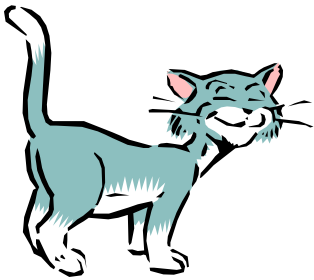


VACCINES AND VACCINE REACTIONS BY: JILL SCHAFFLING

The common vaccines that dogs receive are Rabies, DHLPP, Bordetella and Lyme. The common vaccines that cats receive are Rabies, FVRCP and Leukemia. Rabies is the only vaccine that is required by law for both cats and dogs over the age of three months. All others are not required but highly advisable especially in areas where certain diseases and viruses are most prominent. DHLPP and FVRCP are compilation vaccines that include several different agents.



The FVRCP is made of the Feline viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia. The Leukemia vaccination is for cats that are in high risk situations of contracting the virus and must be tested for prior to being vaccinated against it.

DHLPP is comprised of distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and parvo virus. The Bordetella vaccination is for dogs who typically have interaction with other dogs at kennels, groomers or day cares. It is a highly contagious upper respiratory problem often referred to as Kennel Cough. It does not fully protect the dog from getting Kennel cough but reduces the duration of the illness. Lyme vaccination is for dogs or puppies who have never been exposed to the Lyme disease and is useful for dogs traveling from non-endemic areas to endemic areas.



Anaphylaxis and the development of a fibrosarcoma are the most serious reactions to vaccines. Other more minor conditions include swelling or discomfort at the vaccine injection site, mild fever, decreased activity or appetite, hives on face or body and facial swelling. Also in dogs with allergies, a worsening of the allergies could occur if vaccinated during peak allergy season. It is preventable with an antihistamine injection prior to the vaccine in most dogs.