



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

The Dangers of Over-Vaccination



One of the first things a new pet parent is told when choosing their new family member is to immediately schedule a veterinary appointment for the pet to get their first set of vaccines. We all want our pets protected against serious and potentially deadly illnesses but did you know that after your pet's first set of vaccines, they may be protected from those illnesses by antibodies in their blood? Dr. Ronald D Schultz, a veterinary researcher studying vaccines has said, "immunity induced by vaccination is extremely long lasting and, in most cases, lifelong." Dr. Schultz has also advocated for weight-based dosages of vaccines. Currently, the same vaccines are given to pets regardless of size or weight, meaning a Chihuahua and a Great Dane both get the same dosage of vaccine.

Instead of vaccinating every year, more and more veterinarians are advocating for titer testing. According to leading veterinarian Dr. Jean Dodds, "A titer test is a simple blood test that measures a dog or cat's antibodies to vaccine viruses (or other infectious agents). For instance, your dog may be more resistant to a virus whereas your neighbor's dog may be more prone to it. Titers accurately assess protection to the so-called "core" diseases (distemper, parvovirus, hepatitis in dogs, and panleukopenia in cats), enabling veterinarians to judge whether a booster vaccination is necessary. All animals can have serum antibody titers measured instead of receiving vaccine boosters. The only exception is rabies re-vaccination. There is currently no state that routinely accepts a titer in lieu of the rabies vaccine, which is required by law. If your pet's titer levels

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Health Tip for the Season

It's that germ infested time of year and once again many veterinarians are recommending the canine flu vaccine. A vaccine filled with such chemicals as aluminum and formaldehyde and causing side effects from fatigue to respiratory distress and Anaphylaxis.

Even if a healthy pet gets the flu, it might not lead to any serious complications. The death rates from canine flu are very low, with Dr Jean Dodds estimating the fatality rate is about 2% to 3%. The risks of the vaccine far outweigh the risks of the disease!

Training Tip for the Season

Teaching your pet to identify toys by their names can not only be a fun game, it can keep your pet

show that an adequate immune memory has been established, you do not need to create the potential for vaccinosis by introducing unnecessary antigen, adjuvant, and preservatives into his body via booster vaccines. Instead, skip the boosters and have your dog re-titered in three years."

** A rabies exemption can be given by a veterinarian to an ill, immunocompromised pet or a pet who has an adverse reactions to the vaccine. A copy of the exemption letter must be sent to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Office of Dog Law Enforcement, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Now that you know what titer testing is, why is it important? Yes, vaccines save lives but over vaccinating a pet could have lifelong health effects and should be weighed with risk vs benefit. Vaccinations should ONLY be given to healthy pets with a health immune systems! All vaccinations contain chemicals, such as mercury, aluminum and formaldehyde and these or the vaccine itself could cause side effects ranging from mild to deadly. Adverse reactions can occur immediately after vaccination or years later.

Reactions possible immediately after vaccination:

- Soreness or pain
- *Injection site redness
- *Fever
- *Lethargy
- *Facial Swelling
- *Circulatory Shock
- *Loss of conscious
- *Death

Reactions possible weeks, months or even years after vaccination:

- *Fibrosarcoma (tumor) at the injection site
- *Seizures and epilepsy
- *Allergies
- *Muscle weakness
- *Chronic digestive disorders
- *Skin Disease
- *Behavioral problems
- *Autoimmune diseases, such as immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (ITP) and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA). ITP is caused by an autoimmune attack against the dog's own platelets, leading to bruising and bleeding, and without treatment is potentially fatal. IMHA is caused by your dog's immune system producing antibodies that attack its own red blood cells leading to anemia. Both ITP and IMHA require lifelong treatment and medications.

More and more veterinarians are recommending additional vaccines, such as lyme. Only the core vaccines - distemper, parvovirus, hepatitis in dogs, and panleukopenia in cats and rabies are required. The more vaccines a pet is given, the more there is a risk of overloading the system, leading to adverse reactions, side effects and diseases.

safe. When at the park or place with other dogs, your pet knowing the names of their toys can keep them from picking up the other dogs' toys and reduces the risk of spreading illnesses.

Dog to dog transmittable diseases include, but are not limited to:

*Canine Distemper

*Canine Hepatitis

*Canine Herpesvirus (CHV)

*Canine influenza ("canine flu" or "dog flu")

*Canine parvovirus ("parvo")

*Coronavirus

*Intestinal parasites such as roundworms, hookworms and whipworms

*Kennel cough

*Leptospirosis

*Rabies

*Ringworm

Pets can transmit these diseases by sharing toys covered with saliva. By training your pet to recognize the names of certain toys, you can tell your pet to go get their "toy name" and the pet will only pick up the named toy lessening their chances of getting a communicable disease.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

With new breakthroughs in titer testing, over-vaccination is not necessary. Titer testing can reduce the risk of everything from side effects to serious autoimmune diseases. If your vet doesn't do titer testing, you can order a titer from [Dr. Robb at Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory](#).

**Parvovirus Vaccine
Modified Live Virus**
For use in dogs only
NEOPAR®
10 ml 10 Doses
U.S. Veterinary License No. 472
Product code: 18M1.20
NEOTECH, LLC
Dresden, TN 38225 USA
Phone: 731-364-5856

Dosage: Aseptically inject 1 ml SC or IM into healthy dogs. Administer the initial dose at or about 42 days of age. Because there is potential for maternal antibody to interfere with the immune response to the original vaccination, revaccinate every 14 to 21 days until the dog is 18 weeks of age. Dogs over 18 weeks of age should receive a single dose (1ml). Revaccinate annually with one dose.
Precautions: Store between 2° and 7° C (35° and 45° F). Do not freeze. Shake well before using. Use entire contents when first opened. Do not vaccinate pregnant bitches, sick, or debilitated dogs. In case of anaphylaxis; epinephrine, corticosteroids, and antihistamines may all be indicated depending on the nature and severity of the reaction. Gentamicin and Amphotericin B used as preservatives. Burn this container and all unused contents.
FOR VETERINARY USE ONLY

SER.
EXP.

Rabvac 3 is a killed virus vaccine for the vaccination of healthy dogs, cats and horses for the prevention of disease due to rabies. This vaccine meets the three year duration of immunity requirements for dogs and cats, and one year duration of immunity for horses.

Dosage and administration

Dogs and cats: Inject one 1 mL dose subcutaneously or at one site in the thigh intramuscularly at 3 months of age or older. Revaccinate one year later and every 3 years thereafter.

Horses: Inject one 2 mL dose intramuscularly at 3 months of age or older. NOTE: Two 1 mL vials must be used. Revaccinate one year later and annually thereafter. **Do not vaccinate horses within 21 days before slaughter.**

Precautions

- Store between 2° and 7°C (35° and 45°F). Do not freeze. Shake well before use.
- The use of a biological may produce anaphylaxis and/or other inflammatory immune-mediated hypersensitivity reactions. Antidote: Epinephrine, corticosteroids, and antihistamines may all be indicated depending on the nature and severity of the reaction.

Rabies Vaccine
Killed Virus
Rabvac® 3
For use in dogs, cats and horses only.
This product is restricted for use by or under the supervision of a veterinarian.
50 Doses: 50-1 mL Vials of Vaccine

Without veterinary recommendation or concrete data showing the vaccine actually prevents the flu, many kennels and boarding facilities are requiring pets to get the flu vaccination, as we mentioned above in the health tip, the risks of the vaccine are worse than the risk of the disease.

By having a pet sitter, not only will you not be forced to give your pet unnecessary vaccines, but they will stay safe in their home and not around other potentially ill animals.

Featured Pet of the Month

In Memoriam



Jasmine was born on October 25th 2008, and joined her forever family on January 9th 2009, when she was adopted from a rescue. As a therapy dog, Advanced Canine Good Citizen and Reading Education Assistance Dog, Jasmine spent her life in service to others, and was even chosen to visit Franklin Regional High School in Pennsylvania after the tragic stabbing that occurred at the school.

During her lifetime, Jasmine dealt with IMHA and EPI. On 8/17/18, Jasmine was dealt yet another health blow with a diagnosis of bladder cancer and unfortunately, lost her battle on 1/7/2019, when her body could no longer fight. Jasmine's legacy of service to others, commitment to her community and enrichment of the lives around her will go on in all she touched.

In remembrance of Jasmine, a rescue dog who rose above her early circumstances, we will be featuring a pet from a local rescue every month, starting in March. We will also be collecting donations (food, litter, blankets, toys and monetary donations) through the month for that rescue, and we would

appreciate your help by sharing the featured pet, so that other pets like Jasmine can find a loving home.

In Remembrance of Jasmine, donations can be made to [The Hemopet Blood Bank](#), [Epi4Dogs](#) and [Morris Animal Foundation](#).

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Crunchy Honey Cinnamon Biscuits

Ingredients:

1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup honey
1 tsp vanilla
1 egg
2 Tbsp milk
2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp cinnamon



In a large bowl, add the oil, honey, vanilla, cinnamon, milk and egg. Once mixed, stir in flour and baking powder and mix until dough forms.

On a lightly floured surface, knead and roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness and cut out shapes. Place on greased baking sheet and bake at 375 degrees for 13-15 minutes

Catnip Cat Treats

Ingredients

5 oz tuna in water drained
1 egg
1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup wheat germ
1/2 cup cornmeal
1/4 cup wheat flour
1/4 cup water
1/2 tablespoon catnip

Instructions

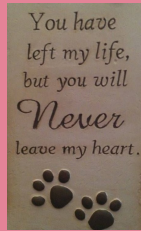
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
Mix all ingredients in a large bowl until combined.
Form into a dough. Dough will be sticky.
Place dough onto a floured surface.
Pull off small pieces of dough and roll into small balls.
Push the dough down so the treat is the size of a nickel and place on parchment paper.
Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Serve after cooled completely.



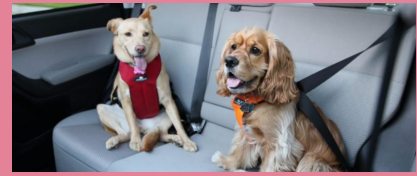
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