

# PET VACCINE REACTIONS

When your pet receives any vaccination, there is a risk that they may develop a reaction. **What's normal, and what's an emergency?**

## NORMAL

Common, mild side effects that typically occur several hours after vaccination:

- Discomfort and local swelling at the vaccination site
- Mild fever
- Decreased appetite and activity

Call your regular vet or emergency clinic if your pet is particularly uncomfortable or if side effects last more than 24-48 hours.

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Barnette, Cathy. "Managing Vaccine Reactions in Small Animals: A Summary for Vet Students." *Managing Vaccine Reactions in Small Animals: A Summary for Vet Students*, PDH Academy, 14 July 2020, [blog.vetprep.com/managing-vaccine-reactions-in-small-animals-a-summary-for-vet-students](http://blog.vetprep.com/managing-vaccine-reactions-in-small-animals-a-summary-for-vet-students).

"Adverse Post-vaccination Reactions." AAHA, [www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/2020-aahaafp-feline-vaccination-guidelines/adverse-postvaccination-reactions/](http://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/2020-aahaafp-feline-vaccination-guidelines/adverse-postvaccination-reactions/). Accessed 18 Oct. 2023.

## EMERGENCY

Serious, less common reactions that typically occur within minutes or hours after vaccination:

- Persistent, repeated vomiting or diarrhea
- Itchy, bumpy skin (hives)
- Swelling of the muzzle and around the face, neck, or eyes
- Severe coughing and/or difficulty breathing
- Pale mucous membranes (check gums/lips)
- Animal fainting or collapsing

Contact or bring your pet to an emergency vet clinic **IMMEDIATELY** if you see these signs.

## 3 2 1 RULE

When should you be concerned about a bump?

- When the bump has been present for **3** months
  - When the bump is **2** centimeters or larger in diameter
  - When the bump has increased in size **1** month after vaccination
- Contact your regular vet if you see any of these signs.**