"A blood sample taken yearly from an animal for a titer check is preferential to an unnecessary vaccination as a vaccine may cause harm."

- Ronald D. Schultz, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathobiological Sciences School of Veterinary Medicine – University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Similarly, dogs that have been actively immunized by vaccination or naturally by infection that have antibodies to CDV, CPV-2, or CAV-1 do not need to be revaccinated. Some clients are now having titers performed for CDV and CPV-2 in lieu of revaccinating."

- 2011 American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccination Guidelines

"Given the high degree of correlation between a "positive" antibody test result and protection, serological testing offers veterinarians a relevant, reliable tool for making informed decisions relevant to managing individual patients in a clinical setting."

- Dr. Richard B. Ford, DVM, MS. Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Diplomate ACVIM and ACVPM (Hon) North Carolina State University.

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## VACCINES

#### What is a Vaccination?

Vaccinations protect your pet from dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. Most vaccines contain a small amount of a disease pathogen that is weak or dead, which causes the body to make antibodies to fight off this kind of pathogen.

## What Vaccines Does My Pet Need?

Veterinarians must administer a rabies vaccine by law. The other core canine vaccines needed are: Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), Parvovirus (CPV-2) and Canine Adenovirus-2 (CAV). The core vaccines for cats include: herpesvirus 1 (FHV1), feline calicivirus (FCV), feline panleukopenia virus (FPV), and feline leukemia virus (FeLV) - kittens.

These vaccines should be administered by your veterinarian as needed during your annual wellness checkup. It is important to visit your veterinarian annually to ensure your dog is current on its vaccinations.

## How Do I know if Vaccination is Necessary?

To understand if your pet requires a vaccination, it is recommended to conduct a simple titer test during your annual wellness checkup. Testing with VacciCheck® will determine antibody levels and if vaccination is truly necessary.

#### What About the Initial Vaccinations My Puppy or Kitten Gets?

Puppies and kittens require an initial series of vaccines to build up the antibodies necessary to fight these diseases. However, sometimes when these vaccines are given during the puppy/kitten protocol series the maternal antibodies interfere with this process and leave the pet unprotected. The ONLY way to ensure they are producing protective antibodies is to titer test with VacciCheck<sup>°</sup>.

#### Are Vaccines Safe?

Vaccines are largely safe, and intended to improve the health and welfare of animals, however side effects and adverse reactions can occur. Such as:

- granulomas (hard tissue)
- reproductive issues
- autoimmune hemolytic anemia
- nervous system issues
- sarcomas
- anaphylaxis

Here's how your Veterinarian can use Vaccicheck to assess the immunity of your pet following completion of the initial vaccination series in puppies/ kittens before 24 weeks of age.

