



Animal Welfare League
of Frederick County

RECOMMENDED VACCINE PROTOCOLS

While it is necessary to protect cats and dogs from infectious diseases (which left unchecked can spread rapidly and with devastating effects through an animal population), mainstream veterinary medicine has gone too far the other way in controlling these illnesses. Millions of animals are not only vaccinated for a multitude of diseases they will probably never contract anyhow, they are also re-vaccinated far too often. The result is a host of health problems that are sometimes even worse than the disease the animal is being protected from in the first place. Reactions to over-vaccination can range from fever, stiffness, and sore joints to seizures and nervous system disorders, liver and kidney problems, vaccine site sarcomas, and a variety of autoimmune issues.

So what's the solution? How do you protect your animal from infectious diseases while minimizing the risk of vaccine reactions? Here's a good plan of action.

1. Only give your cat or dog the core vaccines (see chart). In other words, those that protect against diseases with a high mortality rate and wide distribution area.
2. Avoid annual boosters. Most vaccines have a duration of immunity ranging from 7-9 years, which means your animal's initial shots are enough to protect him for most of his life. Only have your animal re-vaccinated when a titre test indicates it's necessary.

(Courtesy of Animal Wellness, February/March 2008)



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DOGS

Vaccine	Disease description
Canine distemper (CDV)	Attacks the respiratory, GI and central nervous systems; pups up to six months most susceptible
Canine parvovirus-2 (CPV-2)	Very contagious; attacks intestinal tract, causing vomiting, diarrhea, fever, dehydration and often death; mortality rates can reach 100% in pups under one year
Canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2)	A respiratory infection that produces tracheal and bronchial inflammation; associated with kennel cough
Rabies (RV)	Infects central nervous system, causing encephalitis and death

THE CORE VACCINES



CATS

Vaccine	Disease description
Feline panleukopenia or parvovirus (FPV)	Attacks and destroys growing cells in intestine, blood and nervous system; can be fatal in kittens up to six months
Feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1)	Most common URI in cats; very contagious, spread by direct contact, sneezing & contaminated surfaces; kittens often die from the disease
Feline calicivirus (FCV)	Another common URI in felines; spread by direct and indirect contact; the younger the cat, the more severe the disease; can cause chronic gingivitis
Rabies (RV)	Infects central nervous system, causing encephalitis and death



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MINIMAL VACCINE USE PROTOCOL

PUPPY



KITTEN



Age	Vaccine	Age	Vaccine
9-10 weeks	Distemper virus + Parvovirus, MLV	8 weeks	Panleukopenia, calicivirus, herpesvirus, trivalent (3-in-1) killed vaccine or Recombinant MLV
14 weeks	Distemper virus + Parvovirus, MLV	12 weeks	Panleukopenia, calicivirus, herpesvirus, trivalent (3-in-1) killed vaccine or Recombinant MLV
20 weeks or older, if allowable by law	Rabies	20 weeks or older, if allowable by law	Rabies
1 year	Rabies, killed 3-year product, give 3-4 weeks apart from any other vaccine	1 year	Rabies, killed 3-year product, give 3-4 weeks apart from any other vaccine
	Distemper virus + Parvovirus, MLV		Panleukopenia, calicivirus, herpesvirus (optional)