

Vaccine Protocol in the Algarve

Recommended start of vaccine program to be between 6 and 8 weeks--
-----8 weeks preferred

8 Weeks-----Parvovirus

11 weeks-----Parvo/ Distemper/Lepto

14 weeks-----Parvo/Distemper/Lepto

14 weeks and three days-----Only now is puppy safe to go out with feet on the ground. The parvo virus remains in dog 'poo' for over a year, so can be contacted via the dogs paws. In Portugal (as throughout Europe) there are a lot of street dogs who will be unvaccinated.

16 weeks-----Rabies

If kennelling a dog it is recommended to vaccinate for Kennel Cough--- and most kennels will insist on it. Check with Vet and Manufacturer as some are only valid for six months. Equally, if kennelling, the Kennels will insist on checking the vaccine card and are most likely to refuse to kennel a dog with 'out of date', vaccines. Ie 'out of date' under their views, the yearly boosters.

When puppy is 12 months old a booster is necessary. Legally the rabies MUST be given annually.

Thereafter it is entirely dependant on the view of owners. We advise intensive research of web sites of the particular drug manufacturer as they do differ. Some vaccines are valid for three years, some not. Make a decision on information received. Why booster if the vaccine is valid for three years. However, certain parts of the vaccine may only have a short span, ie Parvo and lepto, it is possible to have these done separately. It is possible to titre test to check the levels of immunity,

obviously if the immunity remains high it makes no sense to continue vaccinating. Again check with the web pages, it used to be understood that a regularly vaccinated dog would have full immunity at 6 years old to last their life. Titres testing would confirm this.

Puppy parties:- It is felt in the UK and here that as long as these are held indoors at the Vets the puppies are under no more health threat than they would be during a normal Vet visit. Again it is up to the individual.

In closing, all of this is an individual choice, the same here as in the UK. It is best to research it in depth and then make a decision, no one can make the decision or advise, it has to be an informed decision.

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