



The Importance of Vaccinating Your Pet

In recent years, the subject of vaccination has become controversial. Vaccines manufactured for our pets have been through comprehensive studies and are proven to protect against serious diseases affecting both dogs and cats. Diseases such as parvovirus, distemper, leptospirosis, canine influenza, and bordetellosis can cause significant complications for your dog, sometimes even resulting in death. If contracted by your cat, panleukopenia (feline parvo), rhinotracheitis, and leukemia can cause equally devastating effects for your feline companion. The rabies virus in both dogs and cats is fatal in 99% of cases and can be transmitted to people through a bite by a rabid animal. Additionally, in the state of Nevada, it is required by law to have your dogs and cats vaccinated for rabies.

No vaccine is 100% effective, which means that even though your pet is vaccinated against a certain disease, he/she can still contract that same disease post vaccination. But, this fact should not deter you from vaccinating your animals because if your vaccinated pet contracts the disease he/she is vaccinated against, the signs and symptoms of the condition are often much less severe compared to an unvaccinated pet contracting the same disease. If you are diligent about getting your pet's booster vaccines administered at the appropriate time intervals, your pet will have a better chance at fighting off these major diseases.

A concern for many individuals is the possibility of vaccine reactions. While vaccine reactions in pets are possible, they are often rare and mild. After a vaccine, some pets will feel tired or sore at the injection site. Less commonly, some pets will have a more severe reaction with trouble breathing, facial swelling, or vomiting and diarrhea. For more information on vaccine reactions and how you can help prevent them, please visit the handout on our website titled, "Vaccine Reactions."

In most situations, your pet does not need to receive every vaccination manufactured for their species. We consider rabies a core vaccine for both dogs and cats. The other core vaccine that every dog or cat should receive is Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza (DAPP) and Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia (FVRCP), respectively. The administration of other elective vaccines such as Bordetella, canine influenza virus, leptospirosis, rattlesnake, and feline leukemia virus should be based on your pet's lifestyle and what he/she may need protected against. If you have questions regarding which vaccines may be best for your pet, please reach out to us and check out our other handouts available on our website titled "Canine Vaccines Available at EVC" and "Feline Vaccines Available at EVC."