

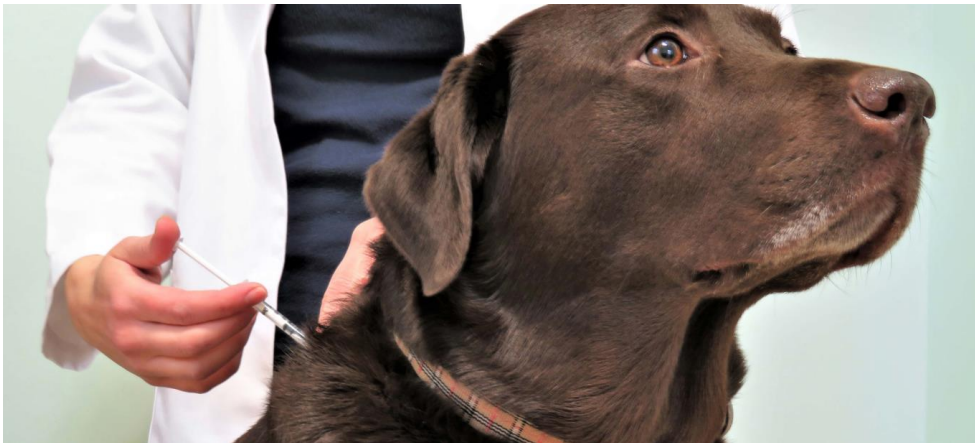
## Dog vaccines during the Covid-19 crisis

### Overview

Vaccinating your dog protects them from nasty, sometimes deadly, diseases such as:

- [Parvovirus](#)
- [Leptospirosis](#)
- [Distemper](#)
- [Infectious hepatitis \(canine adenovirus\)](#)

### Can I have my dog vaccinated during lockdown?



Yearly vaccinations are an important part of keeping our pet dogs healthy and protecting them from diseases such as parvovirus, leptospirosis, distemper and infectious hepatitis (canine adenovirus).

At the moment, the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) have advised that vets across the UK should **only** carry out urgent and essential treatment for pets, and that they need to maintain social distancing to protect their clients, staff, and the NHS. This means that many routine procedures, such as vaccinations, won't be possible at this time, (although this may vary from practice to practice, based on their situation).

While this may put pet dogs at a higher risk of catching certain diseases (if their vaccination protection runs out during lockdown), it will enable vets to prioritise the sickest pets, comply with social distancing guidelines and protect the health of the general public, their staff and the NHS.

### Keeping your unvaccinated puppy safe

- An unvaccinated puppy, or a puppy that has only had their first injection, won't have any protection against [parvovirus](#), [leptospirosis](#), [distemper](#) or [infectious hepatitis \(canine adenovirus\)](#).
- Your puppy is safe to go into your garden as long as no unvaccinated dogs have visited recently and it is secure from foxes.
- Don't let your puppy to go on the ground in public spaces at all until they have completed their vaccination course
- Stay away from areas where there could have been rats, cows, foxes or other unvaccinated dogs, because these present the most risk.
- You can take your puppy out as part of your once daily exercise but make sure you carry them - don't put them down. Be aware that others may see your puppy and be tempted to come over to say hi, but please make sure you maintain a social distance of at least 2 metres for everyone's safety.
- Don't allow your puppy to meet any dogs outside of your household and don't bring any new dogs into your home.
- We have a created a guide to help you to safely socialise you puppy during lockdown.
- If your puppy has missed their second injection, it's likely they will need to restart their vaccination course once restrictions have been lifted, it's best to discuss this with your vet at that time.

## Keeping your unvaccinated dog safe

If your dog has had regular vaccinations throughout their life, they are likely to have some protection covering them for approximately two - three months after the date their vaccine was due. However, once this time has lapsed, they will be at risk of catching some of the diseases we vaccinate against.

- Keep your dog away from others - while normally, it's a great idea for dogs to play together, during lockdown you need to keep them apart. This is for their own protection (because many dogs will have missed their vaccine boosters), and also because there is a possibility that, just like any other surface, dogs can potentially carry the virus on their fur if they are from a home where someone has COVID-19, and could pass it to your dog when they are playing.
- Try to avoid walking in areas where many other dogs have been. Perhaps consider walking on a quiet footpath instead of visiting the local park.
- Avoid places that farm animals and rats live such as farm fields, or ponds, stagnant water and rivers, as there is a higher risk of leptospirosis in these places.
- Try other activities at home to keep your dog entertained while they aren't able to go out for as many walks, for instance try teaching them some new tricks or refresh their obedience training and why not try scatter feeding or using puzzle feeders instead of their normal bowl.

## When can I have my dog vaccinated again?

Veterinary practices will start vaccinating again once lockdown is over and government guidance for social distancing has been lifted. Contact your vet once they are offering a full service to discuss how to get your dog back up to date with their vaccinations.

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