



FOREVER HOME GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS



PROUDLY SERVING THE ENTIRE NORTHEAST REGION!

LYME DISEASE VACCINATION INFORMATION

We realize there are now 2 types of vaccines available but the RECOMBINATE DNA variety produced by MERIAL called RECOMBITEK is really no better for GREYHOUNDS than the now passe FORT DODGE KILLED variety .

There are two types of vaccine available: the killed whole spirochete vaccine (Fort Dodge's vaccine) where basically intact dead spirochetes are injected into the host. By using the entire spirochete, the host is exposed to parts of the organism that are not useful in immunization and may lead to vaccine reaction. The other type of vaccine is felt to be superior in preventive reactions and that is the recombinant vaccine (Merial's vaccine). This is the type of vaccine available for humans (as well as dogs). This vaccine generates antibodies specifically against OspA, the surface protein the spirochete uses to attach to its tick host. When the tick bites and sucks blood full of Anti-OspA antibodies, the spirochete's migration sequence is blocked and the spirochete is prevented from even exiting the tick. The vaccine utilizes DNA for OspA cloned into a harmless virus so that the entire Lyme spirochete is not used; only the OspA DNA is used.

Vaccination against the Lyme organism remains controversial

Argument Against Vaccination

Lyme disease in the dog is an infection for which over 90% of infected dogs will never get sick and the 5-10% that do get sick can be easily treated with a safe inexpensive course of antibiotics. This situation would seem to indicate that vaccination is simply not worth the expense.

As for the kidney disease that can occur in some individuals with long term antigen exposure: we do not know what Borrelia antigens are involved in the immune stimulation that causes this condition. It might be that the same antigens used in the vaccines are involved in which case vaccination might be just as hazardous as actual infection. Even OspA, the same antigen of the recombinant vaccine, has been implicated in chronic human disease.