



Annual Vaccinations

Annual revaccination is a practice that was started many years ago that lacks scientific validity or verification. Almost without exception there is no immunologic requirement for annual revaccination. Successful vaccination to most bacterial pathogens produces an immunologic memory that remains for years, allowing an animal to develop a protective anamnestic (secondary) response when exposed to virulent organisms. Only an immune response to toxins requires boosters (e.g., tetanus toxin booster, in humans, is recommended once every 10 years), and no toxin vaccines are currently used for dogs and cats. Furthermore, revaccination with most viral vaccines fails to stimulate an anamnestic (secondary) response as a result of interference by existing antibodies (similar to maternal antibody interference). In our opinion, the practice of giving “booster” vaccinations should be considered of questionable efficacy unless it is required by law (certain states require annual revaccination for rabies). Holistic Pet Vet Clinic recommends vaccine antibody testing instead.

Vaccine Antibody Titer Testing

The vaccination history of your pet will be evaluated today. A vaccine titer may be recommended as an alternative to routine vaccinations. Current studies indicate that vaccines may last longer than one year, and vaccines have been known to cause adverse reactions. Your pet will be evaluated individually based on overall health, breed, and environment.

Vaccine antibody titer testing analyzes, or measures, antibodies to certain diseases to determine whether your pet’s immune system has responded to previous vaccinations. This blood test helps to determine whether or not your pet will be protected from the infectious disease if your pet were to be exposed, and whether or not revaccination is necessary.