

Vaccination Protocol

POLICY

This policy applies to all APA! staff & volunteers involved in administration of vaccines for the Dog and Cat Programs.

It is the policy of APA! to vaccinate dogs and cats at the following frequency due to high exposure to infectious diseases in the shelter and for herd immunity. This approach helps to control disease outbreak within APA! facilities and overall health and wellbeing of all animals with APA! care.

It is the policy of APA! to not re-vaccinate for FVRCP or DAPP until 2 weeks from previous vaccination has lapsed. FVRCP & DAPP vaccination is not considered past due until 4 weeks after the previous vaccine and starting the series over is not required unless such period has lapsed. An APA! staff veterinarian may request a change in protocol for a particular animal at their discretion.

Feline Vaccinations

1. FVRCP

- a. Starting as at 6 weeks of age, should be administered every 2 weeks until 20 weeks of age or adoption.
- b. Adults 20 weeks and over are given a total of 2 vaccines administered 2 weeks apart.
- c. Kittens living in the nursery start vaccines at 4 weeks of age or 1lb due to exposure.

2. Rabies

- a. Rabies vaccines are to be administered at 12 weeks of age and 3lbs (if age is questionable). No sooner. This is a legal requirement. If vaccinated at a previous location but no certificate was provided, re-vaccinate.

Canine Vaccinations

1. DAPP

- a. Starting at 6 weeks of age, should be administered every 2 weeks until 20 weeks of age or adoption.
- b. Adults 20 weeks or older are given a total of 2 vaccines administered 2 weeks apart.
- c. Puppies living on premises start vaccines at birth due to exposure and are boosted q2 weeks until 20 weeks of age.
- d. Puppies in foster that are not onsite and have been vaccinated before 6 weeks of age do not require boosters q2 weeks. They can restart at 6 weeks of age.

2. **Bordetella** - Administer at 6 weeks of age intranasally. No booster required. Administered yearly.

3. **Rabies** - Rabies vaccines are administered at 12 weeks of age. No sooner. This is a legal requirement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Offsite, clinic, and surgery requirements

- Puppies and kittens MUST be a minimum of 8 weeks old and 2lbs to be eligible for surgery.
- All cats and kittens must have 1 FVRCP vaccine more than 3 days prior to surgery or attending offsite locations. All dogs & puppies must have 1 DAPP vaccine more than 3 days prior to surgery, coming into clinic for appointments, or attending offsite locations.
- Puppies less than 4 months old and having less than 2 DAPP vaccines should NEVER touch the clinic floor. They must be carried/held until on an exam table.

- Vaccines are **never** postponed at APA!