Vaccination

Prevention through Vaccination

Why should you vaccinate your pet?

Vaccination of your pet is the most important step in protecting him or her from some of the most common and deadly infectious diseases. This newsletter outlines basic vaccination guidelines for canines and felines while focusing on the importance of prevention.

Core Vaccines are vaccines that are necessary for all pets regardless of age, breed or lifestyle. Both felines and canines receive core vaccines however they protect against different diseases.

Lifestyle Vaccines are vaccines that are more specific to the activities that your pet engages in. For example exposure to dog parks or choosing to let your cat venture outdoors increases his/her chance to contract infectious diseases.

In order for vaccination to be effective in protecting your pet against infectious diseases it is important to follow specific vaccination protocols. Vaccination typically begins at 9 to 10 weeks of age and continues throughout your pet’s life. Speak with your veterinarian about what vaccines are most recommended for the lifestyle of your pet.

Read on to learn more about vaccinations and their importance protecting your pet.
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Canine Core Vaccines

**Da2LPP vaccine** protects against three of the most common and deadly canine infectious diseases. Da2LPP stands for
- Distemper
- Adenovirus Type 2
- Leptospirosis
- Parvovirus
- Parainfluenza

**Rabies vaccine** protects against transmission of the rabies virus. Most often rabies is transmitted from the bite of a wild animal such as a raccoon or coyote.

Feline Core Vaccines

**FVRCP vaccine** protects against three of the most common and deadly feline infectious diseases. FVRCP stands for
- Feline Rhinotracheitis Virus
- Calicivirus
- Chlamydia Psittaci
- Panleukopenia

**Rabies vaccine** protects against transmission of the rabies virus. Most often rabies is transmitted from the bite of a wild animal such as a raccoon or coyote.

Lifestyle Vaccines

**Canines**

**Bordetella vaccine** should be considered if your dog goes to dog parks or other areas with many other dogs such as the groomers.

**Lyme Vaccine** should be considered if your pet travels to an area where he/she could be exposed to ticks.

**Felines**

**FELV(Feline Leukemia) vaccine** should be considered if your cat goes outside for any length of time. It is also important to test your cat for feline leukemia before administering this vaccine. Speak with your veterinarian about the pros and cons of FELV vaccination.

Vaccination Guidelines

A specific vaccination protocol must be followed in order to properly protect your pet from this disease. Follow the guidelines below to make sure your pet is fully protected.

**Young Pets**

Pets of all ages need vaccination, however young pets typically receive a series of vaccines until 16 weeks of age.

**Adult/Mature Pets**

Adults will continue to receive vaccines throughout their lifetime, with intervals of time between vaccinations varying by vaccine.

**Limit Activity**

Your unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated pet should have limited activity. It should not go outside, visit parks, or interact with other pets until it has been fully vaccinated.

**Unvaccinated Adult**

If you have an adult pet with no vaccine history, your veterinarian will most likely begin with a series of vaccines 3-4 weeks apart, and then transition to the adult vaccines guidelines.