

VACCINE ADVERSE REACTIONS

Below is a list of adverse reactions that can arise after vaccination.

MILD

Mild reactions include fever, sluggishness, and loss of appetite. Mild reactions usually resolve without treatment.

MODERATE

Urticaria is the most common reaction in dogs. Urticaria is a moderate vascular reaction of the skin marked by hives or wheals and rapid swelling and redness of the lips, around the eyes, and in the neck region. It is usually extremely itchy and may progress to anaphylaxis, which is considered life threatening.

SEVERE

The most severe reaction is anaphylaxis, a sudden, severe allergic response that produces breathing difficulties, collapse and possible death. Symptoms usually include sudden onset of vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, rapid drop in blood pressure, swelling of the larynx leading to airway obstruction (and inability to breathe), seizures and cardiovascular collapse or death. This reaction is life threatening for your pet.

If your pet shows any signs of reaction beyond those described as mild, it should be brought in immediately for treatment. The results can be life threatening if not treated quickly.

Cat owners should be aware of the risks of vaccine-induced sarcomas and should watch their cats for lumps that occur. Any lump found at a vaccination site that persists more than 3 months after the vaccination, is larger than 2 cm in diameter, or is increasing in size after one month after the vaccination should be removed and examined histologically.

Dog owners should be aware of the risks of site reactions to vaccines and to the risk of increased incidence of immune mediated disease following vaccination. These conditions may not be evident for several weeks after vaccination.