

What to Expect after Your Pet's Vaccinations



Vaccinations protect your pets from serious diseases and are an important part of pet ownership.

Please read about what to expect after your pet's vaccinations, including both common and rare side effects.

COMMON MILD SYMPTOMS

Mild side effects can occur from vaccination. They can start within hours of vaccination and can last for a few days. Mild symptoms are a normal response to your pet's immune system during the process of developing protective immunity and can include:

- Discomfort or mild swelling at the injection site
- Lethargy
- Mild Fever
- Diminished appetite or activity

RARE BUT SERIOUS SYMPTOMS

Although very rare, your pet can experience serious side effects such as an allergic reaction minutes to 48 hours after vaccination. The symptoms can include:

- Hives, itchiness, or facial swelling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Shock or sudden death

If your pet exhibits a serious reaction, contact your regular veterinarian* immediately. If it is after hours, contact a local emergency hospital such as:

Mt. Laurel Animal Hospital	RBVH
856-234-7626	856-429-4394

**AWA is unable to provide treatment for an animal experiencing a vaccine reaction.*

What do I do if my pet has had a serious reaction in the past?

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to vaccines in the past:

- **Consider having your pet vaccinated at a full-service veterinary clinic instead.** A pet with vaccine reaction history should receive special attention in the form of observation in a hospital or given a pre-treatment of medicine.
- **Avoid giving several vaccines at one time.** Separating vaccines means your pet has less stimulation to deal with and also helps determine which vaccine is the culprit.
- **Be sure your veterinarian is aware of your pet's history of vaccine reaction.**

Should I report a vaccination reaction?

Yes. Reporting reactions to the manufacturer may result in reimbursement of costs of treatment.

Reaction should also be reported to the **Center for Veterinary Biologics**. This agency is part of the USDA and reviews reaction reports and determines if manufacturers must perform additional investigation. They can be reached at 919-855-7100 or aceast@aphis.usda.gov.

Vaccination reactions severe enough to produce shock or sudden death are EXTREMELY rare and are a function of an individual pet's immune response.

Vaccination is an important part of pet ownership and protects your pet against deadly diseases. **Vaccination should not be omitted without specific veterinary guidance.**