

Dropping a dog at a boarding or daycare facility should feel like leaving a trusted friend with someone who knows what to do. One of the single most important pieces of that trust is clear, current vaccination documentation. Boarding facilities in Round Rock and the greater Austin area are responsible for protecting dozens of animals at once, so they enforce vaccination and health policies strictly. Showing up with tidy, legible records speeds check-in, reduces stress for your dog, and lowers the chance [dog boarding round rock](#) of being turned away at the door.

Why this matters A single unvaccinated dog can expose an entire group to kennel cough, parvovirus, or other preventable illnesses. Facilities operate under local regulations and their own insurance requirements. They must be certain your dog is protected, or they risk outbreaks and potential liability. For you, clean documentation avoids last-minute scramble, unexpected holds, or having to reschedule travel.

What facilities typically require Most boarding operations ask for a core set of vaccinations plus a recent health check. Expect to be asked for proof of:

- rabies
- distemper/parvovirus/adenovirus combination (often listed as DHPP or DAPP)
- bordetella (kennel cough)
- canine influenza
- a recent fecal exam or negative parasite screening in some cases

Timing matters: rabies is a legal requirement and must be current according to the vaccine label and local ordinances. DHPP frequency can vary by clinic but many facilities want annual boosters or evidence of adequate titers. Bordetella and canine influenza are frequently required within 6 to 12 months of boarding. Read each facility's policy carefully because one kennel may accept titers while another will only accept booster dates on a signed vet certificate.

How to collect the right records Start at your veterinary clinic. Most clinics keep electronic medical records and can produce a printout or PDF showing the vaccine name, date given, lot number, and veterinarian signature. Ask for an official copy rather than a handwritten receipt. If your pet has visited multiple clinics, request consolidated records into a single document. Clinics are used to this request; allow a day or two for processing if the records need retrieval from archives.

If your dog received vaccines from a shelter, rescue, or mobile clinic, get a written record or an electronic health certificate. Many rescues provide vaccination cards at adoption, but those cards can be lost in the first chaotic weeks at home. Reconfirm dates with the shelter when possible, and if they cannot provide documentation, have your vet perform a titers test or re-administer the necessary vaccines.

Digital records versus paper Boarding facilities accept both, but preferences vary. A laminated paper copy attached to your dog's profile provides immediate, scannable information for kennel staff. Digital records are convenient, shareable, and often accepted if they come from a clinic portal or a recognized pet health app. Make sure digital PDFs include the clinic letterhead and a signature. Screenshots of a phone reminder are rarely sufficient.

Practical approach: prepare one laminated paper copy and one digital PDF. Email the PDF to the facility ahead of your arrival and bring the laminated copy with you. That redundancy prevents delays from mismatched systems or internet outages.

Organizing a single-page vaccination packet Kennel staff work quickly at drop-off. A single, clearly labeled page that includes these items makes their job easier and keeps your dog moving into a stress-free [Round Rock dog boarding](#) routine.

Quick checklist to assemble before drop-off

1. Official vaccine record or lab report with clinic letterhead and signature
2. Vaccination dates and vaccine names clearly visible (rabies, DHPP, bordetella, influenza)
3. Emergency contact and primary veterinarian phone numbers
4. Current flea/tick prevention and any medication instructions

This short checklist helps you prioritize. Keep it simple: staff need to confirm dates and contact information, not a full medical history.

Common wrinkles and how to handle them Puppies and vaccination windows Puppies require a series of vaccines spaced several weeks apart. Many facilities will not accept a puppy until the DHPP series is complete and the rabies vaccine is given. Others allow daycare enrollment once a puppy has received two rounds of DHPP, paired with a signed waiver and a strict isolation policy. If you plan to board or use doggie daycare in Round Rock while your puppy is completing vaccines, call facilities in advance and ask their policy for young dogs. Some offer “puppy-only” hours or separate play areas for incomplete-vaccination puppies.

Dogs with vaccine reactions If your dog has had a documented adverse reaction, your veterinarian can prepare an exemption letter and outline alternative protective steps like titers. Some facilities will accept a titer in lieu of a booster, others will not. Expect to provide the vet’s written recommendation, and be prepared for some facilities to refuse boarding on that basis. Decide in advance whether a facility’s strict policy or your dog’s medical needs take precedence.

Titer testing as an alternative Titers measure antibody levels for certain diseases. They can be useful for dogs with medical concerns where repeated vaccines are risky. Not all boarding facilities accept titers. If your dog’s health needs a titer-based approach, request permission from the boarding facility before you pursue testing. Bring the titer report and a veterinarian statement explaining the results and why a titer was chosen over revaccination.

Medication handling and special instructions If your dog requires daily medication while boarded, label each dose with the dog’s name, dosage, time of day, and any administration notes. Place medications in a small container or sealed bag and attach it to the vaccination packet. Discuss with the facility whether staff will administer injections or only oral meds. There are legal and liability differences between facilities; some will not give injections unless administered by a veterinarian.

A real example: a dog named Rosie required twice-daily heart medication and had a history of mild anxiety. Her owner brought a laminated sheet with the exact dosing schedule, a small pill organizer labeled by day and time, and the vet’s contact information. The facility kept one copy visible in Rosie’s file and recorded each dose in their medication log. That simple preparation eliminated confusion and kept Rosie on her regular regimen.

Labeling and signatures Facilities often require the veterinary signature or clinic stamp to authenticate records. If your vet uses electronic signatures, make sure they are visible on the PDF. Hand-written initials by staff at the clinic are less persuasive than an official stamp or the veterinarian’s typed name and license number. When you pick up records, confirm that the clinic has included lot numbers and expiration dates for rabies vaccines.

When to update records relative to boarding dates Plan ahead. Many facilities ask that bordetella and influenza vaccines be given at least 72 hours before arrival to allow an immune response and to avoid vaccine-related coughing in transport. Rabies vaccination is typically set by legal schedule, but for consistency get it done well

before boarding. If you schedule a vet appointment the day before drop-off, you risk vaccine-related lethargy interfering with check-in. Give at least a two-week buffer when possible for live vaccines.

Handling multi-dog households If you manage multiple dogs, create a single binder or folder with a sheet for each dog and a summary cover sheet listing each dog's latest vaccine dates. This centralizes information for the staff and reduces repeated questions. A binder helps if you board with the same facility regularly; leave a copy on file with the kennel manager for future stays.

What to ask the boarding facility before arrival Policies vary. Ask these things directly over the phone or in an email so there is a written record:

- which vaccines are mandatory and the acceptable date ranges
- whether titers are accepted instead of boosters
- what format proof must take (original card, clinic letterhead, electronic PDF)
- medication administration rules and fees
- whether they accept puppies at specific ages or require completed series

Requesting these answers beforehand avoids surprises and lets you make an informed choice. In Round Rock, some dog daycare and boarding centers also require enrollment in their own health program or a signed behavior assessment. Read the enrollment paperwork carefully.

Special considerations for travel and long stays If you will be away for a week or longer, update records to meet any extended-stay requirements. For international travel, separate health certificates and notarized documents might be needed. While Round Rock facilities rarely need international papers for local boarding, if your return involves crossing borders, coordinate with your vet well in advance.

Insurance, liability, and why strict rules exist Boarding facilities carry insurance that often requires adherence to specific vaccination schedules. Those policies are designed to limit outbreak risk. Facilities are not trying to inconvenience owners; they are protecting other dogs and ensuring they can legally operate. If a facility enforces stricter rules than your vet recommends, consider that the kennel is balancing many animals and clients, and their threshold for risk is lower than an individual owner's.

When a boarding facility refuses to accept your documentation If documentation is not accepted, ask for a clear explanation and address it promptly. Sometimes the issue is a missing signature or incorrect date format. Other times the facility's policy requires a booster that your vet did not administer. If you encounter resistance due to a medical exemption, provide the vet's written note and ask if alternative accommodations can be arranged, such as private boarding or in-home care.

Preparing for last-minute needs Keep a master file at home and a travel-ready packet in your car or luggage. Include the laminated vaccination sheet, a photograph of your dog, contact information, and a copy of the signed boarding agreement. If you travel frequently with your dog, invest in a small, sturdy folder or a waterproof sleeve to protect records from wear.

How dog daycare and doggie daycare Round Rock differ from overnight boarding Daycare operations sometimes have slightly different requirements than overnight boarding. Because dogs stay for shorter periods, some daycares will accept more recent vaccines without the same strictness, but many Round Rock daycares require bordetella and proof of current heartworm prevention too. If you plan to use both daycare and longer boarding services, align your vaccinations so both sets of requirements are met.

Real-world decisions and trade-offs A common trade-off is between revaccinating for convenience and pursuing titers to avoid unnecessary boosters. For healthy adult dogs without prior reactions, the simplest route is often to

accept a booster when due and get boarding scheduled after the waiting period. For dogs with medical sensitivities, titers preserve health but may limit facility choices. Decide based on your dog's health history and how often you need boarding. If you travel often, periodic revaccination may be the pragmatic choice.

Final practical checklist for the day you drop off

1. Bring the laminated vaccine record and a digital PDF emailed to the facility
2. Include labeled medications and a written dosing schedule
3. Leave an emergency contact list and primary veterinarian phone number
4. Confirm that the facility has accepted your records and update any missing items before leaving

Keeping your dog's records current is a small investment that pays off in fewer headaches, safer stays, and a smoother handoff between you and the people who will care for your pet. In Round Rock, facilities are professional, but they must enforce standards to keep every dog healthy. Show up prepared, bring clear documentation, and you will have one less thing to worry about when you travel or need reliable dog boarding or the best dog daycare Round Rock can offer.