



Solano Home Veterinary Care

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Changes in Vaccination Protocols for Dogs & Cats

Based on research and recommendations by many national veterinary organizations and universities (in particular the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at UC Davis), we have changed our dog and cat vaccination protocols. The changes primarily consist of less frequent vaccination for adult pets.

New General Preventive Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats

Vaccinations:

- A. Puppy and Kitten Standard Vaccinations
 1. Both puppies and kittens should start receiving vaccinations at approximately 7-8 weeks of age and receive boosters on 3-4 week intervals until they are 16 weeks old.
 2. The next vaccinations are due 1 year after completion of the puppy or kitten series.

- B. Adult Dog and Cat Standard Vaccinations
 1. Most adult pets with a previous vaccination history can be vaccinated every 3 years.
 2. Adult animals not previously vaccinated should receive initial vaccinations followed by boosters one year later, then every 3 years.

- C. Other Non-Standard Vaccinations
 1. Kennel Cough vaccination in dogs should be given every 6 months if they will be in a commercial boarding facility or exposed to large numbers of other dogs.
 2. Dogs that are exposed to areas frequented by livestock or large wildlife should receive annual Leptospirosis vaccinations.
 3. Cats living with multiple other cats may need additional or more frequent vaccinations.

Other Preventive Care:

- Regular examinations by a veterinarian: Annual physical examinations are recommended.
- Heartworm Medication: Dogs in Solano County and surrounding areas should receive monthly heartworm preventive medication.
- External parasite control: Control of fleas and ticks is very important, especially during the warmer months of the year.

More detailed information regarding preventive care for dogs and cats is available on our web site. Just click on the link for Canine or Feline Preventive Care Recommendations.