

Why Vaccines Are Not One-Size-Fits-All

When clients call and want to know how much their dog's wellness visit will cost, or when they say, "I only want the necessary vaccines," what should you tell them?

You can start by making sure they know there's no one vaccine protocol that suits every dog—or every family. The *2022 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines* designate some vaccines as core—meaning every dog should have them—but other vaccines may be just as essential for a specific dog's health, depending on a variety of factors. The guidelines help your veterinarian determine the best protocol to keep you AND your pet healthy and happy!

During a client's visit, you and the rest of the veterinary team ask questions that help the veterinarian make a personalized recommendation about which vaccines are "core" for the dog in front of them, meaning the vaccines that are essential for that dog's health and wellbeing.

When clients ask, you can talk to them about some of the factors that go into a personalized recommendation:

Geography

Some diseases are spreading to areas we haven't seen them commonly before. Other diseases such as canine influenza can have unpredictable outbreaks anywhere.

Genetics

Some dogs may be more prone to certain vaccine reactions. Being aware of this increased risk can help your veterinarian recommend modifications to the protocol to ensure your pet can still get the protection they need.

Physical Factors

Not all dogs are created equal! Factors such as a dog's size, current health state, or current diseases can impact your personalized recommendation.

Lifestyle

Your dog's lifestyle has a big impact on their disease risk factors. Avid hikers? Frequent travelers? Doggie daycare? These are just some of the questions that can affect the recommended protocol.

Local Laws

Some jurisdictions have specific requirements for vaccinations such as rabies. Your veterinarian is your best resource for knowing what is required in your area.

