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Canine and Feline Vaccination

Vaccine

A vaccine is a substance that is used to stimulate immunity to a particular infectious disease or pathogen. It is typically prepared from an inactivated or compromised form of the causative agent or from its constituents or products.

Basically, we very carefully take a small part or a weakened part of a virus or bacteria and inject it into the pet so that it's immune system can make antibodies that protect against that disease. This allows the pet to respond very quickly to the disease when exposed, often preventing disease completely or at the minimum, greatly reducing severity of the disease.

Most of the diseases we vaccinate against in veterinary medicine are fatal. Vaccinations save lives. We see this nearly every day in veterinary medicine.

Risk vs Benefit

There is always a risk whenever we put anything into the body. Even too much water, too much of a vitamin, too much food can be harmful to a pet.

The most common risks of vaccinating a pet are side effects and allergic reaction. We are telling the immune system to respond and sometimes it overreacts. Normal side effects of vaccination include sleepiness/lethargy, mild pain at injection site, mild swelling at injection site, mild fever. These symptoms usually start 30 minutes to 2 hours after injection and last up to 12 hours. They resolve on their own with no intervention needed.

If these symptoms are moderate instead of mild or if they last more than 12 hours, they are considered a "vaccine reaction" and we must take steps to reduce this reaction for future vaccines. Pets may require a dose of anti-histamine at home before the visit, receive a steroid injection in clinic before vaccines, or only receive one vaccine at a time. If a pet has a specific symptom, like pain or fever, they may just require a follow up medication to help.

More severe allergic reactions to vaccines are less common (0.5%) and may include swelling of the muzzle and/or face, hives, high fever, vomiting/diarrhea, pale gums. These symptoms often require veterinary intervention such as IV fluids, IV steroid, etc. These symptoms usually start 10 minutes to an hour after vaccination.

Anaphylactic shock is extremely rare in pets (0.0001%). This is an intense, severe allergic reaction that happens within 10 minutes of vaccination. It requires emergent treatment and can be life threatening.

Canine Diseases & Vaccines

DISEASE	VACCINE	SPREAD BY	CLINICAL SIGNS	COMPLICATIONS
Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)	The "D" of DAPP	Aerosol, droplets	Spreads throughout the body. Signs may include fever, lung infection, seizures, skin lesions, immune suppression	Death, long term damage to the nervous system, damage to teeth and bones
Canine Adenovirus 1 (CAV-1)	Considered the "A" of DAPP, as CAV-2 cross protects	Contact with fluids, contaminated surfaces, entry via mouth or nose	Fever, vomiting, diarrhea, spreads to liver, kidney and eyes	Death, damage to liver and kidneys
Canine Adenovirus 2 (CAV-2)	The "A" of DAPP	Aerosol, droplets	Cough, runny nose, difficulty breathing, fever, poor appetite, lung infection	Severe pneumonia (lung infection) leading to death. Severe disease if more than one infection or very young puppy
Canine Parainfluenza Virus (CPiV)	One of the "P's" of DAPP	Aerosol, droplets	Cough, runny nose, difficulty breathing, fever, poor appetite, lung infection	Severe disease if more than one infection or very young puppy
Canine Parvovirus (CPV)	One of the "P's" of DAPP	Entry via mouth or nose from contaminated feces	Fever, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, bone marrow suppression, heart damage	Severe illness leading to death
Canine Coronavirus (CCoV)	The optional "CV" addition to DAPP	Entry via mouth or nose from contaminated feces	Diarrhea	May worsen parvovirus infection
Leptospirosis (L4) 4 types	The "L4" stand alone or in combination with DAPP, covers 4 subtypes of leptospirosis in the US	Direct contact with infected urine or tissue via broken skin, intact mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, eyes; or ingestion. Indirect by contaminated water, soil or food	Fever, lethargy, vomiting, may progress to liver damage, kidney damage, or affect the eyes	Death, zoonotic (contagious to people)
Bordetella bronchiseptica	May be referred to as "kennel cough" vaccine	Aerosol, droplets, contaminated surfaces	Cough, runny nose, difficulty breathing, fever, poor appetite, lung infection	Severe pneumonia (lung infection) leading to death. Severe disease if more than one infection or very young puppy
Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) 2 types	Bivalent CIV H3N2/H3N8 covers for both known strains of dog flu	Aerosol, droplets, contaminated surfaces	Cough, runny nose, difficulty breathing, fever, poor appetite, lung infection	Severe pneumonia (lung infection) leading to death. Severe disease if more than one infection or very young puppy
Borrelia burgdorferi (Lyme*)	There are different types of Lyme vaccine, ask for the broadest coverage	Tick bite	Joint pain and inflammation, lameness, may be long lasting	Severe kidney disease called "Lyme nephritis" leading to death
Rabies	Rabies vaccines are killed virus vaccines	Bite from infected animal or through infected saliva contact with mucous membranes	Spreads through the nerves to the brain with progressive disease resulting in death. Signs may appear as restlessness, irritability, inability to swallow, paralysis, death	Fatal, zoonotic (contagious to people)

*When living in, near or traveling to a Lyme endemic region

Feline Disease & Vaccines

DISEASE	VACCINE	SPREAD BY	CLINICAL SIGNS	COMPLICATIONS
Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR) caused by Feline Herpesvirus-1	The "R" in RCP	Aerosol, droplets	Runny nose, sneezing, eye infection and eye ulcers, poor appetite, fever, lung infection	Persistent infection may reoccur during times of stress, source of infection to other cats, ulcers of the eye, irreversible damage to nasal sinuses, death
Feline Calicivirus	The "C" in RCP	Aerosol, droplets, contaminated surfaces (survives in the environment)	Runny nose, eye infection , mouth ulcers, poor appetite, fever, lung infection, lameness	Persistent infection may reoccur during times of stress, source of infection to other cats, painful mouth ulcers, death
Feline Panleukopenia also known as feline distemper, caused by a parvovirus	The "P" in RCP	Primarily from contaminated surfaces (able to survive for long periods of time), direct contact with infected cats, litter boxes	Fever, poor appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, abdominal pain, tremors and lack of coordination, brain infection, heart damage	Severe illness, death
Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)	FeLV	Direct contact, sharing food and water bowls, grooming/sharing saliva	Suppression of the immune system results in infections, cancer tumors, leukemia	Cancer, death, stress or immune suppression may activate a silent infection
Rabies	Rabies vaccines are killed virus vaccines	Bite from infected animal or through infected saliva contact with mucous membranes	Spreads through the nerves to the brain with progressive disease resulting in death; signs may appear as restlessness, irritability, inability to swallow, paralysis, death	Fatal, zoonotic (contagious to people)
Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) caused by coronavirus	FIP	Shed in the feces, shared litter boxes; may survive in the environment. Stress increases susceptibility to disease.	Early infection appears as either upper respiratory tract infection or diarrhea, but damage to blood vessels leads to a 'wet' form of disease which results in fluid collection in the abdomen or a 'dry' form which may lead damage of the eyes or nervous system, the disease is incurable and death will occur	Severe illness and death, source of infection to other cats in the household
Chlamydophila felis **(bacteria)**	May be part of the RCP combination	Aerosol, droplets	Eye infection and lung infection	May contribute to complications of FVRC (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus) infections

Source: Greene CE (ed.). *Infectious diseases of the dog and cat*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Elsevier; 2012.

Vaccination Recommendations

Recommend vaccines for Southern Idaho:

Dogs

- ♥ Distemper
- ♥ Parainfluenza
- ♥ Adenovirus Type 1
- ♥ Adenovirus Type 2
- ♥ Parvo
- ♥ Leptospirosis

DA2PP+L4 Combo Vaccine

- ♥ Bordetella
- ♥ Rabies

Adult dogs should be given their 3 core vaccines annually. Boosters of DA2PP and Rabies can be given every 3 years if the booster was given within 1 year.

Puppies should be given vaccines at 6, 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age starting with DA2PP+L4 and adding on Bordetella and Rabies as they mature.

Other vaccines, like rattlesnake and influenza, are not core vaccines and should only be given if the pet is at risk for these diseases.

Cats

- ♥ Herpes Rhinotracheitis
- ♥ Calicivirus
- ♥ Panleukopenia
- ♥ Chlamydophila

FVRCP+CH Combo Vaccine

- ♥ Rabies

Adult cats should be given their 2 core vaccines annually. Boosters both FVRCP+CH and Rabies can be given every 3 years if the booster was given within 1 year.

Kittens should be given vaccines at 6, 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age starting with FVRCP+CH and adding on Rabies as they mature.

Other vaccines, like Feline Leukemia Virus, are not core vaccines and should only be given if the pet is at risk for these diseases.

Both dogs and cats should be seen by their veterinarian at least once a year. A full physical exam, fecal test, vaccination, and parasite control protocol should be discussed. Geriatric pets should also have a general blood panel submitted each year.