

BOOSTER SHOTS

When we get a dog in who has a solid record of getting his distemper complex and Bordetella shots, we update them if they are out-of-date and we are done with it.

If we get a dog in who has no such record or maybe even a sporadic record, we update and then, if it was updated by a shot, we follow with a booster. I have assumed your vets would be telling you this but maybe not, or you may not have run into it yet.

When a puppy goes to the vet, they get these shots, and then get them again about 3 weeks later. Then they get annual (or in some cases vets are going to every 3 years) thereafter.

If we have a dog who doesn't have records to show that they have been getting their shots, then we have to assume that they didn't get them at all and we bring them up to date. No matter their age, we treat them as puppies with regard to their boosters.

Distemper complex.....one booster 3 weeks after the first Bordetella.

Nasal....if they have the nasal, they don't need the booster; the nasal lasts about 6 months and take effect more quickly.

Shot....if they get the shot, they need a booster in 3 weeks (unless you have records showing that they have been getting it in the past). Then they are good for a year.

Note: My vet alternates between nasal and the shot. My guys got a nasal last spring and they just got the shot the other day. They will get the nasal again at their next 6 month appointment.

Now, not everyone gives Bordetella. I do for multiple reasons:

- Last year, I had two with kennel cough who had come from a boarding vet. My dogs didn't get kennel cough. There is no guarantee that the shot is what protected them, but I want to keep them protected as much as possible while I am fostering.
- While fostering, I may have a need to kennel a dog. It may be a sudden need that I didn't plan for. They need proof of Bordetella to kennel.
- Also, I may bring in a 2nd foster dog straight out of a shelter. If the foster dog isn't protected, the 2nd foster dog could infect the first one. Foster dogs are going through a stressful period and are more susceptible to kennel cough than most dogs.