



## VACCINATION POLICY

Our Vaccination Policy was developed many years ago to protect all pets in our care. While Rabies is a state law, the others are our choice. We consulted our own veterinarian, other local vets, vets at two pharmaceutical companies (re: Bordetella Vaccines) as well as other boarding facilities. We wanted to be as informed as possible so that we can offer the best possible protection and minimize exposure to your pet.

These requirements are important in a communal environment. Your pet lives in a closed environment, even when walking around your neighborhood. It is a set area that their body is used to. They are around the same neighborhood pets day in and out. When they enter a communal setting, kennel, dog show, training, park, pet store, or veterinarian's office, there is a possible increase for cross contamination as other pets are coming in from different areas and exposures. The best analogy for this would be when you take your children to day care or school. This sharing of air and environment creates the need to protect. This is done through vaccines, daily sanitizing and cleaning regimens, as well as fresh air exchange. By following those practices, we can provide the best possible environment for your pet to have a healthy and safe stay. Nothing is 100%, but we feel this is the best that we can do to minimize the risk.

We hope that you will appreciate how much concern and care we put into our decisions regarding these policies. It is in your pet's best interest that we adhere to them. We do not make exceptions to accommodate someone who has not prepared what is needed for their pet — it will put the pets that do comply at potential risk. Something we do not want.

### **ALL SHOTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE DONE 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL**

#### **WE CANNOT MAKE EXCEPTIONS.**

This is based on Veterinary recommendations including our own vet as well as industry standards. It is based on potential immunity responses to having shots done. Your pet's body needs to recoup from their vaccination before going into a multi pet situation.

### **RABIES (1 or 3 years) REQUIRED BY STATE LAW**

A valid rabies certificate must be on file. This is the actual document that is on file in your vet's office that contains the name, age, weight and description of your pet, as well as the manufacturer, serial number, and expiration date of the vaccination. We also require this document to be signed by your veterinarian.

### **DISTEMPER (1 or 3 years)**

A shot record showing the date given or due and time effective will suffice.

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## **BORDETELLA (6 months)**

Is required to be within 6 months of the stay. In a multi-dog setting, vaccination every 6 months provides greater coverage. We adopted 6 months because it offers the optimum amount of protection available. It does not matter what type is done — we do need to know when it was given, not when it is due. A receipt will cover this, or a vaccination record showing the date given.

### **INTRANASAL / ORAL**

These are “modified live” vaccines that are sprayed into your pet’s nose or mouth. A 2009 study indicates that the intranasal, a virulent Live Culture, is “significantly more effective at inducing protection against challenge with virulent organisms than is subcutaneous vaccination with an antigen extract vaccine.” Any vaccine of this type has a possible risk of “post vaccinal reactions consisting of mild canine kennel cough syndrome.” If you are able to get the bi-variant or tri-variant that would include Parainfluenza and Adenovirus — those give the greatest protection.

### **SUBCUTANEOUS (injectable)**

Given by syringe subcutaneously. It is an antigen extract vaccine, created from killed virus. Initial application is 2 doses administered 2 – 4 weeks apart. One manufacturer lists it as a 1 year although they suggest 6-month intervals to increase protection in communal environments. Craig Greene’s *Infectious Diseases of the Dog and Cat* states, “most animals were protected against infection by 4 to 14 days after vaccination.”

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## **NOT REQUIRED CANINE INFLUENZA**

WE DO NOT REQUIRE. We recommend you follow your vet’s advice. Vets in the area are still divided in their opinions on this inoculation. Should this change, we will reevaluate.