

If Your Pet Receives Vaccinations or Injections at their Appointment

Normal Reactions to Vaccines	**Serious and Life-Threatening Reactions**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain at the vaccination site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crying out when picked up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facial swelling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lethargy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance to play or exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty breathing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced appetite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collapse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneezing/snorting after a nasal vaccine 	

****If any of these serious signs are exhibited, IMMEDIATELY take your pet to the closest full-service vet clinic or, if it is after-hours, take your pet to the nearest emergency veterinary care clinic.**

What is Considered Normal?

After vaccination, it is normal for pets to return home and re-engage in normal activity; however, since vaccination is inflammatory by nature, sometimes there are symptoms for a couple of days, such as:

- Pain at the vaccination site
- Crying out when picked up
- Lethargy
- Reluctance to play or exercise
- Reduced appetite
- Sneezing/snorting after a nasal vaccine

These symptoms are considered normal for the vaccination process. Treatment is generally unnecessary, and the pet can be expected to be back to normal in a couple days. Again, if these reactions are seen, there is no reason to alter vaccination recommendations or plans for the patient's future as these symptoms are inherent to the vaccination process and are considered normal.

What is NOT NORMAL? When is Treatment Required?

Occasionally, a reaction is extreme and potentially dangerous. As vaccine technology has advanced, these reactions are more and more rare, but it is important to know when to take action. **The following symptoms are more serious and indicate that your pet needs medical attention IMMEDIATELY, especially if these occur within hours of receiving the vaccine:**

- Vomiting
- Facial swelling
- Hives
- Difficulty breathing
- Collapse

These symptoms can be part of an anaphylactic reaction, which is more extreme and potentially life-threatening in its most severe form. Any symptoms from this list should be taken seriously and future vaccination plans should be altered to avoid more severe problems. These types of vaccination reactions tend to get worse with subsequent exposure to the offending protein. The reaction can be directed against the infectious organism, vaccine stabilizers, preservatives, or residue from the vaccine organism's laboratory tissue culture.