

The Importance of Vaccinating Your Pet



WHAT'S A VACCINE?

Vaccines are injections containing an agent resembling a disease-causing microorganism. Often made from weakened or dead forms of the microbe, vaccines are given to trigger an immune response in pets and prepare them to fight future infections.

Vaccines can lessen the severity of future diseases, with some preventing infection altogether.

WHAT'S A BOOSTER VACCINE?

Booster vaccines are additional doses of the vaccine administered to ensure that the immune system is prepared to fight off the infection if exposed.

WHY SHOULD I VACCINATE MY PET?

Vaccines are a proven and effective measure to help prevent pets from contracting and spreading highly contagious and deadly diseases that can be very expensive to treat.

WHICH VACCINES DOES MY PET NEED?

While there are "core vaccines" that most veterinarians administer to prevent diseases such as rabies, distemper and parvo, just like people, every animal is different. Talk to your veterinarian to establish a vaccine program that takes into account your pet's lifestyle, disease risks, breed, etc.

WHEN SHOULD I GET MY PET VACCINATED?

Different vaccines are administered at different times in a dog's life. Upon their first visit to the vet, your dog will likely be vaccinated and your veterinarian will let you know when they are due for the next vaccine in a series or a booster vaccine.

IS IT SAFE TO VACCINATE MY PET?

Vaccines have protected millions of pets from illness and death associated with disease. However, like any medical procedure, there are risks. While rare, serious and fatal reactions can occur. If your pet displays any of the following signs, seek veterinary care immediately:

- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Red, itchy or bumpy skin (hives)
- Swelling around the face, neck or eyes
- Severe coughing or difficulty breathing
- Collapse