



# Dog Vaccinations

Here at Hitchin Veterinary Surgery we vaccinate against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus (known as DHP) and Leptospirosis. Vaccines are recommended by our surgery to prevent serious and sometimes life-threatening conditions. All of the above as described as 'core vaccines' which is described as one that all dogs should have regardless of individual circumstances, and that they can protect animals from severe, life threatening diseases. Our vaccination protocol is as follows;

**Kennel cough** vaccines are also recommended to be given alongside the booster however these do not form part of the 'core vaccines'. Kennel cough is a highly contagious airborne disease which can cause respiratory infections, and can be transmitted when dogs come into close or direct contact with one another.

**Distemper** virus can be transmitted by direct contact with an infected dogs' saliva, urine or blood which can cause potentially fatal conditions including seizures and brain damage.

**Hepatitis** is spread via faeces, blood, saliva and nasal discharge from infected animals, and can result in kidney or eye damage. Parvovirus is easily transferred via infected faeces either via direct contact with another dog or via transmission on clothing. It can lead to severe vomiting and diarrhoea and it can often be fatal in young puppies.

**Leptospirosis** is a bacterial infection which is spread via infected urine. Infection generally occurs when dogs are exposed to contaminated soil, water or urine. If infected, it can cause severe damage to the liver and kidneys, and can also affect the heart and eyes potentially leading to organ failure and in fatal cases, death. There are two options for a Leptospirosis vaccination- known as Lepto 2 and Lepto 4. The main difference between the two is the number of strains it protects against. Lepto 2 provides protection against two strains of Leptospirosis: canicola and icterohaemorrhagiae whilst Lepto 4 offers immunity for four strains: canicola, icterohaemorrhagiae, grippotyphosa, and australis. If your dog enjoys swimming in rivers etc. or frequently drinks out of puddles we would recommend opting for the lepto 4 version.