

Yolinda Animal Hospital routinely administers four canine core vaccines.

**Bordatella** is a genus of small bacteria, which includes *B. bronchiseptica* – the bacteria responsible for kennel cough (tracheobronchitis) in dogs, and which the vaccine protects against. Kennel cough is a highly contagious canine illness characterized by inflammation of the upper respiratory system. Symptoms include a harsh, dry hacking/coughing, retching, sneezing, gagging or vomiting following excitement or exercise, or in response to the application of light pressure to the trachea. It is spread through the air by infected dogs sneezing or coughing, as well as by contact with contaminated surfaces and through direct contact.

**Corona**, short for canine coronavirus, is a virus that causes a highly contagious intestinal disease in dogs. Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, and anorexia. It is spread *via* the feces of infected dogs.

**DHPP** stands for Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus:

**Distemper** is a serious viral disease. Symptoms include a runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, excessive salivation, coughing and/or labored breathing, loss of appetite and weight loss. The disease can also affect the pet's central nervous system, resulting in a localized involuntary twitching of muscles or groups of muscles and seizures, often distinguished by salivation and jaw movements.

**Hepatitis** in dogs is caused by adenovirus type 1. It is highly contagious, spread by contact with the stool, saliva or urine of infected dogs, and causes lethargy, lack of appetite, fever, discharge from the eyes and nose, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, 'tucked-up' posture, sensitivity to light, tonsillitis, bleeding gums, yellowing of the whites of the eyes, and uncontrolled bleeding. The DHPP vaccine used at Yolinda Animal Hospital protects vaccinated dogs against adenovirus type 1 and 2. Adenovirus type 2 causes a highly infectious respiratory disease, and is spread *via* aerosolized respiratory secretions.

**Parainfluenza** is a respiratory infection in dogs, transmitted by air-borne respiratory secretions, and results in coughing and fever. The virus is typically mild, but secondary bacterial infection may occur and contribute to more serious disease.

**Parvovirus**, generally shortened to parvo, is a virus that causes vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy and immunosuppression. It can affect dogs of any age, but is particularly devastating to puppies, and is spread by contact with an infected dog's feces.

**Rabies** is a virus that causes acute inflammation of the brain. It is particularly dangerous as in contrast to the pathogens above it can affect people as well as animals, and can be transmitted from animals to people, typically by biting. Early symptoms are flu-like; later, paralysis, cerebral disfunction, anxiety, insomnia, confusion, agitation, inability to swallow water, abnormal behaviour and eventually delirium set in. In non-vaccinated humans, rabies is usually fatal unless treated prior to the manifestation of neurological symptoms. Around 55,000 people die of rabies infection every year, mostly in Africa and Asia.

## **Concerned about vaccine reactions? Ask us about vaccine titers!**

Yolinda Animal Hospital understands that some pet owners would only like to vaccinate their pet if they are sure a vaccine is definitely required. Some more advanced "annual" vaccines can result in your pet being protected against a particular disease for more than one year. The elimination of unnecessary vaccination is particularly important for a minority of pets who experience vaccine reactions. Although these reactions are generally not serious, they do make the pet feel uncomfortable. For these reasons, we are offering vaccine titers for all vaccines except rabies. When a vaccine is due, a sample of your pet's blood is taken and the level of antibodies to the particular disease causing agent that a particular vaccine protects against is ascertained. In many cases, your pet will already have sufficient protection against that virus or bacterium and vaccination will not be required. Titters must be done annually.

In the case of rabies, vaccine titers do not directly correlate with protection against the disease because other immunologic factors also play a role in rabies prevention. Requests for deferral of rabies vaccination can be made by application to the Orange County Rabies Control Desk, and are treated on a case-by-case basis.