

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Limping

Rare vaccine side effects

It's extremely rare, but like any other drug, vaccines can sometimes cause a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction include:

- Swelling anywhere on the body
- Breathing difficulty
- Cold ears, legs and feet
- Seizures
- A pounding heart beat
- Collapse
- Coma or death.

Contact your nearest vet for an emergency appointment if your pet is having a severe allergic reaction.

When to contact your vet

If your pet is suffering mild side effects after a vaccination, monitor them and call your vet for advice if you are concerned. If their side effects get worse or have continued for more than 24-48hours, contact your vet for an appointment. Contact your vet immediately for an emergency appointment if you think your pet may be having an allergic reaction.

You know your pet best. Contact your vet if you're concerned.

Why vaccinate?

Negative media coverage around vaccination side effects in recent years has raised concerns for many people. However, it's important to remember that despite there being a very small risk when giving a vaccination, the risk of leaving them without is far greater.

Vaccinations have been so effective in recent times, that we hardly see some of the diseases we vaccinate against anymore. However, we do still see these diseases in areas where vaccination rates are low. If we all stopped vaccinating it would only be a matter of time before our pets were routinely catching the diseases we can easily protect them from.

Feline injection site sarcomas

There is a very small risk that your cat could develop an injection site sarcoma in the injection site of a vaccine, microchip or medicine. An injection site sarcoma is a type of cancer that forms underneath the skin – often in between the shoulder blades where vaccines and microchips are placed.

Published: June 2019