



Vaccinations

Shield your pet from disease

Did you know that a simple vaccination can protect your pet from highly contagious and deadly disease? It's one of the best things you can do for your best friend.

What you should know:

- **Vaccinations are vital** in safeguarding your pet's health.
- **They help prevent disease**, protecting your pet from serious, life-threatening illness.
- **Some can even protect you.** Rabies and leptospirosis pet vaccines also promote human health, by curbing disease we can contract from animals.

Up to 75%

of unprotected dogs suffer from canine distemper, yet a vaccination can shield your pet from this often fatal disease.

It can take up to 6 weeks

for your pet to develop immunity once vaccinated.

VCA
Pet Tips:

Questions & Answers

Do vaccinations carry risks?

After vaccination, some pets may develop mild soreness at the injection site or appear lethargic. This is normal. If your pet develops facial swelling, difficulty breathing or signs of extreme discomfort, contact us immediately.

In some cases, pets may have allergic reactions to a vaccine, but severe reactions are rare.

The risk of your pet experiencing side effects from a vaccination is low compared to the risk of contracting serious disease if left unvaccinated.

Very rarely, a tumor may develop in cats at the injection site. Call us if any lumps develop in your cat's skin.



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or call 1-800-VCA-PETS (822-7387)

Exceptional Pet Healthcare

Vaccinations

Stop disease in its tracks

How vaccinations work

When your pet is vaccinated, his or her immune system produces antibodies. Later, if your pet is exposed to the same disease he or she was vaccinated for, these antibodies will help destroy the invading virus or bacteria.

Once immunity is established, pets can receive booster shots to maintain protection throughout their lives.

Boosters maintain the protection

Adult pets usually get vaccine boosters once every 1 to 3 years depending on the vaccine. We will recommend a vaccination schedule that matches your pet's needs based on his or her age, individual risk of contracting certain diseases and the type of vaccine.



Which vaccine is best for your pet?

Based on the region in which you reside and what kinds of activities he or she is typically involved in, we will advise on what's best for your pet.

There are some vaccines *all* pets should receive.

Every dog should receive the following vaccines:

Rabies

One of the most important vaccines. Rabies is a serious disease with the potential to infect humans and cause death.

Canine Distemper

The virus for this disease is widespread. For unprotected dogs, especially puppies, this disease can be fatal.

Parvovirus

This virus can cause acute gastrointestinal disease. Without aggressive treatment, puppies and young dogs are at great risk, and death may occur despite therapy. We may also recommend vaccination for **Bordetella** (kennel cough), **Influenza** (canine flu), **Leptospirosis** and **Lyme disease**.

Most dogs are also routinely vaccinated against infectious *canine hepatitis* and *canine parainfluenza virus*.

Every cat should receive the following vaccines:

Rabies

Rabies is a serious disease with the potential to infect humans and cause death.

Feline Panleukopenia

Although usually seen in younger cats, this disease can strike at any age and is often fatal.

Feline Rhinotracheitis Virus/Feline Calicivirus

These viruses are responsible for most respiratory diseases in cats.

Leukemia

We recommend that all kittens receive 2 doses of a leukemia vaccine. After a booster at 15-18 months of age, we will then advise whether or not your cat needs any additional boosters in the following years.

Why puppies and kittens need extra shots?

In the first few months of life, puppies and kittens must be vaccinated several times. That's because their immature immune systems can't fight off diseases as well as when they're older.

It's important to make sure your little ones receive the right vaccinations, in the right sequence and at the right time, in order to give them the maximum protection possible.

Youngsters should be vaccinated on a regular schedule, beginning at 6 to 8 weeks of age. Booster shots should be given at 10 to 12 weeks and then again at 14 to 16 weeks. The rabies vaccine is given separately at 12 to 16 weeks.

A complete series of vaccines is given one year later and individual boosters are given every 1 to 3 years.