

Vaccination Information Disclaimer

This is a general information sheet and is not all inclusive. Despite the fact that reactions are uncommon, we feel that it is important to educate our clients regarding the possible side effects of vaccinations.

Why vaccinate? Vaccines are important to protect your pet against various diseases such as Rabies, Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, Kennel Cough, Lyme disease, Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia, Feline Leukemia, and Ferret Distemper. These diseases are still present in the population and can be life threatening. Some of these diseases can be transmitted to people and other animals.

What animal can have a vaccine reaction? Although it is more likely for a young animal to have a reaction during their “series” of vaccinations, **ANY** animal at **ANY** age can have a reaction within their lifetime.

What is the basis for the vaccine reaction? Any time a vaccination is given it stimulates the immune system to form antibodies against the disease. In some animals, the immune system can “over-respond” and have atypical reactions/presentation. These are listed below:

Possible reactions to vaccinations: Lethargy, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, soreness, anorexia, hair loss or discoloration at injection site, skin scarring/dyscoloration at injection site, fibrous reactive tissue (lump) at injection site, facial swelling/edema, pruritus (itching), auto-immune disease, cancerous tumors at injection sites noted in cats, anaphylactic shock, or death.

If my animal has a reaction, what happens next? It depends on the severity. Most pets are treated with an antihistamine and/or steroid, to negate the “over-responsive” immune system. These may be given as injections and/or as medications to be administered at home. If the reaction is severe, other treatments or medications may be administered. After the reaction, you should discuss further vaccinations with the veterinarian in regards to a revised vaccination schedule, pre-medication prior to future vaccines, vaccination titers, or a letter of waiver to allow your pet to not be vaccinated due to the severe reaction.

I, the undersigned, understand that receiving vaccinations for my pet comes with potential adverse effects. I am aware that such a risk is present, and am willing to accept it. I understand that any reaction that occurs is a result of my pet’s own immune system, and is not the fault of the hospital, veterinarian or technician that administered the vaccination. I also understand that I am responsible for any charges incurred for the treatment of any such reactions.

Client signature

Date

Client name (printed)

Witness signature (employee)

