

# Why Vaccines Are Not One-Size-Fits-All

AAHA's Canine Vaccination Guidelines tell you exactly what vaccines your pet needs, right? Well, not quite. While the Guidelines designate some vaccines as core—meaning, every dog should have them—several other vaccines may be just as essential for your pet'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 your visit, the veterinary team asks a variety of questions that help them develop a personalized set of vaccine recommendations that are core for your dog.

**Here are some of the factors that go into a personalized recommendation:**

## Geography

**Some diseases, such as leptospirosis, are spreading to areas we haven't seen it 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 recommendations for vaccinations** such as rabies. Your veterinarian is your best resource for knowing what is required in your area.

