

VACCINATION SAFETY



Ref 19 v 3

SYMPTOMS OF VACCINOSIS

(may only show 1)

- Immediate reaction: collapse, seizure, anaphylaxis.
- Immediate (within 24-48 hrs) rash or skin eruption at or near vaccination site.
- Severe and sudden behavior changes
- Autoimmune diseases
- Chronic digestive problems
- Chronic infections
- Nervous system disorders

DEXTER SUGGESTS



Check out these books:

- *Shock to the System*
- *DVD – In Search of the Truth About Dogs*
- *Vaccine Guide for Dogs and Cats*

WHY ARE WE SO CONCERNED WITH YOUR PET'S VACCINATIONS?

Because we see so many chronically ill pets! We talk with people on a daily basis about their chronically ill pets, and it becomes clear in many cases that vaccinations are instigating the cascade of problems many of these pets suffer from.

Some examples: A six month old golden retriever with skin problems and ear infections that occurred after he was vaccinated for rabies at 4 months of age *at the same visit* during which he was given antibiotics for an *existing* ear infection. Animals that are being vaccinated on the same day they are having surgery, then developing symptoms of immune dysfunction. Adult dogs that have never had skin problems in the past suddenly developing them after being vaccinated. Cats developing vaccination site tumors. And of course the dangerous cases of animals who've gone into anaphylactic shock immediately after being vaccinated, yet their owners are told that the hospital will simply have emergency medication on hand the next time instead of being told that their pet will be protected from future danger by not being vaccinated ever again.

WHAT IS VACCINOSIS?

Vaccinosis is any damaging response to a vaccination. Some of these are immediate & severe, while some are delayed and chronic. It is causing iatrogenic stress on the body; that is, stress caused by medical care.

WHAT VACCINES SHOULD YOUR PET GET?

"Core" Vaccines are vaccines that every dog and cat should have. The vaccines that are generally considered "core" are for Dogs: Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, Rabies. For Cats: Feline Parvovirus, Herpesvirus, Calicivirus, Rabies. Some non-core vaccines are simply optional, and *some are not recommended*. Discuss this with your vet and ask them to consult the "AAHA guidelines" during your visit. Ask your vet to use recombinant DNA vaccines, which are currently available for distemper and parvo (under the name *Recombitek* by Merial), because these are the safest for your pet.

HOW OFTEN?

After the first year, core vaccines do not need to be done annually. Studies have proven that immunity in adults from core vaccines lasts *at least* three years, if not more. The three year interval for re-vaccination recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is a minimum interval. Vaccinating more often does not increase immunity, but it may increase the likelihood of your pet having a dangerous reaction to the vaccine.

Do not give the rabies vaccine at the same time as any other vaccines, as this raises the risk of an adverse reaction. "Multivalent" vaccines (that combine several diseases, ex: "DHLPP" for distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus, parainfluenza) are more risky, in part because they contain non-core vaccines that may cause problems for your pet. However, combining distemper and parvo, the core vaccines, will reduce the amount of adjuvant the dog is injected with (this is the "soup" of other ingredients that are supposed to help stimulate the immune response to the vaccine).

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QUESTIONS FOR YOUR VET

- Do you offer titer testing? (answer should be Yes, VacchiCheck is preferred for quick results)
- What is your philosophy on vaccinations?
- Do you offer recombinant DNA vaccines (Merial Recombitek)? (Yes)
- Do you offer distemper and parvo vaccines without the other vaccines? (Yes)
- Since challenge studies show that adult dogs vaccinated against Distemper and Parvo maintain immunity for over 5 years, will you respect my request to NOT re-vaccinate my adult dog more frequently? (Yes)
- Are you familiar with the AAHA guidelines on vaccinations? What is your opinion on the *non-core* and *not recommended* vaccines as discussed in those guidelines?
- If my pet has a bad reaction to a vaccine, will you make a note in the file that my pet should NOT be vaccinated in the future? (Yes)

PUPPIES

Puppy owners are often warned to keep their puppies home until “they’ve had all their shots.” However, the risk of under-socialization from avoiding puppy classes and low-risk public environments is much greater than the risk of disease. Good healthcare support through diet and supplements will ensure that your puppy’s risk for health problems (whether from exposure to disease or vaccines) is low. Get our *Vaccines for Puppies* handout for specific recommendations on vaccines.

TITERS

Vaccine antibody tests (known as “titers”) are the safest way to judge whether your pet needs further vaccinations to protect them against disease. If your dog shows any amount of antibodies in the test (other than close to zero), they are protected. A high level of antibodies does not represent more immunity compared to moderate or even low levels. Titer tests for rabies are important because currently the vaccine only provides immunity 88% of the time, versus 99% for distemper, parvo, and adenovirus, so you want to be sure the vaccine “took” successfully in your dog.

ELDERS

Pets that have been vaccinated as adults shouldn’t need more vaccinations as elders. In fact, elders are in more danger of having adverse reactions due to the reduced immune system vitality that comes with old age. Get titers if you need to show immunity.

DON’T VACCINATE SICK ANIMALS

This guideline is one that is ignored all too often, even though the vaccine companies themselves warn of the dangers. An animal whose immune system is already compromised should not have the extreme immune challenge of a vaccine too. This can cause a cascade of problems and can even morph into severe chronic illness. The convenience of taking care of it during a visit for another problem is not worth the risk. Animals should also not be vaccinated at the time of surgery or when on corticosteroids for the same reasons. There is also evidence that vaccinating when there are hormonal changes (such as estrus) puts animals at higher risk for side effects. Animals already suffering from chronic disease should never be vaccinated. An animal that has had an adverse reaction to a vaccination in the past should never have that vaccination again.

WHAT ABOUT DOGGY DAYCARES AND OTHERS REQUIRING MORE VACCINATIONS?

It’s important to question these requirements. If they require annual boosters of distemper and parvo, tell them about the AAHA guidelines (see column at left). Suggest signing a waiver of liability for your pet (because if all the other dogs are vaccinated, and vaccines work, then your dog should be the only one at risk). You should speak to the manager or owner because the staff won’t be able to discuss policy changes or exceptions. Instead of boarding your pet, use a qualified professional pet sitter to care for them when you are away.

TALK TO YOUR VET

American Animal Hospital Association guidelines point out that vaccinations are a medical procedure and that vaccination decisions should always be made on an individual basis depending on risk and lifestyle factors. Talk to your vet about your concerns. If they wholly reject the information in this handout, FIND ANOTHER VET!

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

In addition to the books listed here on page one, there are many online sources of information. The Rabies Challenge Fund (rabieschallengefund.org) is a very legitimate source of information, and their Facebook group has a very active discussion section.