



Why not just vaccinate?

Everyone agrees that it's bad medicine to administer a drug unnecessarily, and vaccines are "biological drugs"; they should only be used when they'll benefit the health of the pet.

Vaccination is a medical procedure and is not without inherent risk. The risk of an adverse reaction to vaccination is rare, but can have serious consequences for your pet, especially if not detected and treated early.

What about other vaccines besides Parvovirus and Distemper?

Canine Distemper and Parvovirus are the two most important infectious diseases of dogs today. It is rare for a dog to respond to CDV and CPV following vaccination and not also respond to the Adenovirus portion of the vaccine, and thus be protected from infectious canine hepatitis (an uncommon disease in North America).

Rabies vaccination is controlled by law and the vaccine is known to be effective for three years.

Leptospira, *Bordetella*, and *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme) are considered non-core vaccines for at-risk dogs. Most of these vaccines do not have a long duration of immunity, so doing a titer test for these may not be helpful.

Vaccinations for these diseases should be given at least annually if a dog is determined to be at risk.

Reference

Schultz R, Ford RB, Olsen J, Scott F. Titer Testing and Vaccination: A New Look at Traditional Practices - A Roundtable Discussion. *Veterinary Medicine* 97 (2); 2002.

Canine Titer Testing...

What YOU need to Know



11011 Via Frontera · San Diego, CA 92127 · 800-228-4305
www.synbiotics.com



A *titer* (tíe-ter) is a method for measuring antibodies - the body's defense against infection. Titers may be used to measure protection from disease.



Why is Titer Testing important?

If your dog's titer level is low, he or she may be susceptible to infection. Dogs with low titer levels should benefit from vaccination.

If your dog's titer level is high, vaccination should not be expected to boost immunity and would not be recommended.



What if my dog's titer is low?

If a titer level is determined to be inadequate, vaccination may be indicated for one or more vaccine components and may provide additional levels of protection against disease.

What if my dog's titer is adequate?

If the antibody level is sufficiently high, vaccination at this time would not be expected to boost your pet's immunity.



Can I expect my dog to maintain its titer for a year?

We often talk about a titer as a snapshot in time. As it turns out, it's more like a motion picture that plays on and on. A titer level that is sufficiently high has the same capacity for 'maintaining' regardless of whether the vaccine is given.

Checking your pet's titer on an annual basis allows you and your veterinarian to be sure of its antibody status – something that vaccines alone cannot offer.



Ask your veterinarian for more information about titer testing.