your veterinarian if your dog will need this vaccination based on your lifestyle.

What if your puppy has Giardia or Coccidia?

Giardia is not uncommon and is generally treatable. It is spread through poop and water. We have heard that Giardia is in the water supply in the southern part of the United States so it is not uncommon for pups coming from that area to have Giardia. **Please bring a poop sample from your pup in to your vet at your first visit and ask that they screen for Giardia and Coccidia.**

If your dog tests positive, then the protocol that we recommend is that your pup be treated by your veterinarian (usually 3 – 10 days of medication). Once your pup has finished medication, AND If your pup does not have diarrhea, please give your pup a bath (to get rid of any Giardia cysts that might still be hanging around the anus area). Then you are ok to come to puppy class. **Please bring proof of treatment.**

If you have finished medication AND your pup still has diarrhea, then you should have the poop retested by your veterinarian.

The Pooch Pawsitive protocol for Coccidia is the same as Giardia: Finish treatment AND pup has no diarrhea, then please give your pup a bath and then your pup can attend classes.

What if your puppy has Kennel Cough?

If your pup gets Kennel Cough and is coughing, then he is still contagious. Please do not bring your pup to classes, Puppy Socials, Puppy Preschool or Dog Daycare. You should keep your pup home until your pup is no longer coughing, which usually happens by the time the antibiotics are gone. This could be a week or two depending upon the medication used. Please talk to your veterinarian.

If you have any questions about vaccinations and other medical issues, please consult with your veterinarian. If you have questions about Pooch Pawsitive protocols or policies, please call us at 401-714-5652. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun place for you and your puppy to learn, grow, socialize and play.