



## POST-VACCINATION INFORMATION

When foreign invaders such as bacteria or viruses enter the body, immune cells called lymphocytes respond by producing protein molecules called, antibodies.

These antibodies' jobs are to eliminate the germs and to protect from future infections. They remain in your bloodstream, and if the same germs ever try to infect your pet again, the antibodies will come to your defense. This is immunity.

Vaccines prepare the immune system to fight disease without exposing it to disease symptoms. Vaccines are made from the same germs that cause the disease; for example, rabies vaccine is made from the rabies virus. The germs in vaccines are either killed or weakened so they will not make you sick.

Vaccines containing these weakened or killed germs are introduced into your pet's system. The immune system reacts to the vaccine in a similar way that it would if it were being invaded by the disease germs, by making antibodies. The antibodies destroy the vaccine germs just as they would the disease germs.

### COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

- Usually starts within hours of the vaccination
- Usually last for a day or two
  - Discomfort and local swelling at the vaccination site
  - Mild fever
  - Decreased appetite and activity
  - Sneezing
  - Mild coughing
  - Runny nose
  - Other respiratory signs may occur 2-5 days after an intranasal vaccine

### SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS

- May occur within minutes to hours after vaccination
- These reactions can be life-threatening and are medical emergencies
- **SEEK VETERINARY CARE IMMEDIATELY IF ANY OF THESE SIGNS DEVELOP**
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Itchy skin with hives
  - Swelling of the
    - Eyes
    - Face
    - Neck
    - Muzzle
  - Pale gums
  - Coughing
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Collapse

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Never hesitate to call our office if any side effects listed are noted **BUT**
- Call our office **IMMEDIATELY** if any serious side effects are noted: **401-943-0500**
- If our office is closed, please call Ocean State Veterinary Specialists: **401-886-6787 (24 hours)**