

Perhaps no other medical advancement has saved more lives than vaccination. Modern vaccines are extremely effective and safe. However, it is common for many pets to experience mild side effects following vaccination, similar to those that humans experience. Rarely does a pet need veterinary medical attention for these normal, minor side effects. Millions of pets are vaccinated each year, and the vast majority experience no problems. Closely monitor your pet, and report any problems to your veterinarian as soon as possible. Vaccines save countless lives and prevent devastating infectious diseases

What are some common side effects of vaccination?

Some of the most common mild side effects that can be seen after immunization include:

- Redness, mild swelling, and tenderness at the vaccination site
- Decreased activity levels (fatigue)
- Loss of appetite
- Low-grade fever
- Nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, or other respiratory symptoms, which may occur up to 2 to 4 days after an intranasal vaccine (vaccination with drops or sprays via the nostrils) is administered

If any of these signs last more than 24 hours or if your pet appears extremely uncomfortable, notify your veterinarian.

It is also common for a pet to develop a small, firm nodule at the vaccination site. It should begin to shrink and vanish within 14 days. If the swelling lasts longer than 3 weeks or appears to get larger or more painful, contact your veterinarian.

Are there other possible side effects of vaccination that I should watch for in my pet?

Other less common but more serious side effects can occur within minutes to hours of vaccination. These reactions are considered to be medical emergencies, and you should seek veterinary care immediately if any of the following occur:

- Collapse or fainting
- Difficulty breathing
- Persistent and severe coughing
- Small, red, raised, itchy bumps on the body (hives)
- Swollen or puffy eyes, muzzle, or face
- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea

Before immunization, tell your veterinarian if your pet has had any previous vaccine reactions, regardless of how insignificant they may seem. These patients will benefit from pre-vaccination treatment with an antihistamine or your veterinarian may consider splitting up multiple vaccines with adequate time between them. If you have any concerns that your pet may have a serious vaccine reaction, wait at your veterinary clinic for 30 to 60 minutes after vaccination.

- 1) **Pain after vaccines (DOGS ONLY):** give **Children's Aspirin (81mg)** at a dose of **1 tablet for every 15 lbs** of weight. You can give the Children's Aspirin every 12 hrs as needed.
- 2) **Vomiting/Diarrhea(DOGS ONLY)** Uncommon with vaccines. More commonly from the car ride / stress): Give **Liquid PeptoBismol**. Give **1 tsp for every 10 to 20 lbs** of weight.
- 3) **Swelling (DOGS ONLY) face/ears/hives:** For Smaller Dogs, give **Children's Chewable Benadryl (12.5mg)** at a dose of 1 tablet for every 10-15 lbs of weight. For Larger Dogs, give 1 Adult Benadryl (25mg) tablet / capsule for every 25 lbs of weight.

Veterinary Emergency Services – Quick Reference

Cabarrus County

Pet Emergency & Trauma Services

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd, Suite 10, Kannapolis, NC 28083

 (704) 932-1182

Mecklenburg County

Charlotte Veterinary Emergency Services

2440 Plantation Center Dr, Matthews, NC 28105

 (704) 844-6440

Charlotte Animal Referral & Emergency (CARE)

3726 Latrobe Dr, Charlotte, NC 28211

 (704) 457-2300

Carolina Veterinary Specialists – Huntersville

12117 Statesville Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078

 (704) 949-1100

Davidson County

Carolina Veterinary Specialists – Greensboro

501 Nicholas Rd, Greensboro, NC 27409

 (336) 632-0605

Thomasville Veterinary Hospital

303 National Hwy, Thomasville, NC 27360

 (336) 475-9119

Iredell County

Carolina Veterinary Specialists – Huntersville

12117 Statesville Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078

 (704) 949-1100

Rowan County

Pet Emergency & Trauma Services

3003 Dale Earnhardt Blvd, Suite 10, Kannapolis, NC 28083

 (704) 932-1182

Union County

Charlotte Veterinary Emergency Services

2440 Plantation Center Dr, Matthews, NC 28105

 (704) 844-6440