

# What should I vaccinate my dog for?

## Vaccines can prevent a number of serious or life threatening diseases. Some of them are even required by law.

Vaccines are divided into two categories based on importance.

**Core Vaccines:** These vaccines are considered the most important to the maintenance of your pet's health and well-being. Core vaccines at Glanbrook Veterinary Services include Rabies and Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvovirus/Parainfluenza. These diseases are too common to risk your dog's health, for lack of a vaccine.

**Non-core Vaccines:** These are vaccines that may or may not be necessary depending on your pet's lifestyle. Non-core vaccines at Glanbrook Veterinary Services include Bordetella, Lyme, and Lepto.

## “What Should I Vaccinate my dog for?”

1. **Canine Distemper Virus** – a very contagious virus that can affect your dog and other wildlife species, including raccoons. There is no known cure for distemper and its mortality rate is approximately 50%. Distemper virus affects most of your dog's organ systems, including the gastrointestinal and respiratory systems, the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms can include lethargy, fever, coughing and nasal discharge, vomiting and diarrhea, and neurological symptoms. Distemper is a core vaccine and is administered every two years at Glanbrook.
2. **Rabies** – Rabies is a viral disease that causes acute inflammation in the brain. It is also zoonotic, meaning that it can be passed to humans. Rabies is spread by an infected animal scratching or biting your pet. Saliva from an infected animal can transmit rabies by coming into contact with the mouth, nose, or eyes. Bat bites are the most common source of rabies infections in humans, and less than 5% of cases are from dogs. The Rabies vaccine at Glanbrook Veterinary Services is administered every two years.
3. **Bordetella** – Bordetella bronchiseptica is a bacterium which is the most common cause of “Kennel Cough”, or canine infectious tracheobronchitis. Dogs at risk for contracting Bordetella are dogs that frequent dog parks, boarding facilities, or grooming parlours. Bordetella is highly contagious and causes symptoms including productive coughing, lethargy, fever, and inappetance.
4. **Leptospirosis** – Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease which can affect many different animals, including dogs. It is also a zoonotic disease, which means it can be spread from animals to humans. The bacteria survive especially well in warm, humid areas, and are often found in stagnant water. Wild animals can carry the bacteria responsible for Leptospirosis. Therefore, dogs with a higher potential for exposure to contaminated water and wild animals and their urine are at a greater risk (e.g., living in rural areas, hunting dogs).
5. **Lyme** – Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria called Borrelia burgdorferi, which is carried by the deer tick (Ixodes Scapularis). A bite from a tick is all that is needed to transmit this disease to your dog. This is also a zoonotic disease as it can affect both dogs and people. Symptoms of Lyme Disease include fever, lethargy, joint pain/lameness, and ultimately kidney disease.

