



Non-core vaccines are recommended only for those dogs whose life-styles or living situations place them at risk for the disease in question.

For dogs, non-core vaccines include bordetella, leptospirosis, and rattlesnake.

Bordetella: protects against kennel cough. Bronchiseptica is a bacterium commonly associated with respiratory disease in dogs. Dogs exposed to high-population situations such as daycare, shelters, breeding facilities, boarding or the show circuit are at risk. These environments can increase stress and exposure to disease.

Leptospirosis: is a serious bacterial disease of mammals such as dogs and humans. Diagnosis of lepto can be difficult and if left untreated, death may occur. Lepto bacteria can be harbored in the bodies of wildlife, rodents and livestock and are shed in the urine of infected animals. Any surface water contaminated by this urine represents a source of infection for your pet. Increased rainfall may elevate your pet's risk of contracting leptospirosis.

Rattlesnake: If your dog lives, plays, or accompanies you on hikes where rattlesnakes live, you may have heard and wondered about the rattlesnake vaccine. The vaccine generates protective antibodies against the rattlesnake venom, which neutralizes the venom itself. Dogs are reported to experience less pain and have a reduced risk of permanent injury from the bites when properly vaccinated. While the vaccine may reduce signs if the dog is bitten, immediate veterinary care is critical.

Bordetella and leptospirosis: vaccines can be given at 8 weeks of age or older. Rattlesnake vaccine can be given at 4 months of age or older. All of these vaccines need to be boosted yearly. You should consult with your veterinarian concerning the proper vaccination interval.