



## VACCINE REACTIONS (& INSECT STINGS)

Your pet has received one or more vaccinations to protect him / her from serious or even potentially fatal diseases. We greatly appreciate your trusting us to provide this most basic, yet crucial protection for your pet.

Although vaccines are safe and effective, occasionally pets (and people) may develop a reaction to a vaccine. **If your pet has never had a vaccine reaction before (or a reaction to an insect sting or bite), there is no way we can predict if your pet will have a reaction.** However, there are certain breeds of dogs that are much more likely to have a reaction - Dachshunds, Pugs, Schnauzers, Miniature Pinschers, Yorkies and Chihuahuas. As you can see, smaller breeds of dogs are more likely to have a reaction than larger breeds.

### QUICK TIPS for DOGS ONLY:

- 1) **PAIN in DOGS:** If your Dog is experiencing pain or discomfort following the vaccine, give **Children's Aspirin (81 mg)** 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 in DOGS** (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 of FACE / EARS ... MULTIPLE RAISED BUMPS on SKIN in DOGS:** 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.

### The 2 most common sources of vaccine reactions for DOGS are

- 1) Rabies vaccines
- 2) The Leptospirosis component of Distemper-Parvo vaccines in dogs. Fortunately, we have Distemper-Parvo vaccines available *without* Leptospirosis. **Upon your request, we can give the Distemper-Parvo vaccine without Leptospirosis.**

### The 2 most common sources of vaccine reactions for CATS are

- 1) Rabies vaccines
- 2) Leukemia vaccines—may cause some sluggishness for 12 to 24 hours

**MILD VACCINE REACTIONS** - When a pet has a mild vaccine reaction, one or more of the following conditions may be seen - Mild sluggishness ... Mild fever ... **Soreness** (especially where the injection was made—and especially seen with the **Leptospirosis** vaccine when given alone) ... Decreased appetite ... Upset stomach with vomiting or diarrhea (uncommon)

These milder reactions rarely last for more than 12 to 24 hours. And while you may certainly call us or contact your local veterinary emergency clinic if you observe these symptoms, you can usually manage these situations at home.

- **MILD FEVER or SORENESS (Dogs ONLY !)** - Give **1 Children's Aspirin for every 15 pounds of dog's weight**. Example: Give a 15 lb Dachshund 1 Children's aspirin every 12 hours as needed
- **VOMITING and/or DIARRHEA (DOGS ONLY !)** - Give **Liquid Pepto-Bismol** at a dose of 1 teaspoon (5 ml = 5cc) for every 20 lbs of body weight. Example: A 15 lb Dachshund would get ~4ml / 4cc (a little less than 1 tsp) every 4 to 6 hours as needed. Also, do not offer any food for at least 6 hours. Give crushed ice to lick on after ~2 hours. Pepto may turn the poop black.
- **NEVER give Aspirin (or any other human pain reliever) to a Cat !**
- **Also ... Do NOT give Tylenol or Ibuprofen as a substitute for Aspirin !**
- **If these conditions last more than 24 hours, please call your local veterinary hospital or emergency clinic.**

**MORE SERIOUS VACCINE REACTIONS** - On rare occasions, pets may experience more serious vaccine reactions that begin to show up anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours after receiving their vaccines. Most common signs we see are:

- Swelling of the face / ears
- Hives (will appear as raised bumps of the skin) or significant itching
- Difficulty breathing (especially with "no nose" breeds such as Pugs, Pekingeses, etc)

\*\*\* If your pet exhibits any of these signs, your pet should be seen by a veterinarian (especially with difficulty breathing !). If this is not possible, then you can try **home treatment** by giving **Benadryl (generic Benadryl is OK, too)**. Benadryl comes packaged in 25mg capsules or tablets. Pediatric/Children's Benadryl comes packaged in 12.5mg capsules or tablets (1/2 the dose of regular Benadryl).

- **For Benadryl: Give 1mg per pound of body weight every 8 hours (3 times a day)**  
\* Example: A 15 lb Dachshund can take ~15mg (can give one 25mg Benadryl capsule ... or give a Pediatric Benadryl)
- **Do NOT give any Benadryl medication containing other active ingredients— just give plain Benadryl ONLY**
- **If your pet exhibits swelling and hives, it can take several hours after taking Benadryl before the swelling goes away.**

### ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION

- Dogs do not absorb Benadryl very well; that's why they need a higher dosage than people take
- On occasion, pets receiving injectable vaccinations develop a localized reaction that results in a small, hard lump under the skin where the vaccines were given. It may take a couple of weeks for these lumps to appear, and may take up to 6 to 8 weeks before they go away.
- The **Bordetella vaccine** in dogs is sometimes given in the nose. This may result in some **mild sneezing** for 1 to 2 days.