



**Shamrock Dog Grooming, Dog Waste
Removal & Black Jack's Dog Day Care**

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Daycare Vaccinations

*Please submit with the completed Application, and
a copy of your pet's vaccination records.*

Vaccinations have been a topic of contention for the past decade in the dog world. For years, pet owners have been bombarded with propaganda telling that vaccinations make your pet safer. However, recent studies have shown that this might not be the case. In fact, over-vaccination might be just as risky as not being protected.

Black Jack Dog Daycare cares about keeping your pet healthy, and we make it our top priority, both while they are here in our facility and even when they go home for the day. To this end, we have molded our vaccination policy to reflect current concerns about vaccination, with the goal of keeping your pet as healthy as possible.

Vaccination Requirements:

To attend daycare, your dog must be vaccinated against Rabies, per Massachusetts State Regulation. Beyond this we require your pet to be current on the protocol prescribed by your vet. This could include deciding not to vaccinate beyond Rabies, or an annual Titer test to determine what is needed for your pet's system.

Other vaccinations, referred to as non-core vaccinations, that might be recommended by your vet are ones like;

Bordetella (or Kennel Cough) Kennel cough is actually caused by a viral infection, much as a cold. Dogs who are vaccinated against kennel cough (bordetella) can still get kennel cough. **We do not accept dogs at Black Jacks Dog Daycare who are exhibiting symptoms of kennel cough.**

Leptospirosis; Dogs have the potential for exposure to Lepto contamination through water and wild animals (specifically their urine). It is most commonly found in tropical climates or flood areas. The duration of the immunity typically conveyed by the lept vaccine is generally less than one year, so to convey optimal protection from this disease, it must be given at least twice a year, every year. The vaccine used must contain all four strains of the disease that are available to vaccine makes, because the strains do not provide cross -protection. And where it is more common, there have been recent reports of new strains emerging, for which there are no vaccines yet. All of this suggests that administering the vaccine would benefit only those dogs living in an area with a current high rate of infection - and only if they are properly vaccinated at frequent intervals with all the available strains.

Distemper; Due to its potentially fatal results, distemper vaccine is considered a core vaccination by most vet experts. They recommend that puppies should be vaccinated against distemper at 12 weeks of age. Typical vaccination protocol calls for annual boosters of Distemper to ensure immunity. However recent studies have suggested that most dogs are immune for three to six years after their initial vaccination. Instead of going with annual vaccination protocol for distemper, instead opt for a their test to determine your dog's levels of immunity still present.

Since we understand that not everyone is an expert in dog vaccines, we've put together a list of five top vaccines to go by when discussing a vaccination protocol with your vet.

Acknowledge the benefits and risk of vaccines.

As we have mentioned, over vaccination in some cases can be just as risky as not vaccinating. To evaluate the risks and benefits, consider the need for a vaccine each time it is due. Vaccines should not be routine. Understand that even the core vaccines may not be appropriate for a specific dog, at a specific time. Factors such as the age of the dog should be taken into consideration.

Team up with your vet

A discussion with your veterinarian will help you make the best decisions. They will know the diseases present in your area, your dog's overall health, genetic factors, and more. You may want to ask your vet...

- What vaccines do you recommend and why?
- Are there disease risks that are unique to my area?
- What are the possible side effects of each vaccine?

What is Kennel Cough (Bordatella)?

Kennel cough is actually caused by a viral infection, much as is a cold. Dogs who are vaccinated against Kennel Cough, can still get kennel cough. Bordatella is only one of the 40+ known strains of kennel cough. It is an airborne illness that a dog can pick up by being in close contact with an infected dog; at dog shows, kennels, dog parks, vet clinics, training classes, day care, walking down a street, or pet stores. Much like your work or school environment doesn't have to be dirty for you to catch a cold, even the newest, cleanest environments can be a host for kennel cough. One local pet industry insider told us, "Where there's more than one dog, there could be kennel cough, it's like the common cold" .

Kennel cough often sounds worse than it truly is. It usually presents as a dry, hacking, coarse cough, retching and and gagging. It often sounds like your dog has got something caught in the back of his throat and is trying to cough it up. Many owners mistakenly think their dog has a bone caught in his throat. They will also cough up some white frothy material.

While we hate to see anything slightly wrong with one of our dogs, it is important to not get to panicky. Much like the common cold in humans, kennel cough normally runs its course and just goes away.

Because it is impossible to know what dog has or has not been infected by kennel cough, extra care should be exercised when out in populated dog friendly places. Try to limit any physical interaction with a dog or dogs, you don't know. For the next few weeks, keep an eye on your pet anytime you have gone into a store, to a dog show, to the dog park, or ever your veterinarians office. Keep an ear, especially, for any coughing from your pup.

We at Black Jacks Dog Daycare, have traditionally practiced stringent sanitary and disinfectant measures. Bleach and kennel disinfectant is used throughout the facility in large quantities.

Water bowls are cleaned and soaked in a bleach/ water solution after dog drinks. Doggy messes are picked or sopped up and the soiled area wiped with a household disinfectant. The Dog Daycare floor is mopped with a kennel disinfectant solution nightly.

If you should hear a cough or hack from you dog, don't panic- just call your vet for advice. Treatments run the gamut from giving some cough medicine tot he dog all the way to x-rays and antibiotics.

If your dog sounds like he/she has a cough, please keep them home.

As much as we will miss caring for your pet, the dog needs some extra quiet and rest time to fully recover, and keeping him/her home will help cut the infection chain. Once fully recovered, **at least 3 days cough free.** bring them in to play with all their friends.

I certify I have read and understand the **Vaccination Policy's** of Black Jacks Dog Daycare set forth on the preceding pages and I read and understand the conditions and statements of this agreement.

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Owner's Name (Please Print) _____