Dog and Puppy Vaccination Schedule

Vaccination is the single most important investment that you can make in your dog’s future good health. The following are diseases for which we routinely vaccinate:

**Canine Distemper Virus:**
Distemper is a severe viral disease that affects many of a dog’s organ systems. This disease can cause severe permanent brain damage and many other clinical problems including vomiting, diarrhea, and severe secondary infections. An airborne virus causes distemper. Treatment for advanced stages of the disease is usually not effective.

**Canine Hepatitis:**
Hepatitis in dogs is caused by the Canine Adenovirus. Infectious hepatitis causes severe liver damage, vomiting, diarrhea and death. Treatment requires intensive nursing care, which includes hospitalization and IV fluids. The virus is spread from dog to dog via coughs and sneezes.

**Canine Kennel Cough:**
Infectious Tracheobronchitis, or “Kennel Cough” can be caused by several viral and bacterial agents, and can be found anywhere dogs frequent. The Bordetella bacterium and the parainfluenza virus are the most common causes of kennel cough. This disease is usually not serious, but can lead to a chronic and persistent cough. Cough suppressants or other supportive therapy can be used to relieve discomfort. Kennel Cough can cause pneumonia and death in severe cases.

**Canine Parvovirus:**
Canine parvovirus or parvo is a highly contagious viral disease infecting dogs. Young and unvaccinated dogs have higher susceptibility to the disease. Parvo causes a very severe gastroenteritis that is highly contagious and can cause severe vomiting and bloody diarrhea. Parvo is spread via direct contact with feces, saliva and environmental contamination. The disease is difficult and expensive to treat and usually fatal without treatment.

**Rabies Virus:**
Rabies is 100% fatal to dogs and other mammals and there is no treatment. Rabies can infect people as well if bitten by an infected animal. Rabies is considered endemic in Arizona and Pima County. You are required by law to have your dog vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A puppy should have its first rabies vaccination at 12 weeks of age.

**Vaccination Schedule:**
Your puppy (younger than 6 months) should begin its series of vaccinations at 6 - 8 weeks of age. The puppy/dog vaccination schedule your pet should follow is:

**DAPP**
Puppies should receive their first vaccination at 6 - 8 weeks, then every 2-3 weeks until adult dentition erupts (~5 months)
Then booster annually

**Rabies Vaccination**
First rabies vaccination at 12 weeks, good for one year
Yearly boosters (with written proof of current vaccination) are good for three years.
You are required by law to have your dog vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian

**Bordetella**
Intra-nasally (both nostrils) every 6 to 12 months depending upon exposure. Check with your veterinarian boarding facility to make sure that you are compliant with their stated policy of vaccination frequency.