



Re-Thinking Vaccinations

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All You Need to Know About the Latest Research

Are unnecessary vaccines dangerous to your animal's health? Yes. Are you fully informed on the current guidelines by veterinary associations for vaccine schedules? Read on, and make informed decisions that protect the health of your animals.



Since important studies were done in 2005, virtually every veterinary association has been campaigning for a reduction in the number of booster shots given to adult animals. This is because side effects from vaccinations range from mild itching and swelling to anaphylactic shock leading to death. Cats may develop vaccine sarcomas, which are cancers that develop at the site of the injection. And dogs may develop certain autoimmune diseases. In the past, vaccine manufacturers arbitrarily recommended annual vaccinations, and most veterinarians, concerned about liability issues, concurred. Not anymore.

The studies confirmed what vets had suspected for years... that most vaccines (other than rabies) remain effective in animals for up to 9 years. In an attempt to come to a conservative, safe compromise with those who still argued for annual vaccination, most vet associations now recommend common booster vaccinations every 3 years instead of annually.

Further recommendations based on current research include:

- Do not vaccinate pregnant animals.
- Do not begin puppy/kitten vaccination programs until 8 weeks old.
- Do not provide boosters (until 3 years) if your puppy or kitten's first vaccine is given after 16 weeks of age.
- Perform a titer test for immunity to determine if your pet needs a certain vaccine later in life.
- Do not give rabies vaccine with other vaccines or during surgery;



- separate 3 weeks from other vaccines.
- Use vaccines without mercury (aka thimerosal, Merial Purevax)
- Do not vaccinate sick animals
- Do not vaccinate animals that have had a vaccine reaction unless titer test reveals that the vaccine is necessary
- Give bacterial and viral vaccines separately; avoid combination products
- Keep detailed written records of all vaccines and reactions

Signs of an adverse reaction

Mild Reactions

- Lethargy
- Hair loss/hair color change at injection site
- Fever
- Soreness
- Stiffness
- Refusal to eat (transient)
- Conjunctivitis
- Sneezing
- Oral ulcers

Moderate Reactions

- Immunosuppression
- Behavioral Changes
- Vitiligo
- Weight Loss (Cachexia)
- Reduced Milk Production
- Lameness
- Granulomas/Abscesses
- Hives
- Facial Edema
- Atopy
- Respiratory Disease
- Allergic uveitis (Blue Eye)

Severe Reactions

- Vaccine Injection Site Sarcomas
- Anaphylaxis
- Arthritis, Polyarthritis – Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD)
- Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia (AIHA)
- Immune Mediated Thrombocytopenia (IMTP)
- Hemolytic Disease of Newborns (Neonatal Isoerythrolysis)
- Thyroiditis (possibly immune mediated)
- Glomerulonephritis



- Disease or Enhanced Disease which the vaccine was designed to prevent
- Myocarditis
- Post Vaccinal Encephalitis or polyneuritis
- Seizures
- Abortion, congenital anomalies, embryonic/fetal death, failure to conceive

Links for More Info:

[Adverse Vaccine Reactions](#) – photos, video, data

[Questions Pet Owners Should Ask](#) – before vaccinating animals

[AAHA on Canine Vaccinations](#) – full guidelines

[Puppy & Kitten Vaccination Schedules \(PDF\)](#) – from AAHA