Subject Line: 5 pet vaccine FAQs answered

A person kissing a dog

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**5 Common Pet Vaccine Questions Answered**

Hi, INSERT CLIENT NAME HERE

Given inflation, many pet owners are once again planning staycation activities this summer, and pet immunizations help protect pets against rabies and other potentially fatal diseases commonly carried by raccoons, skunks, and other animals that pets can (and do) encounter during family camping trips, hiking, or just a day trip to the park.

Just as some people are hesitant about vaccines for humans, we understand that many pet owners are undecided about pet vaccines. If this describes you, we thought we’d send you answers to five common pet vaccine questions to help you in your decision-making:

1. **What is a vaccine and how do vaccines work?**

A vaccine is a preparation that helps the body’s immune system get ready to fight disease-causing organisms. If the immune system has “seen” an unfamiliar microbe (bacteria or virus) as part of a vaccine, it’s primed to produce antibodies if it “sees” (i.e., is exposed to) the same microbe again. Antibodies are what help the body fight infection and protect it from getting the same illness again. Vaccinations are intended to reduce the severity of an illness, and/or prevent the disease entirely, by creating immunity. That’s why vaccinations are also called immunizations.

1. **What diseases are vaccines available for?**

Vaccines are available to protect your pet against a variety of diseases, from rabies and Lyme disease to infectious hepatitis, transmitted to dogs by contact with the urine, nose discharge, or eye discharge of infected dogs.

1. **Do vaccines eliminate diseases?**

While veterinary vaccination programs haven’t eliminated diseases, vaccines for rabies, distemper, parvovirus, feline leukemia, and panleukopenia have greatly reduced the incidence of disease, improved animal welfare, and reduced death.

1. **What vaccines are recommended for dogs and cats?**

The vaccines recommended for dogs and cats vary according to where they live and their lifestyle. Some vaccines are “core,” recommended for all dogs or cats, while others are recommended only in special circumstances. Pet owners can speak with their veterinarian about what vaccines are recommended for their pets.

1. **Are vaccines 100% safe and effective?**

While some pet owners may be hesitant to vaccinate out of concerns about vaccine reactions or side effects, the risks are very low (0.02% to 0.5%) and *far* outweigh the risks associated with acquiring a preventable and oftentimes *deadly* disease.

Enjoy a safe summer. For any questions about your pet’s health, or to book an appointment, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We’re here to help with any of your pet concerns.

INSERT YOUR PRACTICE CONTACT INFO