



Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic Newsletter



Do You Really Need to Vaccinate Your Pet?



Vaccines are products designed to trigger protective immune responses and prepare the immune system to fight future infections from disease-causing agents. Vaccines stimulate the immune system's production of antibodies that identify and destroy disease-causing organisms that enter the body. Vaccines provide immunity against one or several diseases that can lessen the severity or prevent certain diseases altogether.



We are committed to high quality veterinary medicine and to the establishment of an atmosphere of caring for animals and their owners.

We do this with a well-trained staff, clinic and mobile service, and with facilities, equipment, and medicines to meet the health needs of the animals in our care.

Why is it important to vaccinate YOUR pet?

Experts agree that widespread use of vaccinations within the last century has prevented death and disease in millions of animals. Vaccinations protect your pet from highly contagious and deadly diseases and improve your pet's overall quality of life.

5 Reasons to Vaccinate Your Pet

1. Vaccinations prevent many pet illnesses.
2. Vaccinations can help avoid costly treatments for diseases that can be prevented.
3. Vaccinations prevent diseases that can be passed not only from animal to animal but also from animal to human.
4. Diseases prevalent in wildlife, such as rabies and distemper, can infect unvaccinated pets.
5. Many areas, local or state ordinances require certain vaccinations of household pets.

Do vaccinations ensure protection?

For most pets, vaccination is effective in preventing future disease and only rarely will a vaccinated pet have insufficient immunity to fight off the disease. It is important to follow the vaccination schedule provided by your veterinarian to reduce the possibility of a gap in protection.

Are there risks to vaccinating my pet?

Any type of medical treatment has associated risks associated, but the risk should be weighed against the benefits of protecting your pet, your family and your community from potentially fatal diseases. The majority of pets respond well to vaccines.

The most common adverse responses to vaccination are mild and short-term, and serious reactions are rare. An uncommon but serious adverse reaction that can occur in cats is tumor growth (sarcomas), which can develop weeks, months, or even years after a vaccination. Improvements in vaccination technology and technique have greatly reduced the occurrence of sarcomas.



Why do puppies and kittens require a series of vaccinations?

Very young animals are highly susceptible to infectious disease because their immune system is not yet fully mature. They

receive protection through antibodies in their mother's milk, but the protection is not long-lasting and there may



Pet to Vet



Can't make it in?

We've got the solution for you and your pet!

Simply call us to schedule an appointment and let us know you'll need the "Pet to Vet Exam."

We'll come pick up your furry family member, do the exam, and then bring your pet back home!

We can also include such services as bathing so

be gaps in protection as the milk antibodies decrease and their immune system is still maturing.

In many instances, the first dose of a vaccine serves to prime the animal's immune system against the virus or bacteria while subsequent doses help further stimulate the immune system to produce the important antibodies needed to protect an animal from diseases.

Finish the Series

An incomplete series of vaccinations may lead to incomplete protection, making puppies and kittens vulnerable to infection.

To provide optimal protection against disease in the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations are scheduled, usually 3-4 weeks apart. For most puppies and kittens, the final vaccination in the series is administered at about 4 months of age; however, a veterinarian may alter the schedule based on an individual animal's risk factors.

Which vaccinations should my pet receive?

"Core" vaccines are recommended for most pets in a particular area or geographical location because they protect from diseases most common in that area. "Non-core" vaccinations are for individual pets with unique needs. Your veterinarian will consider your pet's risk of exposure to a variety of preventable diseases in order to customize a vaccination program for optimal protection throughout your pet's life.

Talk with your veterinarian about your pet's lifestyle, including any expected travel to other geographical locations and/or contact with other animals, since these factors impact your pet's risk of exposure to certain diseases.

How often will my pet need to be vaccinated?

Many vaccinations provide adequate immunity when administered every few years, while others require more frequent schedules to maintain an acceptable level of immunity that will continually protect your pet. Your veterinarian will determine a vaccination schedule that's appropriate for your pet.

Many factors are taken into consideration when establishing a pet's vaccination plan. Your veterinarian will tailor a program of vaccinations and preventive health care that will help your pet maintain a lifetime of infectious disease protection.

**your pet can
return home
fresh and clean!**



**Never Miss A
Prescription
for your pet
again!**



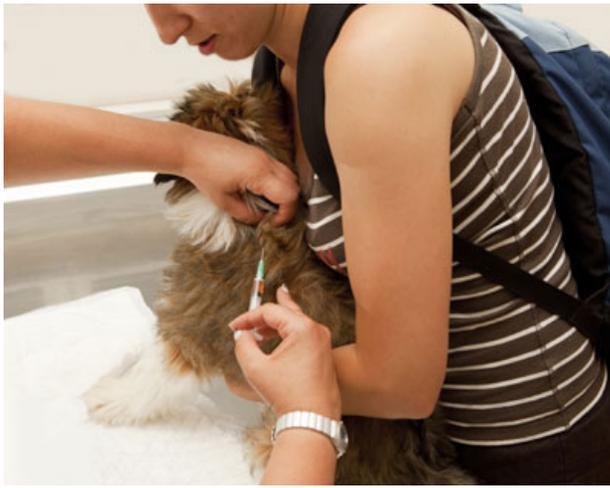
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**Have a
question about
your pet's
medication?**



Melissa works as a member of our technical team. She is happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your pet's medication(s).

**Did you know
we offer laser**



Do vaccinations have side effects?

It is common for pets to experience some or all of the following mild side effects after receiving a vaccine, usually starting within hours of the vaccination. If these side effects last for more than a day or two, or cause your pet significant discomfort, it is important for you to contact your veterinarian:

- * Discomfort and local swelling at the vaccination site
- * Mild fever
- * Decreased appetite and activity
- * Sneezing, mild coughing, "snotty nose" or other respiratory signs may occur 2-5 days after your pet receives an intranasal vaccine

More serious, but less common side effects, such as allergic reactions, 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:

- * Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- * Itchy skin that may seem bumpy ("hives")
- * Swelling of the muzzle and around the face, neck, or eyes
- * Severe coughing or difficulty breathing
- * Collapse

Always inform your veterinarian if your pet has had prior reactions to any vaccine or medication. If in doubt, wait for 30-60 minutes following vaccination before taking your pet home.



Meet Dr. Katy Brandes!

therapy for your pet?

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR PET

LASER THERAPY

A New Solution for Healing

Did you know...

▶ Laser Therapy has been successful in treating post surgical pain and many acute or chronic conditions.

Laser Therapy may be beneficial if your pet is in pain, has inflammation or has a wound.



▶ We are excited to offer Laser Therapy as a non-invasive, drug free treatment for healing.

If your pet is eligible for laser therapy, we offer this form of treatment to help further care for your pet.

Check out these videos of the use of laser therapy for a [dog](#) and a [horse](#).



Schedule your floats today!

Now is the best time to take care of your horse's teeth.



Call today to book your appointment!



Dr. Brandes is officially part of the Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic staff as of August 15th!

We are so excited to have her with us!

Dr. Katy Brandes grew up in a small town in the mountains of western Colorado. After riding lessons as a child piqued her interest in horses, a year spent

in rural Tanzania hooked her focus on veterinary medicine. Involvement in local 4-H clubs with horse and sheep projects led to competition in rodeo, versatility ranch horse, western all-around classes and gaited horse shows at the national level as a teenager and throughout college.

She obtained her BS in Equine Science in 2012 and her doctorate at Colorado State University in 2016, focusing on large animal and equine medicine.

She then completed a year-long post-doctoral internship in equine medicine and surgery at Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital in Snohomish, WA.

Dr. Katy is very excited to be joining our group here at Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic! Her professional interests include dentistry, lameness, emergency medicine, internal medicine and equine neonatology. When not working she enjoys riding, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, international travel. She graduated Vet School: Colorado State University, 2016 and has two pets: Bee - Missouri Fox Trotter mare; and Furby the cat.

Come meet Dr. Katy Brandes in person, Saturday, Sept 9th at the Clinic from 8am to 10am

Light refreshments, coffee and juice, and breakfast breads served. She will be available to answer any questions you might have, or available to just say hello! All are invited!



Dr. Grisham Dr. Grisham will be with us again in the last part of **August, the 24th, 25th & 26th.**

She's also scheduled again for late **September the 28th, 29th and 30th.**

Be sure to call the Clinic and



Did You Know?

We offer bathing services for your pet?

Please call us to schedule a bathing appointment with our very own Patty!



schedule your pet's appointment for her during these times as her schedule tends to fill up quickly.

Equine Wellness Packages Now Available



Time to think about signing up for our Equine Wellness program for next year! We're offering pre-registration early this year to avoid the holiday crunch.

Equine Wellness Program 2018

- 1) Our goal is to provide the excellent care you have come to expect from our doctors and staff while giving you the opportunity to guarantee that your equine friends will get the routine preventive care they need for the next year!
- 2) Save money on this routine care by participating in one of our wellness programs: Save 15% with Program 1 and 20% with Program 2!
- 3) Our programs run from January to December
- 4) Take advantage of the program benefits and savings with one of these options: Sign up no later than December 31st, 2017 (full payment is due by February 28th, 2018)

PET DENTAL ALERT

4 out of 5 pets are living with dental disease¹, infection and pain.
Yours is probably one of them.

It's estimated that 85 percent of all pets have periodontal disease by the time they are 3 years of age. Periodontal disease is a progressive disease of the supporting tissues surrounding teeth and the main cause of early tooth loss.

Periodontal disease starts when bacteria combine with food particles to form plaque on the teeth. Within days, minerals in the saliva bond with the plaque to form tartar, a hard substance that adheres to the teeth. The bacteria work their way under the gums and cause gingivitis -

RABIES

It's still around & still a problem.

Fatalities from Rabies

55,000 people around the world die of rabies every year. On average 40% are under the age of 15.

That's 6 people per hour, every hour, of every day...

In the US, that number is lower:
An average of 3 people per year.

Fatalities due to Rabies by State in the US: 1995 - 2011 (CDC data)

In 2011 a man from Barnstable, MA was diagnosed, and later died of rabies. This was the first case in Massachusetts since 1935.

Rabies is Still a Threat to Human Safety

How are we Contracting Rabies?

Rabies is a Zoonotic Virus
This means it can pass from animals to humans... and it does!

Who's Infecting us Now? (Globally)

Rabies is a communicable virus carried in the saliva of infected animals. It is transmitted through a bite or close contact. The virus attacks the nervous system; ultimately causing inflammation of the brain, and death.

Who's Infecting us Now? (Globally)

- Cats
- Skunks
- Dogs
- Monkeys
- Domestic Farm Animals
- Bats
- Raccoons
- Wolves
- Coyotes
- Cattle

How We've Contracted Rabies: United States, 1995 - 2011 (CDC data)

In the US infected Bats & Dogs pose the biggest dangers to safety
(probably because bats are hard to avoid and dogs are pets... we tend to stay away from wild animals when we can!)

How are we Eradicating Rabies?

ERADICATING RABIES: A many-armed attack

- Effective Rabies vaccines to prevent exposure
- Mandatory quarantine for dogs while in public in some countries
- Mandatory vaccination of pets
- Close surveillance and reporting of rabies in wild animals in US, Canada & Mexico
- Animal Control: animal to traps to prevent the very possibility

Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, The UK, Ireland, Taiwan, Japan, Hawaii, Guam, Barbados, Mauritius, New Zealand and Australia have all been declared free of rabies!

Granted, it's easier to manage rabies on an island, but the first three of these countries are not islands, so it can be done!

We Can Eradicate Rabies

Data gathered from: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Global Alliance for Rabies Control, World Health Organization (WHO), Reuters News Agency

Created by: **IVG** www.ivginc.com

inflammation of the gums. Once under the gums, bacteria destroy the supporting tissue around the tooth, leading to tooth loss. This condition is known as periodontitis.

Gingivitis and periodontitis make up the changes that are referred to as periodontal disease. The bacteria associated with periodontal disease can also travel in the bloodstream to infect the heart, kidneys, and liver.

Our professional veterinary dental cleaning is the only way to remove tartar from the teeth and under the gum tissue to protect your pet's health. With a professional dental cleaning and follow-up care, gingivitis is reversible. Periodontal disease is not reversible, but diligent at-home dental care and regular veterinary cleanings can slow down the progression of the condition.

Be sure to take advantage of our September Dental Special of 15% off all dentals throughout the month of September.



Congratulations

A very warm congratulations to our very own Melissa and Natalie, who have recently passed the National Registered Veterinary Technician Exam!

The next hurdle in becoming a Registered Veterinary Technician will be the completion of the California State Board Exam!

We are really looking forward to having two registered Veterinary Techs with us here to better serve you and your pets!



Can You Smell Fall Already?



We are sure happy to have Dr. Brandes with us! As you can tell, she's got some pretty impressive education and she's been a delight to work with!

I personally invite all of our equine clients to come by and meet Dr. Brandes, September 9th from 8am to 10am.

As I transition into seeing more small animal appointments, Dr. Brandes will help cover me when I'm in the practice. I'm sure you will like her as much we do!

Now is the time to sign up for the Equine Wellness Packages for next year. You can choose to save either 15% or 20% on services your horse will use throughout the year. It's a great savings for services your horse will need.

We are all very proud of Melissa and Natalie on passing their National RVT Exam. They both are such a wonderful addition to our team here at Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic. I'm excited that we will continue to have highly trained staff to better serve your pets.

As we transition into Fall, we are all looking forward to cooler weather! Everyone here at Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic is here to help your pet live a long and healthy life!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mark Williams, DVM
& The Staff of Sweetwater Veterinary Clinic

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