

Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League

MAGDRL Chapter

Contact Info:

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MAGDRL
P.O. Box 285
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Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League

*TO
VACCINATE....
OR TO TITER
TEST?*



See us online at: www.magdrl.org

An Ounce of Prevention...

We all want our Danes to live long, healthy lives, and vaccination is one of the greatest scientific advancements that helps make this possible. All dogs should be immunized, however each dog is different and more vaccination is not necessarily better. After the initial first-year vaccination series and 3-year rabies vaccinations, booster shots are usually given on an annual schedule.

But should you really get annual boosters? The frequency, timing, vaccine type (killed/live/recombinant), plus the dog's age, weight, breed, environment, health and immunity are all factors to consider when deciding if/when a dog should get boosters. This is because vaccination may stress the immune system, a critical consideration for Great Danes.

Several autoimmune diseases are seen in the breed, hence the Great Dane Club of America (GDCA) is researching diseases including Addison's disease, hemolytic anemia, and thyroiditis. In addition, there are documented cases of a large number of vaccine reactions in Great Danes including onset of immune-mediated arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and immune-mediated skin disease.

Clinical research shows that vaccination for parvo and distemper may protect a dog for 7–9 years or longer. Booster shots are typically scheduled annually, but the calendar is not a valid indicator of whether a booster shot is actually needed. After completing first year vaccinations, Dane owners are advised to have boosters done only when the dog is in good health and if their parvo or distemper antibodies are low.

But how does an owner know if their dog's antibodies are low? One way to determine this is to ask your veterinarian to perform a simple blood test called a vaccine antibody "titer."

What Is A Titer Test?

Titer test results accurately reflect an animal's antibodies for distemper and parvo so the veterinarian knows when vaccination is needed. After your dog has received its first year vaccinations or if your adopted dog is over 1 year of age, discuss

titer testing with your veterinarian. In general, it takes about a week to receive test results unless your veterinarian offers the newer in-office snap-titer test.

After the first titer test, we recommend that instead of annual booster shots, Dane owners have a titer done for distemper and parvo every three years or more often if desired.

In some areas titer testing may cost a little more than parvo/distemper booster shots, but it's only every three years and the benefit to your dog's health can be priceless!

Puppy Vaccination Protocol: Dr. Jean Dodds

2014 Vaccination Protocol

The following vaccine protocol is offered for those dogs where minimal vaccinations are advisable or desirable. The schedule is one Dr. Dodds recommends and should not be interpreted to mean that other protocols recommended by a veterinarian would be less satisfactory. It's a matter of professional judgment and choice.

- ☐ 9–10 Weeks Old: Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (e.g. Merck Nobivac [Intervet Progard] Puppy DPV)
- ☐ 14–16 Weeks: Same as above
- ☐ 20 Weeks or Older (if allowable by law): Rabies
- ☐ 1 Year: Distemper + Parvovirus, MLV (optional = titer)
- ☐ 1 Year after the initial dose: Rabies, killed 3-year product (give 3–4 weeks apart from distemper/parvovirus booster)

From Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM
<http://drjeandoddshealthresource.tumblr.com/>

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Reference No.	Doctor	Client	Pet Name	Received
78900991	BRYN			12/09/97

Species	Breed	Sex	Per. Age	Reported
CHINE	CH	CH	3 Years	12/09/97

TEST PROCEDURE: RESULTS ADULT NORMALS UNITS

PARVOVIRUS VACCINE TITER 31.5

RABIES ANTIBODY TITER SUGGESTS AN ACCURATE VACCINE RESPONSE.

ANTECH Diagnostics FINAL 12/09/97 07:06 AQW 78900991

Hints & Tips

These steps are recommended to minimize the chance that your healthy dog will suffer a reaction from a vaccine:

- ☞ Heartworm preventative should be used year-round and dogs should be tested annually.
- ☞ Beyond initial puppy Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DHPP) shot, never allow your dog to have a 'combo' vaccine.
- ☞ After the first year, single-thread all boosters at least 21–28 days apart.
- ☞ Rabies vaccine is particularly hard on the immune system so never combine rabies with other shots.
- ☞ Immediately alert your veterinarian if your dog becomes lethargic, begins panting, or seems stressed after vaccination.
- ☞ Before vaccinating a sick dog, discuss delaying vaccination with your veterinarian.
- ☞ Vaccines such as bordatella (kennel cough), leptospirosis, lyme disease and others may be given on a situational basis on advice from your veterinarian.

Important Links:

- ☞ Great Dane Health And Welfare Info:
<http://www.chromadane.com/index.php/en/chromalinx/85-great-dane-health-welfare-info>
- ☞ GDCA Study for Autoimmune Diseases
<http://www.gdca.org/health/Study-for-Autoimmune-Diseases.html>
- ☞ Great Dane Lady: Vaccine Reactions In Great Danes
http://www.greatdanelady.com/articles/vaccine_reactions_in_great_danes.htm
- ☞ Dr. Dodds Vaccination Protocol
<http://www.itstheanimals.com/DODDS-CHG-VACC-PROTOCOLS.HTM>