

Camelot Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Clayton Heathcock & Cheri Hadley
5235 Alhambra Valley Road
Martinez, CA 94553

phone: (925) 229-2944
fax: (925) 229-9063
e-mail: chh@steroid.cchem.berkeley.edu
<http://steroid.cchem.berkeley.edu/Camelot/>

Puppy Health Record (Maestro-Phoebe puppies)

Birthday: August 8, 1998

Worming: September 12, 1998 [5 weeks] (piperazine) (no worms found)
September 19, 1998 [6 weeks] (piperazine) (no worms found)

Vaccinations: September 26, 1998 [7 weeks] (Vanguard 5, DA₂P+CPV, modified live)

Recommendation: We recommend three more vaccinations with a combination vaccine that includes modified live parvovirus, distemper, canine adenovirus-2, and canine parainfluenza at 10, 13, and 16 weeks of age. In addition, your puppy must be vaccinated for rabies after 16 weeks of age (California law). Most veterinarians recommend that puppies be vaccinated against kennel cough (canine infectious tracheobronchitis, caused by *Bordetella bronchiseptica*). Kennel cough is not a very serious disease, being somewhat akin to a bad cold. However, it is highly contagious and the vaccination is simple and does not seem to have associated side reactions, so it is probably a good idea. Most kennels require bordetella vaccination before they will accept a dog.

Until recently, it was common practice to vaccinate also against leptospirosis and canine coronavirus. The UC Davis Veterinary School has recently informed veterinarians that coronavirus has been eliminated in the Western United States. The commercial leptospirosis vaccine only provides protection against one or two strains of the virus, and these have also been eliminated.

There is a growing concern that we are overstimulating the immune systems of puppies by challenging them with so many different antigens in the same short period of time. With our own dogs, we do not vaccinate for leptospirosis or coronavirus. Our reasons for omitting these two vaccinations, which are still recommended by some vets are:

1. These pathogens are rare and apparently not present in the Western United States.
2. Although leptospirosis and coronavirus infections can be fairly serious, they are not often life-threatening, as is the case with parvo and distemper.
3. There is strong evidence that most allergic responses to vaccination are caused by the leptospirosis component.

Boosters: It is recommended that your dog have boosters for parvovirus, distemper, canine adenovirus-2, canine parainfluenza, and rabies at 16 months of age and every three years thereafter (this is the schedule of DHPP vaccinations recommended by the UC Davis and Colorado State Veterinary Schools; the rabies schedule is mandated by state law).

Heartworm Medication: We recommend that you ask your vet to prescribe heartworm medication for your puppy. We use the monthly Heartgard treatment for our own dogs and have had good luck with that. A related product, named Interceptor, is also available. These medications are both based on the drug ivermectin, which also protects against roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.