

## **The importance of companion animal vaccines**

Vaccines for cats and dogs have the same importance as vaccines in children. It is essential to their health and that they are going to prevent some diseases that are very serious and some fatal in a large percentage of cases.

The body protects itself against the aggression of microorganisms through a series of mechanisms and barriers. Most infections occur outside without us being aware that have occurred. But some bacteria and viruses are very dangerous and aggressive, against which our pets are very poorly defended. For this type of infection some vaccines exist on the market for both dogs and cats.

One of the first things we should do when we introduce a pet to the family knows in what state is their immunization schedule. Most breeders and protective delivered to animals in some vaccines on but, when that pet becomes ours, we must begin to take responsibility for their shots.

### **What is a vaccine?**

A vaccine is a pathogen that either killed or attenuated (i.e. treated so they do not lethality) makes contact with an organism, it can prevent the disease. The animal and its immune system detect this and trigger the development of defences against these diseases. These defences do not always persist in the body, hence the need revaccination.

The major vaccines in dogs are put against the following diseases: parvovirus, distemper, leptospirosis, canine hepatitis and rabies. There are others, such as kennel cough and canine coronavirus that are not as important, as these diseases are rarely fatal in it.

In cats used vaccines against respiratory tract viruses, feline leukaemia, feline panleukopenia and rabies in some cases.

Of all the vaccines described is one that is special: the rabies. This vaccine is mandatory in most Spanish communities and is required to bring it out of our country's pet.

Rabies is a zoonotic disease that is transmissible to humans, lethal, and although Spain is a rabies free country, I advise all pet owners to get the shot your pet in your community but not mandatory.

In the case of feline patients, ideally, before vaccinating against leukemia has to take a test to show whether the patient is not carrying the disease.

The vaccine is the clearest example of "better safe than sorry."

## **When should I vaccinate?**

Usually pets are usually vaccinated at forty-five days after his birth, ie just after weaning, since animals with only the antibodies in breast milk. It is imperative to vaccinate our puppies, as their immune system is still weak.

Vaccination usually is repeated three times and the vaccination program ends at 10 or 12 weeks. The sooner this protected the puppy, the better for their socialization.

Before you vaccinate a puppy make sure you do not have internal parasites and continues to feed properly as they may affect their health and produce the vaccine will not be as effective.

In adults are usually vaccinated annually with a multivalent vaccine that covers all major diseases for as we have said before the defenses created by the body itself are not forever.

Vaccination is vital to keep from getting diseases that can be fatal. Thus proactively avoid the possible suffering to suffer and have a much greater when they arrive the same, so it is advisable not to skimp on expenses.

## **Risks and Complications**

Although a vaccine inoculation is favourable to the health of our dog, we must also note that, in some cases, the vaccine can cause side effects for some dogs.

The use of adjuvants in the vaccination of cats against feline leukemia is closely related to the occurrence of feline fibrosarcoma. Therefore, if the cat is not exposed to the disease and is an animal having habits suggests landlords not to vaccinate. If exposure is shown that vaccination is advisable to administer and that these situations were described in a very small number of cases (among thousands).

One of the most common side effects, especially in puppies, is the lethargy and fever. Is something else causing down, have more sleep and do not want to be bothered.

Another adverse effect may appear as a cyst, ie a hard lump in the area of injection. Some dogs are very sensitive to certain brands of vaccines and other simply does not stand still when puncture.

It could also happen that the dog was allergic to the vaccine, specifically to take the vaccine excipients inoculated, so it is important not to use that brand in particular for their subsequent boosters.

In extreme cases the animal may even present gastrointestinal problems and, in rare cases, respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

