

Vaccination and the risk to your pet's health

Vaccination efficacy in pets varies from animal to animal and also with the type of vaccination. There appears to be insufficient evidence to support the use of injection vaccination given the varying circumstances in each animal. For example an animal may have a compromised immune system when given the vaccine in the first place. The amount and frequency of vaccination requirements also vary from breed to breed, location it resides and the diseases of that area. According to Dr. Klinborg, an American Vet, the three main vaccines used for dogs Canine distemper, rabies, and parvovirus can last between three to 7 years. For cats rabies, calicivirus, distemper and leukaemia last from three years to indefinitely. "According to Dr. Schultz, (AVMA, 8-15-95,) when a vaccinations series given at 2, 3 & 4 months and again at 1 year with a MLV, puppies and kitten program memory cells that survive for life, providing lifelong immunity." Dr. Carmichael at Cornell and Dr. Schultz have studies showing immunity against challenge at 2-10 years for canine distemper & 4 years for parvovirus. Studies for longer duration are pending. "There are no new strains of parvovirus as one mfg. would like to suggest. Parvovirus vaccination provides cross immunity for all types." Hepatitis (Adenovirus) is one of the agents known to be a cause of kennel cough. Only vaccines with CAV-2 should be used as CAV-1 vaccines carry the risk of "hepatitis blue-eye" reactions & kidney damage.

If the pet owner is unsure of whether their pet requires a vaccination they can have their antibody titres measured via a simple blood analysis, providing their vet is willing to do these tests. From personal experience I find there is much resistance from this sort of testing in my area and the kennels require vaccination prior to check-in thus, putting people in forced position of vaccination. Considering that some vets can make up to 94,000 USD per year off (<http://www.treshanley.com/cic/vaccines.html>) vaccinations alone) it leaves little doubt as to why I get an argument when requesting these tests. Yearly boosters have been proven to be a health hazard and scientifically proven to be unnecessary.

From a holistic point of view there are several reasons why one should consider not vaccinating an animal on an annual basis and in some cases of sick animals, those with an immature immune system or weak elderly pet the results can be deadly. Firstly, vaccination can cause a major stress to the immune system, they can disrupt gut function (which plays a large role in immunity), cause an increase in IgE and subsequent rise in allergies. Chronic skin problems like eczema, rashes, joint problems such as arthritis, irritable bowel, neurological and behavioural changes and worse, cancer. Timing of vaccines can be critical if given too young, the young kitten or puppy may not have the immune system to deal with the introduction of the foreign matter. Their guts are still establishing a healthy gut flora and if the kitten or pup has been feeding poorly its gut function may already be compromised.

“Puppies & kittens should NOT be vaccinated at LESS than 8 weeks. Maternal immunity will neutralize the vaccine and little protection (0-38%) will be produced. Vaccination at 6 weeks will, however, delay the timing of the first highly effective vaccine. Vaccinations given 2 weeks apart suppress rather than stimulate the immune system. A series of vaccinations is given starting at 8 weeks and given 3-4

weeks apart up to 16 weeks of age. Another vaccination given sometime after 6 months of age (usually at 1 year 4 mo) will provide lifetime immunity”

(<http://www.treshanley.com/cic/vaccines.html>).

As mentioned previously, annual or repeat vaccinations are not recommended unless a titre is done first, as many vaccines last for a lifetime. The mercury content that used in human vaccines builds up as a heavy metal toxicity in the human body, thereby competing with nutrients like zinc, selenium, magnesium and calcium. Imagine what yearly vaccination does in a small pet's body? No wonder skin irritation and joint problems occur, for a start they cannot absorb their basic minerals required for health. (Dr. Igor Tabrizan, Visual textbook of nutritional medicine , 2004 & Henry Osiecki's The Brain-Gut Connection, DVD 2005).

Clinic side effects post vaccine can range from behavioural reactions such as anxiety, and aggression, obsessions, trance-like states to physical side effects such as comprised gut and immunity, hyper-immune response of T2 such as allergies, eczema, arthritis, skin rashes, and malnutrition. These symptoms have been referred to as vaccinosis by the Animal homeopathy college, although I have not found this term used by vets in the literature I have explored. The side effects could be any symptom that is related to a change in gut status. Change in gut functioning and liver toxicity which could interrupt conversion of B vitamins, prevent conversion of tryptophan to 5HTP, which helps the brain maintain adequate serotonin and dopamine for mood and behaviour regulation. Thus, we see mood changes. The preservatives in vaccines for humans and pets can convert to the highly toxic substance ethyl-mercury which block minerals. So then there are the problems that arise from lack of zinc as an example. Zinc is required to make the necessary acid in stomach required to digest meat and protect the body from parasites. Zinc is also required to maintain healthy skin and coat. (Dr Igor Tabrizan, Visual textbook of nutritional medicine& Henry Osiecki's The Brain-Gut Connection, DVD 2005).

The effects of over vaccination really knows no bounds as it is very individual for each pet and how their body copes with it. Cancer is a side effect that can be directly linked to vaccination of felines.

“Estimation of the frequency of feline VAS varies between retrospective studies, and ranges from 1 case/10,000 vaccinates to 1.3cases/1,000 vaccinates. The interval between vaccination and the development of tumours is highly variable. Tumour latency intervals have been reported to be as short as one month and as long as 3.5 years from vaccination (Meyer, EK, personal communication, VCS 18th Annual Conference, 1998). Kass *et al.* showed a causal and temporal association between feline sarcomas and use of rabies and feline leukemia vaccines. Kass' study also revealed an increased risk of fibrosarcoma development with increased number of vaccines administered. In fact, the risk of developing a fibrosarcoma from a single injection in the cervical/intrascapular region was close to 50% higher than that of nonvaccinates. Risk escalated to 127% when 2 vaccines were administered and climbed to 175% when 3 or 4 concurrent vaccinations were given in the same anatomic site. Kass also observed that vaccines with adjuvants other than aluminum as well as vaccines without adjuvants, were associated with fibrosarcoma development. Epidemiologic studies have implicated an association with feline leukemia (FeLV), rabies, and feline viral rhinotracheitis/calicivirus/panleukopenia virus (FVRCP) vaccines, with monovalent and polyvalent vaccines, and with non-adjuvanted as well as adjuvanted types (Meyer, EK, personal communication, VCS 18th Annual Conference, 1998). A fibrosarcoma has also been reported in association with a lufenuron injection”(Barbara E. Kitchell, DVM, PhD, DACVIM Feline Vaccine-Associated Sarcomas).

- b.** Natural solutions or homeoprophylaxis are available from homeopaths in the form of nosodes. Nosodes are obtained from animals or humans and are pathological products of bacilli and virus. It is prepared from infected tissue, diseased discharges or the organism itself. George Macleod MRCVS, DVSM, VetFFhom, feels that there is a fundamental difference between conventional injected vaccines and the oral route. Stating that whilst the injection therapy offers a degree of protection against the particular disease it can also be criticised on two grounds: 1. the defence system of the body is not fully incorporated by this means and 2. There is a risk of side effects due to the foreign nature of the protein involved in the vaccine material. He also concludes that oral vaccination gives a more solid immunity inasmuch as it incorporates the entire defence system, which is mobilised as soon as the vaccine is taken into the mouth and builds up protection with each further dose. As it works its way through the bodily systems he says it is equivalent to immunity built up the same way it would if it was acquired naturally from a "street" infection. Another advantage is it can be started very early in life as opposed to the chemical inoculation. So to summarize one could give a homeopathic nosode for parvovirus for example and this is made from the actual virus or specimens from an animal that is infected with it and give in ultra small doses ie:30x it will build up immunity without actually causing side effects. It also will not interfere with maternal antibodies already present.

What can you do to protect your pet and deal with your vet? Go to the webpage:

<http://www.treshanley.com/cic/vaccines.html>

Look up what vaccines your pet actually may require. Have them done once and then in the future insist on titres before checking your pet into the kennel. Have a letter from your vet stating your pets titres are all okay. If your vet refuses to do this find a new, educated, caring vet who cares more about your pets health than making money Further, find a friend to mind your pet, and use homeopathic remedies to prevent the disease and feed your pet a BARF or raw food diet to maintain their immunity. Yes this is more work for you but you will save money in the long run with less vet bills, a healthier pet and more time with a strong vital furry friend. See the article on allergies for pets. I recommend feeding your pets the recipes listed in Diana Steins book: natural healing for dogs and Cats. Or Dr. Pitcairn's Natural health for dogs and cats. Both are full of good recipes.